

Hepatitis C in Kentucky

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KDPH Viral Hepatitis Program

Public Health Nursing Webinar

August 17, 2023



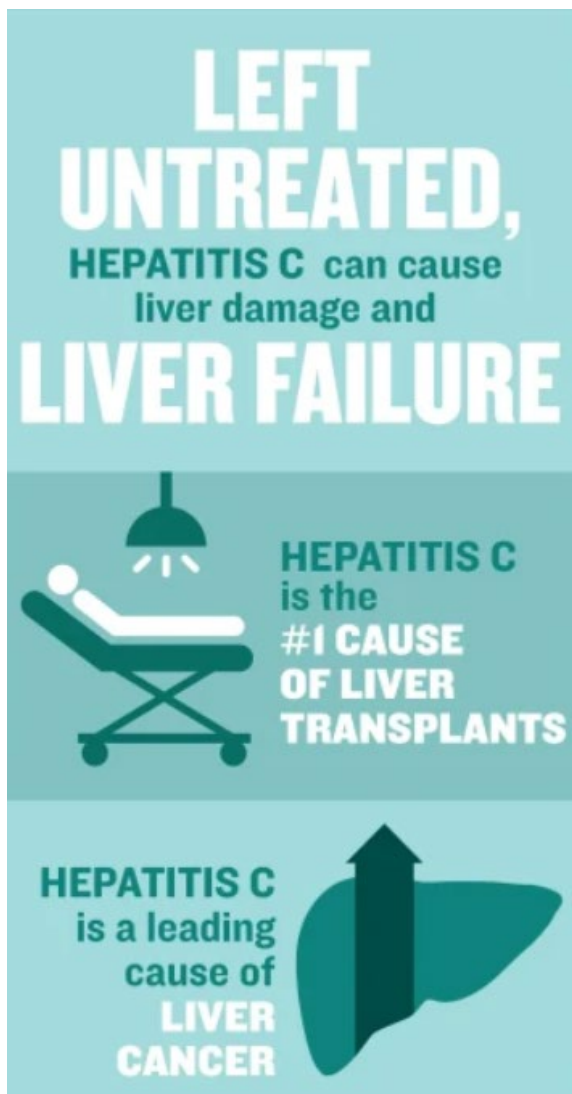
Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



