

World Hepatitis Day 2019 - Americas

Regional Overview

Snapshot

27 countries participating
44 members celebrating
35 members using the Find the Missing Millions theme

Country commitments and announcements

The Government of **Mexico** launched a national elimination strategy and negotiated cheaper drugs so that 13,500 people can be treated for hepatitis C and 750,000 people can be tested.

The **Brazilian** Minister of Health, Luiz Henrique Mandetta, released a new Epidemiological Bulletin of Viral Hepatitis on the 22 July. Earlier in 2019, the country made its largest purchase ever made to treat hepatitis C, with one of the lowest prices in the world.

In a WHD message, the Minister of Health announced that the Government of **Canada** remains committed to the global goal of reducing the health impact of sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI), including viral hepatitis, by 2030.

Celebrity involvement

The Caribbean Hepatitis C Alliance were joined at their WHD event by famed reggae artist **Tony Rebel**.

Member activity

Argentina

Asociación Civil Buena Vida marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a hepatitis C testing camp in Plaza Miserere, Buenos Aires, in partnership with Fundacion HCV Sin Fronteras. At the event, they had testing tents and stalls sharing educational and awareness-raising information with passers-by. On 26 July, they also appeared on Todo Noticias, an Argentine news cable channel, to talk about viral hepatitis.

Fundacion HCV Sin Fronteras held a series of testing drives to commemorate World Hepatitis Day, including a vaccination campaign, offering rapid tests for hepatitis C at Plaza de Miserere, Buenos Aires, alongside Asociación Civil Buena Vida. They also held several vaccination and

screening camps across Buenos Aires between 31 July and 2 August.

Hepatitis Rosario marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a series of hepatitis B vaccination and rapid hepatitis C testing camps across Viernes. They also held camps at Patio de la Madera on 20, 21, 27 and 28 July.

Brazil

No activity reported from **Associação Brasileira dos Portadores de Hepatite, Grupo Direito de Viver de Apoio a Portadores de Hepatites Virais, Grupo Otimismo de Apoio ao Portador de Hepatite** or **ONG C Tem Que Saber C Tem Que Curar**

Canada

To mark World Hepatitis Day **Action Hepatitis Canada (AHC)** promoted their #LetsGetOnTrack campaign, raising awareness of viral hepatitis and encouraging supporters to urge the Canadian government to do more to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. They created a campaigning pack for their supporters which included social media posts and graphics with NOhep messaging, as well as fact sheets on the current landscape in Canada.

Blood Ties Four Direction Centre celebrated World Hepatitis Day with an awareness-raising BBQ and carnival. They offered free food, music, games and prizes alongside stands to educate attendees about viral hepatitis.

The Canadian AIDS Society marked World Hepatitis Day online by sharing Find the Missing Millions campaign materials on Twitter, encouraging people to get tested. They also spoke with Canadian media, including Radio Xtra, about hepatitis C transmission, testing and treatment, and how Canada is doing in the race to elimination.

Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) undertook a host of activities to mark World Hepatitis Day. They took part in Action Hepatitis Canada's #LetsGetOnTrack campaign, urging the Canadian government to ensure elimination by 2030. CATIE also spoke with several media platforms to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and how it can be transmitted, as well as how Canada is doing in the race to elimination. They spoke on Xtra radio and their Executive Director Laurie Edmiston wrote an op-ed for the Winnipeg Free Press on how Canada must and can act to eliminate hepatitis C. The Manager of their Immigrant and Newcomer Hepatitis C Community Health Programming, Fozoa Tanveer, also spoke with Canadian TV channel Onmi News about hepatitis C amongst Canadian immigrants and newcomers.

The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) shared WHO's campaign materials to mark World Hepatitis Day. They also held their annual World Hepatitis Day Art Contest for federal inmates across Canada, in partnership with Correctional Service Canada (CSC) and with the support of Gilead Sciences Canada. This year's theme was: "Finding the Missing Millions: Breaking barriers to diagnosis". The goal of the contest was to increase awareness about hepatitis and encourage inmates to learn their hepatitis status by getting tested.

The Centre Associatif Polyvalent D'Aide Hépatite C (CAPAHC) commemorated World Hepatitis Day by holding an awareness-raising and testing event on Saturday 27 July in Holland Park in Surrey, British Columbia. They offered hepatitis C rapid testing and linked those who

tested positive to the care they needed, testing 68 people and reaching many hundreds more.

