

340B Collaboration in Kentucky Prisons

Dia Obonyo, DrPH & Katie Gardner, RN, BSN
Kentucky Department for Public Health
Viral Hepatitis Program

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Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



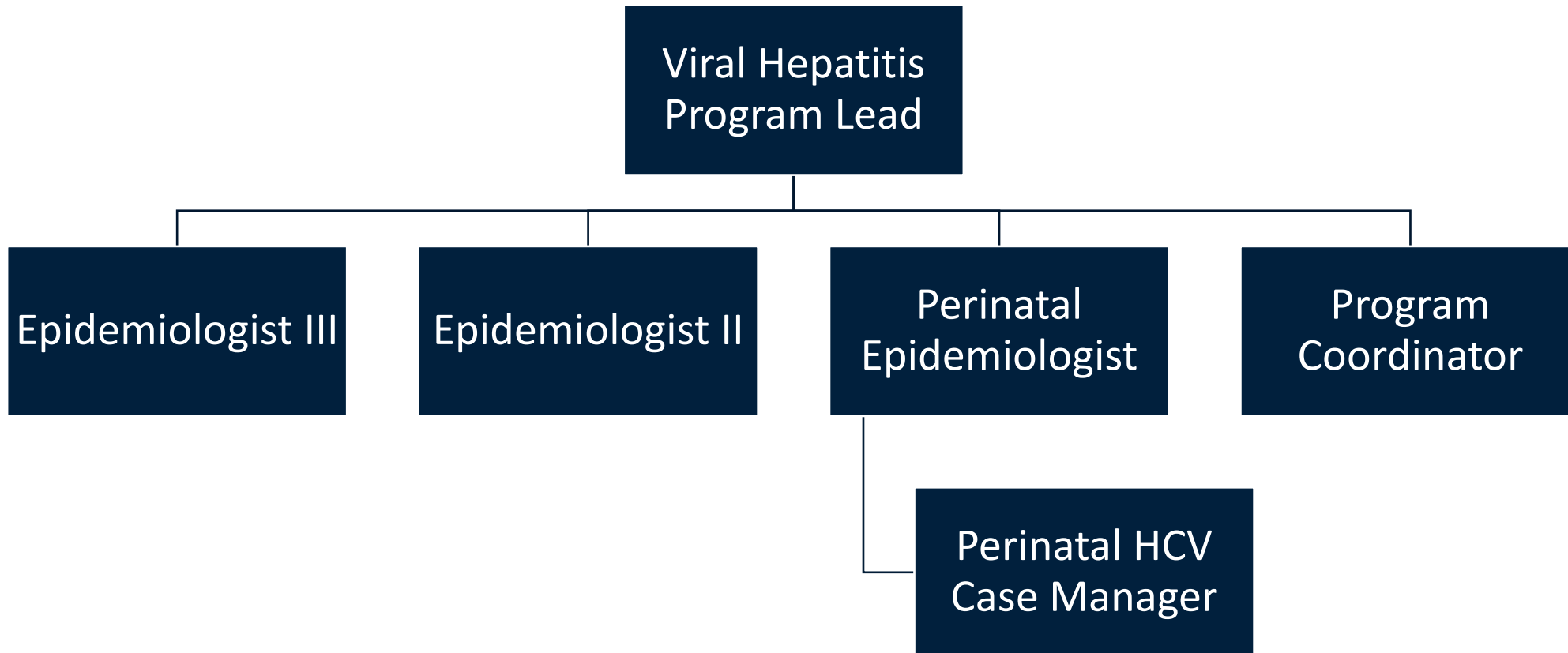
TEAM 
KENTUCKY[®]
CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Kentucky Department for Public Health

