

HEP C ELIMINATION STRATEGY

OVERVIEW



PREVENT

Goal: Prevent hep C transmissions

1. Expand the availability of harm reduction services and programs throughout the state.
2. Promote and increase understanding of proven viral hepatitis prevention approaches.
3. Enhance community awareness and education around harm reduction services.

DIAGNOSE

Goal: Diagnose all people living with hep C as early as possible

1. Expand access to no or low-cost guideline-based testing.
2. Improve diagnosis in primary care settings.
3. Promote testing among high-priority populations and increase services at non-traditional service locations.
4. Enhance community awareness about the importance of testing, available services, and diagnostic outcomes.

TREAT

Goal: Treat all people with hep C rapidly and effectively

1. Connect people to medical treatment as rapidly as possible and in accordance with best practices.
2. Ensure that everyone living with hep C in Arizona can receive and complete treatment
3. Expand re-engagement opportunities for people who are out of care.
4. Enhance community awareness about the importance of available services and diagnostic outcomes.

RESPOND

Goal: Respond to community needs and quickly address potential outbreaks

1. Enhance public health surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination.
2. Improve public health system-level capacity to track and share info on elimination outcomes.
3. Strengthen capacity to identify potential outbreaks and improve collaborative action.

FOUNDATIONAL

Goal: Create a landscape that supports foundational strategies that are conducive to hep C elimination

1. Amplify the voices of people with lived experience and decrease barriers through advocacy.
2. Grow the capacity of the healthcare workforce to effectively identify, diagnose, and provide compassionate holistic care.
3. Fill gaps throughout the continuum of care by supporting stigma reduction, education, and patient navigation.
4. Encourage evidence-based interventions and micro-elimination strategies to increase and improve access to care for all.

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PROJECT IDEAS



PREVENT

Hep Free AZ Projects

- Creation of a Social Media Toolkit with examples community partners can use to educate and raise awareness around harm reduction and hepatitis C.

Examples

- [Caring Ambassadors Storytelling Programs](#) (i.e. Hepsie the Wonder Liver, Story Corner, "Give Hep C a Face and a Voice" initiative)
- [HepConnect Initiative in Greater Appalachia](#) - Multi-state initiative to address intersecting opioid and HCV crisis through evidence based solutions and community partnerships

DIAGNOSE

Hep Free AZ Projects

- Implementation of a Hep C Service Directory/Interactive Map of Services for prevention, testing and treatment.

Examples

- [Australia TEMPO Study](#) - Single-visit test and treat model for hep C at peer-led SSP
- [Victoria Cool Aid Society Housing Program](#) - Nurse-led peer testing and navigation efforts within supportive housing site in Canada

TREAT

Hep Free AZ Projects

- Enhanced collaboration with AHCCCS to update online policies and formulary regarding PA removal.

Examples

- [Project Echo](#)
- [Netflix Subscription Model for HCV DAAs](#) in Louisiana, Washington, and Michigan
 - Unrestricted DAA access; no cap on treatment numbers; cap on expenditure
 - Partnership approach: government, community, clinical, academic reps

RESPOND

Hep Free AZ Projects

- Creation of an annual statewide hep C surveillance report.
- Creation of a research page on HIVAZ.org to showcase local HCV data and projects.

Examples

- [NYC Open Hepatitis C Surveillance Registry](#)
- Outbreak Planning

FOUNDATIONAL

Hep Free AZ Projects

- Development of a web-based version of the hepatitis C elimination plan.
- Development of a public facing Hep Free AZ Membership Directory for those who opt-in to sharing their information.
- A Gubernatorial Proclamation for Hepatitis Awareness month, or National Hepatitis Testing Day.
- Development of a Hep C Webinar Series (AZ-specific, possible CME or CE) incorporating Executive Committee Members, or persons recommended by Members.
- Enhanced engagement with new groups across the state to improve access to hep C care.
- Creation of a Hep Free AZ Leadership Program for persons with lived experience.