Hepatitis Ressources launched their new campaign 'Getting tested, it's the key!' to raise awareness of hepatitis C and encourage people to get tested on World Hepatitis Day. To mark the start of their campaign they held a free hepatitis C testing session without appointment, screening 30 people. They also distributed 20,000 papers and magnetic business cards, and put on an event on 9 August, offering free hot dogs and disseminating information about prevention and sensitization. Online, they also shared the Find the Missing Millions film across social media.

The Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia (Hep NS) celebrated World Hepatitis Day with street-level outreach across Halifax and Dartmouth in Nova Scotia, giving out 100 Healthy Living Kits (which included personal hygiene products, self-care tools and liver-healthy recipes, as well as information on hepatitis C and where they can get help). Online, they used the Find the Missing Millions hashtag to encourage people to get tested and highlighted Canada's new plan to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.

To celebrate World Hepatitis Day, **Northern Healthy Connection Society (NHCS)** held a stand at the Truro Farmers Market, sharing information about viral hepatitis and Naloxone training. They also opened a new library display at the Colchester-East Hants Public Library Foundation, with information on World Hepatitis Day and International Overdose Awareness Day, sharing Find the Missing Millions advocacy materials.

Ontario Hepatitis C Treatment Program/ Access AIDS Network commemorated World Hepatitis Day with an awareness-raising and free testing event in Sudbury, Ontario. Their event was covered by local TV station CTV News Northern Ontario. They also shared Find the Missing Millions advocacy materials on social media to raise further awareness.

Pacific Hepatitis C Network marked World Hepatitis Day with a hepatitis C screening event in Vancouver, partnering with London Drugs across Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July. Their President Daryl Luster also gave a speech on the importance of World Hepatitis Day, which they put on their website as a blog and shared on social media.

Sidaction Mauricie raised awareness of World Hepatitis Day online. They shared a quiz 'Are you at risk of having hepatitis C?' which their partner Plein Milieu had created.

Asociación Norte Santandereana de Hepatitis Virales held an educational forum event on viral hepatitis with the Municipal Health Secretary on 25 July to mark World Hepatitis Day. They also shared Find the Missing Millions advocacy materials on Facebook.

No activity reported from **ANKORS (Aids Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society)**, **HEP C BC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society** or **E BRAS (Bureau Régional d'Action Sida)**

Chile

No activity recorded from **FUPAHEP**

Colombia

Asociación Norte Santandereana de Hepatitis Virales held an educational forum to commemorate World Hepatitis Day, under the theme “It's time to diagnose, treat and cure” in association with the Municipal Health Ministry of San José de Cúcuta. Speakers included doctors and hepatologists. They also shared Find the Missing Millions materials on Facebook.

Fundación Ifarma marked World Hepatitis Day with a hepatitis C sensitisation event in Barranquilla. They also launched their ‘Give yourself a minute’ campaign with 15 partner civil society organisations across the country. Their partners organised meetings across public spaces to raise awareness of hepatitis C across 15 different Colombian cities. Some of their partners received local media coverage. They also shared Find the Missing Millions advocacy resources across social media in the lead up to WHD.

Guatemala

Asociación Guatemalteca del Hígado (AGH) held a host of testing sessions across Guatemala between 22 July and 31 July to mark World Hepatitis Day. Their President, Dr Patricia Veléz, was interviewed by Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) and La Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), and her interview was shared widely on regional and national OMS/OPS digital channels. AGH also shared the Find the Missing Millions film and other campaign materials on Twitter.

Jamaica

The Caribbean Hepatitis C Alliance held an awareness-raising community engagement event in Ocho Rios to mark World Hepatitis Day. Over 800 people attended, including reggae artist Tony Rebel, politicians, and media and press outlets. They also shared the Find the Missing Millions film across their networks.

Mexico

Grupo de Autoayuda Unidos por una Vida Mejor held a week-long celebration to mark World Hepatitis Day, attending a sensitisation session as part of Mexico's ‘Zero Week’ campaign.

Fundación Mexicana Para la Salud Hepática A. C. held an awareness-raising and educational stand the day of Mexico City's half marathon. They talked to passers-by about viral hepatitis and invited them to get tested. After a brief registration process, they conducted rapid tests then and there. They partnered with two members from a fellow organisation called Hablemos de Hepatitis C, and a journalist from La Jornada also joined them. They tested 320 people in total and spoke with many more.

No activity reported from **Fundación Civitas Firma, A. C.** or **Fundación Hepatos Aion, AC**

Peru

No activity reported from **Asociación Ciudadana de Lucha Contra las Hepatitis**

United States of America

American Liver Foundation (ALF) 16 divisions marked World Hepatitis Day with a variety of events across the USA. 500 people attended in total and 70 were tested for hepatitis.

