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Shaping a Healthier Future

A Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan for Texas

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Learning Objectives

1. Understand the goals and strategies of viral hepatitis elimination in Texas
2. Identify the strategies for advancing perinatal hepatitis B prevention within the state
3. Explore opportunities for integrating perinatal hepatitis B prevention efforts into existing public health programs



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Overview of Hepatitis A, B, and C

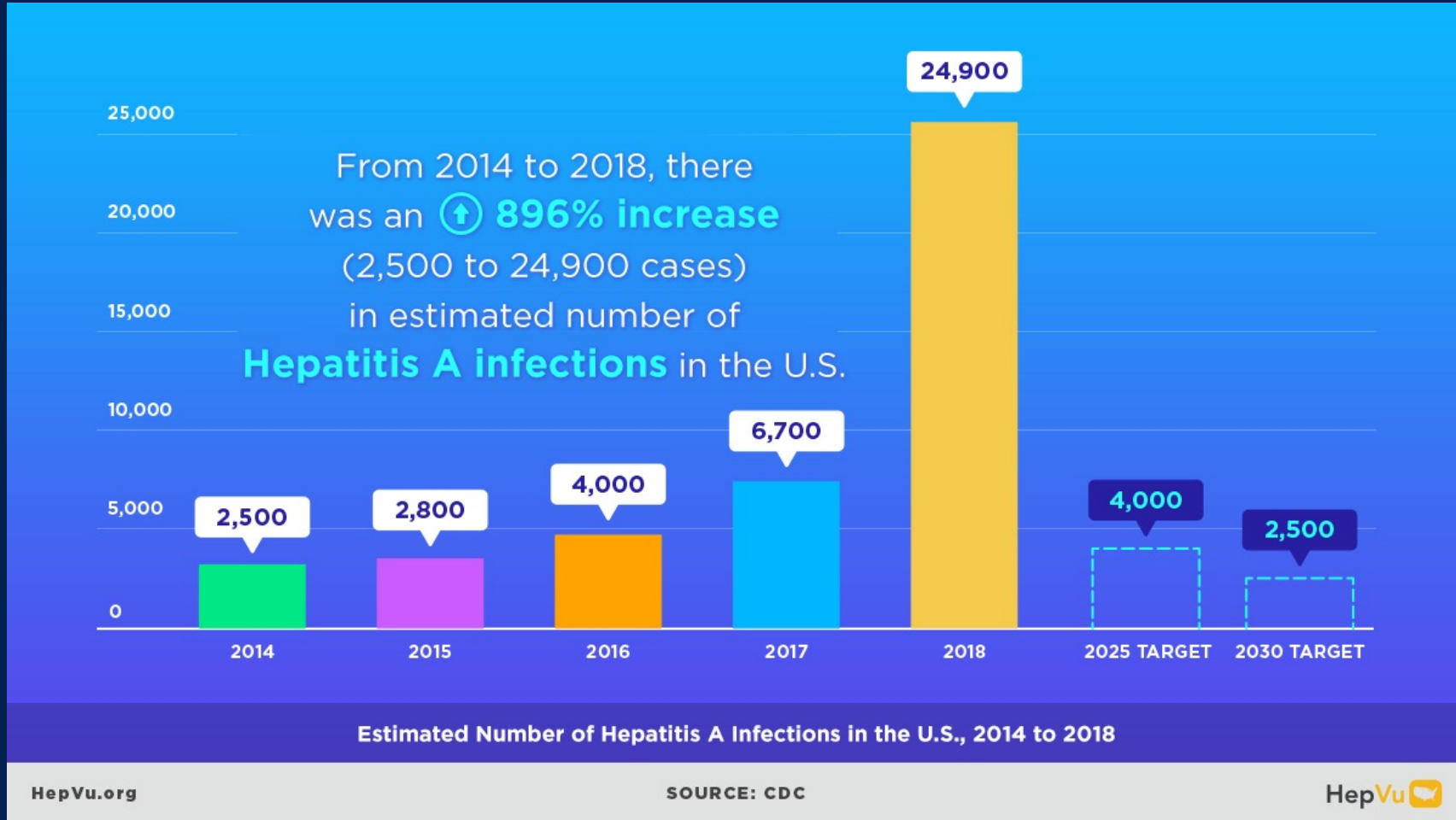
Estimated Number of Hepatitis A Infections in the United States, 2014-2018



