

New Mexico Viral Hepatitis Partnerships

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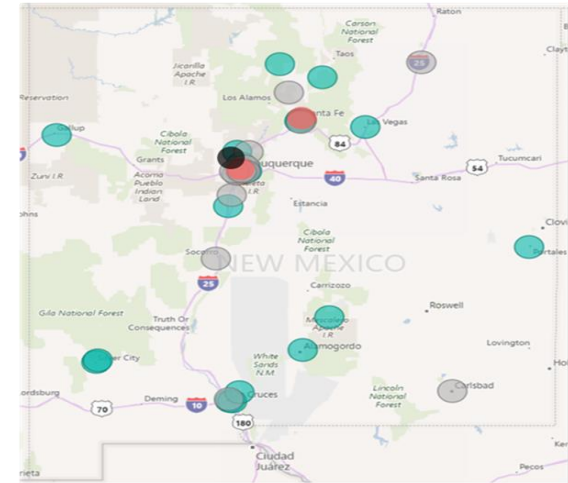
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New Mexico's Progress to HCV Elimination

1. Project ECHO was founded in New Mexico specifically to increase access to HCV treatment.
2. New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) has a plan for HCV elimination.
3. Innovative policies increase access to treatment for Medicaid recipients
4. Access for persons without insurance via the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool (NMMIP).
5. Comprehensive harm reduction services are available statewide.

New Mexico's Innovations and Leadership in HCV Elimination



1. Project ECHO founded in New Mexico specifically to increase provider capacity to treat HCV in rural and underserved areas of the state

- HCV TeleECHO programs: Community, Department of Corrections, Indian Country
- The New Mexico Peer Education Project (NM PEP) trains incarcerated individuals to be HCV educators in the state prison system.



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New Mexico's Innovations and Leadership in HCV Elimination



NEW MEXICO
**CORRECTIONS
DEPARTMENT**

2. New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) has a plan for HCV elimination

- Universal screening for HCV antibody upon intake for more than a decade (45-50% HCV Ab positive); HCV RNA confirmatory testing since 2019
- Allocation of almost \$20 million from NM state legislature to fund medical services and medications to cure an estimated 2,800 inmates with HCV over 5 years
- NM Peer Education Program (PEP) educates population on HCV screening and treatment

New Mexico's Innovations and Leadership in HCV Elimination



3. Innovative policies increase access to treatment for Medicaid recipients

- HSD Medical Assistance Division led the nation by starting to remove restrictions in 2015
- Access to treatment without fibrosis, sobriety or specialist provider requirements
- HCV care coordinators
- Provider and patient incentives to treat HCV
- Strategies for linkage for those entering/exiting incarceration
- MCO's have provider incentives for organizations to treat more HCV

Centennial care members who received hep c treatment

January 2014 – December 2020

- 6,578 unique members
 - 6,371 treatment-naive
 - 261 (4%) received more than one course of treatments

**Centennial Care
Hepatitis C Drug Treatment Summary**

Centennial Care Members Receiving Hepatitis C Treatment	
Year	Members
2014	158
2015	413
2016	945
2017	1,311
2018	1,431
2019	1,388
2020	932
Total	6,578

Summary of Members Treated by Number of Treatments January 2014 - December 2020	
Number of Treatments	Members
1	6,371
2	200
3	6
4	1
Total	6,578

Notes:

1. Based on Centennial Care encounter data as of March 30, 2021.
2. If a treatment spans multiple years, the member is only counted in the year the treatment starts (e.g., treatment starts in December 2019 and continues into 2020, the member is only included in the count for 2019).
3. Multiple treatments are counted when a prescription is filled after three or more months without receiving HCV treatment.

Data Provided by Dr. Wanicha Burapa, NM Human Services Department

New Mexico's Innovations and Leadership in HCV Elimination



4. Access for persons without insurance via the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool (NMMIP)

- Elimination requires access to curative treatment for all persons with chronic HCV
- NMMIP high-risk pool voted to approve a special enrollment for persons with HCV in December 2019
- Modelled on program for persons with HIV
- NMDOH will provide curative treatment directly via Project HEAT (Hepatitis Elimination Access to Treatment)

New Mexico's Innovations and Leadership in HCV Elimination

5. Comprehensive harm reduction services are available statewide

- More than 18,000 unique persons were provided with syringe services in state fiscal year (SFY) 2021.
- A point-in-time survey of 1,077 syringe service participants found that 87% had been tested for HCV but only 24% had initiated treatment.
- Harm Reduction programs are a key place to provide navigation to HCV treatment. New CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) grant under PS21-2103, Component 3 to increase this work. Essential for preventing reinfection.