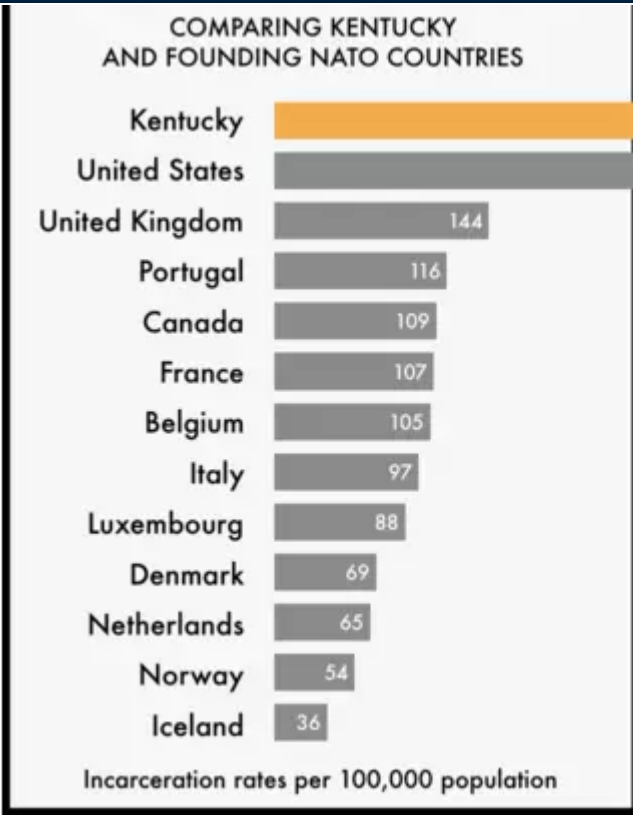
Organizational Chart



KDPH Viral Hepatitis Program



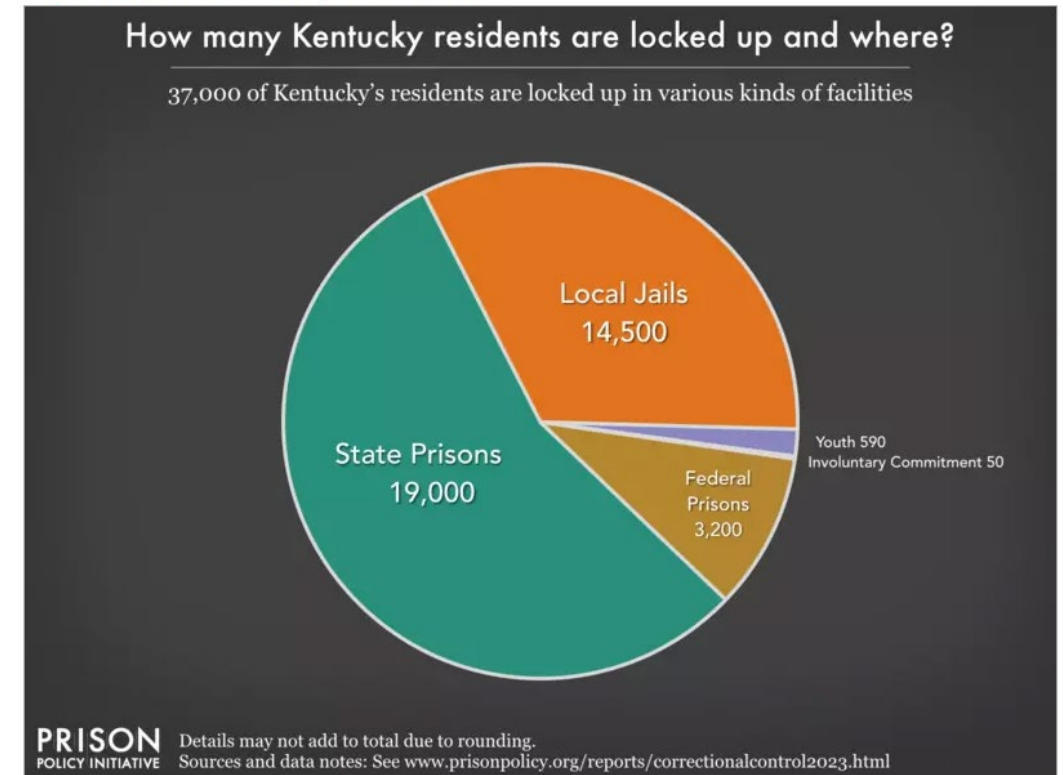
Kentucky's Incarceration Rates Stand Out Internationally



Source: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2024.html>

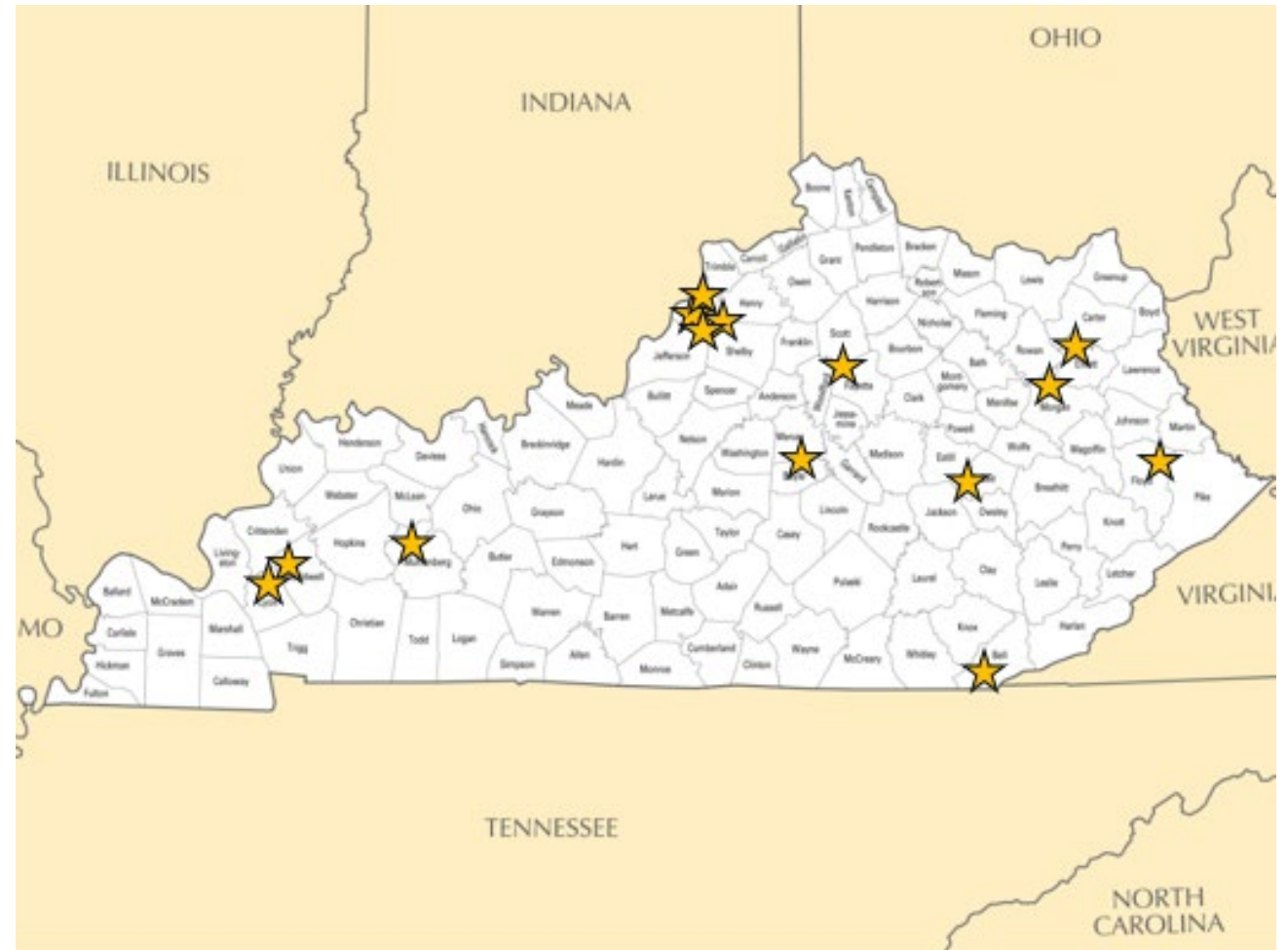
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/KY.html>