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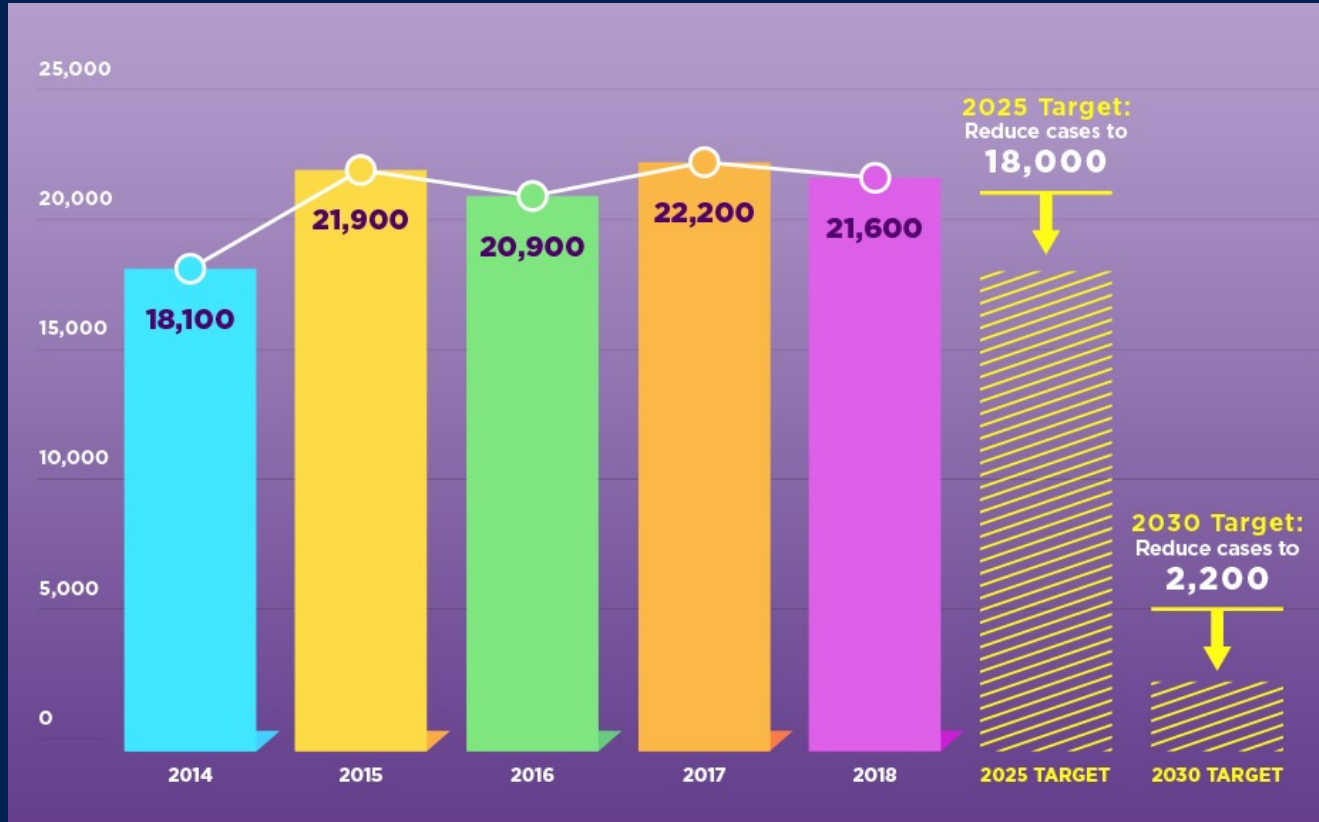
Estimated Number of Hepatitis B Infections in the United States, 2014-2018



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From 2014 to 2018, there was a **↑ 19% increase** (18,100 to 21,600 cases) in estimated number of **Hepatitis B infections** in the U.S.

Estimated Number of Hepatitis B Infections in the U.S., 2014 to 2018

Estimated Number of Hepatitis C Infections in the United States, 2014-2018



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There was a **↑ 65% increase** (30,500 to 50,300) cases in estimated number of **Hepatitis C infections** from 2014 to 2018 in the U.S.



