



NVHR

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

Thanks to the work of dedicated advocates from across the country, 2021 was a year of great progress towards eliminating viral hepatitis. NVHR is proud to have contributed to these successes at the national, state, and local levels, and we look forward to putting in the work to solve existing and future challenges.

[Click here](#) to check out our full 2021 Year In Review to read about NVHR and the viral hepatitis advocacy community's successes!

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National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Thanks to the work of dedicated advocates from across the country, 2021 was a year of great progress towards eliminating viral hepatitis. NVHR is proud to have contributed to these successes at the national, state, and local levels, and we look forward to putting in the work to solve existing and future challenges. In line with our Strategic Objectives for 2021-2023, read below to see the progress we made in the last year, and the momentum we have built for 2022!

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

- 9** Fact sheets, toolkits, and blogs developed by NVHR
- 20** NVHR webinars and partner presentations
- 11** State Medicaid programs who have removed prior authorization for HCV treatment
- 289** #FreeHep members and growing
- 100+** Viral Hepatitis Policy Summit & Will Day attendees

VIRAL HEPATITIS MILESTONES OF 2021

- HHS announced for first time their goal to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030 & released an initial elimination strategy
- The Biden Administration recognized National Hepatitis Testing Day
- CDC released viral hepatitis surveillance & case management guidance for state, territorial & local health departments
- CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended universal HCV vaccination for adults ages 18-59
- FDA reclassified certain HCV diagnostics tests which should spur innovation to make hepatitis C testing more accessible

NVHR strengthened our national coalition & strategic partnerships

- Launched new website with additional tools & resources to empower advocates
- Produced numerous [toolkits](#), [fact sheets](#), [blogs](#) & [podcasts](#) to inform & engage our network
- Co-hosted virtual summit on eliminating hepatitis C among people who use drugs in Appalachia
- Expanded audience and reach of presentations with partners on topics including elimination planning, universal screening, coalition building & more

NVHR helped lead the viral hepatitis community in elimination advocacy efforts

- Co-led target over Viral Hepatitis Policy Summit & Will Day
- Advocated for increased access to HCV treatment for Medicaid recipients with Hepatitis C, State of Medicaid Access
- Served as leading voices on viral hepatitis elimination task forces, coalitions, and professional society committees
- Engaged federal leadership from HHS, CDC, SAMHSA, and ONDCP on hepatitis priorities for action

NVHR expanded the reach & leveraged the power of our grassroots advocacy network

- Secured proclamations for World Hepatitis Day & National Hepatitis Testing Day across states
- Mobilized advocates to advance elimination through technical assistance and mentoring
- Raised awareness through 1 arm the virus in states and garnered media attention around issues in Maryland & Texas
- Over the attendance for our monthly grassroots advocacy calls by 20%

Building momentum in 2022

- Address long-standing health inequities in viral hepatitis treatment, vaccination, testing & linkage to care by advocating for comprehensive federal & state elimination plans
- Advocate for funding & resources to meet viral hepatitis elimination targets in alignment with [Hep ELIMINATION](#)
- Push for removal of prior authorization & treatment access barriers within state Medicaid programs in alignment with [Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access](#)
- Respond to the spike in viral hepatitis rates associated with injection drug use through a new collaboration with NACIAD and NACCHD

NVHR

TAKE ACTION

**We want to hear from you as we update
the evaluation criteria for
Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access.**

Take our Survey



Help Update the Criteria for the State of Hep C Evaluation Process

NVHR and the Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation ([CHLPI](#)) are in the process of updating the evaluation criteria for [Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access](#) and would like to hear from people who have been personally impacted by hepatitis C, healthcare team members, advocates, and other stakeholders about ongoing barriers to hepatitis C treatment access in their communities.

Fill Out Our Survey Below!

Critical barriers remain in many states to hepatitis C treatment access, and there is an opportunity to update the project's evaluation process to better account for these remaining barriers. Fill out our survey by **Sunday, March 6** to inform the project's evaluation criteria moving forward.

CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY

POLICY UPDATES

Sign On to the Drug Policy Working Group's Letter to Support Harm Reduction Funding. The Harm Reduction Working Group and AIDS United are welcoming organizations to sign a letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and ONDCP Director Rahul Gupta to summarize the feelings of the harm reduction community in the wake of the safer smoking kit scandal and the

Biden Administration's response. All sign ons must be made by **12:00 PM EST on Friday, February 25**. [Click here](#) to read and sign the letter.

State of Hep C Releases Latest Snapshot Report. NVHR and CHLPI released a [new snapshot report](#) in January for *Hepatitis C: The State of Medicaid Access*. Since launching the report in 2017, 33 states have either eliminated or reduced their fibrosis restrictions, 29 have loosened their sobriety restrictions, and 28 have scaled back their prescriber restrictions. Additionally, there are now 11 states that have removed prior authorization for most patients entirely: Washington, Louisiana, New York, California, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Rhode Island, Missouri, Alaska, and Virginia.

