

# Hepatitis C Elimination Progress Report: New York City Program and Policy Updates

New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Annual Progress Report Virtual Meeting  
May 14, 2025

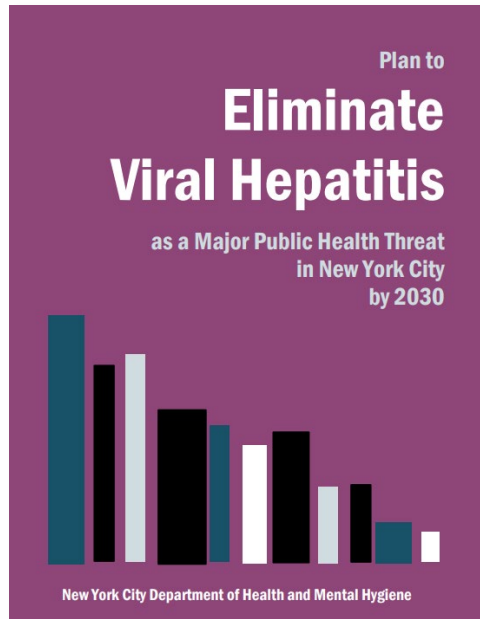
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# NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan: Goals



The NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan aligns its three goals with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)'s Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan: 2021-2025:

- Reduce new chronic hepatitis C infections among people in New York City by 90% by 2030
- Reduce premature deaths among people with chronic hepatitis B and C in New York City by 65% by 2030; and improve the health of people with hepatitis B and C in New York City
- Reduce health inequities related to viral hepatitis infection among people in New York City

# NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan: Program Highlights

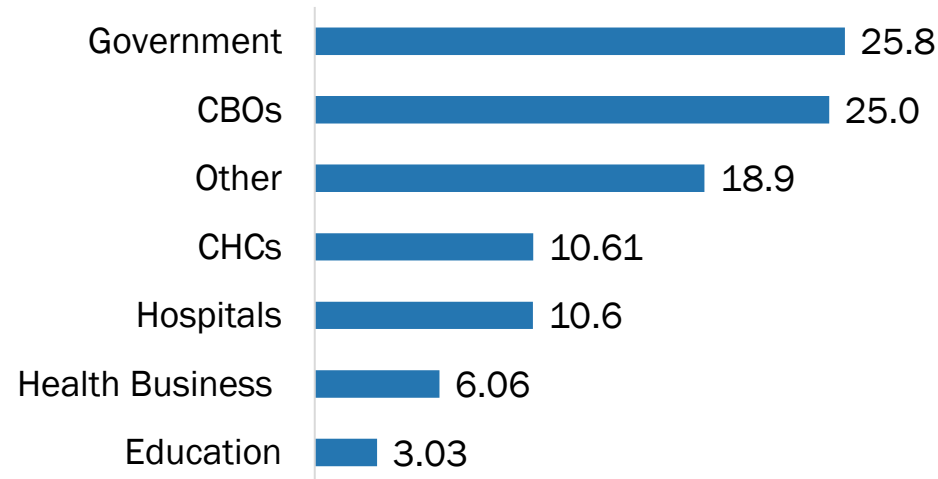
# Hep Free NYC Coalition Building and Communications

