February 3, 2025

The Honorable Janice Hahn
Los Angeles Supervisor, Fourth District
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 822
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Hepatitis C Cases in Los Angeles County. Ensure that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has adequate resources to address the burden of Hepatitis C disease.

Dear Supervisor Hahn,

I write to urge you to support the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) in ensuring that they have adequate staff to conduct hepatitis C surveillance in Los Angeles County and to link hepatitis C infected residents to treatment.

According to a DPH report (Hepatitis C virus in Los Angeles County by city – 2019-2023), 24,833 LA County residents were living with Hepatitis C but only about 7,865 are known to be treated. This means that 2 of 3 County residents are living with an infection that is a leading infectious disease cause of death. With coordinated public health action, many of our residents can be linked to care and cured of their hepatitis C.

In June 2024, the Board directed the CEO to assess the feasibility of increasing positions within DPH to "coordinate with health systems and provide data systems management of the hepatitis C." The CEO's November 21, 2024 report back to the Board indicated that DPH's ability to conduct these activities relies on supplemental and one-time CDC grants that will expire in a year and a half.

The City of Paramount is concerned that, based on the above-referenced reports, several individuals are living with active hepatitis C in my community and that DPH might not have the staff needed to support our residents in getting cured. This is unconscionable given that hepatitis C can be deadly without early treatment. Therefore, we urge the board to ensure that DPH has the necessary County-funded staff to conduct hepatitis C prevention and linkage to care activities. Having dedicated County-funded staff will provide long-term predictability and sustainability for DPH hepatitis C control efforts instead of relying on short-term unpredictable external funding.

The City of Paramount takes the health and wellness of its residents very seriously, and we know that you are committed to making our communities healthier and safer. The leadership you have demonstrated over the years, gives us hope that this request will be looked upon favorably.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing working with you and your staff.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. We thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

Annette C. Delgadillo
Mayor

Enclosure: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Hepatitis C virus in Los Angeles County by city – 2019-2023

Hepatitis C virus in Los Angeles County by city – 2019-2023

The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is the most common bloodborne infection in the US. This virus is predominantly transmitted through contact with contaminated blood and blood products via injection drug use. Sexual and perinatal transmission of HCV appears to occur less frequently. All adults aged 18-79 are recommended to receive HCV screening at least once during their lifetime. There are two types of hepatitis C infection. Acute hepatitis C, when someone is infected for the first time, can result in a very mild illness with few or no symptoms or develop into a serious condition that could require hospitalization. Approximately three-quarters of people with acute hepatitis C will go on to develop chronic hepatitis C. Treatment by primary care physicians can decrease the risk of complications. Although most people with chronic hepatitis C will not experience any symptoms, the virus can damage the liver and result in cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death. There is no vaccine to prevent HCV infection, but the virus can be cleared with safe and effective medications.

To better understand hepatitis C in the cities of Los Angeles County (LAC), the LAC Department of Public Health (Public Health) created a hepatitis C clearance cascade[1] (see below for explanation) from electronic laboratory reported (ELR) hepatitis C laboratory test results. Clinical providers and laboratories are required to report HCV infections to LAC Public Health. Persons often get tested multiple times for hepatitis C (e.g., a screening anti-HCV antibody test and a confirmatory HCV PCR test). Therefore, ELR data from the Public Health surveillance database are exported for data management, which includes matching all reported test results to persons. We then applied the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) algorithm[1] for creating a standardized, laboratory-based hepatitis C clearance cascade that helps track LAC residents with hepatitis C from diagnosed infection to treatment and clearance. To summarize briefly, the four steps in the hepatitis C clearance cascade are defined as follows:

1. Ever Infected: Ever reported with a positive HCV antibody or HCV RNA or HCV genotype in the follow up period.
2. Confirmatory Testing Completed: An HCV RNA or HCV genotype test of any result reported in the follow up period.
3. Initial Infection: Ever reported with a positive HCV RNA or HCV genotype test in the follow up period.
4. Viral Clearance or Cured/Cleared: A reported negative HCV RNA test result following a positive HCV RNA or genotype in the follow up period.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. A key indicator of progress towards the HHS strategic plan goals is to “Increase proportion of people who have cleared hepatitis C infection to 58% by 2025.” Currently, around 30% of infections spontaneously clear.[2] LA County Public Health created City-specific hepatitis C clearance cascades to provide information to each City on their progress towards meeting the HHS goals for 2025.

