HEPATITIS ELIMINATION AS AN EQUITY ISSUE

CORINNA DAN, RN, MPH
Viral Hepatitis Policy Advisor
Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy
@HHS_ViralHep
ABOUT THE ACTION PLAN

The **National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2017-2020** (Action Plan)

- A new phase in the fight against viral hepatitis in the U.S.
- A national plan, not just a federal plan
- States that success cannot be achieved by federal action alone
- Intended to guide individuals and organizations from all sectors of society to strengthen our collective national response to HBV and HCV infection.

www.hhs.gov/hepatitis
VISION

The United States will be a place where new viral hepatitis infections have been eliminated, where all people with chronic hepatitis B and C know their status, and everyone with chronic hepatitis B and C has access to high quality health care and curative treatments, free from stigma and discrimination.
NATIONAL GOALS

GOAL 1
Prevent New Viral Hepatitis Infections

GOAL 2
Reduce Deaths and Improve the Health of People Living with Viral Hepatitis

GOAL 3
Reduce Viral Hepatitis Health Disparities

GOAL 4
Coordinate, Monitor, and Report on Implementation of Viral Hepatitis Actions
Many Disparities Exist: Racial/Ethnic

- New hepatitis C infections increased between 2015-16
- New hepatitis B infections increased in some states between 2015-16
- In 2016, **American Indians** had the highest rates of:
  - New hepatitis C infections (3.1 per 100,000)
  - Hepatitis C-related deaths (10.75 per 100,000)
- **African Americans** had the:
  - 2nd highest rates of new hepatitis B infections (0.88 per 100,000)
  - 2nd highest rates of hepatitis B- and hepatitis C-related deaths (0.73 and 7.42 per 100,000, respectively)
- **Asian Americans** are about 5% of the U.S. population, but account for more than 50% of chronic hepatitis B infections and have the highest hepatitis B related death rate (2.39 per 100,000)
Disparities Related to Life Circumstance and Comorbid Conditions

- 3.5 million people with hepatitis C = 1% of the U.S. population is chronically infected with hepatitis C.
- **2.8%** of **baby boomers** - people born between 1945-1965, are estimated to have chronic hepatitis C.
- **6.2%** of **veterans** in one study had chronic hepatitis C.
- **26% – 53%** of **people who inject drugs** have chronic hepatitis C.
- Up to **65%** of people affected by current hepatitis A outbreaks are people who use drugs.
- Approximately **10-41%** of persons in **state prisons** have chronic hepatitis C.
- About **20%** of **people living with HIV** are coinfectected with hepatitis C.
- **Among homeless individuals**, rates of hepatitis C may be as high as **50%**.
- Up to **12%** of people affected in hepatitis A outbreaks are **homeless** (2017-2018)
## ACTION PLAN INDICATORS ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

### GOAL 3
**REDUCE VIRAL HEPATITIS HEALTH DISPARITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Decrease the number of new HBV infections among individuals 30-49 years of age</td>
<td>by at least 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Reduce the number of HBV-related deaths among Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>by at least 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Reduce the number of HBV-related deaths among African Americans</td>
<td>by at least 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Reduce the number of HBV-related deaths among individuals 45 years of age and older</td>
<td>by at least 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Decrease the number of new HCV infections among individuals 20-39 years of age</td>
<td>by at least 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Decrease the number of new HCV infections among American Indians/Alaska Natives</td>
<td>by at least 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Reduce the number of HCV-related deaths among individuals 55-74 years of age</td>
<td>by at least 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Reduce the number of HCV-related deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives</td>
<td>by at least 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Reduce the number of HCV-related deaths among African Americans</td>
<td>by at least 25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11 PRIORITY POPULATIONS

Certain populations have higher rates of new or existing viral hepatitis infections, are more likely to die, and/or are at risk for transmitting viral hepatitis, including:

- Baby boomers
- People who inject drugs (PWID)
- American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN)
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)
- African Americans
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- People in correctional facilities
- People living with HIV (PLWH) and viral hepatitis coinfection
- Veterans
- Homeless individuals
- Pregnant women
KEY ACTIONS THAT SUPPORT VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION

• Develop national/regional elimination programs tailored for local burden of disease, health systems, and cultures
• Engage communities in all aspects of planning and implementing an elimination program
• Improve the quality and availability of viral hepatitis surveillance and other sources of strategic information to raise awareness and guide program planning and evaluation
• Develop partnerships to finance/implement hepatitis elimination programs
• Develop a research agenda to improve program efficiency and effectiveness and spur innovations.

Look at local epidemics, engage groups identified, plan strategically.
THE PARTNER PLANNING GUIDE

• Designed for use by individuals, groups, and organizations that are interested in or already conducting strategic planning efforts for hepatitis B (HBV) and/or hepatitis C (HCV).

• Can help agencies and organizations to assess existing activities and plan new ones that align with the Action Plan and contribute toward reaching national viral hepatitis goals.

• Can be found on the Viral Hepatitis website under National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan →Viral Hepatitis Community Action: https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/action-plan/partner-planning-guide/index.html
Scientific advances and improvements in health care make it possible to win the fight against viral hepatitis and save lives.

Join the fight.

For more information on the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan, visit hhs.gov/hepatitis.