TEAM 
KENTUCKY[®]
CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

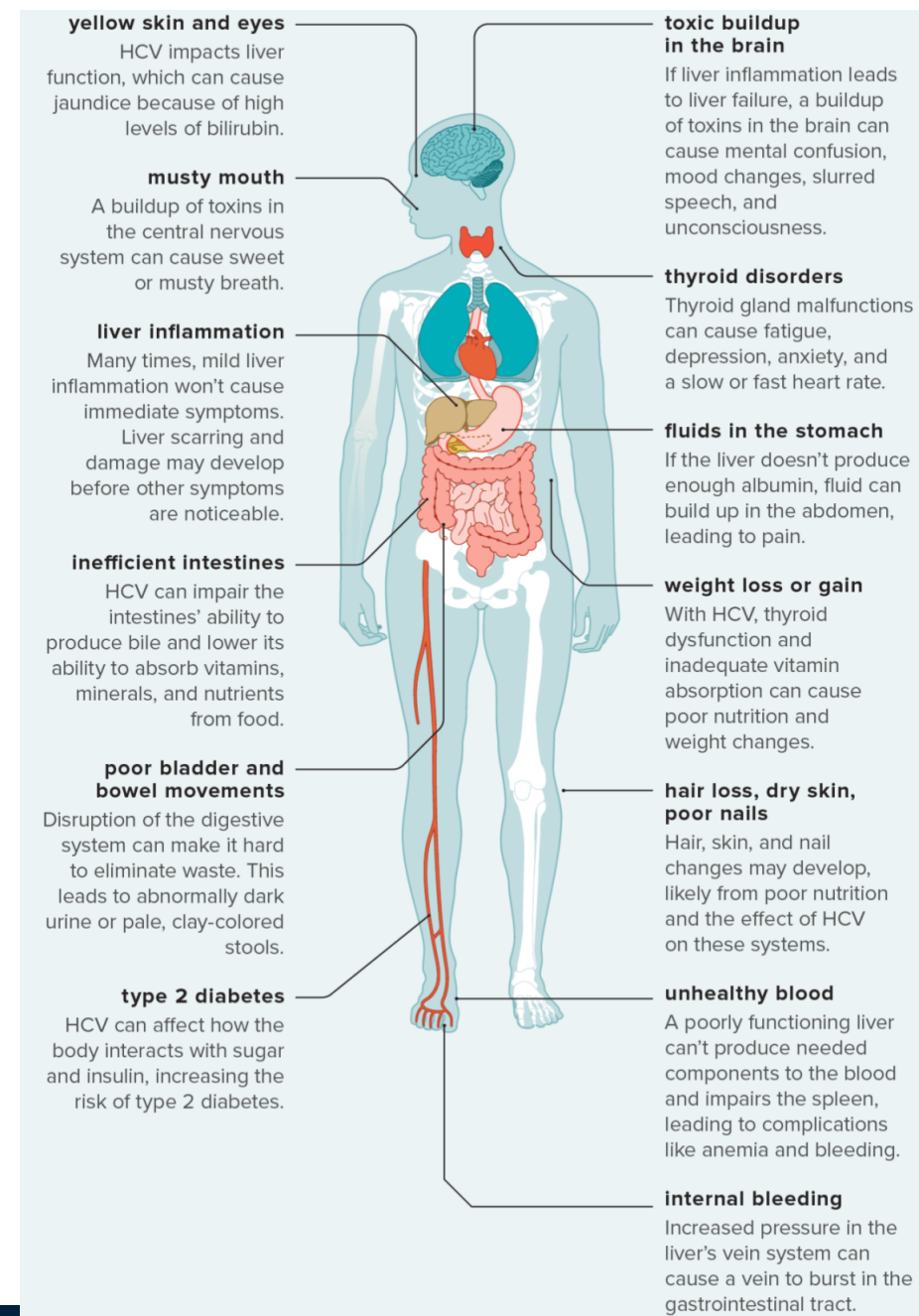
Objectives

1. Discuss HCV data and epidemiology in Kentucky
2. Learn about efforts to eliminate HCV in Kentucky

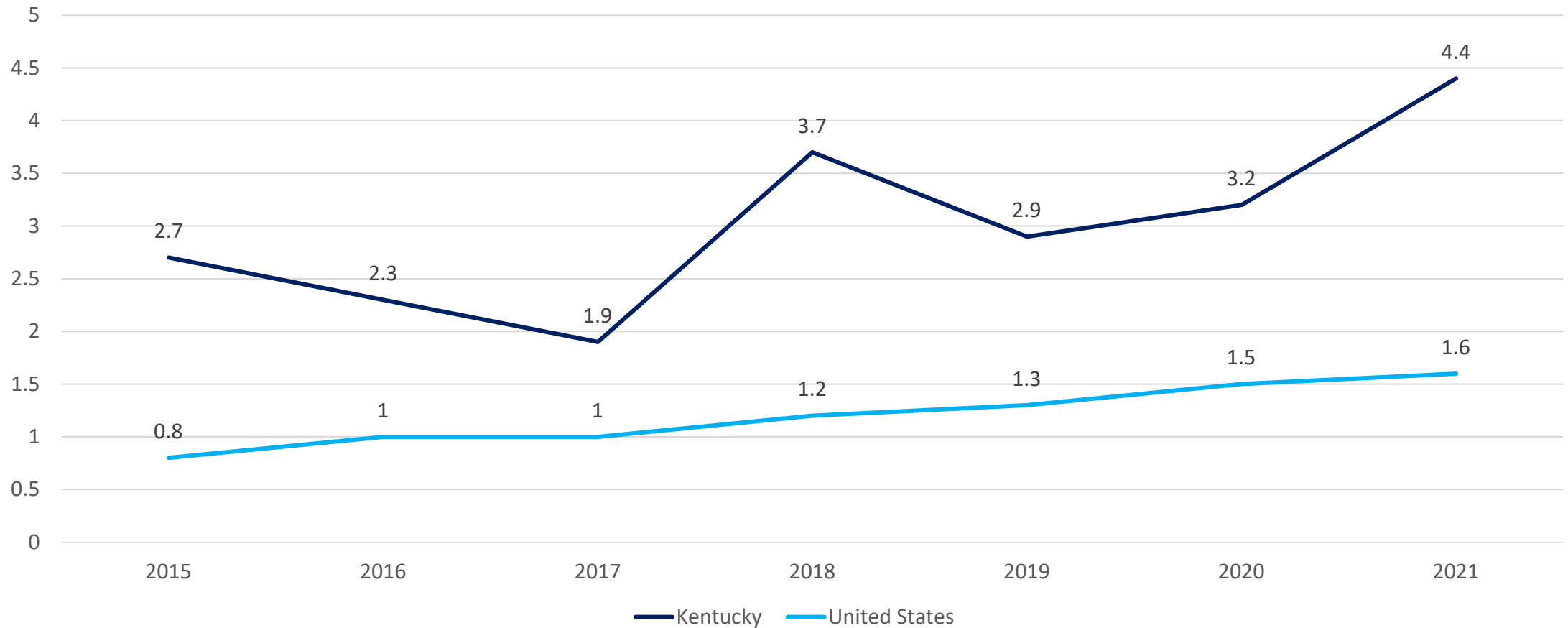


Hepatitis C:

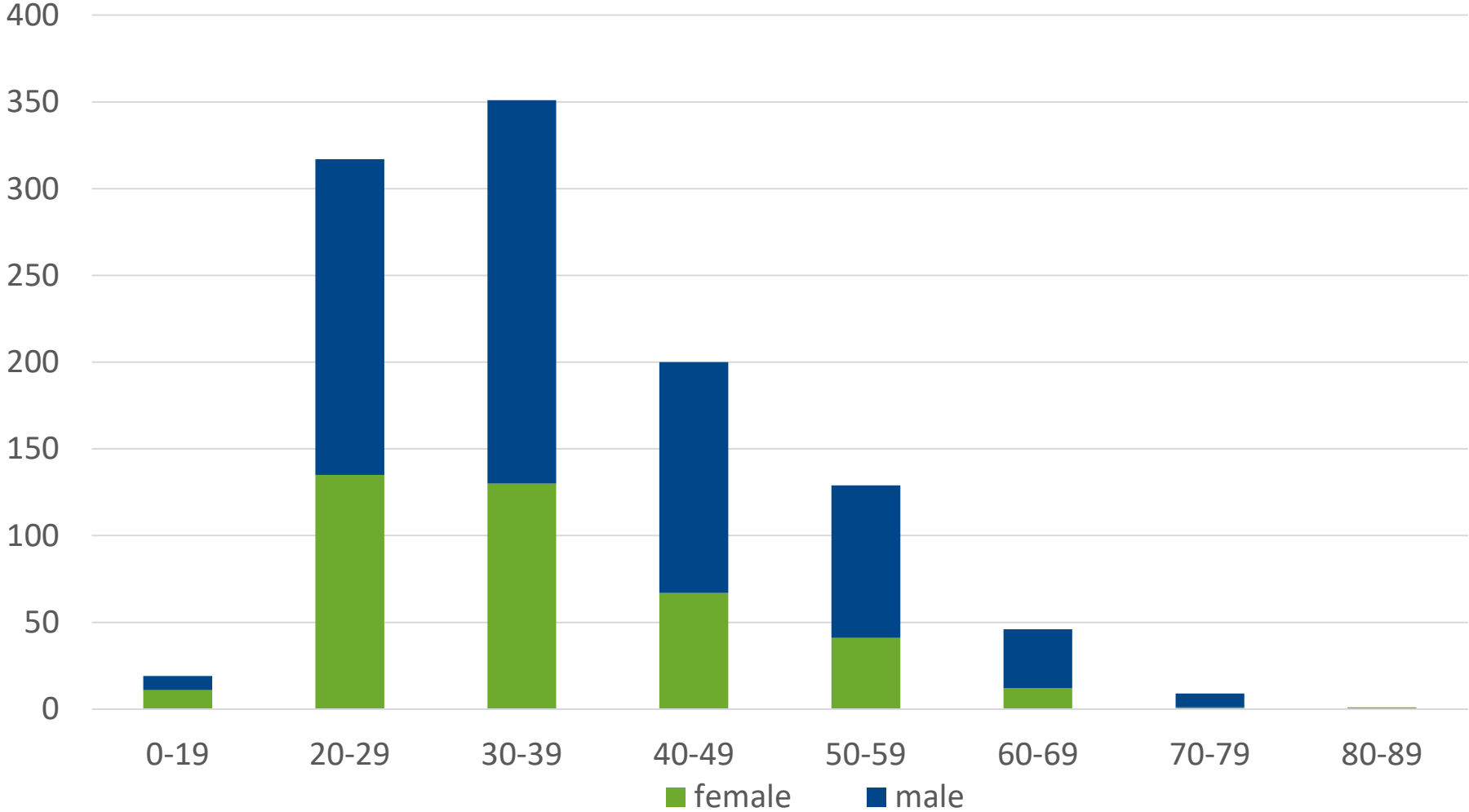
Serious consequences for the health of Kentuckians



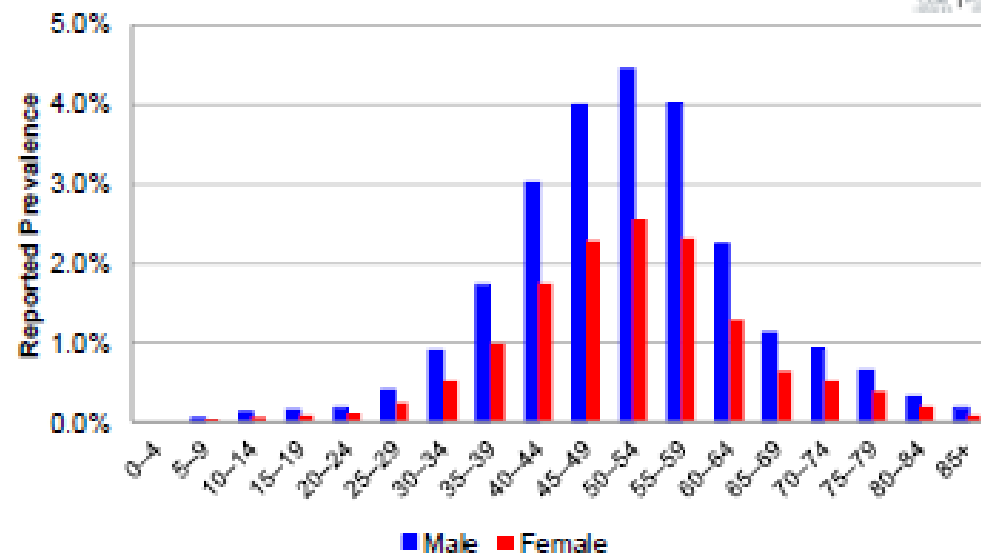
United States and Kentucky, Acute Hepatitis C Rates, 2015-2021



