

Increase Funding to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis

What is Viral Hepatitis?

Viral Hepatitis is an infectious bloodborne disease that causes inflammation of the liver and if left untreated can lead to liver failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. The most common types of viral hepatitis are hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly 5 million people nationwide are living with HBV and/or HCV. Viral hepatitis can be asymptomatic for years, which has resulted in more than half of people living with HBV and/or HCV being currently unaware of their infection. HBV has a safe and highly effective vaccine that can prevent HBV infection, yet only 25% of adults are vaccinated, representing a lost opportunity to prevent HBV infection. Chronic HBV requires life-long medical care, as there is no cure. HCV has a curative treatment, but no vaccine.

CDC Viral Hepatitis Programs Funding				
FY2019 Final: \$39 Million	FY2020 POTUS Budget: \$39 Million	FY2020 Congress Budget: TBD	FY2020 Need Estimate: \$316.9 Million ¹	FY2020 Community Ask: \$134 Million

¹ According to the 2016 CDC Professional Judgement Budget

Eliminating Opioid Related Infectious Diseases Program Funding			
SUPPORT ACT Sec. 7141: \$40 Million	FY2020 POTUS Budget: \$58 Million	FY2020 Congress Budget: TBD	FY2020 Community Ask: \$58 Million

Viral Hepatitis Funding Needs

The CDC estimates it needs at least \$316 million to put the United States on the path to eliminating HBV and HCV. For FY2020, we are requesting \$134 million for Viral Hepatitis Programs at CDC, as well as an additional \$53 million for Eliminating Opioid Related Infectious Diseases Programs at CDC to fund Sec. 7141 of HR 6. This funding would enable CDC to:

- Expand adoption of CDC/United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations for HBV and HCV testing, HBV vaccination, and linkage to care
- Develop monitoring systems and prevention strategies to stop the emerging hepatitis B and C epidemic in young people who inject drugs and others at risk
- Enhance vaccination-based strategies to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B
- Strengthen state and local capacity to detect new infections, coordinate prevention activities, provide feedback to providers for quality improvement, and track progress toward prevention goals
- Additional needs include funding for Ryan White-funded clinics, community health centers, and SAMHSA-funded programs to increase capacity and integrate comprehensive services into settings that serve high-risk populations, as well as steady and predictable growth for the budget of NIH to ensure success of the objectives outlined by the Viral Hepatitis Action Plan
- HAP strongly supports the continued use of federal funds for SSPs

The Cost of Inaction

- Annual HBV medical costs are as high as \$86,552 per individual
- Most people living with HCV will age into Medicare eligibility over the next 10 years and the costs to the Medicare program will increase five-fold
- Treating a person living with hepatitis before there is liver scarring saves more than \$187,000 per person per year, and HBV is vaccine preventable

The Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP) is a national coalition based in Washington, DC and includes community-based organizations, public health and provider associations, national hepatitis and HIV organizations, and diagnostic, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. HAP works with policy makers and public health officials to increase federal support for viral hepatitis prevention, testing, education, research and treatment.

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