Estimated Number of Hepatitis C Infections in the U.S., 2014 to 2018

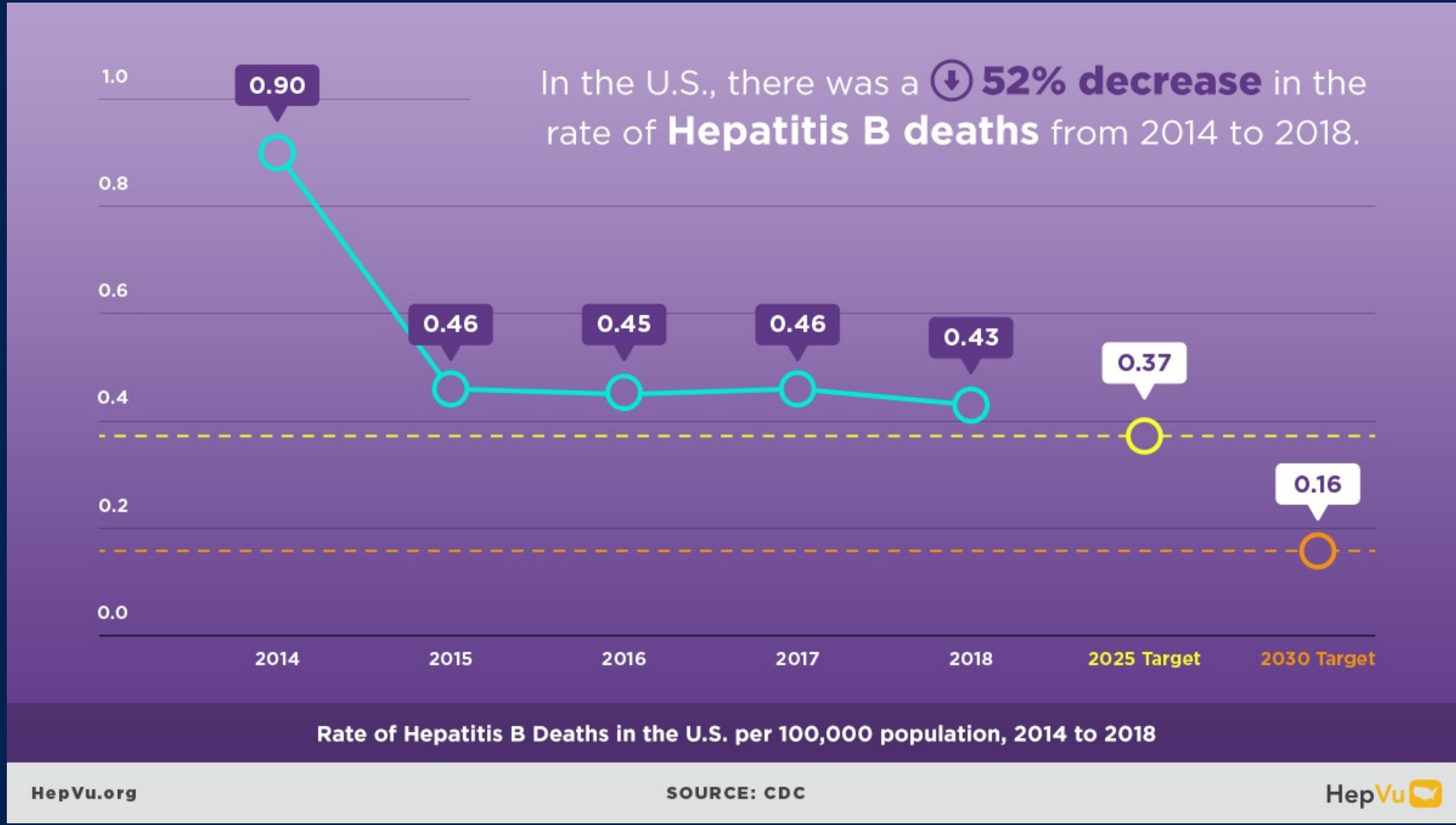
Rate of Hepatitis B Deaths in the United States, 2014-2018