37,000 people from Kentucky are behind bars



Kentucky Department of Corrections

- 🛡️ 14 adult institutions
- 🛡️ Contracted medical services provided through Wellpath
- 🛡️ Testing Protocol upon intake: Universal, opt-out
- 🛡️ KY DOC is not required by law to provide HCV medication to individuals in prisons with active HCV infection.

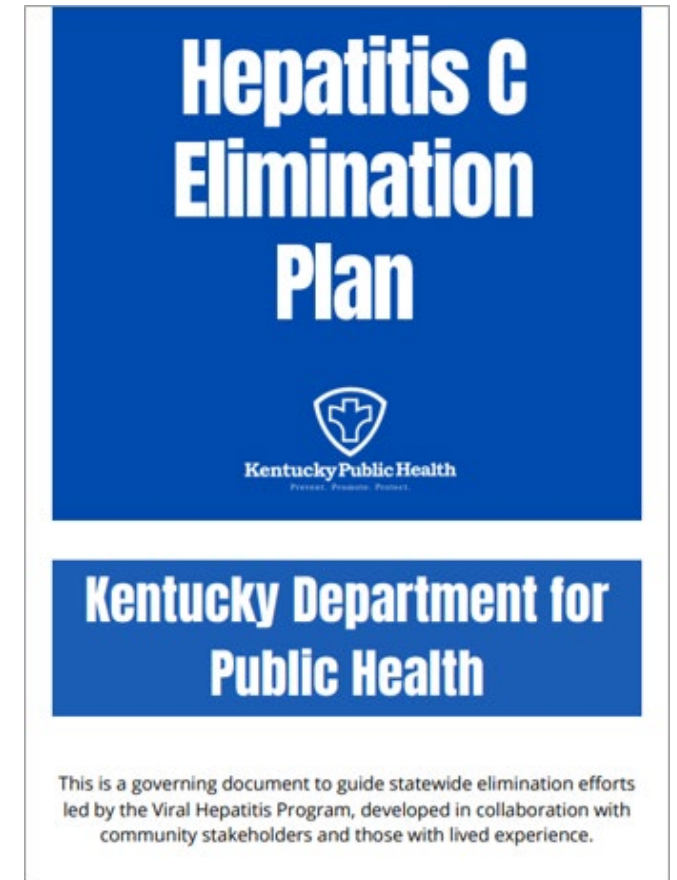


<https://www.maps-of-the-usa.com/maps/usa/kentucky/large-administrative-map-of-kentucky-state-with-major-cities-preview.jpg>

Priority Population: Incarcerated Individuals

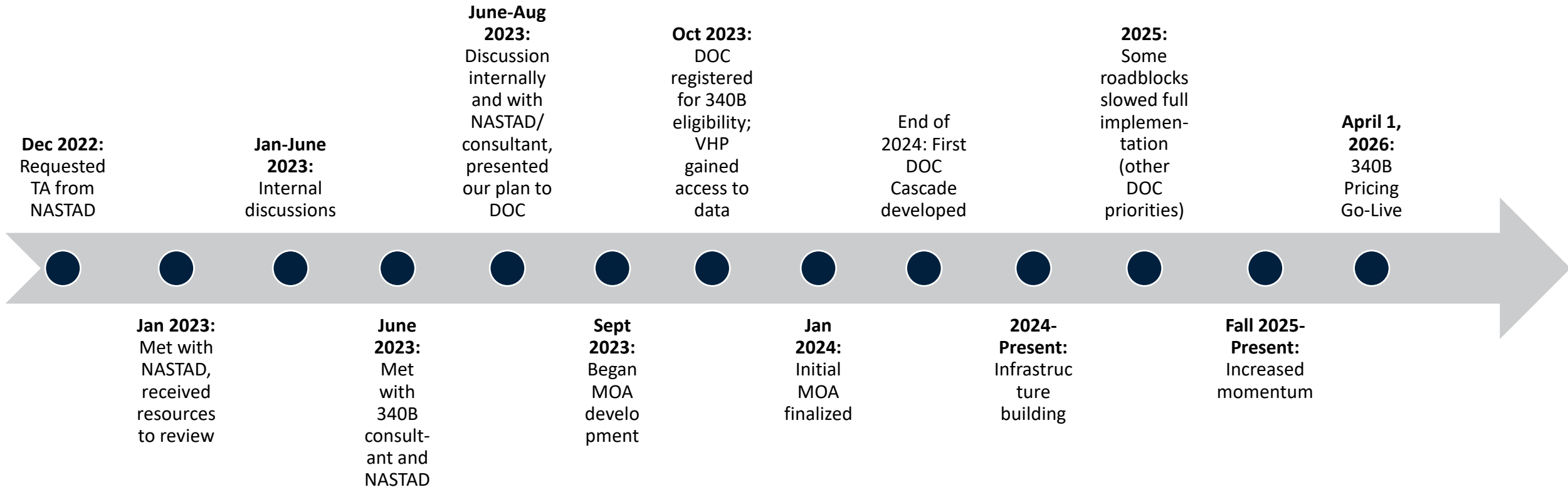
- Kentucky HCV Elimination Plan was released August 2022
- DOC commissioner was engaged and actively involved in elimination planning.
- Incarcerated individuals (and recently released) were identified as a priority population.

up to **50%** of people who are incarcerated have hep C



Weinbaum C, Lyanderla R, Margolis HS; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention and control of infections with hepatitis viruses in correctional settings. Centers for Disease Control Prevention. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2003 Jan 24;52(RR-1):1-36; quiz CE1-4. Erratum in: MMWR Recomm Rep. 2003 Mar 14;52(10):205-14. PMID: 12562146.

