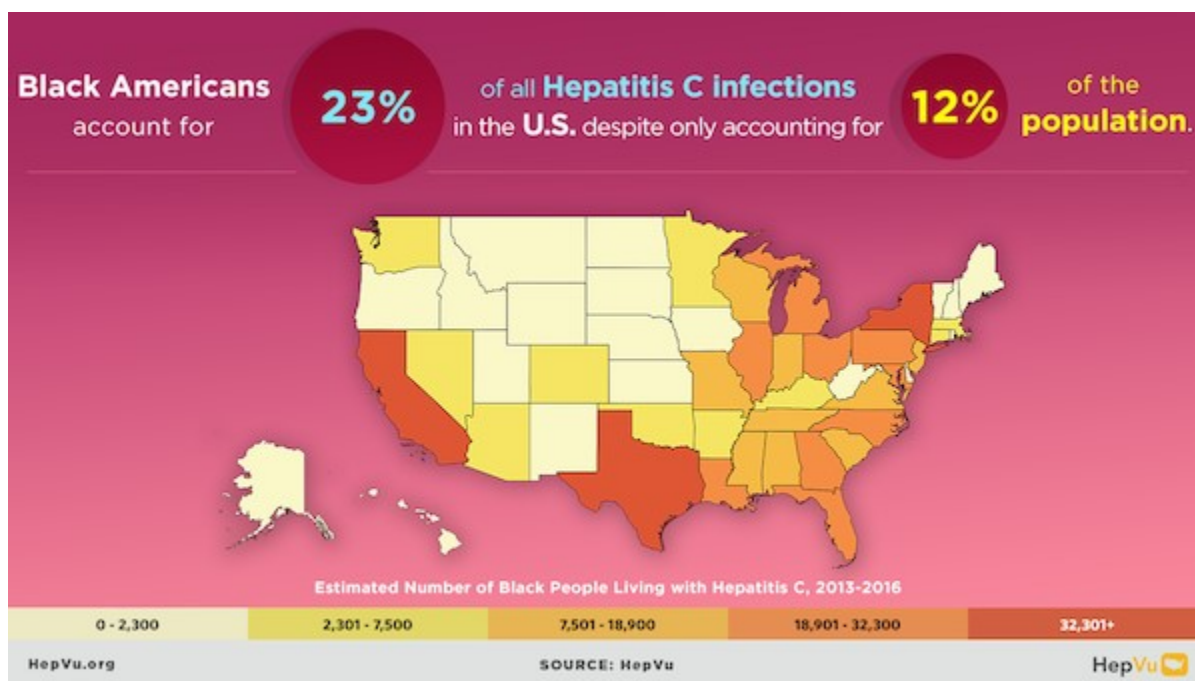


## Adrienne Simmons

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**From:** National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) <info@nvhr.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** Adrienne Simmons  
**Subject:** NVHR April Newsletter: National Minority Health Month, Policy Updates & Action Opportunities



Did you know that Black Americans account for 23% of all hepatitis C infections in the U.S. despite only accounting for 12% of the population? During April, which is [National Minority Health Month](#), it's important to understand the disparate impact of viral hepatitis on minority populations.

The [Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan: A Roadmap to Elimination 2021-2025](#) highlights key disparities impacting priority populations:

- Asian Americans account for 58% of Americans living with chronic hepatitis B but comprise only 6% of the total U.S. population.
- The prevalence of chronic hepatitis B among non-Hispanic Asians (3.41%) was 31 times the prevalence among non-Hispanic whites (0.11%).
- Non-Hispanic Blacks had a higher hepatitis B-related mortality rate (0.7 per 100,000) compared to non-Hispanic whites (0.27 per 100,000) and a higher hepatitis C-related mortality rate (6.31 per 100,000) compared to non-Hispanic whites (3.35 per 100,000).
- African immigrants account for approximately 12% of all Americans living with chronic hepatitis B.
- The incidence rate of acute hepatitis C among American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) has remained substantially higher than other racial/ethnic populations from 2003 to 2018. In 2018, the rate of incident acute hepatitis C was higher among AI/AN (3.6 per 100,000) than among non-Hispanic whites (1.3 per 100,000).
- The age-adjusted, hepatitis C-related mortality rate among AI/AN has been higher than all other racial/ethnic populations since 2013. The mortality rate among AI/AN was 2.7 times the rate among non-Hispanic whites, 1.4 times the rate among non-Hispanic Blacks, 2.0 times the rate among Hispanics, and 6.3 times the rate among APIs in 2018.

As a part of National Minority Health Month, HepCure, NVHR, and Treatment Action Group co-hosted a webinar regarding the injection drug use and health disparities among Puerto Ricans, and implications for HCV care and elimination. Recordings of the webinars in English and Spanish can be found on [NVHR's site](#).

**In line with the National Hepatitis Plan, NVHR advocates for equitable access to viral hepatitis prevention and care with a focus on communities disproportionately impacted by viral hepatitis to reduce**

health disparities and put the nation on the path toward elimination of viral hepatitis.

*Keep reading for more from the viral hepatitis community below!*

**TAKE ACTION**

**TAKE ACTION TODAY**

*Email your Members of Congress today about the need for more federal funding for viral hepatitis*

**NVHR**  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

### Support FY22 Funding to Combat Viral Hepatitis

The CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis needs at least \$134 million to combat viral hepatitis and the Infectious Diseases and Opioid Epidemic Program needs at least \$120 million to fully treat opioid-related infectious disease outbreaks.

Take Action TODAY!

Email your Representatives today, urging them to join their colleagues and support increased funding to combat viral hepatitis.