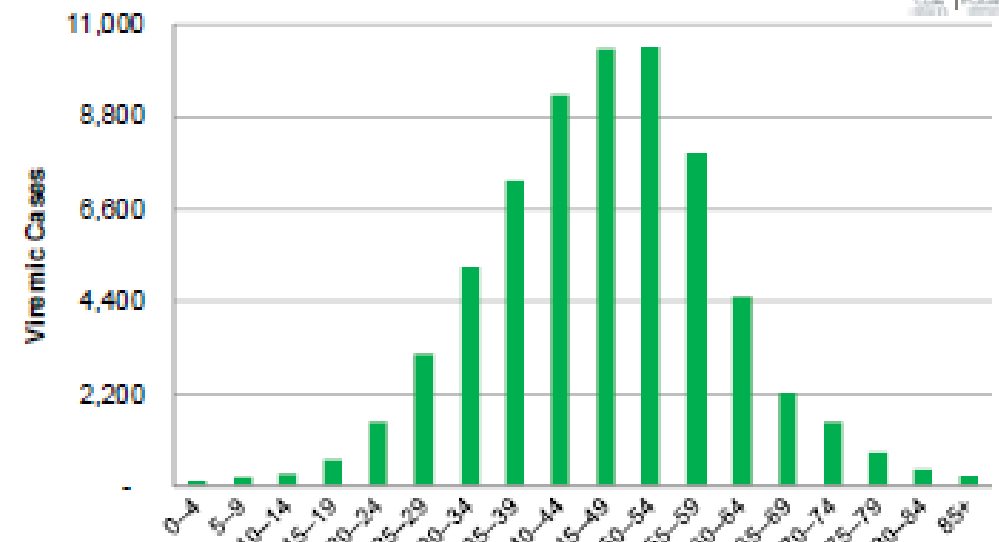
Case Count by Patient Current Gender and Age Group, Kentucky 2015-2021



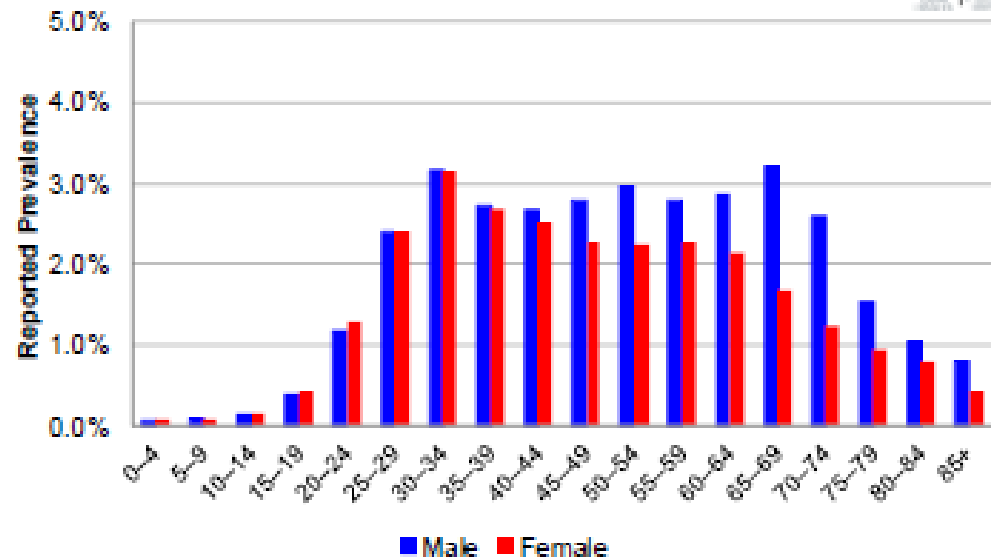
HCV Prevalence by Age and Sex — Kentucky, 2006 (End of Year)