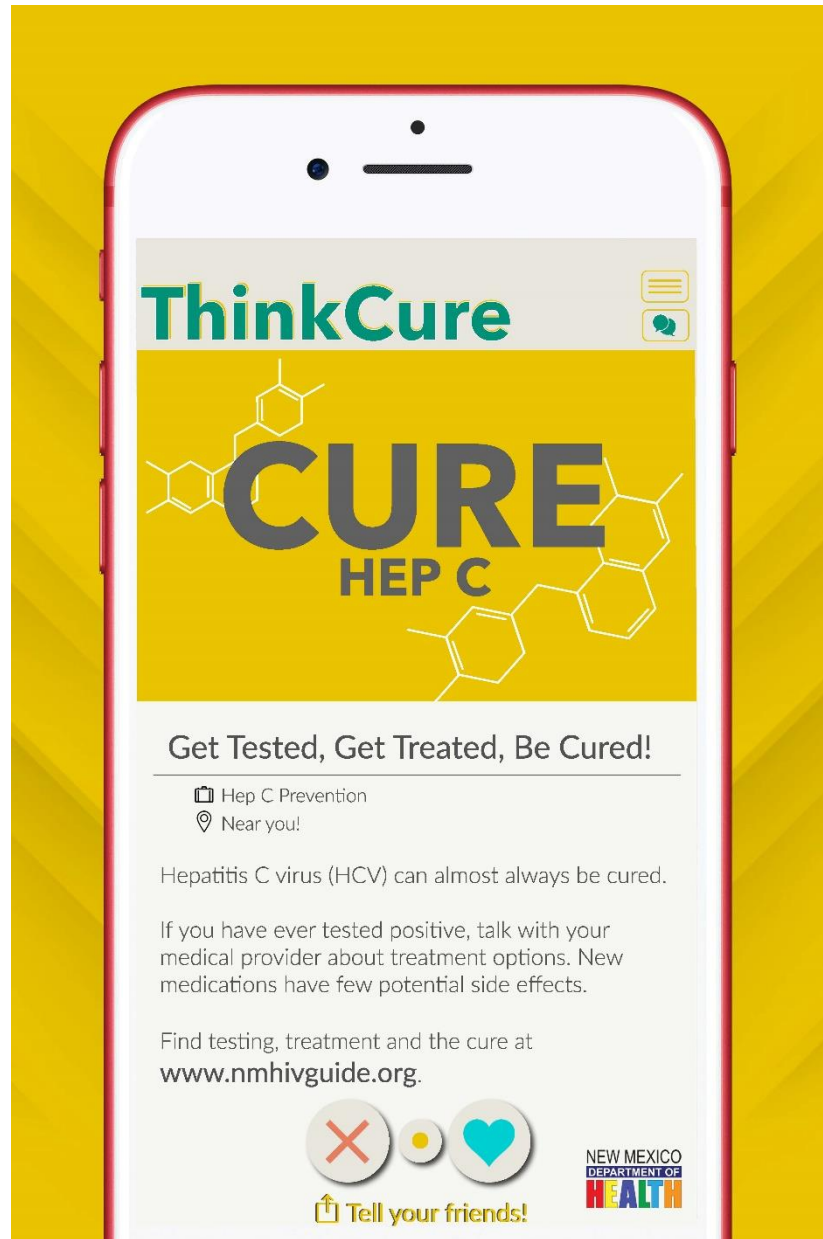
Policy Changes to Increase Scope of Harm Reduction Services

- House Bill 52 passed in 2022 legislative session.
- Allows NMDOH to promulgate rules that:
 - reduce negative health outcomes associated with drug use such as overdoses and infectious disease
 - **reduce harm by improving participant engagement in harm reduction**

Creating Partnerships

- First state government and several cabinet agencies believed this was a moral imperative
- NMDOH hepatitis program reached out to agencies and individuals across the state to make connections
- Use legal challenges to restrictions, getting ahead of them is cheaper
- Don't be afraid to cold call people, make friends with your state legislator

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Elimination!



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Acknowledgements

Laine Snow
HIV Services Program Manager

Andrew Gans
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Andrew Knox
Adult Viral Hepatitis Coordinator



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