340B at KY DOC: Timeline



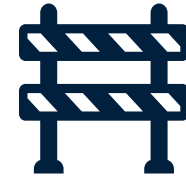
Facilitators and Barriers

Facilitators



- Pre-existing relationship with DOC Commissioner
- Technical Assistance from NASTAD
- Access to DOC's EMR through our MOA

Barriers



- DOC not required to provide medication to people who are incarcerated with HCV
- Wrong addresses for prisons
- DOC: Competing priorities (1115 Waiver)
- KDPH: Lack of funding/capacity
- DOC EMR learning curve, needed TA from Wellpath

Annual Hepatitis C Screening Questionnaire:

1. Do you want to be tested for Hepatitis C?

Yes No Decline to answer

2. Have you had possible exposure to someone else's blood which could occur through sex, tattoos or piercing, injection of drugs or other circumstances?

Yes No Decline to answer

3. Have you ever been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI)?

Yes No Decline to answer

If the individual answers YES to one or more questions, the individual may need further testing and treatment.

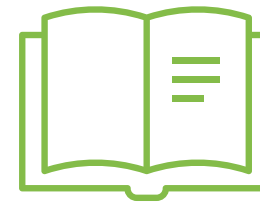
In-Kind Support



340B Partnership

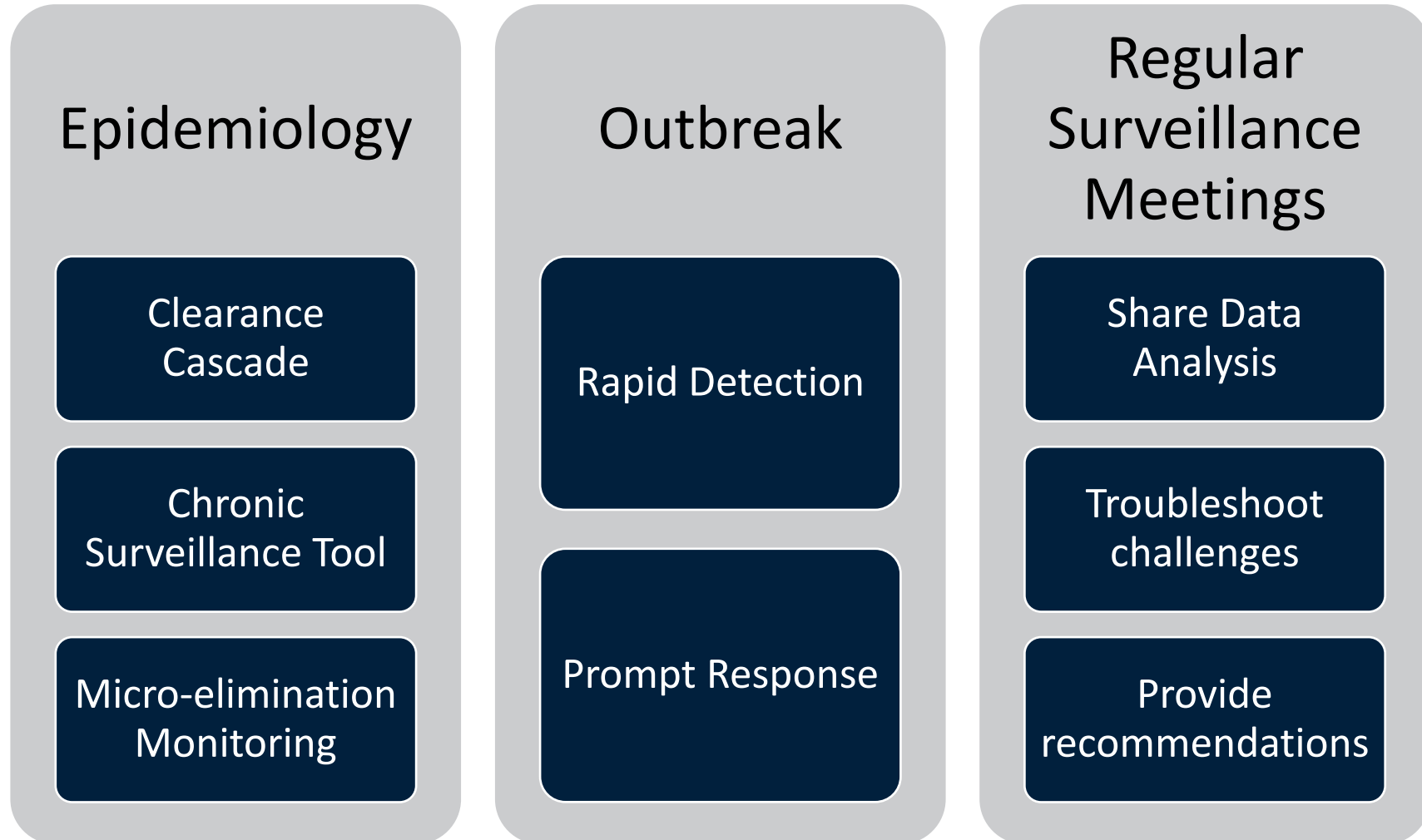


Enhanced data
surveillance

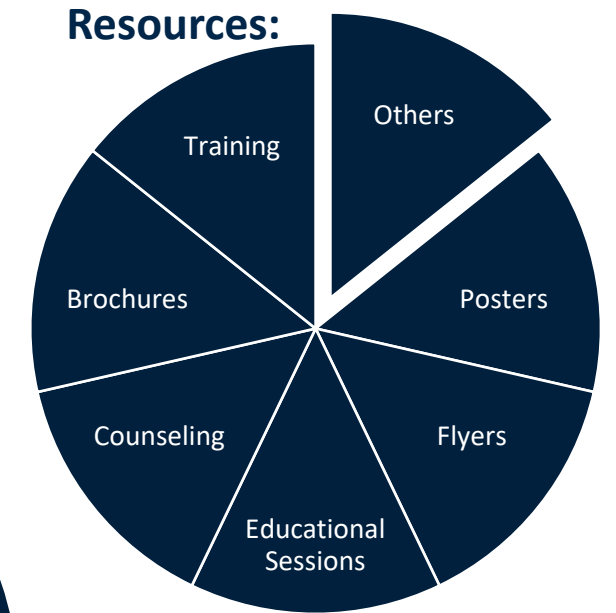
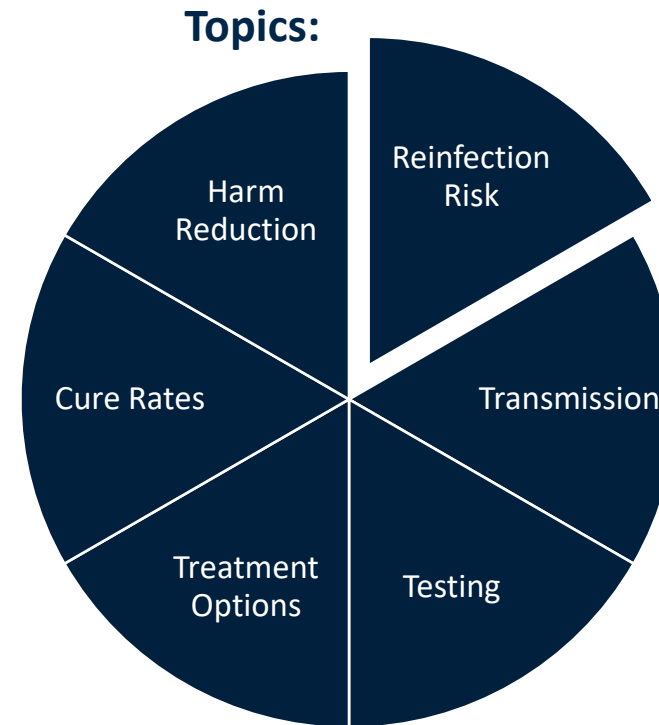
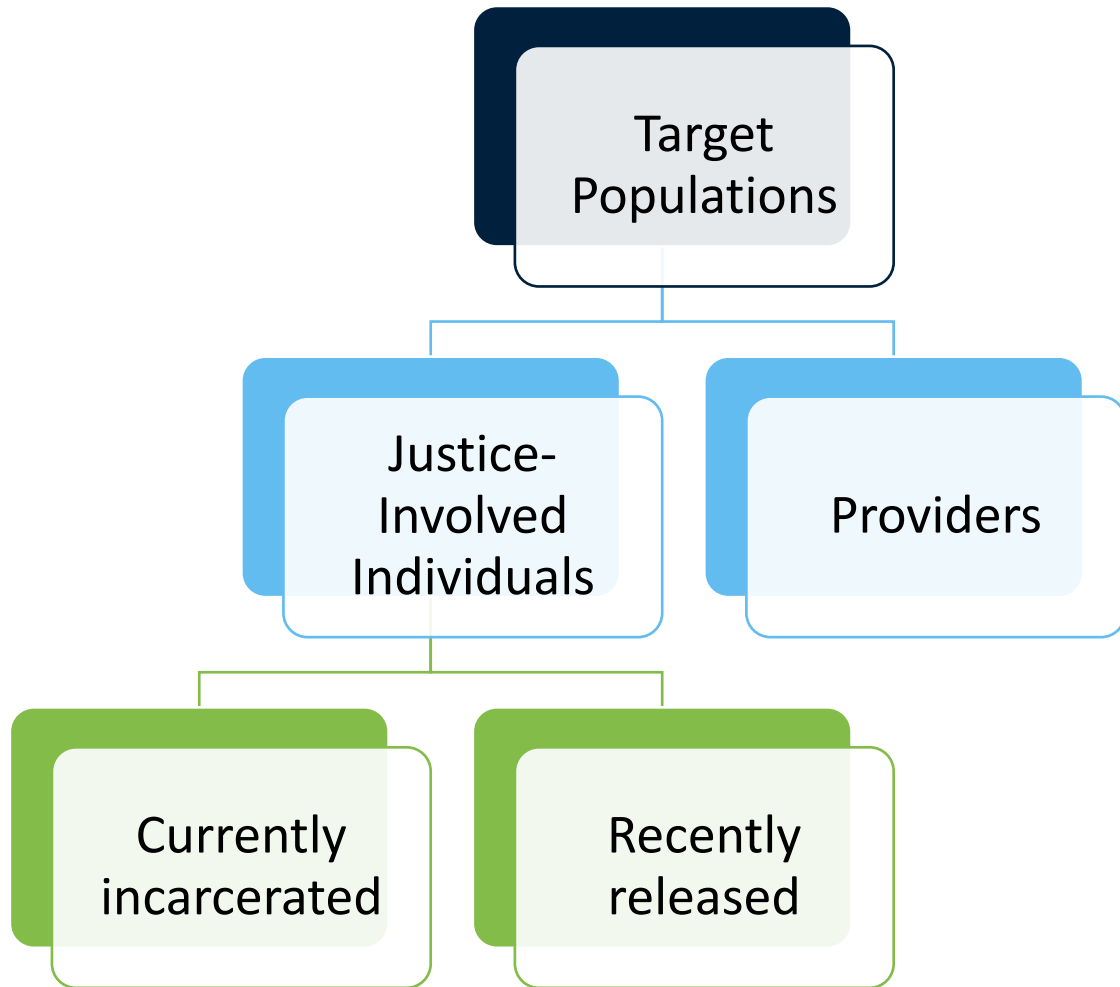