This report was produced by the LAC DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) Viral Hepatitis Unit. For more information, please contact ViralHepatitis@ph.lacounty.gov or the ACDC main line at (213) 240-7941.

1. Wester C, Osinubi A, Kaufman HW, et al. Hepatitis C Virus Clearance Cascade — United States, 2013–2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:716–720. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7226a3.
2. World Health Organization. Hepatitis C. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c

County of Los Angeles Public Health

TABLE. Hepatitis C virus clearance cascade, by city for persons ages 18 years and over*† — Los Angeles County, 2019-2023

City/Community	Hepatitis C Virus Clearance Cascade§							
	2023 Population†	Ever Infected¶	Viral Testing¶	%**	Initial Infection¶	%**	Cured/ Cleared¶	%**
Total persons ≥18 years of age	**7,426,216**	**66,308**	**54,072**	82	**24,833**	46	**7,865**	32
City of Agoura Hills	**16,122**	65	49	75	-	-	-	-
City of Alhambra	**69,357**	353	295	84	105	36	49	47
City of Arcadia	**45,990**	150	117	78	33	28	20	61
City of Artesia	**13,284**	96	76	79	30	39	-	-
City of Avalon	**2,685**	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
City of Azusa	**39,969**	246	205	83	80	39	29	36
City of Baldwin Park	**56,199**	360	311	86	131	42	50	38
City of Bell	**25,477**	161	133	83	73	55	27	37
City of Bell Gardens	**29,002**	170	150	88	62	41	23	37
City of Bellflower	**60,586**	520	439	84	153	35	66	43
City of Beverly Hills	**26,710**	162	120	74	45	38	-	-
City of Bradbury	**785**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of Burbank	**87,757**	436	360	83	116	32	45	39
City of Calabasas	**18,763**	74	60	81	21	35	-	-
City of Carson	**76,872**	454	396	87	155	39	60	39
City of Cerritos	**40,669**	161	128	80	36	28	-	-
City of Claremont	**31,404**	131	106	81	46	43	-	-
City of Commerce	**9,467**	89	79	89	36	46	-	-
City of Compton	**69,559**	652	563	86	255	45	84	33
City of Covina	**40,985**	321	266	83	111	42	53	48
City of Cudahy	**16,764**	103	89	86	35	39	-	-
City of Culver City	**32,616**	219	166	76	63	38	25	40
City of Diamond Bar	**45,025**	183	151	83	34	23	-	-
City of Downey	**88,839**	626	540	86	205	38	75	37
City of Duarte	**19,640**	107	86	80	28	33	-	-
City of El Monte	**84,189**	632	520	82	269	52	78	29