**132** Number of participating organizations in 2023

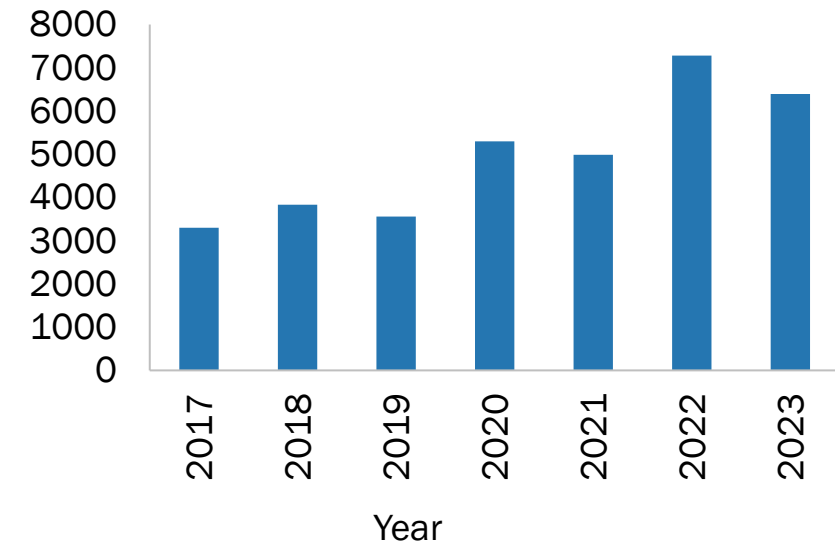
**565** Number of unique meeting attendees in 2023

**6,616** Number of Hep Free NYC newsletter subscribers in 2023

Percentage of Hep Free NYC meeting attendees by type of organization, 2023



Number of Hep Free NYC newsletter subscribers, 2017–2023



# Educating and Building the Workforce

- Conducted **11** *Introduction to Viral Hepatitis and Hepatitis C Patient Navigation* trainings in 2023
- Trained **221** participants in 2023



- Conducted **26** hepatitis B and hepatitis C clinical trainings in 2023
- Trained **911** participants in 2023



- Developed online training for peer workers in 2023
- Trained **34** hepatitis C peer navigators in 2023



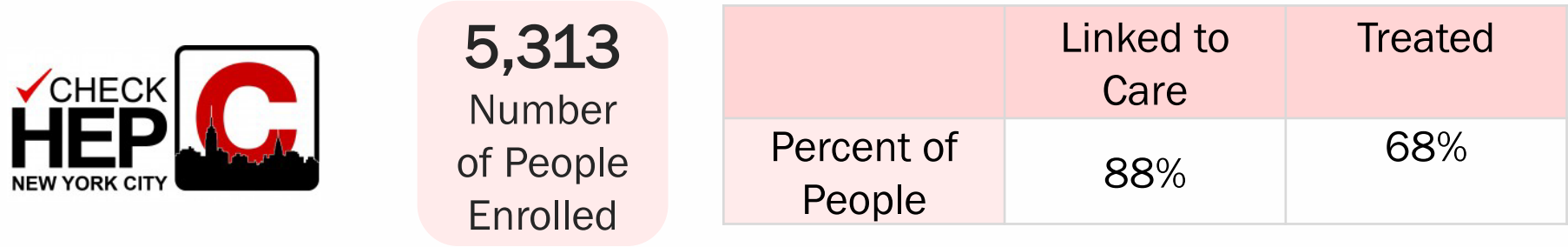
- Trained **410** care managers and health educators from **20** organizations in hepatitis C basics in 2023



# Community Navigation Programs

The NYC Health Department administers the NYC Council-funded Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program. Check Hep C patient navigators at hospitals and community health centers help people complete hepatitis C testing, evaluation, and treatment.

Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program Outcomes, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2023:



Source: N.Y.C. DEP'T OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE, HEPATITIS A, B, & C IN N.Y.C.: 2023 ANNUAL REPORT (2024), available [here](#).

# Community Navigation Programs

The NYC Health Department administers the NYC Council-funded Hep C Peer Navigation in Syringe Service Program. Peers with lived experience conduct hepatitis C education, outreach, prevention, and linkage to care at syringe service programs.

Hep C Navigation in Syringe Service Program Outcomes, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2023:



**15,309**  
Number  
of People  
Enrolled

	Hep C Positive	Referred to Care	Linked to Care	Treated
Percent of People	20%	37%	26%	20%

Source: N.Y.C. DEP’T OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE, HEPATITIS A, B, & C IN N.Y.C.: 2023 ANNUAL REPORT (2024), available [here](#).

