

2022

YEAR IN REVIEW

For NVHR, 2023 will mark our twentieth year of fighting to eliminate viral hepatitis. The turn of a new year is tiny by comparison, but this annual rest stop gives us a much-needed chance to get out of the car, stretch our legs, and appreciate the expanse of miles we've put behind ourselves. In the spirit of stopping to take in the view every so often, here are some highlights from NVHR's 2022:



Through work with CHLPI on [Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access](#), we paved the way for 7 jurisdictions to remove prior authorization in 2022!



In partnership with NASTAD and NACCHO, we facilitated [the launch of HepNET](#), a new national network aiming to connect public health organizations and harm reduction groups to address the unmet needs of people who inject drugs.



The O'Neill Institute launched [Hep Elimination](#) with support from NVHR and CHLPI, a project evaluating policies and approaches impacting viral hepatitis elimination in jurisdictions throughout the U.S. and making recommendations for improvement.



For the first time since before pandemic times, our team gave in-person talks at three conferences.

2022 FEDERAL MILESTONES

- CDC published draft HBV screening recommendations and HCV perinatal screening recommendations
- Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which eliminated cost-sharing for all vaccines covered under Medicare and Medicaid
- The White House convened federal officials and stakeholders to discuss development of a National Hepatitis C Elimination Program
- CDC formally adopted hepatitis B vaccination recommendation for all adults ages 19-59 years
- CDC released new data on hepatitis C treatment rates showing that only 1 in 3 people with insurance get timely treatment
- Congress increased funding for CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis and the Infectious Disease Consequences of the Opioid Crisis line item by \$2 million and \$5 million, respectively

We helped lead the viral hepatitis community in advocacy efforts

- NVHR actively worked through the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership to push for increased funding for viral hepatitis elimination, including hosting a Hepatitis Policy Summit and virtual Hepatitis Hill Day
- NVHR engaged federal leadership from HHS, CDC, SAMHSA, and ONDCP on hepatitis priorities for action and advised states on elimination strategies
- With consultation from NVHR and CHLPI, the O'Neill Institute launched [Hep Elimination](#), a snapshot of select policies and programmatic strategies relevant to building capacity for viral hepatitis elimination across the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico
- NVHR piloted a virtual advocacy training series, Hepatitis Advocacy Learning Online (HALO), for people with lived experience
- NVHR educated and mobilized advocates through toolkits, webinars, and Grassroots Advocacy Calls
- NVHR raised awareness through blog posts, presentations, and media engagements

We joined forces with our partners to bolster viral hepatitis prevention efforts

- NVHR supported the implementation of ACIP HBV recommendations by participating in a working group by the Hepatitis B Foundation and a symposium by the Forum for Collaborative Research
- NVHR, Hep B United, and NASTAD hosted a webinar on community collaboration with health departments for hepatitis B prevention
- NVHR and HepNET's Leading with Lived Experience Consultants presented on the intersection of hepatitis and substance use at the National Harm Reduction Conference and the Southern Harm Reduction Conference

We leveraged the power of our network to push for widespread testing and linkage to care

- NVHR launched the [Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing \(HepNET\)](#) in collaboration with NASTAD and NACCHO, including developing and facilitating a curriculum for Leading with Lived Experience Consultants on providing technical assistance related to viral hepatitis care
- NVHR and Treatment Action Group coordinated the Viral Hepatitis Diagnostics Working Group to push for point-of-care viral hepatitis tests
- NVHR, NASTAD, and NACCHO hosted a HepNET webinar about organizations providing technical assistance related to offering and integrating hepatitis services for people who use drugs

We engaged key decision-makers to improve treatment access

- NVHR launched a new [Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access](#) report and rubric assessing hepatitis C treatment in state Medicaid programs in collaboration with CHLPI and partnered with HepVu to visualize the data
- NVHR engaged state Medicaid programs about how to improve access to hepatitis C treatment. Six states and DC removed prior authorization, for a total of 16 state Medicaid programs who have removed prior authorizations entirely for most patients. Additionally, AL and MS removed substance use requirements following a complaint filed by CHLPI with the Department of Justice
- NVHR published a toolkit on how to get prior authorizations removed and engage with Drug Utilization Review Boards and Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committees
- NVHR and Hepatitis B Foundation co-hosted a webinar series on HBV and HDV drug development for patients and advocates about the clinical trial process