

# Hepatitis Testing Learning Collaborative

## Overview

Funded by CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH), the Hepatitis Testing Learning Collaborative is a community of practice centered on a shared goal of increasing hepatitis C testing and linkage to care. Facilitated by NASTAD, the Learning Collaborative includes eight states and provides an interactive environment to share information and provide ongoing capacity building to members on a variety of topics related to HCV testing. States inform discussion topics and resource development based on jurisdictional priorities and identified needs.

All members collaborate on a regular basis through online learning platforms and regular calls, emphasizing the importance of the following three priority domains:

- Engaging Directly Affected Communities

- Health Systems
- Linkage to Care

States are involved in the process of resource development derived from these domains that is then shared with the larger Hepatitis Testing Partnership as well as the larger NASTAD membership base.

### Objective

Ultimately, the Hepatitis Testing Learning Collaborative aims to expand HCV testing and linkage to care in participating jurisdictions. Specifically, the collaborative is focused on how to reach those most impacted by hepatitis, increase the number of individuals who are tested for HCV, and subsequently improve linkage to care.

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## Priority Domains

### Meaningful Engagement with Directly Affected Communities

- Creating training or resources for providers to increase cultural competence around working with populations most at risk for HCV (e.g. PWID)
- Developing models and best practices to increase testing and linkage to care, including peer-based programs (e.g. SSPs, navigation programs)

- Exploring innovative approaches to testing data (e.g. surveillance efforts, EHR data)

### Linkage to Care

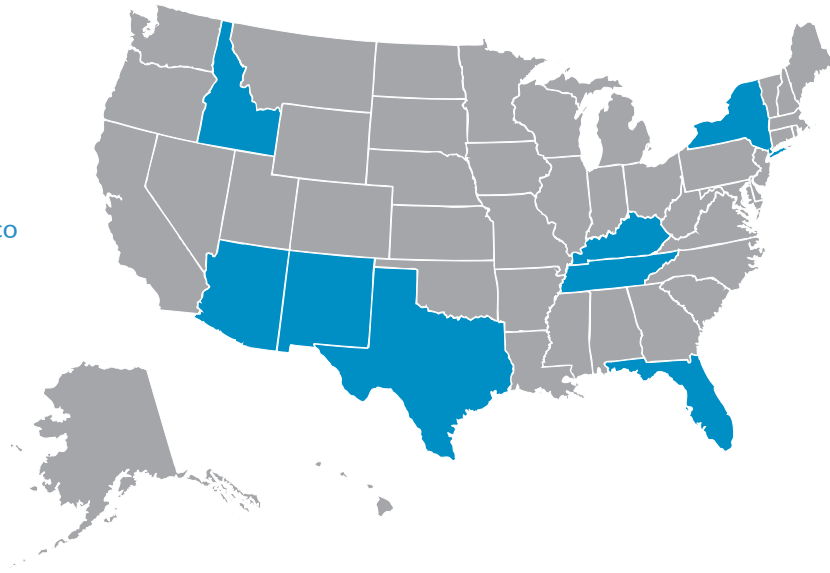
- Creating tools to facilitate linkage to care (e.g. provider education; patient advocates)
- Examining models for linkage to care and identify best practices (e.g. high-impact settings)

### Health Systems

- Working with FQHCs, hospitals, provider offices, and state labs to discuss key topics (e.g. rapid testing; integrating HCV testing within HIV programs)

## Participating States

- Arizona
- Florida
- Idaho
- Kentucky
- New Mexico
- New York
- Tennessee
- Texas



Jurisdictional representatives (e.g. state health departments and partners; substance use treatment providers, primary care associations, corrections, etc.) will self-select which learning collaborative domain(s) they will participate in based on desired areas of targeted improvement within their state.

As part of the Hepatitis Learning Collaborative's peer-to-peer approach, members participate in regular interactive calls facilitated by NASTAD and select subject matter experts. This has proven effective way to build camaraderie and increase information sharing on hepatitis C testing and linkage to care initiatives across jurisdictions.

### Learning Collaborative In-Person Training

In October 2019, Learning Collaborative members and partners participated in an in-person site visit to strengthen the learning community through information sharing with colleagues to discussing how strategies and lessons can be tailored to an action plan to bring back to their respective jurisdiction.

All members presented on their hepatitis testing and linkage to care programs while allowing ample time for discussion. Topics included: statewide rapid testing, HCV testing law, linkage to care, community engagement, coalition building, hepatitis testing and elimination planning, and inclusive of different jurisdictional contexts, jails and prisons, harm reduction programs, provider education, and community engagement.

This visit proved extremely successful for the Learning Collaborative members to connect in-person and discuss the continued development of tools and resources that will be shared with the larger Hepatitis Testing Partnership and external networks. Another in-person convening is planned for year 4, 2020 to highlight jurisdictional linkage to care models designed to support individuals from key populations impacted by viral hepatitis.

### More Information

For questions about the Hepatitis Testing Learning Collaborative, visit:  
[nastad.org/domestic/hepatitis-testing-partnership](http://nastad.org/domestic/hepatitis-testing-partnership)

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