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# **NEW YORK STATE'S PROGRESS TOWARD HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION *PROGRAM AND POLICY HIGHLIGHTS***

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**2026 ANNUAL HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION PROGRESS REPORT | MAY 6, 2026**

# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Implementation of point of care hepatitis C diagnostic testing.

Regional Hepatitis C Elimination Coalitions

Funding opportunity to advance health equity among people living with hepatitis C.

Navigation services in high-impact settings (carceral, substance use disorder treatment, shelters, harm reduction).

People living with hepatitis C now an eligible population for supportive housing through Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI).



# FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT: ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HEPATITIS C

Integrating hepatitis C treatment into primary care

Low threshold models of hepatitis C treatment

Telehealth and telementoring in rural areas and  
within high impact settings



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# POINT OF CARE HEPATITIS C DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Available in all  
12 drug user  
health hubs

Finger stick  
specimen  
collection

Diagnosis within  
one hour

Immediate  
initiation of  
treatment or  
linkage to care



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# POINT OF CARE HCV RNA TESTING

## SUCCESSIONS

- More drug user health hubs conducting HCV screening
- Some have implemented “Test and Treat” models
- Quicker linkage to treatment

## CHALLENGES

Increase in test refusals

Clients not wanting to wait for test result

Specimen Collection  
Learning curve

Cost

ECLRS Data Entry

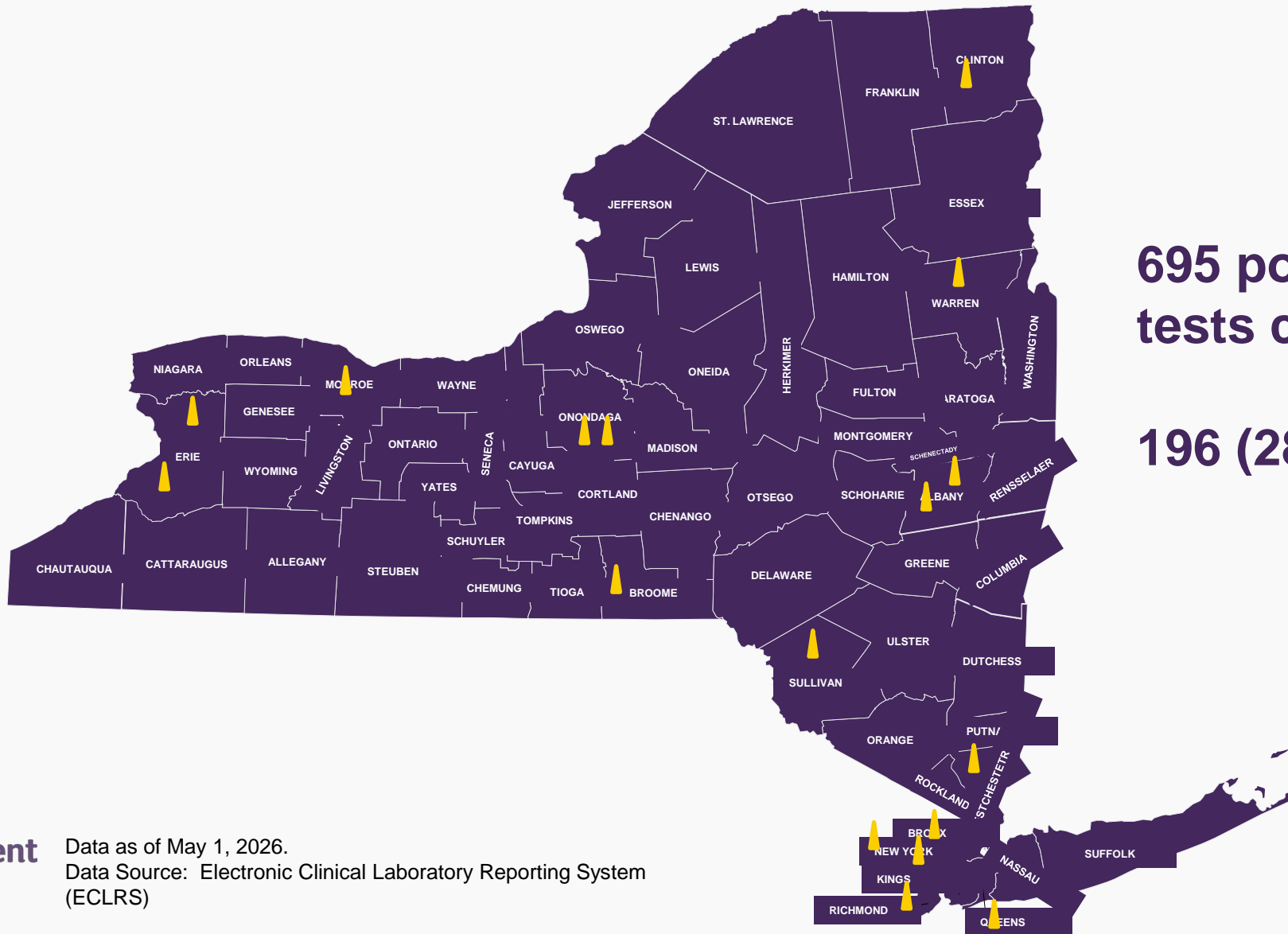
Community of Practice

# POINT OF CARE DIAGNOSTIC TESTING LOCATIONS

12 Drug User Health Hubs

Four opioid treatment programs

Nine HCV care and treatment programs



695 point of care tests conducted

196 (28% positive)

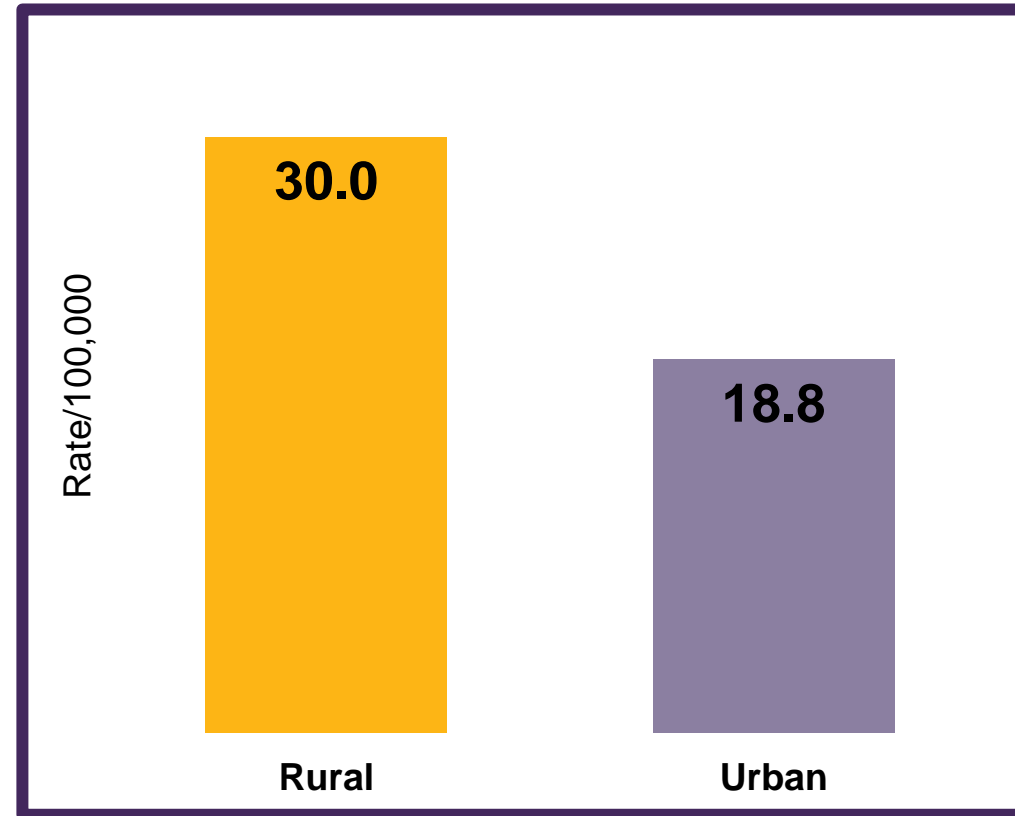


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Data as of May 1, 2026.  
Data Source: Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS)

