Stigma and Hepatitis C

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Focus on 3 things today

• Drug user stigma
  – 53% prevalence
• Homelessness stigma
  – 30% prevalence
• Health system equity

Data per National healthcare for the homeless council helping hands hepatitis C update, 2013 and CDC hepatitis C FAQ for health professionals
Drug user stigma

Addiction viewed as a moral failing

- Opposition to harm reduction interventions (SSPs, SIFs)
- Lack of treatment on demand in most of the country
- Lack of treatment in most correctional institutions
- Patients treated poorly within medical systems
- Provider imposed sobriety requirements on HCV treatment (patient NG)
Homeless person’s stigma
Homeless person’s stigma

Homelessness viewed as a moral failing
-Displacement of encampments -> transient populations
-Opposition to housing first models
-Patients treated poorly within medical systems
Health system equity

Poverty viewed as a moral failing- health insurance seen as a privilege, not a right
-Most private insurance and medicare part D plans cover the cost of HCV treatment for everyone
-Many entry level jobs don’t provide health insurance
-High uninsured rate in states that didn’t expand Medicaid (22% in TX), work requirements, etc.
-Medicaid imposed restrictions exist in many states for financial reasons only

-Mavyret PAP
3 barriers to HCV care

• Drug user stigma
• Homeless person’s stigma
• Health system inequity
Bibliography

   great brief on the intersection of hepatitis, HIV and the opioid crisis

   study from NY in 2017 comparing HCV cure rates between people who inject drugs and those who don’t. Cure rates were both the same.

http://stateofhepc.org