Educational Support


Enhanced Surveillance for Incarcerated Populations



Educational Support



Hepatitis C Educational Materials for Corrections/Reentry



HEPATITIS C CARE DURING REENTRY

It is important to connect with a hepatitis C treatment provider as soon as possible upon reentry to discuss which treatments are best for you.

When you are released:

- GET AN ID**
Ask for a face sheet or other release paperwork that proves your identity
drive.ky.gov
- GET HEALTH INSURANCE**
KYNECT Health Coverage: 855-4kynect (855-459-6328)
kynect.ky.gov
- FIND A HEPATITIS C TREATMENT PROVIDER NEAR YOU**
Contact your local health department for help finding providers in your area

ASK YOUR FACILITY FOR ASSISTANCE CONNECTING YOU WITH A HEPATITIS C TREATMENT PROVIDER WHEN YOU ARE RELEASED

HEPATITIS C MEDICATION DID YOU KNOW?

There are medications that cure hepatitis C.

Today's Hepatitis C Medications:

- are 95% effective
- are pills taken daily
- have few side effects
- are covered by most health insurance
- can be prescribed regardless of where you are on your recovery journey

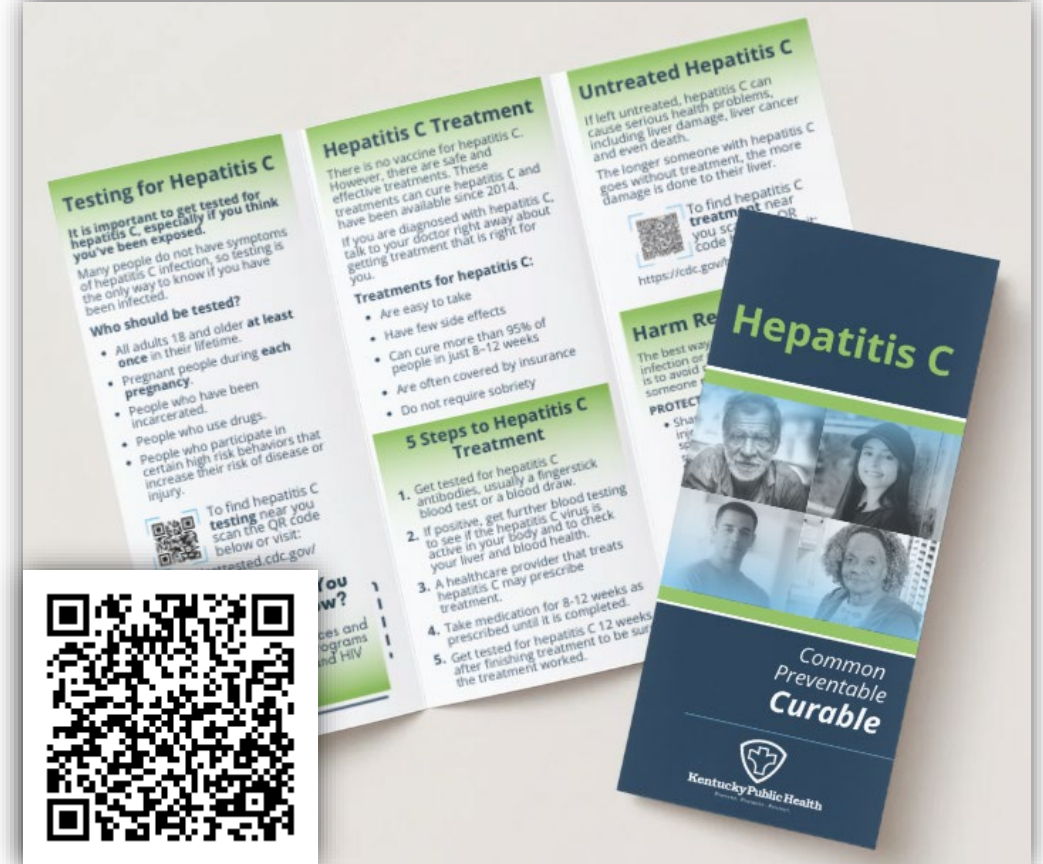
GET TESTED.
The only way to know if you have hepatitis C is to get tested.

GET TREATED.
Call your local health department to get help finding a hepatitis C treatment provider near you.

GET CURED.
Curing hepatitis C can prevent the spread of hepatitis C and further liver damage.

MORE INFO:
Scan the QR code or visit <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/ldb/Pages/Whp.aspx>



Testing for Hepatitis C
It is important to get tested for hepatitis C, especially if you think you've been exposed. Many people do not have symptoms of hepatitis C infection, so testing is the only way to know if you have been infected.

Who should be tested?

- All adults 18 and older at least once in their lifetime.
- Pregnant people during each pregnancy.
- People who have been incarcerated.
- People who use drugs.
- People who participate in certain high risk behaviors that increase their risk of disease or injury.