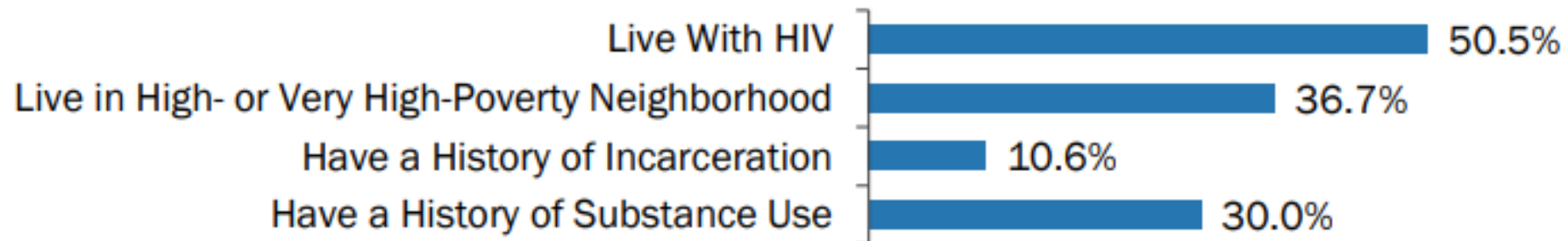
# Tele-Navigation Services

The NYC Health Department uses surveillance data to identify people with hepatitis C who are not in care and reaches out to offer health care navigation services to support linkage to care and treatment.

**82%** Percentage of people linked to hepatitis C care in 2023

**58%** Percentage of people linked to hepatitis C care who tested negative for hepatitis C RNA

## Characteristics of people who received hepatitis C tele-navigation services in NYC, 2023

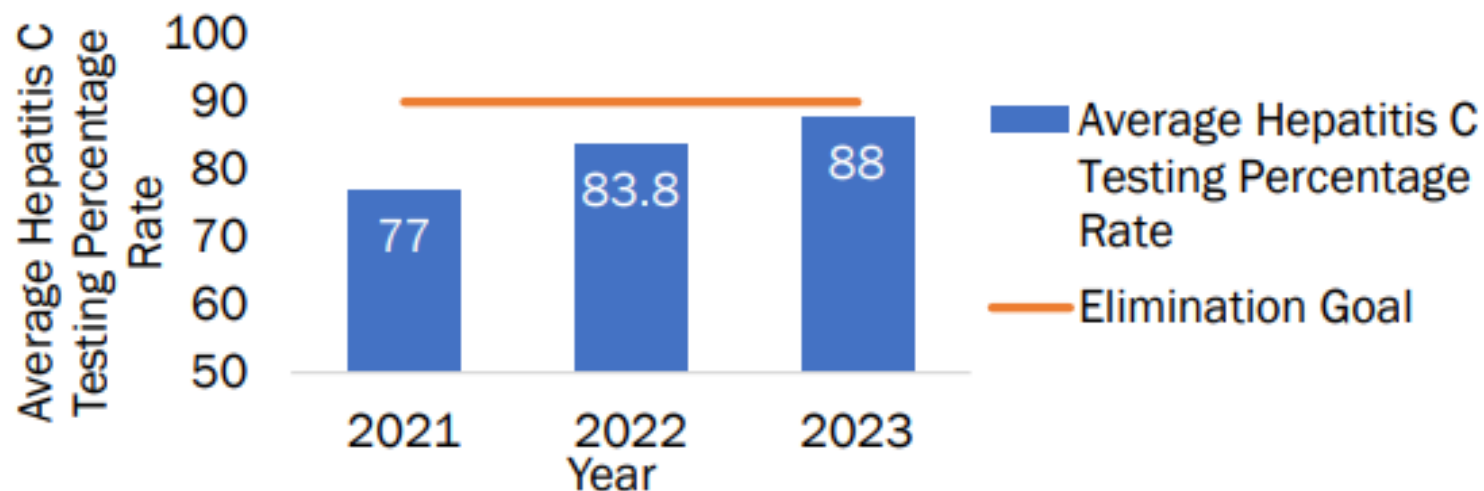




# Health Care Practice Facilitation

The NYC Health Department identifies health care organizations that are in high-prevalence neighborhoods or that are serving a high number of people with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or both, and works with them to improve hepatitis B and C testing and treatment rates through health care practice facilitation projects.