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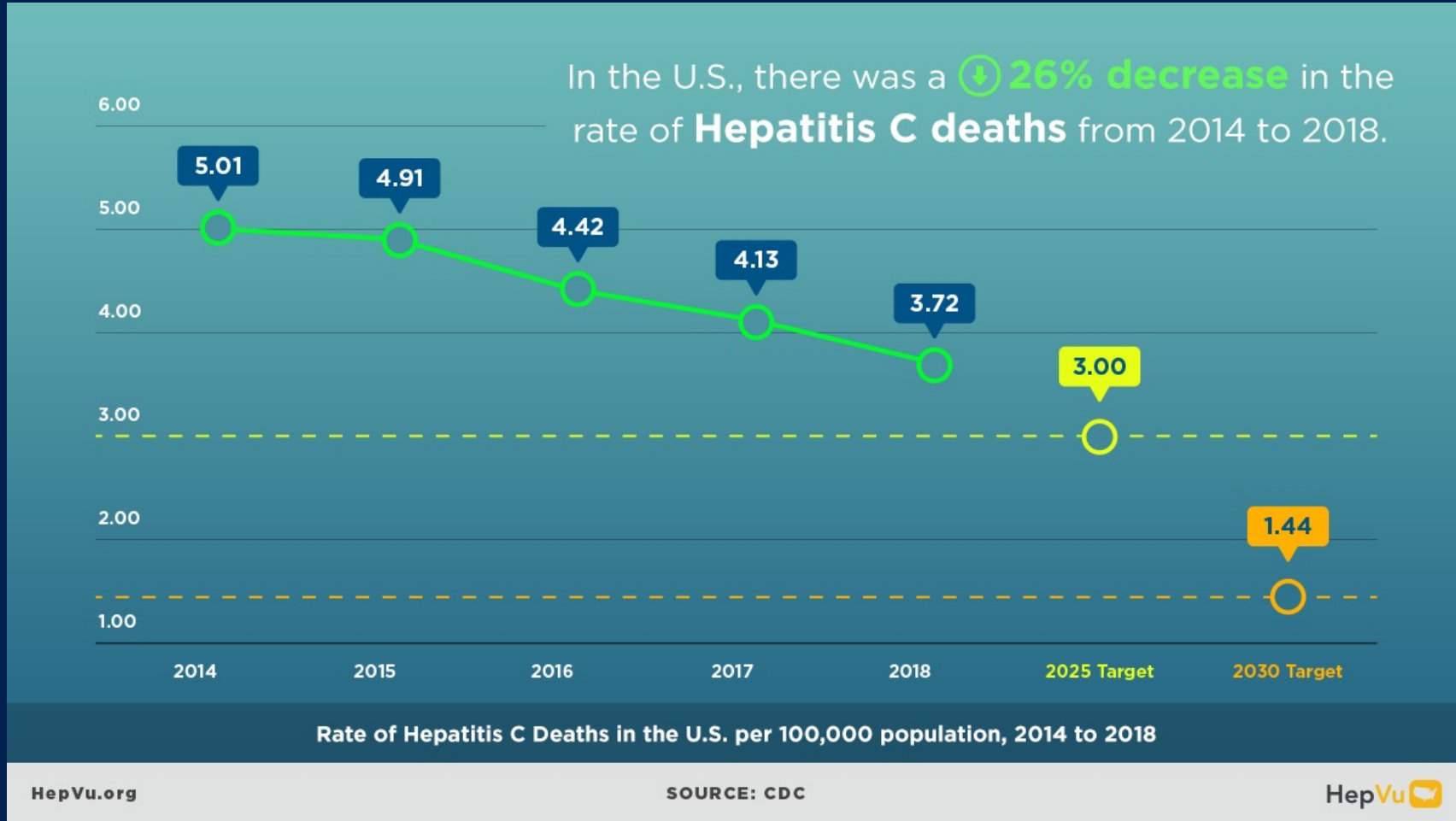
Rate of Hepatitis C Deaths in the United States, 2014-2018



