HEP C TREATMENT ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Paris De La Rosa, Program Manager
Isabel Chavez, Case Manager
No conflicts to disclose.
Monterey County
3,800 sq mi
435,000 population
3 hospitals
Largest city: Salinas

San Luis Obispo County
3,600 sq mi
280,000 population
3 hospitals
Largest city: SLO
PWID are at greatest risk for Hep C Infection

PWID are less likely to have Access To Care

PWID deserve HCV Treatment
ASN’S HEP C CARE CASCADE

OUTreach

Rapid Testing

Harm reduction

RNA & Results

Health education

Housing assistance

ID, insurance, transportation

Linkage to Care

Incentives, cell phones

Navigation, health ed, Reminders, transportation

Treatment Access

Meds & Adherence

Incentives

Viral Suppression

Cure

Harm reduction, prevention of re-infection
DEMONSTRATION DATA HIGHLIGHTS
MONTEREY & SLO COUNTIES
FEB 2016-JUNE 2018

- 1600+ people tested for Hep C & HIV
- Nearly half (46%) reported IV drug use
- 25% Hep C Antibody Reactive
- 2/3 completed RNA testing (challenge = no on-site phlebotomist)
- 70% of RNA+ clients attended first medical appointment
DEMOGRAPHICS OF HCV RNA+ CLIENTS

**Age: Monterey**

**Age: SLO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Monterey PWID</th>
<th>Monterey Non-PWID</th>
<th>SLO PWID</th>
<th>SLO Non-PWID</th>
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<td>18-24</td>
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<td>&gt;75</td>
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</table>
DEMOGRAPHICS OF HCV RNA+ CLIENTS

### Sex: Monterey

- **MALE**: 60 PWID, 40 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **FEMALE**: 20 PWID, 80 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **MTF Transgender**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **FTM Transgender**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **Other Gender**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **Gender Unknown**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)

### Sex: SLO

- **MALE**: 60 PWID, 40 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **FEMALE**: 20 PWID, 80 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **MTF Transgender**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)
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- **Other Gender**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)
- **Gender Unknown**: 0 PWID, 0 Non-PWID (or Unk)
DEMOGRAPHICS OF HCV RNA+ CLIENTS

Race: Monterey

Race: SLO
• 80% on Medi-Cal
• >50% incarcerated during past year
• 70% homeless or unstable housing
• Only 1 HIV co-infected client

*** Importance of PATIENCE & CONTINUITY!
Screening to Linkage can take a year or more…
STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING HCV TREATMENT ACCESS AMONG PWID

1. Outreach
2. Engagement
3. Mobile Phlebotomy
4. Wraparound Services
5. Partnership between CBOs and clinics
STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING HCV TREATMENT ACCESS AMONG PWID

1. Outreach Locations
   Syringe Exchange
   Homeless Encampments
   Drug Treatment Programs
   Soup Kitchens
   Shelters

*Most important: demeanor, incentives, dispel fear & stigma*
STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING HCV TREATMENT ACCESS AMONG PWID

2. Engagement

Address Immediate Needs (socks, food, hygiene, smile)
Nice Person to Talk To
Gift Cards for Testing & Linkage to Care
Treatment Access is Possible
Food Pantry
3. Mobile Phlebotomy

Blood draw immediately following Reactive Antibody Test
Phlebotomist as first impression of health system
Must be highly experienced (5+ years, including hospital is best)
Interest in health access & health equity
Ask client/patient about their veins
Ability to reassure patient about getting a vein
Coaching & teamwork can help

★PWID value quality care
4. Wraparound Services

Health information
Transportation
ID
Insurance Navigation
Housing Assistance
Navigation of Health Services
Appointment Reminders
5. Partnerships

Clinics & CBOs are Complementary!
Clinicians Need Help Addressing Social Determinants of Health
Case Managers Need Working Relationships with Providers
Need Point Person at Each Clinic
Share Information, Track Progress
Deploy Community-Based Outreach to Locate Clients & Re-Engage with Them
PREDICTION:

Hep C Elimination will require Going beyond the walls of the clinic
Next Step:

Co-Location of Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syringe Exchange</th>
<th>Drug Recovery</th>
<th>MAT/Bup/Methadone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing &amp; Linkage</td>
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<td>Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-site Treatment</td>
<td>Care coordination</td>
<td>On-site Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAT initiation</td>
<td>DOT for HCV</td>
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</tbody>
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THANK YOU!

Questions & Comments?

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