



## Hepatitis C Elimination in Washington State by 2030: Progress Report for the Third & Fourth Quarters of 2023

Previous [progress reports](#) provide relevant background on efforts to eliminate hepatitis C in Washington State by 2030. This report provides a high-level overview of activities, successes, and challenges in the relevant time period toward eliminating the public health threat of hepatitis C in Washington by the year 2030. If you have questions about this report, contact [HepCFreeWA@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HepCFreeWA@doh.wa.gov).

### Major Activities During the Time Period

<p><b>1. Prevent new hepatitis C infections</b></p>	<p>DOH continues to strengthen our hepatitis C Disease (HCV) Intervention Specialist (DIS) program. The DIS program conducts case surveillance investigations and provides client intervention and prevention services for newly reported HCV cases. The state HCV DOH team provides risk reduction counseling and referrals to medical care and supportive services.</p>
<p><b>2. Improve health outcomes of people with hepatitis C</b></p>	<p>DOH continues to support University of Washington's Viral Hepatitis Project ECHO Program, which trains primary care providers to treat hepatitis B &amp; hepatitis C. In 2023, 148 unique providers attended project ECHO sessions.</p> <p>DOH HCV DIS program is developing quality assurance reports for local health jurisdictions (LHJs) which will highlight case completeness and linkage to care for newly diagnosed HCV cases. The new QA report will focus on cases that have been referred to care and if clients have made an appointment and/or have been seen by a provider for clinical management of HCV. DOH will provide QA reports to LHJs and provide technical assistance for developing robust linkage to care strategies for DIS.</p> <p>From July 1 through December 31, 2023, an estimated 474 people covered by Health Care Authority Apple Health and Uniform Medical Plan received treatment for HCV.</p>
<p><b>3. Reduce hepatitis C-related disparities and health inequities</b></p>	<p>DOH met with the UW ECHO Program to discuss specific outreach to areas of the state with few or no HCV treaters to invite participation in the ECHO Program. In addition, DOH engages with rural counties to discuss strategies on how to increase the number of treaters providing HCV clinical care in their respective service areas.</p>
<p><b>4. Improve hepatitis C surveillance and data usage</b></p>	<p>HCA <a href="#">Apple Health Hep C Free Treatment Dashboard</a> went public. It provides information on infection and</p>

	<p>treatment rates by county from 2015 through 2022. The data can be filtered by race/ethnicity, gender, or age group.</p> <p>During this reporting period, the DOH surveillance team assessed linkage to care variables in the Washington State Disease Reporting system to develop quality assurance reports for local health jurisdictions.</p>
<p><b>5. Achieve integrated, coordinated efforts that address the hepatitis C epidemic among all partners and stakeholders.</b></p>	<p>July 2, 2023 and November 1, 2023 Hep C Free WA Quarterly Meetings.</p> <p>August 14, 2023, December 11, 2023, and October 9, 2023 Hep C Free WA Community Engagement Work Group Meetings</p>

**Successes**

- Submitted application for new 5-year cooperative agreement for viral hepatitis surveillance & prevention with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

**Challenges**

- Federal funding for viral hepatitis surveillance & prevention remains flat from the previous 5-year cooperative agreement.

