

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). Studies estimate over 69,000 Michiganders have HCV and 50% are unaware because there are often no symptoms^{1,2}. Left untreated, hepatitis C can cause serious problems like cirrhosis and liver cancer. There is no vaccine, but there are pills, called direct-acting antivirals, that are over 95% effective at curing HCV in only eight to 12 weeks³.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Hepatitis C basics. [cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/about/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/about/index.html).
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- Gnanapandithan, K., & Ghali, M.P. (2023). Self-awareness of hepatitis C infection in the United States: A cross-sectional study based on the National Health Nutrition and Examination Survey. *PLoS ONE*, 18(10). doi: 10.1371.

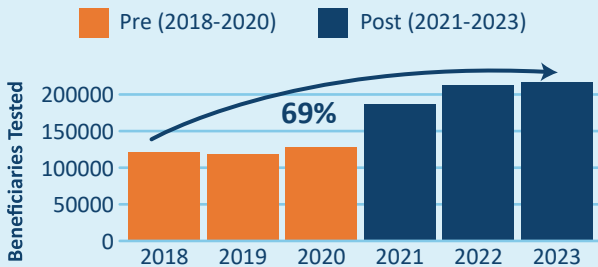
What is MDHHS doing about HCV in Michigan?

In April 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) partnered with pharmaceutical company AbbVie to launch the **We Treat Hep C (WTHC) initiative**, making HCV treatment virtually free for all Michigan Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries.

Through WTHC, Medicaid restrictions on HCV treatment have been lifted: Medicaid beneficiaries can be cured regardless of history of or current substance use, liver damage or their prescribing provider’s specialty.

Under WTHC, HCV testing increased.

Yearly HCV Testing Among Michigan Medicaid Beneficiaries Pre and Post WTHC



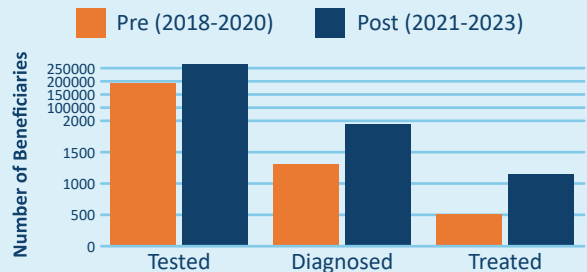
HCV testing increased by 69% under WTHC.

All racial and ethnic groups experienced increases in both testing and treatment rates under WTHC.

(Data source: Michigan Medicaid Claims)

Under WTHC, HCV treatment increased.

HCV Care Cascade Among Michigan Medicaid Beneficiaries Pre and Post WTHC



During WTHC, treatment initiation among HCV diagnosed patients rose from 56% to 80%.

Under WTHC, people are getting treated sooner after diagnosis. Time from diagnosis to treatment decreased by 26 days. (Data source: Michigan Medicaid Claims)

Medicaid is vital to hepatitis C elimination.

Most people with HCV in Michigan are Medicaid beneficiaries. From 2021-2024 under WTHC, 16,341 HCV cases were reported in Michigan. Of those, 61% were Medicaid beneficiaries.

Medicaid beneficiaries are more likely to receive HCV treatment than non-Medicaid beneficiaries. From 2021-2024 under WTHC, 27% of Medicaid diagnosed with HCV received treatment. In contrast, only 12% of non-Medicaid beneficiaries diagnosed with HCV received treatment during this same timeframe. (Data Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System)

For more information, visit:
Michigan.gov/WeTreatHepC

MDHHS-Pub-2200 (12-25)

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