# RURAL HEALTH PROJECT

## NEWLY REPORTED HEPATITIS C RATES BY NEW YORK RURAL AND URBAN COUNTIES (EXCLUDING NEW YORK CITY), 2024



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# RURAL HEALTH HEPATITIS C INITIATIVE

Partnered Office of Rural Health within the Department of Health



Provided an overview of hepatitis C to New York State Rural Health Council



Conducted six in-person focus groups; one virtual



Surveyed rural health community health centers and federal qualified community health centers



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# RURAL FOCUS GROUPS

Six in-person: Binghamton, Ellenville, Hornell, Olean, Watertown, Westport.

One virtual group

Six main categories discussed:

- Current Knowledge
- Services offered/past experiences
- Challenges and assets
- Stigma
- Social Determinants of Health
- Assistance needed



# FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Limited hepatitis C knowledge among clients

Negative impact of the opioid epidemic

Limited harm reduction services

Limited capacity for hepatitis C treatment

Stigma

Most common social determinants of health

- Transportation
- Housing



# RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SURVEY



Survey disseminated by New York State Department of Health Office of Rural Health via email.



24 rural community health centers and Federally Qualified Community Health Centers received the survey.



A \$50 gift card was provided to each responding health center.

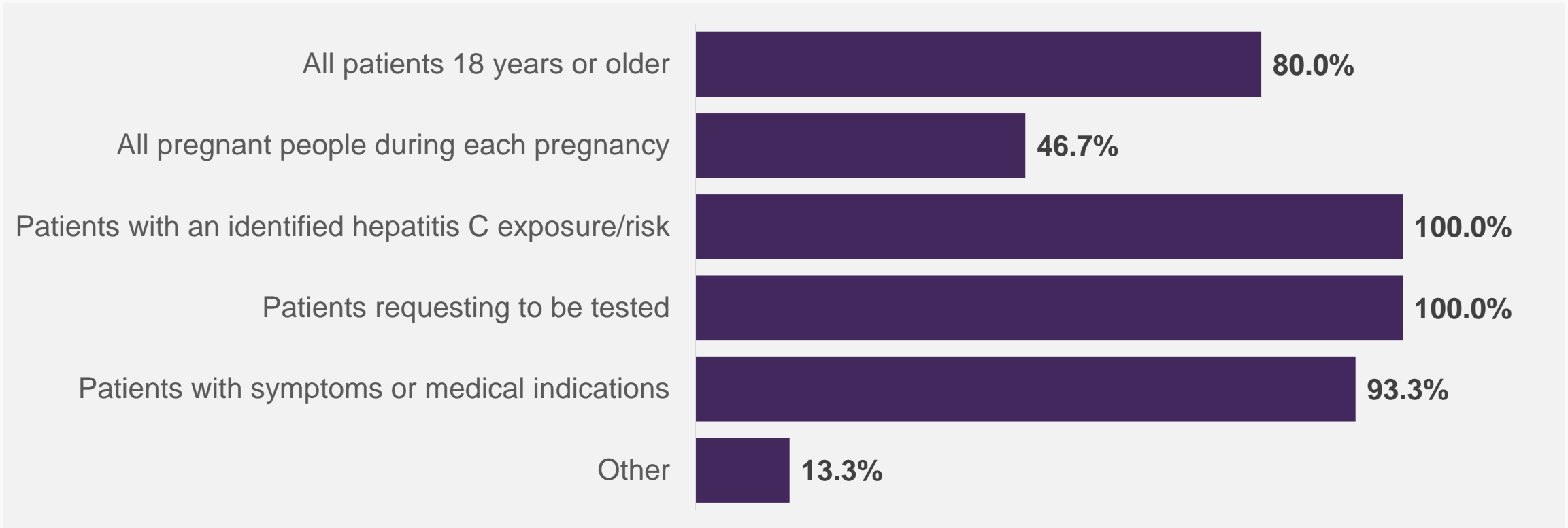


15 (62.5%) community health centers responded.

