

*Countdown:*

**Confronting the HIV/HCV  
Coinfection Crisis**

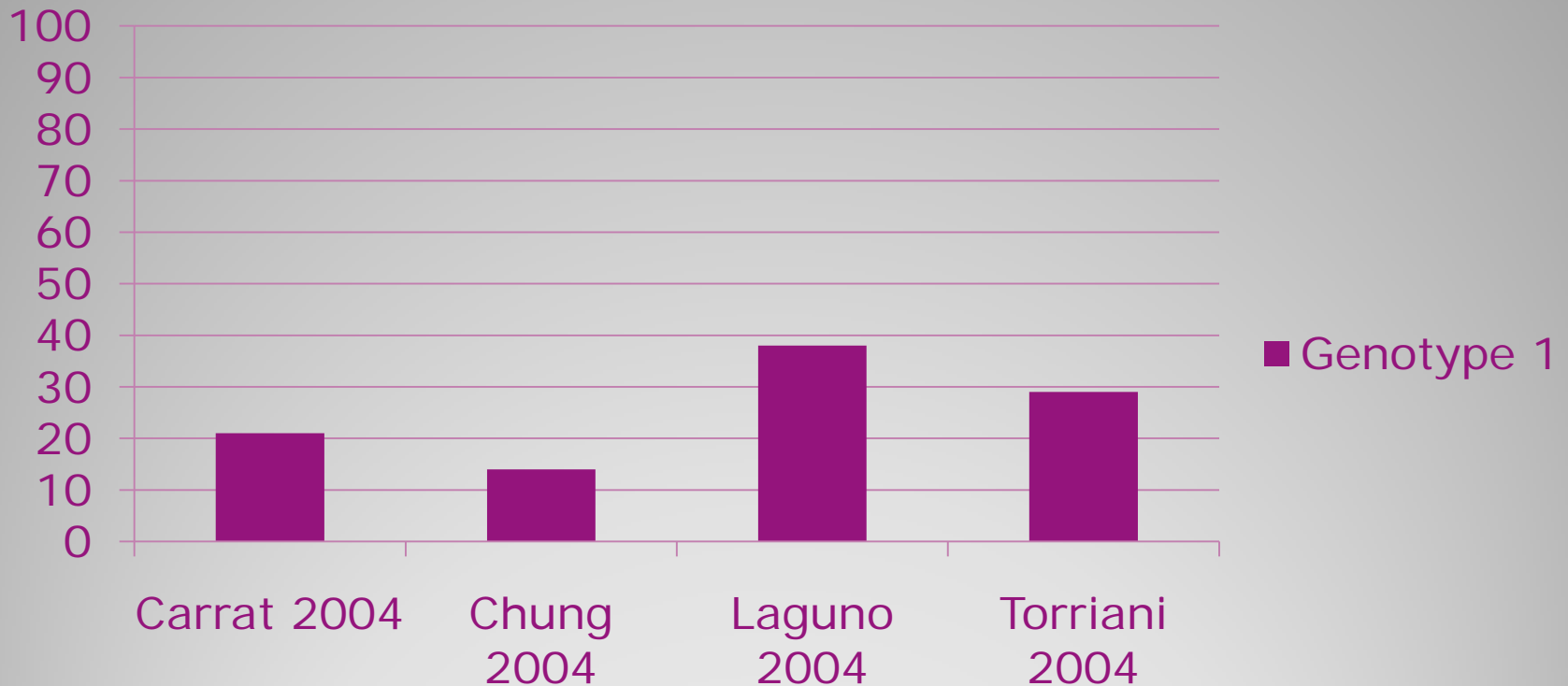
**Daniel Raymond  
Policy Director  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
(212) 213-6376 x29**

[raymond@harmreduction.org](mailto:raymond@harmreduction.org)  
[www.harmreduction.org](http://www.harmreduction.org)

- At least ***one in four*** PWHIV are coinfecting with hepatitis C
- People coinfecting with HIV have ***three times the risk*** of cirrhosis, liver failure, and death compared to people with HCV alone
- ***Cirrhosis will develop in one half of coinfecting people*** within 30 years of HCV infection