Looking to Oregon for Models in Addressing the Opioid Crisis. Oregon passed a law in 2020 to decriminalize personal-use drug possession and increase funding for recovery services, modeled after a harm reduction approach first seen in Portugal that has led to a steady decline in overdose deaths, rates of addiction, and hepatitis C and HIV infections. Massachusetts and Vermont are considering similar bills and activists in California are working toward a state initiative on the 2024 ballot. Read NVHR Director of Policy Daniel Raymond's latest [Letter to the Editor](#) in the *New York Times* on why other states should follow suit.

Hep ElimINATION Preliminary Grade Comment Period Open Through April 15. We are inviting stakeholders to provide feedback on their jurisdiction's preliminary Hep ElimINATION grade. The public comment submission form may be accessed on the [Hep ElimINATION website](#). Comments will be accepted until April 15, 2022. Any score modifications resulting from this comment period will be reflected in the June 2022 update. Please reach out to Adrienne Simmons, NVHR Director of Programs, for any questions or to learn more about how you can get involved in elimination efforts in your jurisdiction: adrienne@nvhr.org

North Carolina Releases Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan. The North Carolina Viral Hepatitis Task Force recently released [Viral Hepatitis in North Carolina: Comprehensive Response Recommendations](#), which aims to address methods and issue recommendations to reduce hepatitis A, B, and C incidence and prevalence in North Carolina, and increase access to care and treatment through leveraging of existing infrastructure and partnerships.

FROM THE COMMUNITY



Webinar: Hepatitis Delta and Risk of Liver Cancer

Join the Hepatitis B Foundation's Hep Delta Connect program for their upcoming webinar. Habiba Kohdir of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm will be presenting her paper "[Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Hepatitis B and D Virus Co-Infected Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Longitudinal Studies.](#)"

Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10AM ET

[Register Here](#)



Support Vital Strategies' Harm Reduction Campaign

Vital Strategies launched a new, interactive online memorial to honor the more than one million people who have lost their lives to drug overdose over the past two decades in the U.S. The digital mosaic allows anyone to commemorate a loved one lost to overdose and calls for urgent action in their name. Following the launch, Vital Strategies will share the largest-ever national advertising campaign promoting harm reduction to raise awareness about commonsense ways to save

lives in some of the states hardest hit by the overdose crisis.

[View the Memorial Here](#)



March 1 is Zero Discrimination Day

The Hepatitis B Foundation and Hep B United are launching a campaign to focus on fighting hepatitis B discrimination. The campaign will launch with #ZeroDiscriminationDay on March 1 and continue with #EndHepBDiscrimination graphics and messaging throughout the month of March. You can find graphics and suggested language for social media [posts here](#) to help spread the message and drive advocates to their [Discrimination Registry](#).



Opening for Research Assistant at the University of Rhode Island

Interested in playing a part in efforts to help develop novel rapid, point-of-care, hepatitis C virus RNA diagnostic fingerstick testing? There is now an opening for a full-time Research Assistant position with Lynn E. Taylor, MD in Providence, RI. Because this is a brief pilot study, the position is a shared one where the RA will work with the Alzheimer's Biomarker Laboratory as well. Hiring ASAP! For more information, see www.jobs.uri.edu position SF01239.



Navigating the Harm Reduction Funding Landscape: A Guide for State, Federal, and Private Funding

The NASTAD Drug User Health Team has released [***Navigating the Harm Reduction Funding Landscape: A Guide for State, Federal and Private Funding***](#), a new resource designed specifically for community-based harm reduction programs and Syringe Services Programs (SSPs). It provides an overview of navigating the funding landscape and fulfilling the requirements in grant proposals and their application processes.

Reach out to [**NASTAD's Drug User Health team**](#) with questions or to request technical assistance on grant-writing and funding, and sustainability for SSPs.

LATEST NEWS

The Richmond Times-Dispatch (by NVHR Community Engagement Coordinator Robin Lord Smith): [**Opinion: To address Virginia's viral hepatitis epidemic, we must root out the stigma that comes with it**](#)

The New York Times: [**Pandemic Era Tests May Speed Hepatitis-C Detection**](#) (features NVHR provider advocate **Marguerite Beiser, ANP-BC**)

The Washington Post: [**Hepatitis C is a growing threat to moms and babies. But screening is inadequate.**](#) (features NVHR provider advocate **Tatyana Kushner, MD**)

The New York Times: [**Opinion: Treating Addiction as a Crime Doesn't Work. What Oregon Is Doing Just Might.**](#)

The Hill: [**Advocates scorn lawmakers over 'crack pipe' uproar**](#)

KALW: [Hep C treatment van makes cure accessible to those who need it most.](#) (features NVHR provider advocate **Jennifer Price, MD, PhD**)

NYN Media: [Opinion: New York State is ready for statewide injection sites](#)

The Hill: [Opinion: 'Crack pipes' aren't the problem — stigmatizing harm reduction is](#)

The Roanoke Times (by NVHR Public Health Advisor Lauren Canary): [Letter: Another consequence of the opioid crisis](#)



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