Updating the National Viral Hepatitis Action for 2017-2020

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Viral Hepatitis Is a Liver Infection

When people are newly infected with viral hepatitis (A, B, or C) they may have these symptoms:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain,
- Dark-colored urine and gray-colored bowel movements
- Jaundice (skin and eyes turn yellow)

When people have a chronic viral hepatitis infection:

- They often have no symptoms
- If they have symptoms, they are usually related to chronic liver disease and may include fatigue, memory problems, depression, and blood clotting problems.
Key Challenges around Hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV)

△ As many as 2.2 million and 5.3 million people are estimated to be living with HBV and HCV, respectively

△ 151% increase in reported acute HCV cases from 2010-2013

△ For the first time since 1990, the number of reported acute HBV cases increased 5.4% from 2012 to 2013

△ Prescription opioid addiction is driving increased heroin use and HBV, HCV, and HIV infection

△ Only 9% of people living with HCV are cured

△ More people are dying of HCV than all 60 other nationally notifiable infectious diseases combined
Federal Partners:

- The Viral Hepatitis Implementation Group (VHIG) is comprised of 19 federal agencies from HHS, DOJ, VA, HUD, and the White House.
- Will provide input and support the development of the 2020 VHAP.

Non-federal partners:

- OHAIDP will collaborate with national partners and key stakeholders to hold a series of meetings/calls between March-June 2016 to hear their input.

Timeline:

- VHIG convened for a full-day strategic planning meeting in March 2016, identified 3 strategic VHAP goals.
- Goal is to release updated VHAP October 2016.
Viral Hepatitis Action Plan (VHAP) Update
(Strategy Planning for 2017-2020)

VHIG Identified 3 Proposed Goals for next VHAP

1. Prevent New Hepatitis B (HBV) & Hepatitis C (HCV) Infections among Infants, Adolescents, and Adults
2. Reduce Deaths and Improve the Health of People Living with Viral Hepatitis
3. Reduce Viral Hepatitis Health Disparities
Health Disparities in Viral Hepatitis

- The following racial and ethnic groups are disproportionately impacted with hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C:
  - African Americans (HCV)
  - African Immigrants (HBV and HCV)
  - American Indian/Alaska Native (HBV and HCV)
  - Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (HBV and HCV)
  - Hispanic/Latinos (HCV)
Hepatitis C disproportionately impacts African Americans

- Hepatitis C (HCV) is twice as prevalent among African Americans.  
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- Research has shown that African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed later, reflecting missed opportunities for prevention.  
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- Approximately, 75% of all people living with chronic Hepatitis C were born between 1945 and 1965 (baby boomers) and among African American baby boomers, 1 in 13 is chronically infected with HCV.  
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- Liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancers are significantly higher in African Americans compared to non-Hispanic whites.  
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- Chronic liver disease, often attributable to untreated hepatitis C infection, is a leading cause of death among African American baby boomers.  
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5 https://nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/cancersbyraceandethnicity.aspx
Goals

- Increase awareness of viral Hepatitis and the urgent need for prevention and testing in the U.S.
- Engage more groups and individuals who can help us share information with communities disproportionately affected
- Increase community education and prevention
- Increase diagnosis, linkage to care, and cure for hepatitis C
The Vital Role of Stakeholders

The updated VHAP underscores that its national goals cannot be achieved through federal action alone.

Active involvement, and innovation, from a broad mix of nonfederal stakeholders from various sectors, both public and private, is essential.

The VHAP provides a framework and focus around which all stakeholders can engage to strengthen the nation’s response to viral hepatitis.
Thank you!

- For more information about the national Viral Hepatitis Action Plan: [www.aids.gov/hepatitis](http://www.aids.gov/hepatitis)

- CDC’s Know More Hepatitis Campaign materials are available for free: [www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis)

- CDC’s Viral Hepatitis Risk Assessment- Free, quick, anonymous, online personal risk assessment available at: [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/riskassessment](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/riskassessment)
  - provides a tailored risk assessment and recommendations for viral hepatitis testing and vaccination

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