To find hepatitis C testing near you scan the QR code below or visit: tested.cdc.gov/

Hepatitis C Treatment
There is no vaccine for hepatitis C. However, there are safe and effective treatments. These treatments can cure hepatitis C and have been available since 2014. If you are diagnosed with hepatitis C, talk to your doctor right away about getting treatment that is right for you.

Treatments for hepatitis C:

- Are easy to take
- Have few side effects
- Can cure more than 95% of people in just 8-12 weeks
- Are often covered by insurance
- Do not require sobriety

5 Steps to Hepatitis C Treatment

1. Get tested for hepatitis C antibodies, usually a fingerstick blood test or a blood draw.
2. If positive, get further blood testing to see if the hepatitis C virus is active in your body and to check your liver and blood health.
3. A healthcare provider that treats hepatitis C may prescribe treatment.
4. Take medication for 8-12 weeks as prescribed until it is completed.
5. Get tested for hepatitis C 12 weeks after finishing treatment to be sure the treatment worked.

Untreated Hepatitis C
If left untreated, hepatitis C can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, liver cancer and even death. The longer someone with hepatitis C goes without treatment, the more damage is done to their liver.

To find hepatitis C treatment near you scan the QR code below or visit: <https://cdc.gov/>



Harm Reduction
The best way to prevent hepatitis C is to avoid sharing needles with someone who has hepatitis C.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Share needles with someone who has hepatitis C

Hepatitis C

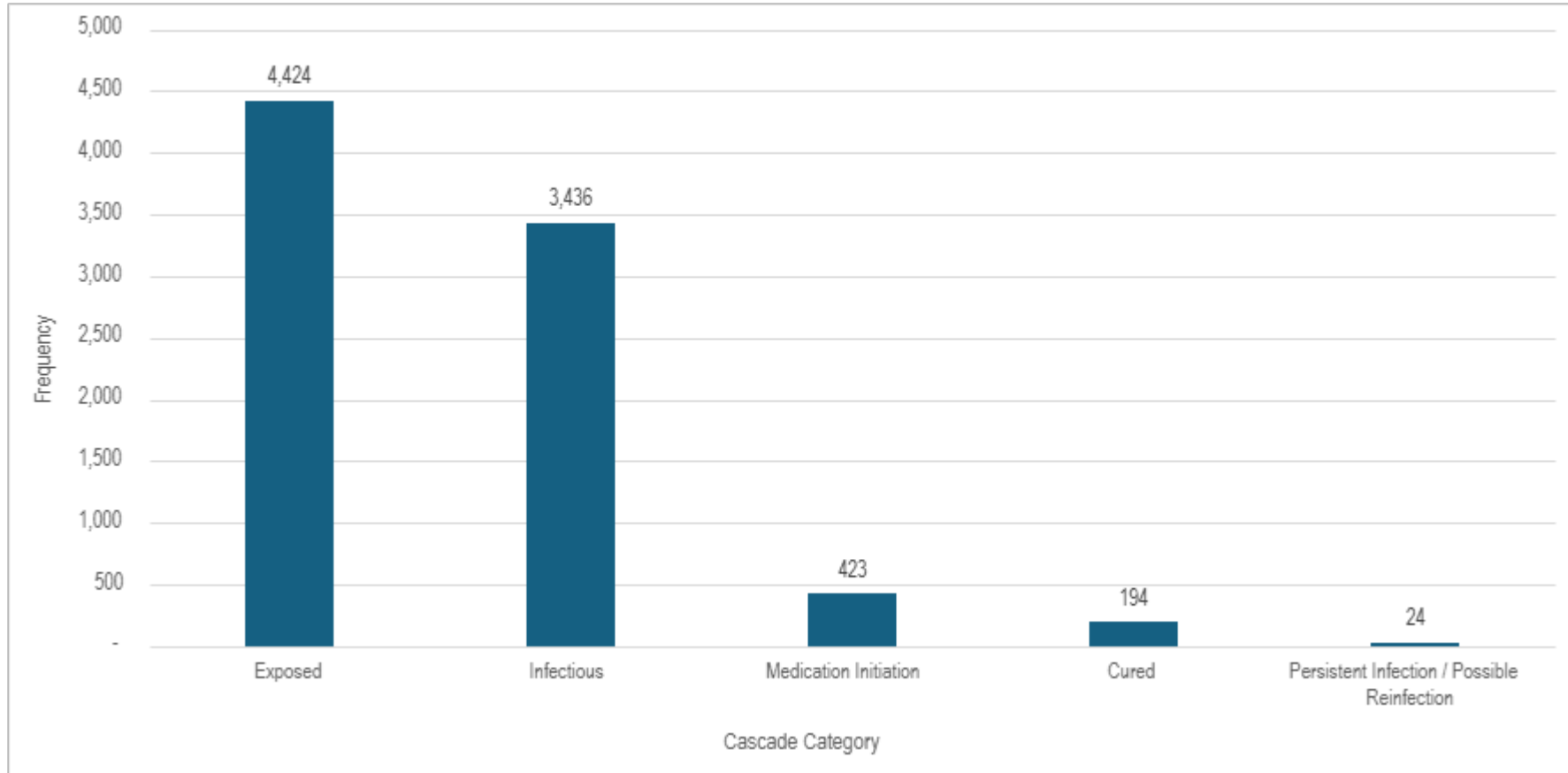
Common Preventable Curable

PDFs of Educational Materials: <https://redcap.chfs.ky.gov/surveys/?s=8MCCEFAKN4WA9FA>

