

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

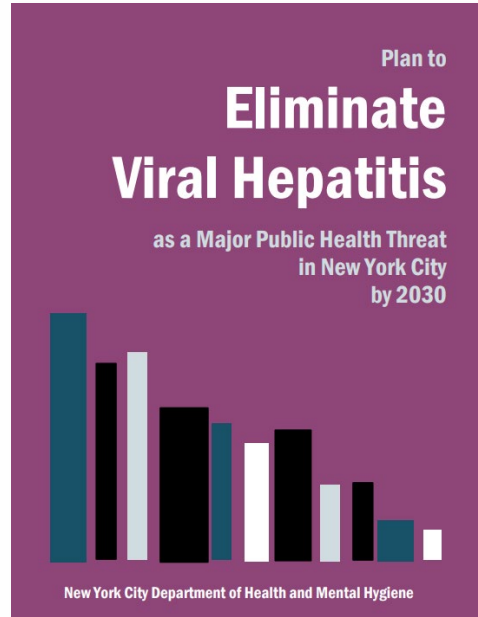
New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Annual Progress Report Virtual Meeting  
May 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Reed Vreeland, MPA

Viral Hepatitis Elimination Coordinator and Policy Analyst, Viral Hepatitis Program  
Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

# NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan

In 2021, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) and community partners released the Plan to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis as a Major Public Health Threat in NYC by 2030 (NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan), a set of strategies organized around three goals:



1. Reduce new chronic hepatitis C infections among people in NYC by 90% by 2030
2. Reduce premature deaths among people with chronic hepatitis B and C in NYC by 65% by 2030; and improve the health of people with hepatitis B and C in NYC
3. Reduce health inequities related to viral hepatitis infection among people in NYC

# NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan: Program Highlights

# Educating and Building the Workforce

The outcomes from training and workforce development programs in 2024 are as follows:

- The NYC Health Department conducted **13** *Introduction to Viral Hepatitis and Hepatitis C Patient Navigation* trainings and trained **178** participants

- The Empire Liver Foundation conducted **34** hepatitis B and hepatitis C clinical trainings and trained **630** participants

- The National Harm Reduction Coalition developed an online training for peer workers and trained **92** hepatitis C peer navigators

- The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group trained **462** care managers and health educators from **25** organizations in hepatitis C basics

# Community Navigation Programs

The NYC Health Department administers the NYC Council-funded Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program. Check Hep C patient navigators located in 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, 2024



**5,768**  
Number of  
People  
Enrolled

	Linked to Care	Treated
Percent of People	87%	61%

# Community Navigation Programs

The NYC Health Department administers the NYC Council-funded Hep C Peer Navigation in Syringe Service Programs. 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, 2024**



**16,933**  
Number of  
People  
Enrolled

	Hep C Positive	Referred to Care	Linked to Care	Treated
Percent of People	9%	79%	71%	68%

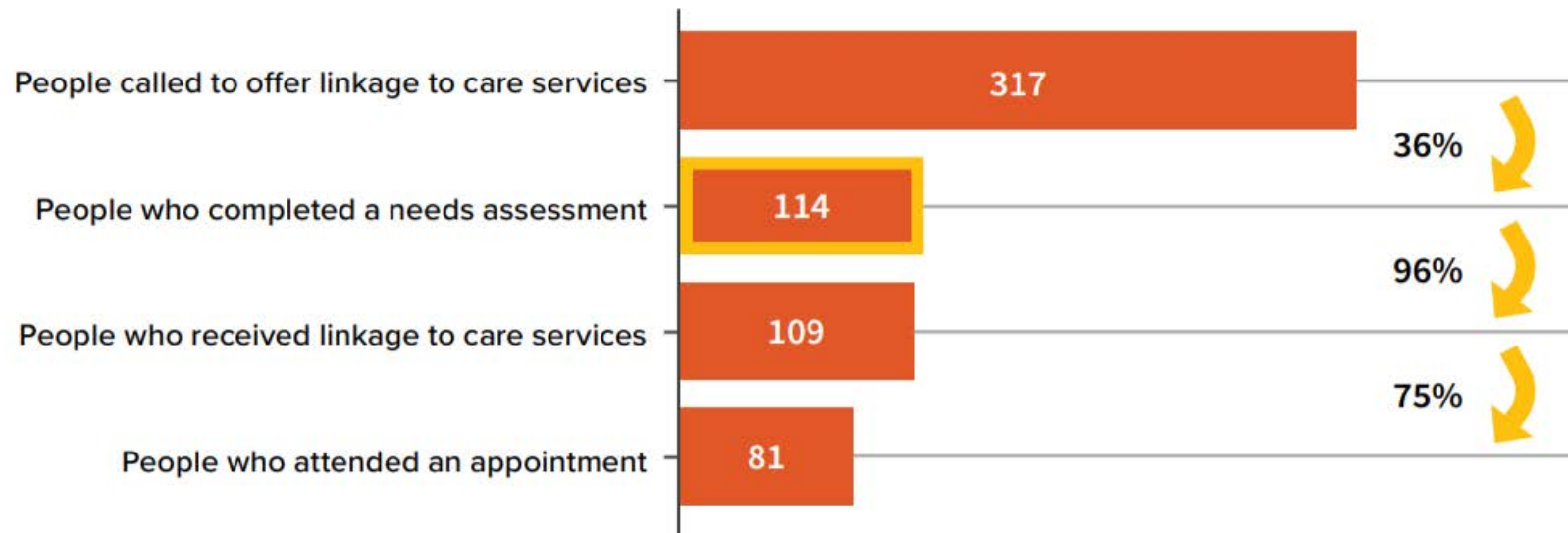
Source: N.Y.C. DEP'T OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE, PRELIMINARY HEPATITIS C PROGRAM DATA, 2024 (May 6, 2026).