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City/Community	Hepatitis C Virus Clearance Cascade[§]							
	2023 Population[†]	Ever Infected[¶]	Viral Testing[¶]	%**	Initial Infection[¶]	%**	Cured/ Cleared[¶]	%**
City of El Segundo	13,693	65	48	74	-	-	-	-
City of Gardena	49,428	329	266	81	102	38	39	38
City of Glendale	161,086	910	765	84	297	39	142	48
City of Glendora	41,766	187	157	84	70	45	26	37
City of Hawaiian Gardens	10,356	63	52	83	24	46	-	-
City of Hawthorne	67,022	480	392	82	151	39	56	37
City of Hermosa Beach	15,915	71	54	76	20	37	-	-
City of Hidden Hills	1,425	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
City of Huntington Park	41,002	214	188	88	78	41	32	41
City of Industry	342	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Inglewood	84,885	754	590	78	227	38	96	42
City of Irwindale	1,169	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of La Canada Flintridge	15,959	55	40	73	-	-	-	-
City of La Habra Heights	4,692	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of La Mirada	40,067	205	155	76	56	36	24	43
City of La Puente	29,496	222	199	90	80	40	31	39
City of La Verne	26,444	131	112	85	39	35	-	-
City of Lakewood	64,687	391	320	82	107	33	40	37
City of Lancaster	129,523	1,462	1,243	85	529	43	172	33
City of Lawndale	24,845	191	158	83	53	34	26	49
City of Lomita	16,351	118	99	84	44	44	-	-
City of Los Angeles	3,081,178	26,658	22,013	83	9,364	43	3,366	36
City of Lynwood	50,437	345	287	83	113	39	41	36
City of Malibu	9,173	55	37	67	-	-	-	-
City of Manhattan Beach	27,239	79	52	66	-	-	-	-
City of Maywood	18,437	92	72	78	29	40	-	-
City of Monrovia	30,959	163	90	55	40	44	-	-
City of Montebello	49,861	347	307	88	116	38	51	44
City of Monterey Park	50,226	220	179	81	77	43	33	43

City/Community	Hepatitis C Virus Clearance Cascade[§]							
	2023 Population[†]	Ever Infected[¶]	Viral Testing[¶]	%**	Initial Infection[¶]	%**	Cured/ Cleared[¶]	%**
City of Norwalk	80,913	605	512	85	193	38	69	36
City of Palmdale	124,480	1,049	888	85	325	37	143	44
City of Palos Verdes Estates	10,730	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Paramount	39,879	274	234	85	76	32	31	41
City of Pico Rivera	49,163	420	353	84	144	41	63	44
City of Pomona	117,571	1,171	993	85	503	51	148	29
City of Rancho Palos Verdes	34,048	117	90	77	29	32	20	69
City of Redondo Beach	55,283	243	200	82	75	38	31	41
City of Rolling Hills	1,488	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of Rolling Hills Estates	6,897	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Rosemead	42,234	204	171	84	69	40	22	32
City of San Dimas	28,103	171	137	80	53	39	22	42
City of San Fernando	18,548	169	152	90	58	38	22	38
City of San Gabriel	32,699	154	113	73	40	35	-	-
City of San Marino	10,198	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Santa Clarita	182,253	888	741	83	250	34	109	44
City of Santa Fe Springs	15,077	140	117	84	61	52	-	-
City of Santa Monica	79,813	719	542	75	252	46	89	35
City of Sierra Madre	8,984	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Signal Hill	9,250	82	69	84	29	42	-	-
City of South El Monte	15,328	94	86	91	32	37	-	-
City of South Gate	72,010	441	389	88	148	38	61	41
City of South Pasadena	20,983	72	50	69	-	-	-	-
City of Temple City	29,979	135	118	87	36	31	-	-
City of Torrance	118,081	550	445	81	156	35	67	43
City of Vernon	136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Walnut	23,678	86	76	88	21	28	-	-
City of West Covina	89,046	533	461	86	162	35	80	49
City of West Hollywood	33,334	357	282	79	87	31	47	54

City/Community	Hepatitis C Virus Clearance Cascade[§]							
	2023 Population[†]	Ever Infected[¶]	Viral Testing[¶]	%**	Initial Infection[¶]	%**	Cured/ Cleared[¶]	%**
City of Westlake Village	**6,688**	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of Whittier	**69,550**	489	427	87	200	47	89	45
Unincorporated - All	**793,414**	5,384	4,534	84	1,944	43	748	38
Unknown	**-**	11,411	8,612	75	6,152	71	1,145	19

* All Los Angeles County Cities, excluding Pasadena and Long Beach. City assignment is based on the most recent complete address of the lab collection date.