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Begin with the End in Mind

Foundational Pillars



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People

Reach priority
populations



Places

Implement
approach in
the right
geographic
locations and
venue types



Policy

Support
effective policy
interventions
that address
health
disparities



Science

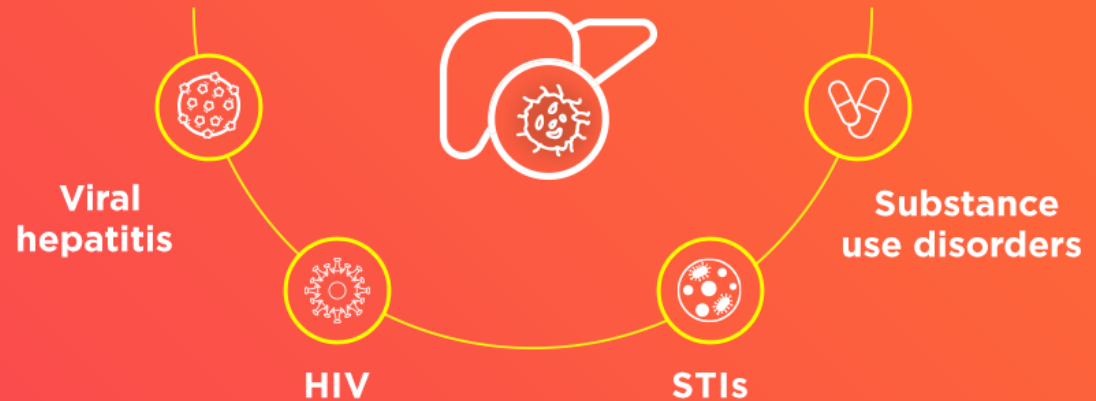
Evidence-
based and
data-informed
approaches

Adopting a Syndemic Approach



A **syndemic** occurs when health-related problems – such as **viral hepatitis, HIV, STIs, substance use disorders, and social determinants of health** interact with each other to cluster by person, place, or time – producing an excess burden of disease.

Elimination plans, like the **Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan: A Roadmap to Elimination (2021-2025)**, use the **syndemic** approach to integrate elimination strategies for multiple public health issues:



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Key Elimination Strategies

1. Empower and educate Texans about hepatitis transmission, testing, and linkage to treatment and prevention services
2. Reduce viral hepatitis related health disparities
3. Improve viral hepatitis surveillance and data usage
4. Eliminate mother-to-child transmission
5. Achieve integrated, coordinated efforts to address viral hepatitis elimination among partners and stakeholders



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Improve Awareness and Prevention of Viral Hepatitis

Strategies



Apply innovative approaches to expand testing in clinical settings (e.g., conducting routine screening in emergency departments)



Develop systems to make testing more accessible in nontraditional settings



Educate providers and public to promote testing and establish ways to regularly rescreen people at increased risk

Goal



Increase the proportion of people with hepatitis who are aware of their status to 90% by 2030.



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Improve Health Outcomes

Strategies



Develop networks to rapidly link persons with a recent diagnosis to services.

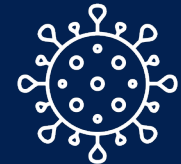


Expand innovative options to improve treatment adherence and support medical care (e.g., text reminders, telehealth.)

Goals



90% of people with diagnosed HCV linked to care by 2030



80% of eligible patients treated by 2030



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Reduce Health Disparities

Strategies



Develop health care interventions that increase access to physical, sexual, mental, and behavioral health care



Provide care navigation interventions that increase access to safe, quality, affordable and affirming care



Provide counseling services, including psychosocial counseling provided by a licensed mental health professional



Increase access to substance use and harm reduction interventions for those determined at risk



Goals

Increase client stability and reduce barriers to access status-neutral prevention and care services



Reduce stigma and ensure disproportionately affected groups are prioritized



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Improve Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Data Usage

Strategies



Explore available data sets to create a baseline of Texas viral hepatitis data



Increase availability of viral hepatitis surveillance data



Increase quality of viral hepatitis surveillance

Goals



Create a robust surveillance system that allows data to drive awareness, education, testing, and linkage to care



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Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission

Strategies



Test mothers at first prenatal visit and upon delivery of infant



Vaccinate babies, giving birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine

Prioritize testing recommendations of all perinatally exposed infants



Manage infants with hepatitis alongside provider with pediatric hepatitis expertise

Goals



Elimination of hepatitis infections among families with young children, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to be cured



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Key Stakeholders

- People with Lived Experience
- Health and Human Services Commission: Medicaid
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Homeless Coalitions
- Community Based Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Harm Reduction Programs
- Perinatal Partnerships
- State Medical Associations
- Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association
- Local Health Systems



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Key Stakeholders

continued

- Regional and Local Health Departments
- Public Health Laboratories
- Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health
- Office of Border Health
- Vital Statistics
- Immunization Section
- National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) Hepatitis Workgroup
- National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Hepatitis C



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Thank you!