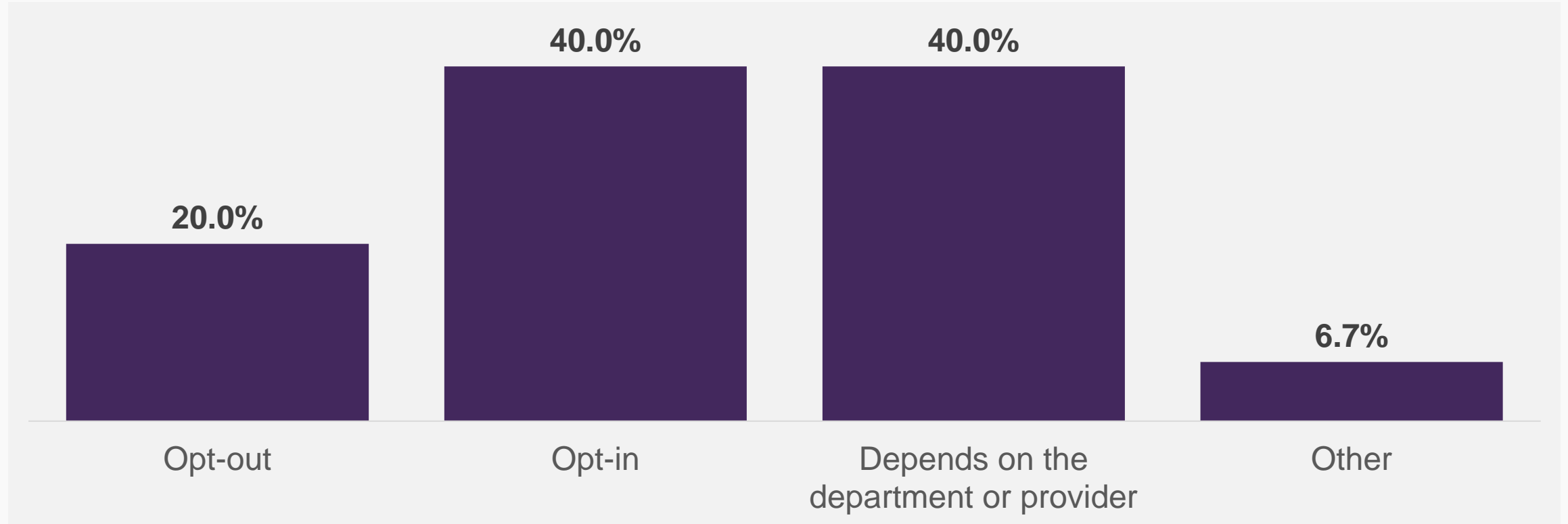


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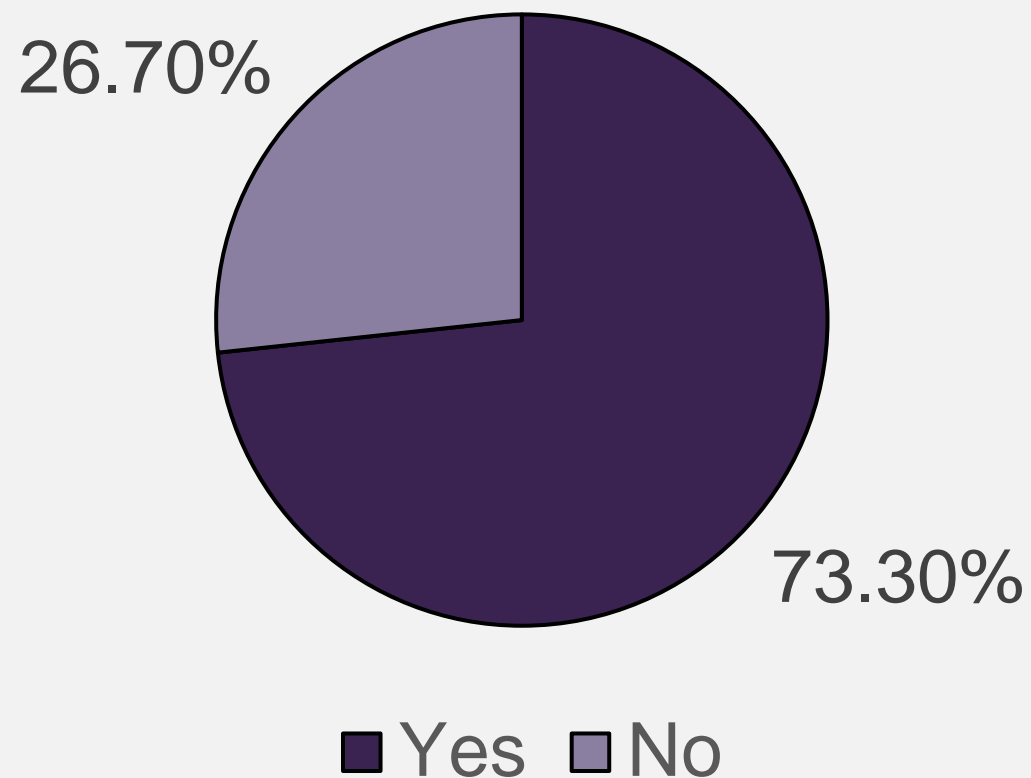
# PATIENTS CURRENTLY SCREENED FOR HEPATITIS C



# TESTING APPROACHES



# HEPATITIS C REFLEX TESTING



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# IS YOUR HEALTH CENTER CURRENTLY OFFERING HEPATITIS C TREATMENT ONSITE?