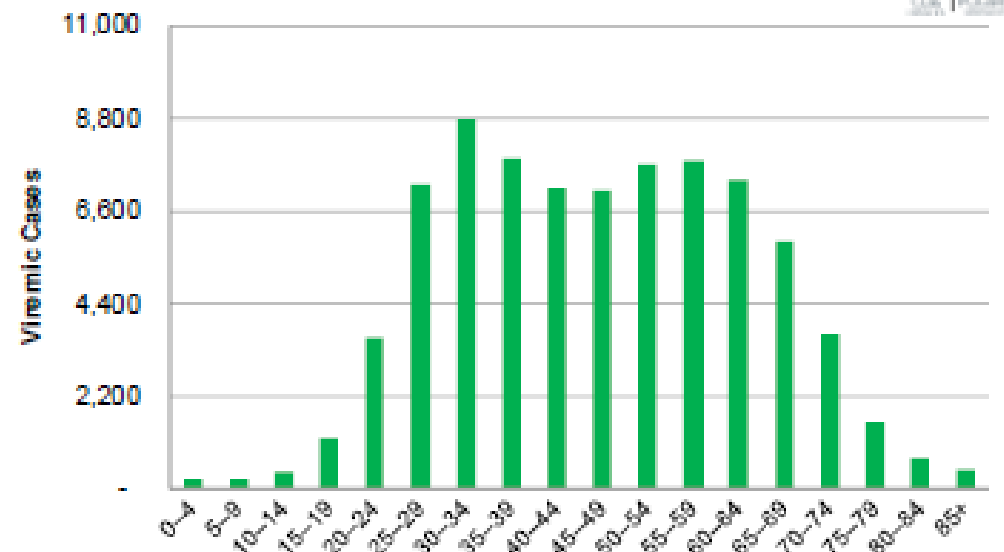
HCV-Infected Population by Age Group — Kentucky, 2006



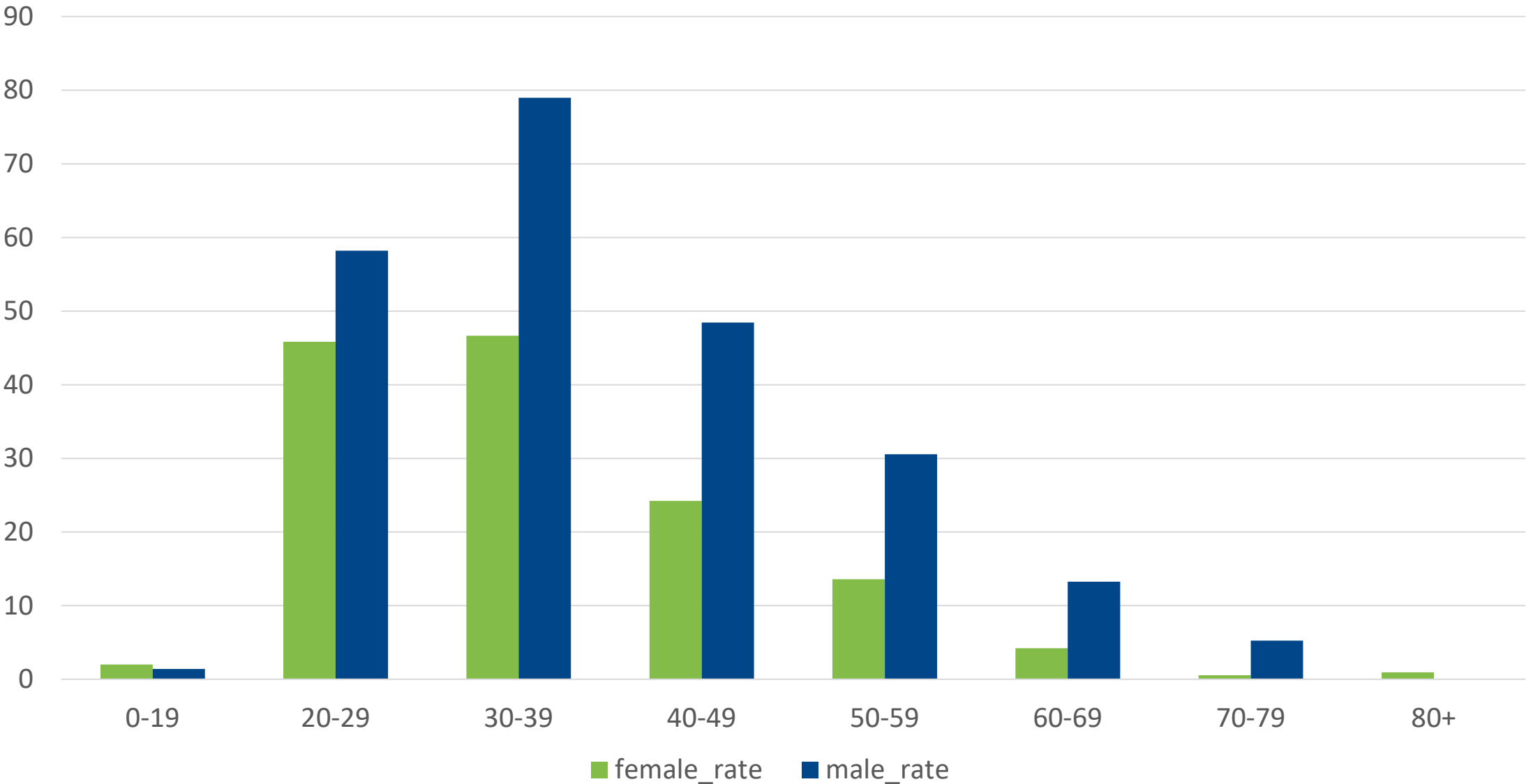
HCV Prevalence by Age and Sex — Kentucky, 2018 (End of Year)



