Improving HCV case finding: who are the missing millions and civil society’s vital role in finding them

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Overview

1. Introduction to WHA
2. The vital role of civil society
3. Who are the missing millions?
4. How civil society reaches them
5. WHA advocacy resources
WHA

281 members

91 countries
ELIMINATION will not be achieved without involving PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED by viral hepatitis.
OUR MISSION: Harness the power of people living with viral hepatitis to achieve its elimination.
Civil society changing the hepatitis landscape

2007
WHA founded

2009
Viral hepatitis appears on WHO agenda, for the first time ever following advocacy by WHA

2008
First community led World Hepatitis Day

2010
Adoption of the first resolution on viral hepatitis WHA 63.18 (WHA pushed for it)

2011
The first WHO Official World Hepatitis Day

2012
WHO launches its Framework for Global Action on viral hepatitis

2013
WHA and WHO launch the Global Policy Report on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis

2014
WHA joins WHO Director-General’s STAC-HEP on hepatitis

2015
WHA launches the World Hepatitis Summit

2016
The World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) on viral hepatitis

2016
WHA launches NOhep

2017
WHO launches Global Hepatitis Report

2017
Second WHO Resolution (WHA drafted it)

2018
Second World Hepatitis Summit held in Brazil

2018
WHA launches Find the Missing Millions

Civil society changing the hepatitis landscape
The impact of civil society

Global progress on the elimination of viral hepatitis as a major public health threat: analysis of WHO Member State responses 2017

In 2017, 135 WHO Member States provided viral hepatitis country profile responses. They are home to 87% of the infected population. 62% had a national viral hepatitis plan. 36% had assigned dedicated funding for implementation. This varied by whether or not governments engaged with civil society.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>National plan</th>
<th>National plan and dedicated funding</th>
<th>Observed World Hepatitis Day</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engaged with civil society (%)</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not engaged with civil society (%)</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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Smith et al., JHEP Reports. August 2019
Who are the missing millions?

- General population (location, age, etc)
- People who inject drugs
- HIV co-infected
- Prisoners
- Men who have sex with men
- Women
- Trans people
- Indigenous communities
- Refugees
- Sex workers
The impact of civil society

• Insight into the needs of the community

• The ability to reach underserved populations

• Lived experience and understanding of stigma and discrimination

• Ability to adapt and innovate
Guatemala Liver Patients Association
Association of Liver Patient Care - Egypt
Swiss Hepatitis C Association - Switzerland
Pregnant Rohingya women face high risk of Hepatitis C: Report

The National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh conducted free Hepatitis B and C screening among Rohingya women at Cox’s Bazar’s Balukhali Union Health Centre and found eight per cent infected with the virus.

Pregnant Rohingya women are at a high risk of contracting Hepatitis C, according to a report released by the National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh.

The liver foundation conducted free Hepatitis B and C screening among Rohingya women at Cox’s Bazar’s Balukhali Union Health Centre and found eight per cent infected with the virus.

Out of the 300 pregnant women screened, Hepatitis B was found in 9 (3 per cent), Hepatitis C in 24 (8 per cent) and both Hepatitis B and C (co-infection) among 3 (1 per cent) of the women.
The Hepatitis C Trust – United Kingdom
Drugmakers partner with England’s NHS in $1.3B hepatitis C push

NHS said it hopes to make England the first country to eliminate HCV. The effort will involve finding people living with the virus and providing drugs procured from AbbVie, Gilead and Merck.

By ALARIC DEARMENT

In the latest attempt to bring drug spending under control, the U.K.’s National Health Service reached what it calls a “first-of-its-kind” agreement with three drug makers to provide hepatitis C medicines at “best prices” in hopes of eradicating the disease.

Five-year agreements were reached with Gilead Sciences (GILD), AbbVie (ABBY), and Merck (MRK), which will also work with local health services and voluntary groups to find patients—including homeless people and those with mental health problems—to test for infection and provide treatment. About 113,000 people have
Find The Missing Millions.
FMM: global advocacy and awareness raising campaign to scale up diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis
OVERCOMING THE BARRIERS TO DIAGNOSIS

Key recommendations

RAISE AWARENESS

MAKE TESTING MORE ACCESSIBLE

REMOVE COST BARRIERS FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS TESTING
“When I was diagnosed I cried for a long time. But thanks to the diagnosis I changed my life to fight against the disease”

Antonio, hepatitis C patient from Mexico
Thank you
to our WHA members,
people living with and affected by viral hepatitis
and to you for listening.

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