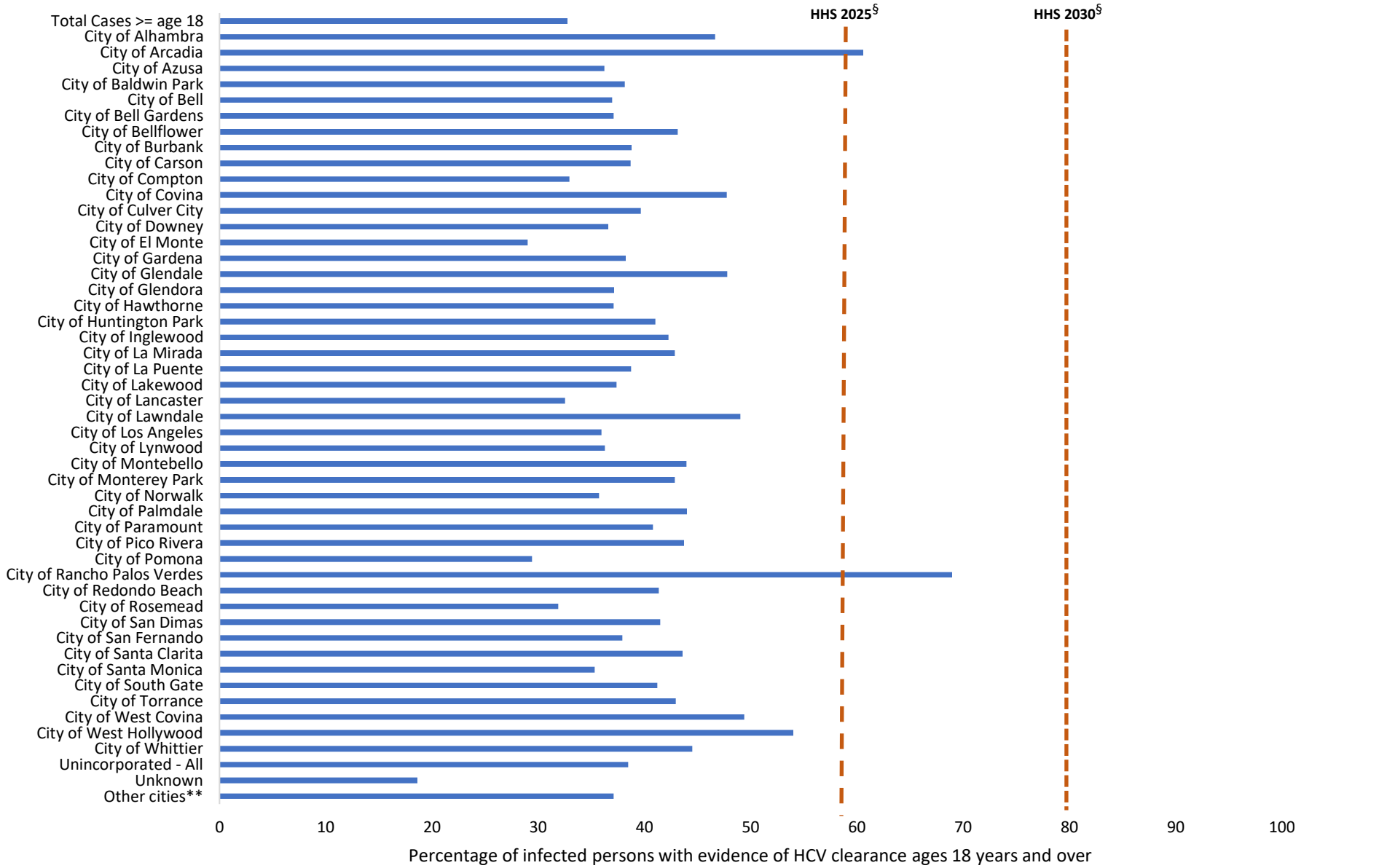
§ Dashes indicate that estimates were suppressed per National Center for Health Statistics sample guidelines based on a minimum count of 10. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02-200.pdf

† County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department, Information Technology Service, Urban Research-GIS Section, July 1, 2023 Population Estimates for Los Angeles County Tract-City and Countywide Statistical Area Splits by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles, CA, March 2024.

