HCV Treatment in a Patient Population Experiencing Homelessness

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Objectives:

- Name Hennepin County and Health Care for the Homeless HCV data
- Identify general barriers to HCV care
- Investigate medication adherence in a population experiencing homelessness
- Recommend healthcare practices
Hepatitis C (HCV) Infections in Hennepin County, 2019

BACKGROUND
As of December 31, 2019, there were 9,514 persons who were reported to the Minnesota Department of Health and are assumed alive and living in Hennepin County with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. This data includes all confirmed, probable, and acute HCV cases.

Persons living with HCV by gender, 2019

Persons living with HCV by age, 2019

Persons living with HCV by current residence*, 2019

Suburban Metro = Seven-county metro area: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin (except Minneapolis), Ramsey (except St. Paul), Scott, and Washington counties including those in Hennepin County or Ramsey County with unknown city.
Greater MN = All other Minnesota counties, outside the seven-county metro area.
*The data in this graph reflect all of Minnesota, not just Hennepin County.

Persons living with HCV by race rates* (per 100,000 persons), 2019

Report notes
Data Source: Minnesota Department of Health Viral Hepatitis Surveillance System

Please contact franny.dorr@hennepin.us with any questions or feedback about this report. Visit Microsoft's PowerBI For Consumers page for more information on how to use PowerBI.
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Resolved HCV infections by year

Newly reported HCV cases by age group

- 2010
- 2015
- 2019

Report Notes
Data Source: Minnesota Department of Health Viral Hepatitis Surveillance System

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Healthcare for the Homeless patient list (n=6276): includes all unique patients with countable visits in 2020 and 2021 with eligible providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, mental health providers, case managers; excludes pharmacy, laboratory, and medical assistants)

Hepatitis C case list (n=707): confirmed, probable, and resolved cases of chronic and acute hepatitis C diagnosed between 2020-present in a Hennepin County resident and non-residents diagnosed at a Hennepin Healthcare Clinic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Case status</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>County at Report</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C - acute</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Hennepin County</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Probable</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>non-Hennepin County</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resolved</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>139</td>
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Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Asian, NH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>White, NH</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 139

IVDU Count: YES 73

Case Diagnosis Date

Case Count

Episode date

Counts have been suppressed for privacy.
General Barriers of Care:

Unique Obstacles

• Building trusting relationships in a population where histories of mental illness and substance abuse are often the norm.

• Finding appropriate prescribing patterns and education techniques to incorporate daily basic needs

https://www.aafp.org/afp/2006/1001/p1132.html#afp20061001p1132-t1
Determinants of Medication Adherence

• Life is already complex
• Storage of medications
• Patients likely need to keep belongings on their person at all times
• Side effects or other medication interactions
• Formularies vs needing prior authorizations
Strategies to Support Medication Adherence

- Address acute patient needs first
- Build relationships
- Streamline efforts to connect clients with Hennepin Healthcare PharmD
- Medication storage
- Weekly clinic visits (if supportive of patient needs)
- HCH Hep C team approach (case management assistant, outreach RN, clinic RN, CMA, NP)
- Weekly outreach medication drops with syringe service exchange
- Ask about weekly compliance
Clinical Pearls:

- Adapt practice with individualized care plans and self-directed targets
- Motivational interviewing (open questions, affirmation, reflective listening and summarizing)
- Universal HCV antibody screening with conditional PCR
- Vaccination updates
References:


• Tibbetts, K. Hennepin County Public Health, personal communication, May 26, 2022.