# Tele-Navigation Services

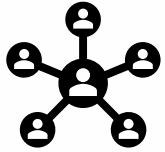
The NYC Health Department identifies people who are not in care for hepatitis C through surveillance data and referrals, and contacts them to offer linkage to care services.

## Linkage to Care Outcomes for People With Hepatitis C Who Were Contacted by the NYC Health Department and Offered Linkage to Care Services in NYC, 2024



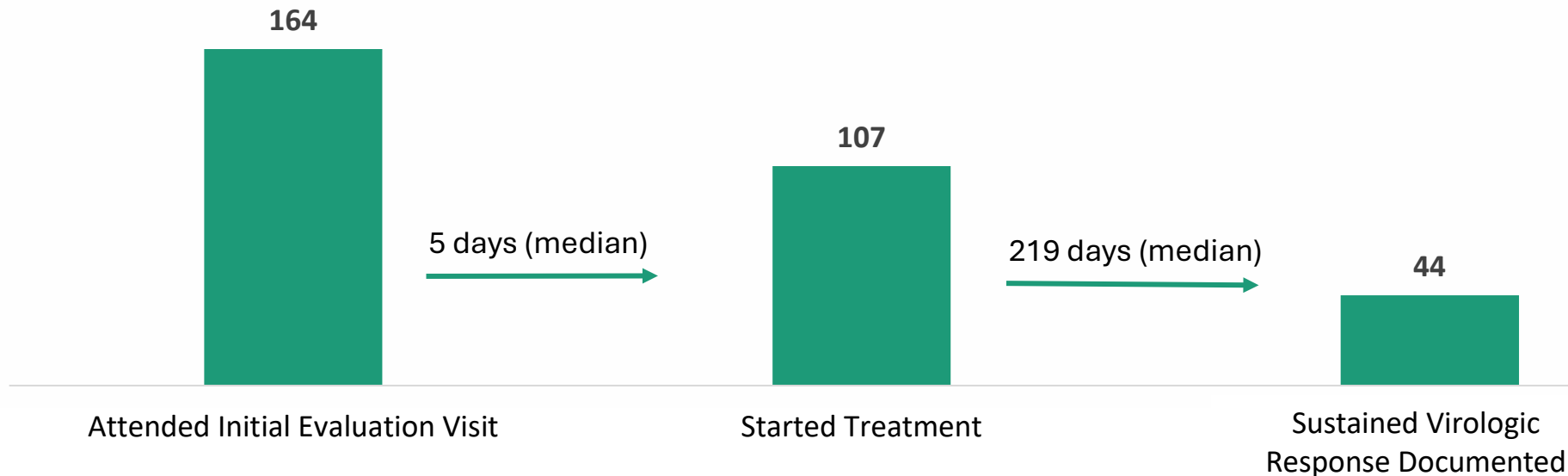
89% of people reported being aware of their infection at the initial assessment.

# Health Care Practice Facilitation



The NYC Health Department supports a hub-and-spoke model of care utilizing telehealth and a co-credentialed community health worker from the Mount Sinai REACH Program, a hospital-based primary care program, with a community-based inpatient substance use treatment program.

## Clinical Outcomes of the REACH Program in Collaboration With Participating Inpatient Substance Use Treatment Programs, 2021 to 2024



# Hep Free NYC Coalition Building



Hep Free NYC brings together stakeholders to network, share information, resources and best practices, identify needs, and develop and implement collaborative strategies to improve collective capacity to prevent, manage, and treat hepatitis B and C in NYC.

**575** Number of unique meeting attendees in 2024

**7,300** Approximate number of Hep Free NYC newsletter subscribers in 2024

**137** Number of organizations participating in meetings in 2024

# Increasing Hepatitis Awareness



Hepatitis Awareness Month Rally, City Hall, May 15, 2025



Hepatitis Testing Event, Brooklyn, May 9, 2025



NYC Council Hepatitis Educational Briefing, February 26, 2026

# NYC Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan: Implementation Highlights

# Advancing 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:

The NYC Health Department partnered with the Empire Liver Foundation to deliver:

- Clinical education on perinatal hepatitis C and the importance of initiating hepatitis C treatment for all people diagnosed with hepatitis C, including people who use drugs and people with HIV
- Clinical preceptorship opportunities at Greenwich House for nurse practitioners from Community Healthcare Network and StartCare

# Enhancing 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
- The Advocacy Committee led a NYC Council educational briefing on viral hepatitis
- Community members testified about the importance of City funding for the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Initiative at NYC Council budget hearings

# Expanding 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 distribution at two inpatient substance use treatment programs

# Acknowledgements: NYC Viral Hepatitis Program Capacity Building Unit

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# Thank You!

**Reed Vreeland, MPA**

Viral Hepatitis Elimination Coordinator and Policy Analyst, Viral Hepatitis Program  
Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

[rvreeland@health.nyc.gov](mailto:rvreeland@health.nyc.gov)