¶ Using CDC guidance (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32119076/), city-specific HCV clearance cascades were generated using the following definitions: 1) ever infected, defined as having received any positive HCV test result (reactive anti-HCV, detectable HCV RNA, or HCV genotype) 2) viral testing, defined as having HCV RNA testing for a person categorized as ever infected; 3) initial infection, defined as having received a detectable HCV RNA result during the follow-up period for any person who received viral testing; and 4) cured or cleared, defined as having received a subsequent undetectable HCV RNA result. All results performed during January 1, 2019-December 31, 2023.

** Conditional proportion based on immediately preceding cascade step.

FIGURE. Percentage of hepatitis C virus–infected persons ages 18 years and older with evidence of viral clearance* by city[†§] compared to the HHS 2025 and HHS 2030 goals[¶] — Los Angeles County, 2019-2023



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Abbreviations: HCV = hepatitis C virus; HHS = U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

† All Los Angeles County Cities, excluding Pasadena and Long Beach. City assignment is based on the most recent complete address of the lab collection date.

* Based on initial infection, which was defined as having received a detectable HCV RNA result during the follow-up period for any person who received viral testing, including all persons with initial infection during January 1, 2019–December 31, 2022.

§ Cities that are not included because the cured or cleared percentages were suppressed per National Center for Health Statistics sample guidelines are classified as Other https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02-200.pdf

¶ The HHS 2021–2025 national strategic plan's hepatitis C viral clearance goal is 58% by 2025 and 80% by 2030. https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Viral-Hepatitis-National-Strategic-Plan-2021-2025.pdf

** Other cities include City of Industry, City of Irwindale, City of Palos Verdes Estates, City of Vernon, City of San Marino, City of Manhattan Beach, City of Sierra Madre, City of La Canada Flintridge, City of Malibu, City of South Pasadena, City of Duarte, City of Hawaiian Gardens, City of Maywood, City of Signal Hill, City of Artesia, City of Hermosa Beach, City of El Segundo, City of Walnut, City of Calabasas, City of Claremont, City of Monrovia, City of Temple City, City of Agoura Hills, City of Cudahy, City of Commerce, City of Diamond Bar, City of South El Monte, City of Beverly Hills, City of Santa Fe Springs, City of Cerritos, City of La Verne, City of Lomita, City of San Gabriel

Key Points

- Hepatitis C is a common infection that can cause liver failure, liver cancer, and death.
- Hepatitis C is curable but only 1 in 3 LA County residents have been treated
- The proportion of residents with hepatitis C who have been treated is lower in certain communities that have historically had less resources including barriers to accessing healthcare.
- This report provides information for cities to understand the burden of disease in their communities and monitor progress towards eliminating hepatitis C.

Suggested Actions and Recommendations

- Promote awareness among residents that hepatitis C is a common infection and that all adults are recommended to get screened at least once in their lifetime.
- Encourage clinical providers and health systems to implement systematic policies and procedures to ensure all adults are screened for hepatitis C according to national guidelines and that infected patients are linked to treatment.
- Contact LA County Public Health for tools and resources that can support community partners in advancing hepatitis elimination. Examples of resources include programs to train primary care providers on treating hepatitis C, educational materials for distribution to patients and at community events, supporting providers in establishing relationships with specialty pharmacies to treat hepatitis C, and offering rapid hepatitis C test kits to providers that served persons who use illicit drugs.

For more information, email the Viral Hepatitis Unit at ViralHepatitis@ph.lacounty.gov.

County of Los Angeles Public Health