HCV-Infected Population by Age Group — Kentucky, 2018

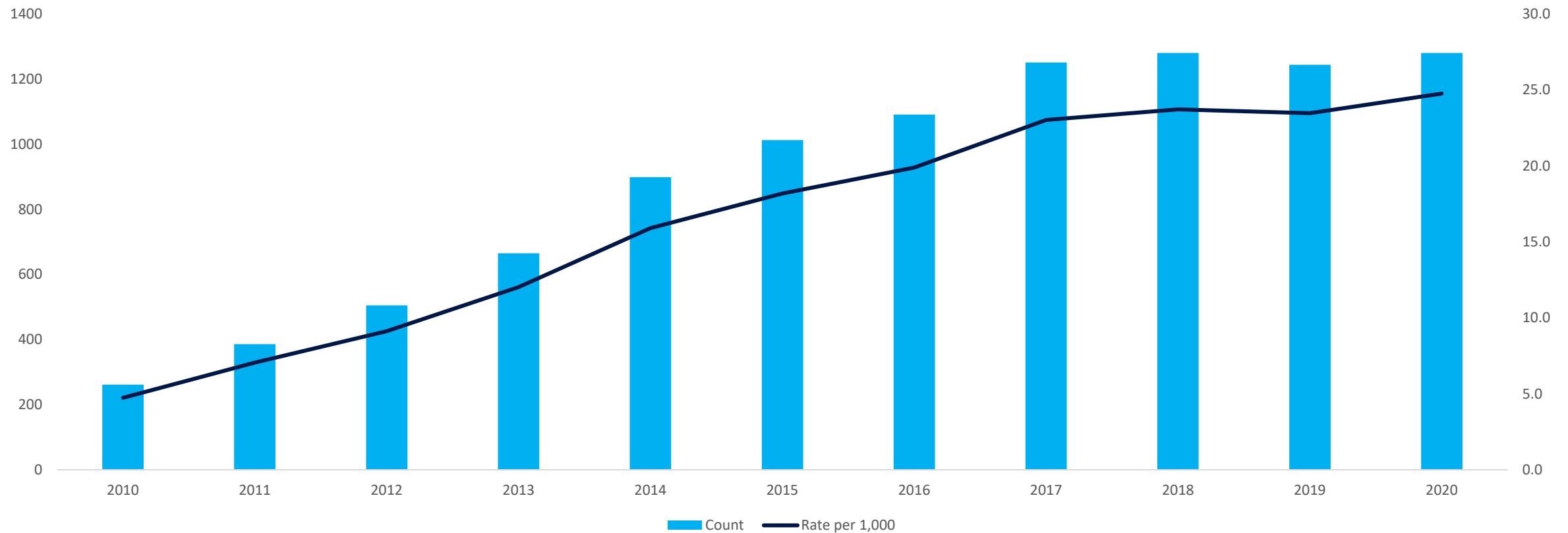


Case Rates by Patient Current Gender and Age Group, Kentucky, 2015-2019



Office of Vital Statistics Birth Certificate Data, Kentucky 2010-2020

Reported Hepatitis C Status of Mother among Kentucky Resident Births, 2010-2020



Perinatal Case Reports Received by KDPH

| Risk Factors of Mothers or Pregnant Women | Yes | No/Unknown | % with Risk Factor |
|--|------|------------|--------------------|
| Intravenous Drug Use | 1448 | 975 | 33.6 |
| Multiple Sex Partners | 247 | 1469 | 5.7 |
| STIs | 210 | 1472 | 4.9 |
| HIV | 9 | 1559 | 0.2 |
| Exposure to Known Hepatitis Positive Contact | 243 | 1328 | 5.6 |
| Incarceration | 187 | 1357 | 4.3 |
| Intransasal Drug Use | 91 | 1436 | 2.1 |

n=4,306

HCV in Kentucky

Between 2014-2018, Medicaid treated 6,500 of the 26,200 individuals diagnosed with acute or chronic hep C.

In 2018, Kentucky Department of Corrections estimated 30% of 41,000 incarcerated individuals were HCV antibody positive.

