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Today, on ‘World Hepatitis Day,’ National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable Calls for Elimination of Hepatitis B & C in U.S. by 2030

Hepatitis B and C are the Deadliest Infectious Diseases in the U.S., and the National Academies Say They Can be Eliminated in Our Lifetime if Policymakers Take Steps Now

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 28, 2017) – [The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable](#) (NVHR) is observing today, [World Hepatitis Day](#), by calling for action to eliminate viral hepatitis, which kills more Americans every year than HIV and all other infectious diseases combined.

Ryan Clary, executive director of NVHR, released the following statement:

“This year’s World Hepatitis Day takes on even more importance because we have a clear roadmap for eliminating the devastation caused by hepatitis B and C, which has infected 325 million people around the world. More than 190 governments have adopted the World Health Organization’s goal of eliminating hepatitis B and C by 2030, and this spring, the [National Academies outlined specific actions](#) to end viral hepatitis here in the United States.

“There is no doubt that following the National Academies’ recommendations will save many lives and vastly improve the health of our nation. Viral hepatitis is the primary cause of death for more than 21,000 Americans every year, is the leading cause of liver cancer, and is on the rise. The number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by more than 20 percent in 2015, while acute hepatitis C infections nearly tripled from 2010 to 2015 — a 15-year high, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most new hepatitis C infections are occurring in young people who inject drugs, making the proliferation of viral hepatitis yet another deadly outcome of the national opioid crisis.

“On this World Hepatitis Day, we call on members of Congress to recognize that we are dealing with a deadly epidemic that will continue to grow if we don’t act now. The \$34 million our country currently spends to address viral hepatitis pales in comparison to the \$308 million that the CDC says it needs to adequately address elimination goals.

“It’s time to get serious about eliminating viral hepatitis.”

About the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)

The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is a broad coalition working to fight, and ultimately end, the hepatitis B and hepatitis C epidemics. We seek an aggressive response from policymakers, public health officials, medical and health care providers, the media, and the general public through our advocacy, education, and technical assistance. NVHR believes an end to the hepatitis B and C epidemics is within our reach and can be achieved through addressing stigma and health disparities, removing barriers to prevention, care and treatment, and ensuring respect and compassion for all affected communities. For more information, visit www.nvhr.org.