In 2023, we celebrated two whole decades of NVHR, as well as the thirtieth anniversary of our parent organization, the Hepatitis Education Project. Fittingly, we spent a fair bit of time looking back, but we also looked to the future with the help of our new Executive Director, Apoorva Mallya. As we step forward into a new year and an exciting new era, here are some highlights to remember 2023 by:

**2023 FEDERAL MILESTONES**

- White House proposed first-ever national hepatitis C elimination initiative
- CDC updated their recommendations to include HBV testing for all adults
- CDC updated their recommendations on hepatitis C testing among perinatally exposed infants and children
- CDC released new data showing that only 1 in 3 people diagnosed with HCV have been cured
- OIDP shared research findings on payment and reimbursement models for integrating viral hepatitis services

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**Through work with CHLPI on Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access**, we paved the way for at least 9 jurisdictions to remove prior authorization in 2023!

**In partnership with NASTAD and NACCHO**, we facilitated the first HepNET learning community, focused on strengthening partnerships between health departments and harm reduction organizations.

**In collaboration with HBF**, we organized the inaugural Quarterly Hepatitis Roundtable, where senior White House officials presented their vision for enacting a national elimination plan to the viral hepatitis community.

**Voices4Hep advocates** were featured in pieces from NPR and CNN about new CDC data showcasing major gaps in linkage to hepatitis C treatment.
We grew the power of our grassroots advocacy network

- Engaged a record number of advocates in our Grassroots Advocacy Calls around issues such as hepatitis C vaccine development, high-impact settings for care, and Section 1115 reentry waivers
- Convened the Viral Hepatitis Diagnostics Working Group to push for viral hepatitis point-of-care diagnostic tests
- Partnered with advocates to spread awareness about viral hepatitis through interviews, social media, and videos
- Connected with advocates and partners in-person at AASLD’s The Liver Meeting, the Hep B United Summit, and NASTAD’s Southern Syringe Services Programs Institute

We helped lead the viral hepatitis community in elimination advocacy efforts

- Engaged the White House, Congress, and federal officials about viral hepatitis policy priorities
- Led the first HepNET learning community focused on strengthening partnerships between health departments and harm reduction organizations
- Supported research efforts on drivers of disparities in hepatitis C screening and treatment
- Improved tracking and visualization of barriers to HCV treatment access in Medicaid programs and sent letters to more than 20 State Medicaid Directors in states where prior authorization barriers persist
- Reached a milestone of at least 27 states removing prior authorization for most patients
- Published three new HCV treatment resources on treatment costs, genotyping, and pre-release Medicaid coverage in prisons and jails

We strengthened our national coalition & strategic partnerships

- Shared leadership in key federal viral hepatitis advocacy coalitions, including the Hepatitis Advocacy Work Group and Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership
- Co-hosted Unlocking HCV Care in Key Settings and published a report summarizing the symposium in collaboration with NASTAD and CDC
- Co-hosted a virtual summit on Eliminating Viral Hepatitis Among People Who Use Drugs in Appalachia in collaboration with Community Liver Alliance
- Advised the development of a toolkit on viral hepatitis elimination planning resources in collaboration with the O’Neill Institute and the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation
- Amplified new CDC research that breakthrough cures fail to reach most Americans in collaboration with NVHR Voices4Hep network
- Co-hosted the inaugural Quarterly Hepatitis Roundtable in collaboration with Hepatitis B Foundation