Approximately 55% of PWID are HCV antibody positive

Approximately 78,000 Kentuckians living with hepatitis C

Creating Kentucky's Hepatitis C Elimination Plan

- Review of national strategies and plans from other jurisdictions
- Stakeholder groups formation and meetings
- Provider and Laboratory Surveys
- Consultation with federal partners
- Review of surveillance data
- Site visits to harm reduction programs and listening sessions with participants, staff, and peers
- Open comment period for review of draft plan

Stakeholder Group Formation

Broader stakeholder coalition: HepFree KY

- Kentucky Primary Care Association
- Kentucky Hospital Association
- Kentucky Medical Association
- Kentucky Rural Health Association
- LHD Director
- AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC)
- Kentucky Voices for Health (advocacy)
- Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky (advocacy)
- UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health
- Community Action Council: Housing & Homelessness
- Kentucky Equal Justice Center (legal advocacy)
- BCC Jail Linkage Coordinator (Ryan White)
- Healthy Re-entry Coalition of KY
- Kentucky Jailers Association
- KY Voices for Hope (recovery support & advocacy)
- KADAP Income Reinvestment Program (KIRP)
- Community based HIV/AIDS orgs: AVOL; VOA
- Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky
- KDPH Office of Health Equity
- Patient Advocate; PWLE
- NAMI-KY (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- SSPs

Technical advisory committee: Kentucky HepTAC

- Researchers and medical providers (ID, GI) from universities, major health systems (UK, UofL, Norton, VA, ARH)
- UK Specialty Pharmacy
- Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy
- Community-based Harm Reduction
- Dept for Medicaid Services
- KDPH: HIV, Harm Reduction
- Dept for Behavioral Services, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
- Dept of Corrections
- KADAP Income Reinvestment Program (KIRP)

SSP Site Visits



- Locations:
 - Northern Kentucky (Campbell County)
 - Carter County
 - Graves County
 - Louisville (Jefferson County)
 - Barren River
- Staff, participant, peer interviews
- Observation



Official Release

- Approved Tuesday, August 9, 2022




KY HCV
Elimination
Plan

[HepatitisCEliminationPlan.pdf \(ky.gov\)](https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Documents/HepatitisCEliminationPlan.pdf)

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Documents/HepatitisCEliminationPlan.pdf>

Hepatitis C Elimination Plan



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Kentucky Department for Public Health

This is a governing document to guide statewide elimination efforts led by the Viral Hepatitis Program, developed in collaboration with community stakeholders and those with lived experience.

Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

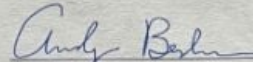
- WHEREAS, The hepatitis C virus is prevalent in Kentucky communities, with the Commonwealth in the top three states with the highest rates of infection for much of the last decade; and
- WHEREAS, Effective antiviral treatments are available, making hepatitis C a curable disease; and
- WHEREAS, Treating people with hepatitis C infection decreases the likelihood of others being infected, making it a successful prevention strategy; and
- WHEREAS, The Kentucky Department for Public Health is partnering with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, clinical, behavioral, and social service providers, professional organizations, local public health and community organizations, and corrections to promote awareness and elimination of hepatitis C;

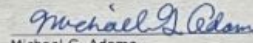
NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim July 24-28, 2023, as

HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION WEEK

in Kentucky.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 20th day of June, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three and in the 232nd year of the Commonwealth.


ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR


Michael G. Adams
Secretary of State



Governor's Proclamation

Last week of July 2022
and 2023
proclaimed

“Hepatitis C Elimination
Week”
in Kentucky

(week of World
Hepatitis Day)

Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, The hepatitis C virus is prevalent in Kentucky communities, being in the top three states with highest rates for much of the last decade; and
- WHEREAS, Effective antiviral treatments are available, making hepatitis C a curable disease; and
- WHEREAS, Treating people with hepatitis C infection decreases likelihood of others being infected, making it a successful prevention strategy; and
- WHEREAS, The Kentucky Department for Public Health is partnering with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, clinical, behavioral, and social service providers, professional organizations, local public health and community organizations and corrections to promote awareness and elimination of hepatitis C;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim July 25-29, 2022, as

HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION WEEK

in Kentucky.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 11th day of July, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Two and in the 231st year of the Commonwealth.


ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR


Michael G. Adams
Secretary of State



Kentucky's Hepatitis C Elimination Plan

- **VISION Statement:** To create a Commonwealth free of hepatitis C
- **MISSION Statement:** Working together to eliminate hepatitis C in Kentucky through reducing stigma, empowering citizens to know their status, and ensuring equitable access to quality care and treatment.
- **VALUES:**
 - Harm Reduction
 - Priority population focus
 - Centered voices of those with lived experience
 - Health equity and inclusion of historically excluded groups
 - “Status Neutral” approach for PWUD and others at increased risk for infection

Priority Populations

- After review, these priority populations were specifically named in the plan
 - People who use drugs (PWUD)
 - Incarcerated individuals
 - Historically excluded racial and ethnic populations
 - Baby boomers
 - Pregnant/parenting persons
 - Children in foster care
 - People with prior HCV infection
 - Rural communities

Goals

- ① Prevent New Hepatitis C Infections

- ② Promote Comprehensive HCV Testing and Treatment for Overall Improved Health Outcomes

- ③ Improve Hepatitis C Surveillance and Data Usage


- ④ Approach Hepatitis C Elimination in the Context of the Syndemic of Viral Hepatitis, HIV, Other Infectious Diseases, and Substance Use Disorders



Hep Elimination, a National Evaluation of States' Capacity for Viral Hepatitis Elimination, is an advocacy tool to bring awareness to policymakers, public health agencies, and communities about a broad range of key considerations for elimination.