Health Care Practice Facilitation Program Outcomes, 2021 to 2023:



# Increasing Hepatitis Awareness



Hepatitis Awareness Month Rally, City Hall, May 16, 2024



World Hepatitis Day, Bronx, August 14, 2024



NYC Council Hepatitis Educational Briefing, March 11, 2025

# NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan: Implementation Highlights



# Advanced Clinical Education

## Strategy:

- Engage more primary care providers and addiction medicine providers to attend in-depth training on trauma-informed, stigma-free, and harm reduction-oriented hepatitis C care.

## Status:

- NYC Health Department partnered with the Empire Liver Foundation to deliver clinical education on the importance of initiating hepatitis C treatment for all people diagnosed with hepatitis C, including people who use drugs and people with HIV.
- NYC Health Department delivered tailored trainings to substance use treatment programs and community health centers including BronxCare, Community Healthcare Network, and Elev8.

# Enhanced Local Advocacy

## Strategies:

- Employ more peer educators to raise awareness about hepatitis C prevention and the availability of a cure in their respective communities.
- Support increased funding for patient navigation programs (such as Check Hep C) for people with hepatitis C.

## Status:

- The Hep Free NYC Advocacy Committee developed materials and trainings to support organizations advocating for increased City funding for patient and peer navigation programs.
- Hep Free NYC led a NYC Council educational briefing on viral hepatitis.
- Community members testified about the importance of City funding for the Viral Hepatitis Initiative at New York City Council budget hearings.

# Expanded Hepatitis C Testing

## Strategy:

- Increase availability of hepatitis C testing by expanding availability of alternative testing technologies, such as the point-of-care hepatitis C RNA test.

## Status:

- The NYC Health Department and New York State Department of Health worked with community partners to adopt point-of-care hepatitis C RNA testing.
- The NYC Health Department procured new hepatitis C testing technology and supplies for citywide distribution.

# Launched NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Webpage

Hep Free NYC recently published a webpage to collect resources and track progress in implementing strategies to eliminate viral hepatitis in New York City.

## NYC's Plan to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis by 2030

A network building capacity to prevent

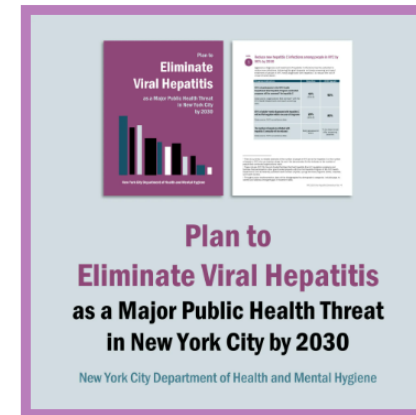
### The Plan to Eliminate Hep B and C in NYC

In 2021, the NYC Health Department released the [Plan to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis as a Major Public Health Threat in New York City by 2030](#), a set of strategies to reduce Hep C infection, improve the health of people with Hep B and C, and reduce health inequities related to viral hepatitis infection in NYC.

An estimated 329,000 people are living with Hep B and/or C in NYC, according to the NYC Health Department's 2022 Hep A, B, and C Annual Surveillance Report. Without care and treatment, people with Hep B or C may progress to serious liver disease, liver cancer or premature death.



NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan was developed with local Hep B advocates and stakeholders and implementation of the plan will include quarterly community engagement and planning through the [Hep Free NYC Coalition](#). Eliminating viral hepatitis in NYC is ambitious, but with



# Thank you!

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