**Coinfection by the numbers**

## PEG IFN/RBV, 48 weeks



**Before: HCV cure rates in  
coinfected patients**

The new cocktail: pegylated interferon + ribavirin + an HCV protease inhibitor

- ***Cures up to 79%*** in 24-48 weeks (vs. 46% for PEG IFN/RBV)
- Victrelis (boceprevir, Merck) approved by FDA on May 13, already in pharmacies
- Incivek (telaprevir, Vertex) approval announced this morning

**2011 in HCV = 1996 in HIV?**

- Victrelis: taken 3 times daily with food; 12 pills/day total
- Viral resistance to HCV protease inhibitors is a major concern
- Multiple potential drug-drug interactions
- Added toxicities (anemia, rash, etc.)
- High cost: Victrelis price is ***\$1,100/week*** on top of PEG IFN/RBV costs, Incivek is ***\$49,200 for 12 weeks***

**Déjà vu: challenges with first-generation protease inhibitors**

- Preliminary data on Incivek (telaprevir) in HIV/HCV coinfection: 68% undetectable at 12 weeks of treatment (out of 48 weeks total), vs. 14% with PEG IFN/RBV
- Incivek pilot coinfection study allowed a) HIV treatment naïve or b) on treatment with Truvada + Reyataz *or* Sustiva
- Large phase III Incivek HIV/HCV study to launch later this year
- Victrelis coinfection pilot study underway; no data yet reported