January 2022

KENTUCKY
CAPACITY RUBRIC
TOTAL GRADE: 26 / 55 POINTS



C

[VIEW THE GRADING SCALE](#)[Open All / Collapse All](#)


I. STATE VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT
(0 / 5 POINTS)
In this section we assess whether a jurisdiction has drafted a publicly available viral hepatitis plan that is current and reflects the priorities outlined in the HHS Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan and the World Health Organization's goals to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Does the state have a viral hepatitis elimination plan? ¹ | 0 / 3 points |
|--|--------------|



October 2022

KENTUCKY
CAPACITY RUBRIC
TOTAL GRADE: 34 / 55 POINTS



B

[VIEW THE GRADING SCALE](#)[Open All / Collapse All](#)

1 State Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan Development
(4 / 5 POINTS)
In this section we assess whether a jurisdiction has drafted a publicly available viral hepatitis plan that is current and reflects the priorities outlined in the HHS Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan and the World Health Organization's goals to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Does the state have a viral hepatitis elimination plan? ¹ | 3 / 3 points |
|--|--------------|

IMPLEMENTATION

Current Priorities/Major Projects:

- Corrections: State and Local
- Medicaid Policy
- HCV Outbreak Response Planning
- Perinatal
- Surveillance Enhancement

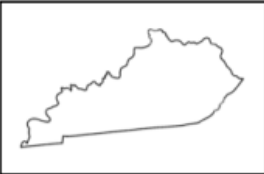
Correctional Settings

- KDPH Work Group
- VHP Corrections Work Group
- Technical Assistance from national org; consultation with other jurisdictions
- Collaboration with HIV Branch for jail survey (HCV testing, treatment, referrals) and other areas

- Foci:
 - Prisons: affordable medications (340b); enhanced infrastructure/support system for treatment (provider education)
 - Jails: testing/education inside facilities; linkage/reentry navigation upon release; partnerships with organizations working with released individuals

Medicaid Policy

- Areas of concern: Prior Authorization; Re-treatment restrictions
- Work group
- Technical Assistance from national org; consultation with other jurisdictions
- Health Impact Assessment

| Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card | |
|--|--|
| Kentucky | |
|  | |
| Grade | Recommendations to Improve Patient Access |
| B | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove prior authorization for HCV treatment.• Remove retreatment restrictions related to substance use.• Remove additional restrictions as described below. |

<https://stateofhepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Kentucky-June-2022.pdf>

Outbreak Response Planning

- Hepatitis A, B, & C
- Work group; regular monthly meetings
 - Members represent: [KDPH HIV, HAI, Reportable Disease, VPD, Preparedness, Harm Reduction, Regional Epi, KIRP, Kentucky Primary Care Association, UK Infectious Disease, UK Specialty Pharmacy, Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, VA, Immunize KY Coalition]
- Technical Assistance from national org; consultation with other jurisdictions and CDC
- Hoping to initiate genomic sequencing (partnership with Division of Laboratory Services) to better identify outbreaks and deploy rapid response (contingent upon funding)

Perinatal Efforts

- SETNET/ELC Project W
- Hired Perinatal Epidemiologist
- Student Intern
- Projects:
 - Assess testing for exposed children
 - Risk factors of mothers
 - Foster children
 - Registry of perinatal cases
 - Goal to use for linkage to care

Enhanced Surveillance

- Increased capacity
- Assess data needs
- Public Reports
 - Potential for dashboard/other method for display
- Clearance Cascade
- Chronic surveillance tool
- Electronic Reporting
- Clearer reporting guidance
- Hepatitis B

Addressing Social Determinants of Health

- Looking for funding/resources for linkage navigation
- Transportation
- Housing
- Partners: Collaborative efforts > going it alone

Be a Part of Eliminating Hepatitis C in Kentucky

- Interested in Being Involved?

We encourage anyone who would like to be part of the larger hepatitis coalition, any working groups, or who is interested in any project or topic concerning hepatitis B or C to contact us.

Contacts

KY HCV Elimination Plan



KDPH Viral Hepatitis Program Staff:

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- Jordan Murphy Jordan.murphy@ky.gov
- Christina D'Agostino christina.dagostino@ky.gov

Program Email: VHP@ky.gov

KDPH Viral Hepatitis Program Website:

[Viral Hepatitis Program - Cabinet for Health and Family Services \(ky.gov\)](https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/vhp.aspx)

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