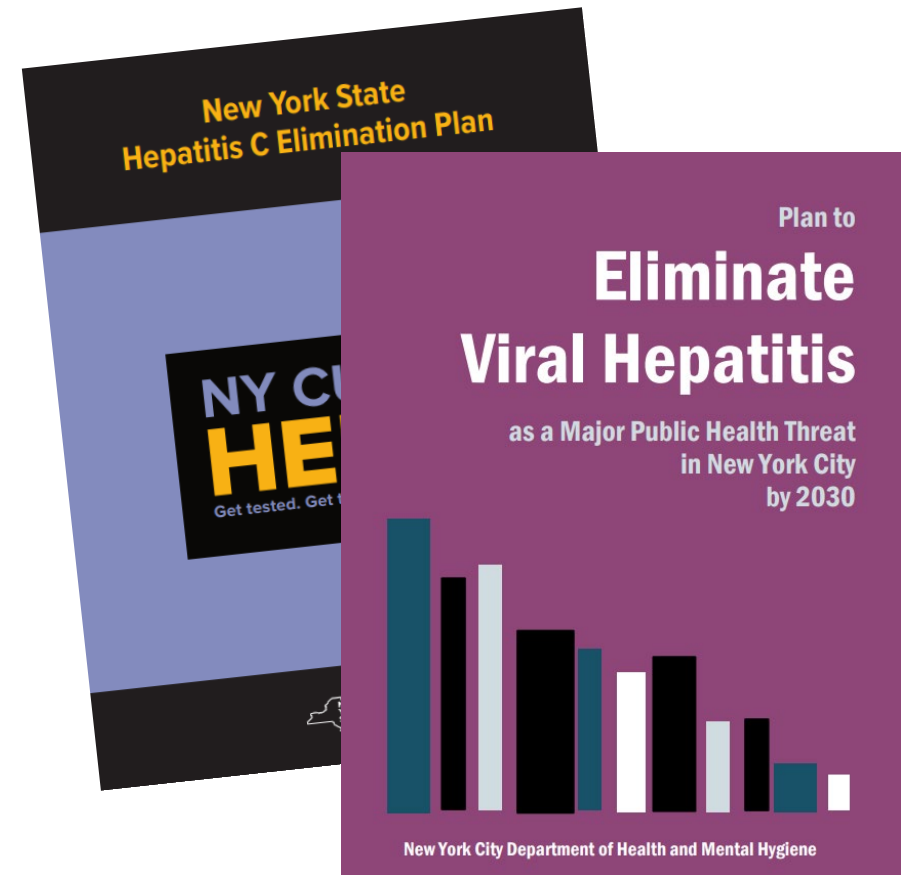


# Plan to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis as a Major Public Health Threat in New York City by 2030

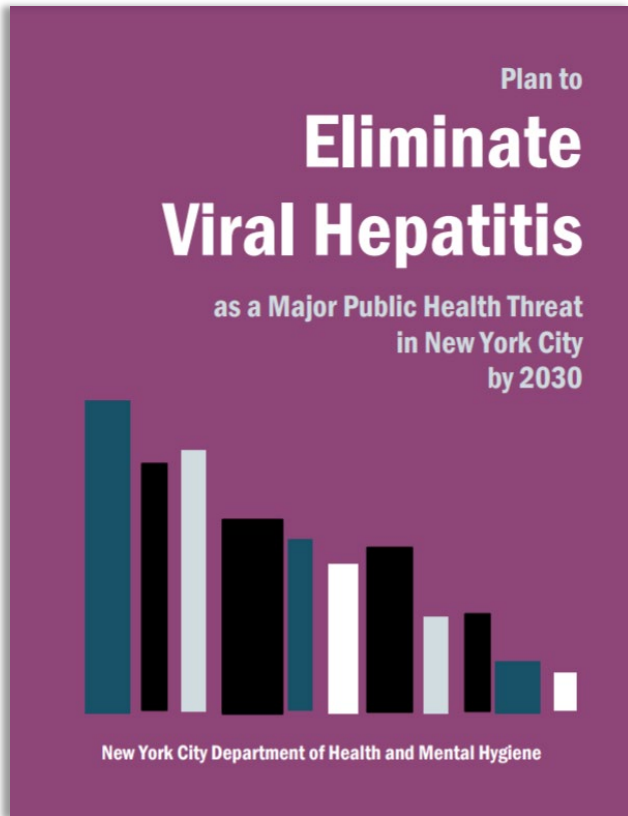
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

# NYS and NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plans: Related Goals

- **New York State (NYS)** has a Hepatitis C Elimination Plan.
- **New York City (NYC)** released its Plan to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis as a Major Public Health Threat in NYC by 2030.
- Why?
  - More than 300,000 people in NYC are living with chronic hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C.
  - Over a third are still unaware of their hepatitis B and C infection.
  - Without care and treatment, many will progress to serious liver disease, liver cancer, or premature death.