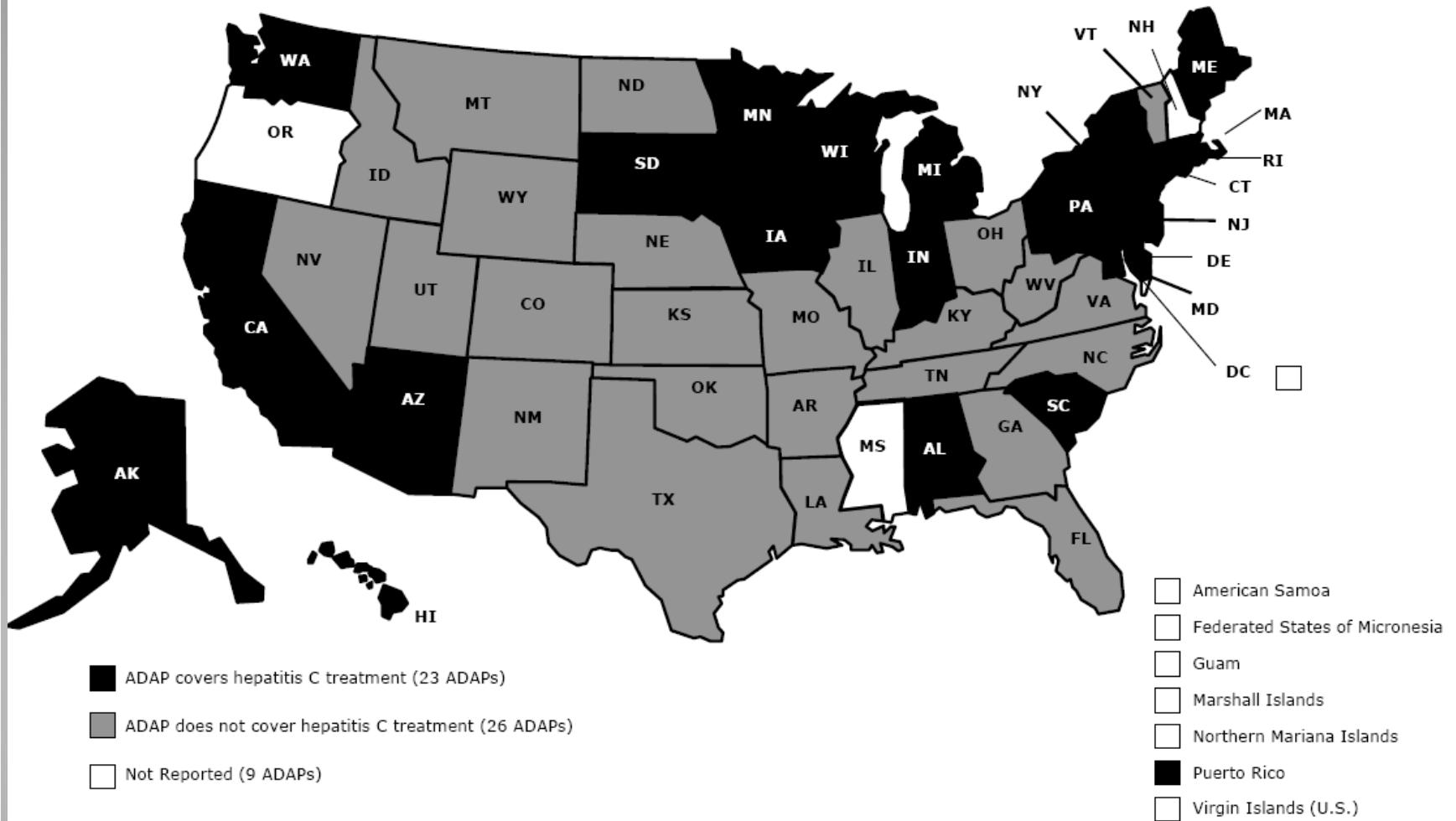
## **HCV PIs and HIV coinfection**

- HIV doctors and patients have been waiting for better HCV treatment options for nearly a decade
- Many doctors will start using HCV protease inhibitors for their coinfecting patients “off label”
- HCV treatment may require change in HAART regimen for some patients
- Landscape for next two years: triple therapy with Incivek or Victrelis

**Key points for HIV/HCV  
coinfection, 2011-2013**

- Falling through the cracks: *no coinfection focus* in National HIV/AIDS Strategy nor in the new HHS Viral Hepatitis Action Plan
- More pressure on ADAPs: formulary issues *and* likely increases in utilization
- Making coinfection care & treatment work for the most marginalized PWHIV
- Integrating HIV & HCV care with mental health, substance use treatment

## **Coinfection challenges for Health Departments**



# ADAP formularies & HCV treatment

## Après 2012, le déluge:

- Dozens of new HCV drugs in development
- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation protease inhibitors, polymerase inhibitors (nukes & non-nucleosides), NS5A inhibitors, & more
- Combination therapies: direct-acting antivirals w/out PEG INF +/- RBV
- Proof of concept: 4/11 cured with 24 weeks of BMS PI & NS5A inhibitor

**Window period**

LIVING LARGE, GOOD.  
LIVING LONG,  
**BETTER.**



KNOW THE SCORE SEE A DOCTOR  
ABOUT **Hepatitis C**

- New generation of heroin users: harbinger of next HCV epidemic? (Massachusetts, Ohio)
- Clusters of acute HCV in HIV+ MSM: need an aggressive STI-style “screen and treat” approach
- Rapid HCV test: venous & fingerstick whole blood, filed for CLIA waiver, oral test expected 2011: ***antibody test only, can't establish chronic infection without follow-up viral load test***

**Meanwhile, in prevention...**

1. Map the coinfection crisis: who are they, where are they, how are they getting HIV care & support?
2. Learning & teaching process: monitor Incivek & Victrelis uptake & utilization
3. Strengthen internal health department champions' voice & role
4. Develop coinfection teams & task forces
5. Litmus test: how will this serve our coinfecting patients?
6. Demand federal leadership & support: we need an HHS-level HIV/HCV summit

**Getting it right: Six action steps**

Our People, Our Problem:

# Hepatitis C

It's time to start talking.

HRSA Hepatitis C & HIV Coinfection Care and Treatment Guide (2007)

<http://hab.hrsa.gov/deliverhivaidscares/files/coinfect.pdf>

HRSA Hepatitis C Treatment Expansion Initiative

<http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/pressreleases/2010/101119hepatitisc.html>

NASTAD 2011 National ADAP Monitoring Project Annual Report (see Module 2 Supplement for viral hepatitis data)

<http://www.nastad.org/Programs/ADAP/>

VA Hepatitis C Publications and Products

<http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/products/index.asp>

**Additional resources**

HIV i-Base Guide to Hepatitis C for People Living with HIV

<http://i-base.info/guides/hepc>

Treatment Action Group 2011 HCV Pipeline Report

<http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/publication.aspx?id=4416>

**Additional resources**