Kentucky Department of Corrections Cascade of Cure

Hepatitis C Cascade of Cure, 2020 - 2023

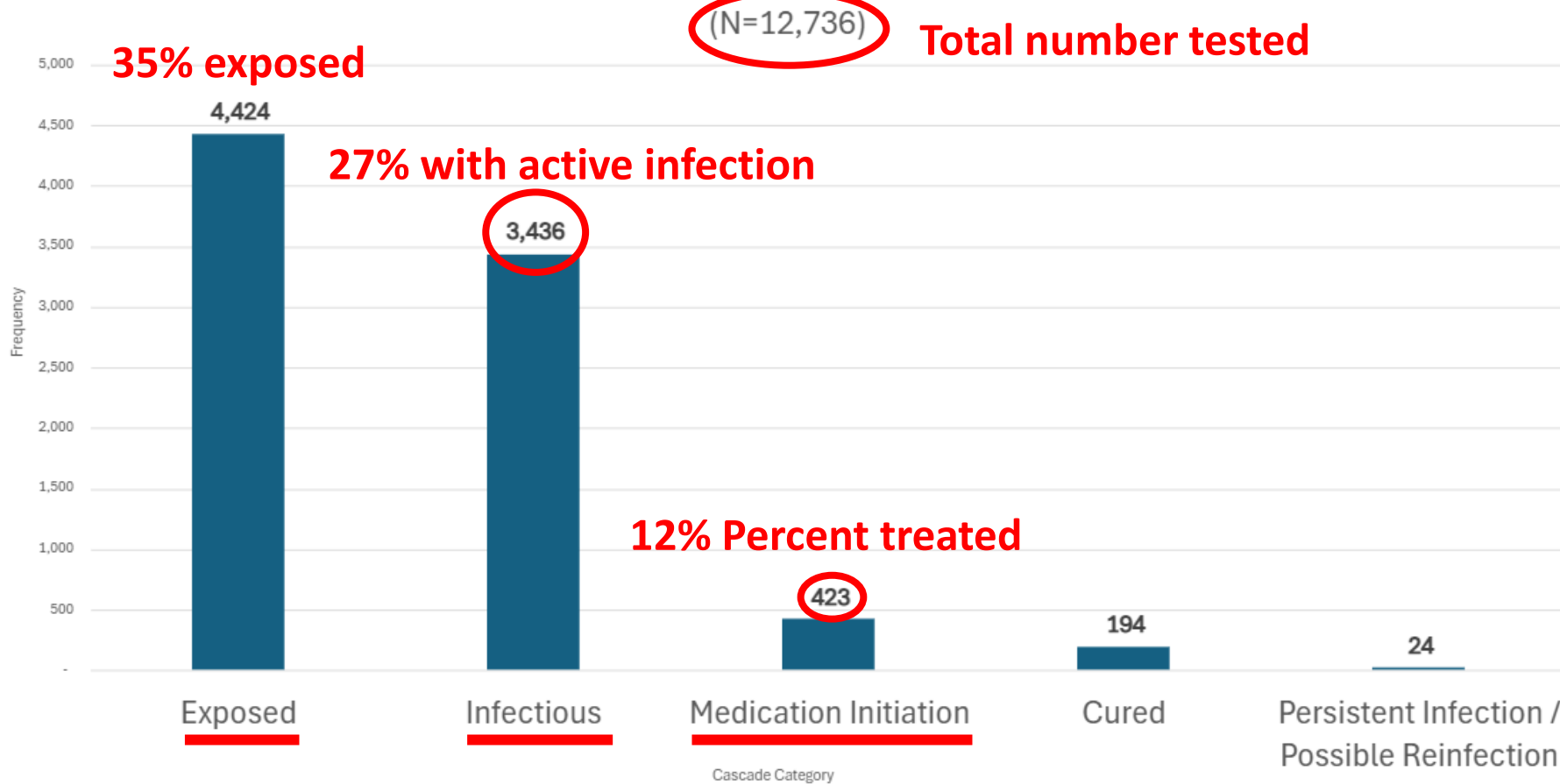


N = 12,736

Kentucky Department of Corrections, Kentucky Department for Public Health, Viral Hepatitis Program, Data Accessed: October 2025

Kentucky Department of Corrections Hepatitis C Cascade of Cure, August 2020 – December 2023

KY Department of Corrections Hepatitis C Cascade of Cure, August 2020 - December 2023



Treatment Initiation by Year

Year	Count
2020	65
2021	109
2022	79
2023	170

Kentucky Department of Corrections, Kentucky Department for Public Health, Viral Hepatitis Program, 2025

Future Possibilities

- Hopefully, more people who are incarcerated in KY DOC receiving medication due to lower price
- More data sharing
 - Better understanding of true risk of reinfection with medical record review
- 1115 Reentry Waiver
 - Hopefully, increased reentry navigation for people who are provided services through the waiver program that have HCV
 - Future iterations could increase covered services to 90 days pre-release and include HCV medication
- With more funding
 - Reentry HCV linkage navigators
 - Peer education

Thank You!

Viral Hepatitis Program Staff

- Program Lead: Dia Obonyo dia.obonyo@ky.gov
- Epidemiologist III: Claire Holladay claire.holladay@ky.gov
- Epidemiologist II: Christina D'Agostino christina.dagostino@ky.gov
- Perinatal Coordinator/Epi: Jordan Murphy Jordan.murphy@ky.gov
- Perinatal HCV Case Manager: Rachael Corrone Rachael.corrone@ky.gov
- Program Coordinator: Katie Gardner katie.gardner@ky.gov

VHP Website:



Viral Hepatitis Program Email: VHP@ky.gov

Viral Hepatitis Program Website: chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/vhp.aspx



VHP Email List



VHP Educational Materials



VHP Data Request