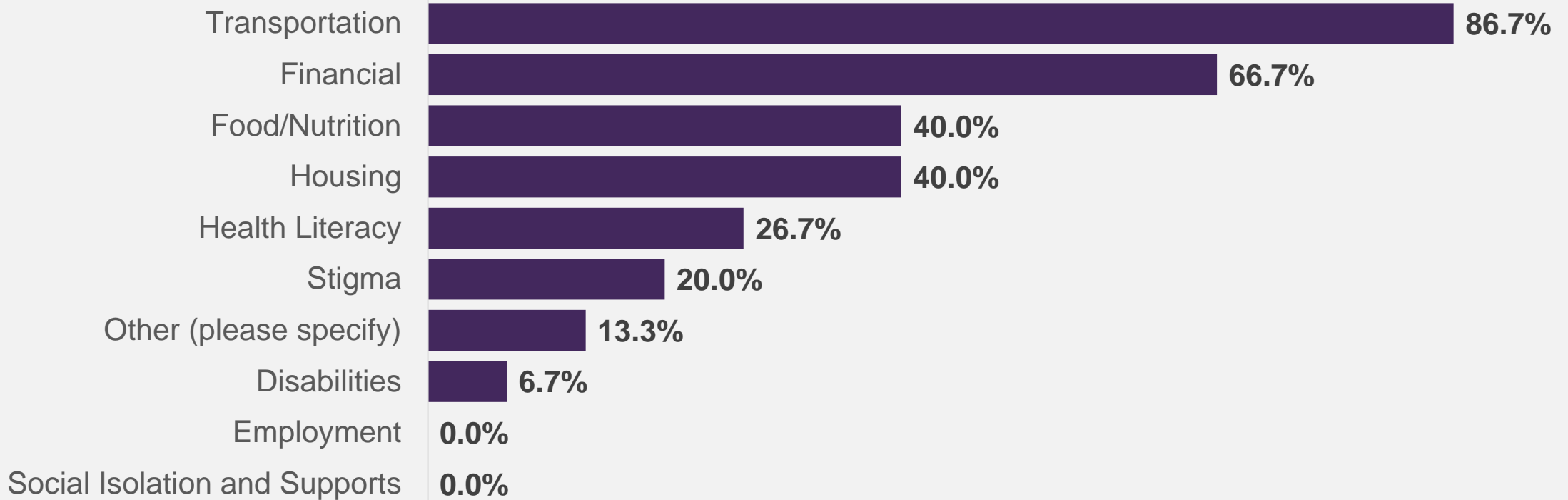
	N	%
Yes, we have providers onsite who treat hepatitis C.	8	57.1%
No. We currently do not offer hepatitis C treatment onsite and refer clients to a specialist.	6	42.9%
Yes, we provide treatment through telehealth with a hepatitis C provider.	0	0.0%

