

Viral Hepatitis Networking, Capacity Building, and Training Cooperative Agreement

Overview

Beginning in January 2017 with funding from CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH), this five-year cooperative agreement is an initiative focused on building the capacity of health departments and their partners to increase testing and linkage to care in target populations at risk for or living with

hepatitis C. The cooperative agreement has two main components, the broader Hepatitis Testing Partnership and a smaller subset of jurisdictions who are members of the Hepatitis Testing Learning Collaborative. This serves as a platform for dissemination of resources and best practices.

Hepatitis Testing Partnership

The Partnership strives to provide members across the country with a platform to work together and share resources, strategies, and lessons learned in order to build capacity and increase hepatitis C testing and linkage to care. The Partnership is currently comprised of 251 members representing city, county, and state health department, national nonprofits, federal agencies, industry partners, academia, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders.

From 2018 to 2019, the Hepatitis Testing Partnership hosted seven webinars addressing important topics in the field of hepatitis testing and linkage to care. Click to access the webinar slides and recordings below:

- [Hepatitis B Testing and Vaccination Programs in Correctional Facilities](#)
- [Expanding Hepatitis Testing and Linkage to Care in Emergency Departments](#)
- [Hepatitis A and B Vaccination for Gay and Bisexual](#)

[Men: Innovative Practices and Resources](#)

- [Getting Outside the Clinic - Expanding Hepatitis Testing Through Non-Traditional Partners and Settings](#)
- [Advances in HIV and HCV Testing to Strengthen Testing and Linkage Programs](#)
- [Highlighting CDC Resources for Hepatitis Awareness Month](#)
- [HCV Testing and Linkage to Care in and from Jail](#)

These webinars featured experts from around the country who spoke to best practices, lessons learned, and successes in their respective jurisdiction. On average, each webinar had ~85 participants who engaged in Q&A following the presentation to obtain valuable information to help improve their own jurisdictional efforts. Webinar content is prioritized based on recurring topics and expressed needs from the Hepatitis Testing Partnership members.

The Hepatitis Testing Partnership members have also created an online community designed to discuss and share lessons learned on a range of topics that help inform upcoming webinars, resource development, and questions for the group. This forum

gives members a platform to discuss topics with others around the country and grow networks and relationships as members continue to work towards hepatitis elimination.

Hepatitis Learning Collaborative

The Hepatitis Testing Learning Collaborative is made up of eight states working together to overcome barriers to increasing hepatitis testing and linkage to care in their jurisdictions.



Participating states are geographically diverse and vary by size and infrastructure. In 2019, NASTAD conducted an evaluation and sought input from each state to identify challenges and opportunities for increasing testing and linkage to care that inform issues that are addressed through this group.

The Hepatitis Learning Collaborative communicates regularly through email correspondence and bi-monthly calls. Members help inform resource development that is then shared broadly with the Hepatitis Testing Partnership and NASTAD's broader membership.

States participate in three 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)

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)
- 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)

More Information

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

This work is funded by a cooperative agreement from CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis.

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