# Viral Hepatitis Elimination: Implementation



Continuing current successful activities

Prioritizing strategies based on importance and feasibility

Trying to find additional resources to support strategy goals

Collaborating with partners to improve data sharing, advance prevention initiatives, and remove silos

Partnering with NYS DOH on elimination efforts state-wide

# Progress Towards Elimination

## Testing

46%

Percentage of hepatitis C contracted program<sup>4</sup> participants screened in 2022

The proposed hepatitis C screening goal is 90% by 2030. This percentage increased from 42% in 2018.

## Treatment

30%

Percentage of people reported with a viral diagnostic test in 2022 who were cured or cleared infection

The proposed goal is 80% of people cured within one year of diagnosis by 2030. This percentage increased from 26% in 2021.

## Prevention

53%

Percentage of hepatitis C peer navigation program participants at SSPs with hepatitis C who received treatment<sup>4</sup>

Connecting people to harm reduction services and hepatitis C treatment can prevent further transmission of hepatitis C.

# Progress to Date

Strategy	Status update
To increase acceptability of hepatitis C awareness, education, and prevention:	
5.7 Develop trainings for clinical providers that communicate the importance of delivering trauma-informed, stigma-free and harm reduction-oriented hepatitis C care. Ensure that clinical provider trainings include education about reinfection and cirrhosis follow-up care, and address urgency in initiation of hepatitis C care.	The Health Department partnered with Empire Liver Foundation to deliver clinical education on harm reduction, hepatitis C re-infection, cirrhosis and liver cancer follow-up care, and the importance of initiating hepatitis C treatment for all people diagnosed with hepatitis C including people who use drugs and people with HIV.
To increase accessibility of hepatitis C testing and linkage to care:	
6.5 Support increased funding for patient navigation programs (such as Check Hep C) for people living with hepatitis C.	The Hep Free NYC Advocacy Committee is advocating for increased funding for navigation programs.

# Progress to Date

Strategy	Status update
To increase accessibility of hepatitis C treatment:	
<p>7.7 Advocate for Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care Plans, and private insurance plans to make hepatitis C treatment and ongoing monitoring via telemedicine available and reimbursable beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency.</p>	<p>The NYS Department of Health announced that New York State Medicaid will continue to provide comprehensive coverage of telehealth through Dec. 31, 2024.</p>
To increase acceptability of hepatitis C treatment:	
<p>7.13 Expand efforts to aid facilities serving populations with a high prevalence of hepatitis C to have the capacity to treat on-site. Specifically, support OTPs in addressing the staffing and administrative barriers to providing and billing for hepatitis C treatment. This may include supporting the development of 340B applications and facilitating collaborations with community health centers.</p>	<p>Supported two organizations' applications for 340B certification to increase access to affordable hepatitis C medications. However, on April 1, 2023, the NYS Medicaid pharmacy benefit was moved under Medicaid Fee-For-Service pharmacy program, now called NYRx. This removed the option to purchase prescription drugs at a discount and then invest those savings into reduced cost or free medications for patients. Advocacy related to this issue is ongoing among community partners.</p>

# Progress to Date

Strategy	Status update
To increase availability of hepatitis C surveillance data:	
8.1 Increase the number of facilities that report hepatitis C screening rates to the NYC Health Department.	The Health Department is onboarding grant-funded organizations specifically serving people with HIV and people who use drugs, to routinely report hepatitis C screening rates.
8.2 Amend the NYC Health Code to require laboratories to report negative hepatitis C antibody results to enable the NYC Health Department to develop and share citywide and facility-specific screening rates and identify acute infections.	The Health Department included these proposed amendments to the NYC Health Code in the agency's Regulatory Agenda for FY 23.

# What Actions Can You Take to Implement the Plan?

- What are community members and advocates doing to implement the Viral Hep Elimination Plan in NYC?
- Upcoming Coalition Meetings will feature people and programs working to implement the VH Elimination Plan in NYC
- Next Steps –
  - Volunteer to present at an upcoming Task Force Meeting
  - Let us know what you are doing to eliminate hepatitis C
- Contact Marie Bresnahan: at [mbresnahan@health.nyc.gov](mailto:mbresnahan@health.nyc.gov)