# NUMBER OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS TREATING HEPATITIS C ONSITE

	N	%
One	0	0.0%
A few	5	62.5%
Most	3	37.5%
All	0	0.0%



# MOST REPORTED SOCIAL CARE NEEDS



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Developing opt-out testing policy and messaging.

Electronic health record tools and prompts.

Information on hepatitis C testing law.

Building capacity for more in-house providers to treat hepatitis C infection.

Increasing non-clinical capacity such as care coordinators, community health workers.



# VIRTUAL LEARNING SERIES

Fall 2026

Target audience: community health centers statewide

Three webinars:

- Strategies for implementing universal hepatitis C testing
- Tools for implementing opt-out hepatitis C testing
- Steps to building capacity for onsite hepatitis C treatment

Toolkit resources



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# REGIONAL HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION COALITIONS

- New York City
- Western NY
- Finger Lakes
- Central NY
- Capital District
- Hudson Valley



**Join your coalition:**  
[hepatabc@health.ny.gov](mailto:hepatabc@health.ny.gov)

# NEW EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



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## Top 10 reasons to get treated for

# HEPATITIS C

- 1 Treatment is open to everyone living with hepatitis C.** This includes people who use drugs, people who were reinfected—and anyone who was treated but not cured.
- 2 Treatment is available no matter where you are in your journey.** To get treated, you do not need to be sober or have a home—or meet any other requirements.
- 3 High cure rates.** Nearly everyone who starts and finishes treatment is CURED.
- 4 Only pills.** Injections are no longer required as part of treatment.
- 5 Few side effects.** Unlike past treatments (interferon), new treatments have very few side effects. Some people have none.
- 6 Treatment is short.** 8 weeks for most people, 12 for others.
- 7 No liver biopsy** is needed before starting treatment.
- 8 Treatment is convenient.** You can often get hepatitis C treatment where you receive other care—like primary care, oploid treatment, or harm reduction services.
- 9 Covered by insurance.** Hepatitis C treatment is covered by New York State Medicaid and other insurance plans.
- 10 You'll likely feel better.** Many people report having more energy and improved quality of life after being cured of hepatitis C.

Stop the spread

Take charge of your health

Feel better



For more information visit: [health.ny.gov/publications/1923.pdf](https://health.ny.gov/publications/1923.pdf)

## HIV and Hepatitis C

Coinfection



# Know Your HEPATITIS C Status Today!

GET  
TESTED  
NOW

New Hepatitis C Testing Technology is **Available Here!**  
All it takes is a finger prick.  
Get your results in less than one hour.

Don't wait — take charge of your health!

# Get Tested. Get Treated. Get Cured.

[health.ny.gov/hepatitisc](https://health.ny.gov/hepatitisc)



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[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis\\_c/educational\\_materials.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/educational_materials.htm)

# OFFICE OF HEPATITIS HEALTH CARE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY



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