[SEND EMAIL](#)

## POLICY UPDATE

### Provider Sign-On Letter: Ask Assistant Secretary for Health to Prioritize Viral Hepatitis

NVHR has drafted a provider sign-on letter to Dr. Rachel Levine, the nation's new [Assistant Secretary for Health](#), asking her to prioritize viral hepatitis elimination in her new role. Dr. Levine formerly served as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health, where she was an important ally and champion for viral hepatitis elimination, alongside focusing on the opioid overdose epidemic, maternal health and childhood immunization, and COVID-19. Her new federal role has traditionally been key in overseeing federal hepatitis initiatives. We believe that she can play a strong role in advancing several priorities, including removing barriers to treatment, promoting screening and vaccination guidelines, addressing perinatal transmission, and focusing on the link between viral hepatitis and substance use.

*If you are a healthcare provider and wish to add your name to the letter, please [email](#) Daniel Raymond, NVHR's Director of Policy.*

### H.R. 1384, the "Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021"

NVHR continues to support HR 1384, the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021, which will make it easier for clinicians to prescribe buprenorphine and would effectively address the undue stigma embedded in current statute towards effective treatment for patients with opioid use disorders. You can urge your member of Congress to support HR 1384 by sending an email in two clicks: [Take Action Now](#).

## FROM THE COMMUNITY



## Congressional Briefing: Advancing Health Equity through Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination

Please join us for a virtual briefing recognizing National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day. Congresswoman Grace Meng (NY-06) will provide opening remarks. Panelists will discuss how we can work towards achieving health equity by increasing adult hepatitis B vaccination rates. In the US, just 25% of adults are fully vaccinated against hepatitis B infection. The expert panel includes representatives from the community, clinical, and federal sectors.

Thursday, April 29th at 3 pm ET

[Register Here](#)

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## Moving from Hepatitis Discovery to Elimination: NIH Webinar Series on Research Advancing Hepatitis Elimination

NIH and the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination are launching a webinar series, "Moving from Hepatitis Discovery to Elimination" to highlight ongoing research that can benefit elimination efforts, support translation of research into implementation, and identify additional research needs.

Thursday, May 14th at 3 pm ET

[Register Here](#)

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## HARM: Hepatitis, Addiction & Stigma Reduction in Medicine

Project ECHO presents HARM: Hepatitis, Addiction & Stigma Reduction in Medicine, an interactive series addressing the syndemic of Opioids and Hepatitis in America, with a focus on drug use, hepatitis C, and Harm Reduction. Please see the flyer below for a great training opportunity (with CEUs) on Wednesdays at noon CST.

Wednesday, May 19th at 1 pm ET/ 12 pm CT

[Register Here](#)

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## NVHR Grassroots Advocacy Call

Please join us to learn about updates in viral hepatitis advocacy and to share progress in your jurisdiction. This call will feature special *Hepatitis Awareness Month* information and updates. To add an item to the agenda, email [info@nvhr.org](mailto:info@nvhr.org).

Thursday, May 20th at 3 pm ET

[Register Here](#)

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# NVHR WELCOMES ROBIN LORD SMITH

as Community Engagement Coordinator



Robin has been a longtime advocate in the NVHR community, and we are pleased to welcome her as the new Community Engagement Coordinator. In her role, Robin will grow and strengthen relationships and partnerships with NVHR members such as community-based organizations and people with lived experience, to build community and advocacy capacity in alignment with our mission to eliminate viral hepatitis.



## NVHR'S NEW WEBSITE

NVHR launched a redesigned website earlier this year that offers more ways for advocates to connect and has more resources than before. Check out one of the newest features:

### Take Action

A key part of the fight to eliminate viral hepatitis is to encourage good public policy that enables better access to testing, treatment, and prevention of viral hepatitis. In order to educate and persuade policymakers, NVHR has incorporated easy advocacy actions into our website so that our members can communicate with policymakers in as little as two clicks.

The new "Take Action" section features various advocacy opportunities that users can sort by time commitment and outreach focus (federal action versus state/local action). Most actions will take less than 5 minutes!

*Click the image below to review the actions currently available.*

# Find The Right Action For You

There are many ways to personally support the fight against viral hepatitis. Choose your time commitment and state below, and we'll provide ideas of actions you can undertake.

Time Needed ▾ State ▾

<p><b>Support FY22 Funding to Combat Viral Hepatitis and Eliminate Opioid-related Infectious Diseases</b></p> <p>The CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis needs at least \$134 million to combat viral hepatitis and the Infectious Diseases and Opioid Epidemic Program needs at least \$120 million to fully treat opioid-related infectious disease outbreaks.</p> <p><a href="#">TAKE ACTION</a></p>	<p><b>Urge Congress to Support the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act (MAT)</b></p> <p>The Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act (MAT) would increase access to lifesaving addiction medicine.</p> <p><a href="#">TAKE ACTION</a></p>	<p><b>Ask Your Members of Congress to Join the Hepatitis Caucus</b></p> <p>The Congressional Hepatitis Caucus serves as a resource for members of Congress and their staff on issues and research related to the prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis.</p> <p><a href="#">TAKE ACTION</a></p>
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## LATEST NEWS

NOhep & World Hepatitis Alliance: [NOhep and the World Hepatitis Alliance launched NOhep Moms, a new campaign to raise awareness of hepatitis B and to call for governments, international donors and others to recognise the urgency for action to end the mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B](#)

Health Affairs Blog: [What's A Syndemic? Hepatitis C Among Injection Drug Users Is An Urgent Example](#)

Hepatitis Mag: [How Michigan Plans to Eliminate Hepatitis C](#)

B Heppy – A Podcast by the Hepatitis B Foundation: [The Hepatitis B Foundation launches a new podcast: B Heppy to address various](#)



topics about hepatitis B to help inform providers, persons living with hepatitis B and the general public about hepatitis B.



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