ALF's Pacific Coast division organised an 'eliminate hepatitis C team' to take part in the Live Well San Diego 5k Walk/ Run on 28 July. Their Executive Director participated in the first planning meeting for the Hep Free Hawaii Hepatitis Elimination Strategy and three San Diego advocates attended the Hepatitis C Summit in Atlanta, organized by the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable.

ALF's Connecticut division held their third annual World Hepatitis Day Health and Wellness Fair. They invited exhibitors to provide health screenings, including hepatitis C and HIV testing as well as blood pressure screenings and oral health checks.

Interns at ALF's Great Lakes division held a stall and gave out hepatitis C brochures at the Eon Health Fair in Chicago and an event at Truman College, Chicago.

ALF's Rocky Mountain division conducted hepatitis C testing with Liver Health Connection.

ALF's New York division hosted their first-ever American Liver Foundation World Hepatitis Day panel, broadcasting it on Facebook Live. They welcomed speakers from the Latino Commission on AIDS and ALF's National helpline.

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) attended the Hepatitis B Summit in Washington on World Hepatitis Day. They also held a Webinar on Tuesday 30 July under the theme "Hepatitis B and the Opioid Epidemic: Opportunities to Increase Adult Vaccination", which they shared on Facebook. Their member North East Medical Services (NEMS) spoke with San Francisco Hep B Free - Bay Area on Adobo Nation, a TV show on The Filipino Channel, about the importance of hepatitis B screening and vaccination too.

California Hepatitis C Task Force tweeted on World Hepatitis Day.

Caring Ambassadors Program, INC. marked World Hepatitis Day by sharing a short animation on social media about seeking treatment for hepatitis C. They also shared fact sheets about viral hepatitis, the Find the Missing Millions film, and their advocacy toolkit on Facebook to help raise awareness of, and increase the availability of the cure for, hepatitis C. They encouraged people to use their toolkit to write to their legislature.

Charles B Wang Community Health Centre tweeted information about how people can make an appointment to get vaccinated against, get tested for, or access effective treatments for hepatitis B on World Hepatitis Day. On 30 July, they announced they had received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health to eliminate hepatitis B. They will be partnering with African Services Committee to expand targeted hepatitis B virus education, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk Asian and African immigrants in New York City.

Community Initiatives – San Francisco Hep B Free's member North East Medical Services (NEMS) spoke with San Francisco Hep B Free - Bay Area on Adobo Nation, a TV show on The Filipino Channel, about the importance of hepatitis B screening and vaccination on World Hepatitis Day.

Global Liver Institute marked World Hepatitis Day by sharing the Find the Missing Millions campaigning materials on Twitter, as well as WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' message.

H.E.A.L.S of the South shared WHA President Michael Ninburg's World Hepatitis Day message on Facebook, along with the Find the Missing Millions advocacy graphics and messages encouraging people to get tested with the #FindtheMissingMillions hashtag.

HBI-Minnesota partnered up with St Columba Church, Lake Phalen, to put on an event highlighting the importance of getting tested for viral hepatitis the weekend before World Hepatitis Day. They also worked with YMCA Cora McCorvey to promote hepatitis awareness and with Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Church to spread awareness of viral hepatitis at the church's Annual 5k event. Online, they shared Find the Missing Millions advocacy messages on Twitter leading up to WHD, using the FMM hashtag.

Hep Free Hawaii attended the Hepatitis B Summit in Washington to mark World Hepatitis Day. They also kicked off Hawaii hepatitis elimination planning with a proclamation for World Hepatitis Day, speaking with over 60 congressional officers. KITV News, a local Hawaii news station, covered their work on a news special. Online, they shared the Find the Missing Millions film and used the FMM hashtag and campaign materials on social media.

Hepatitis B Foundation held their annual Hepatitis B Summit in Washington DC to mark World Hepatitis Day. They, along with a coalition of other civil society organisations and hepatitis B advocates, went to Capitol Hill to advocate for elimination. They hosted over 100 hepatitis B experts, advocates and public health professionals as part of the summit. This year's theme was 'Eliminating Hepatitis B: Local Change, Global Impact'. They also shared Find the Missing Millions campaign materials across social media.

Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC (HBI-DC) commemorated World Hepatitis Day by holding a screening camp for hepatitis B and C in Washington DC. They also attended the Hepatitis B Foundation's Hepatitis B Summit in Washington and shared the Find the Missing Millions campaign materials and film on social media.

Hepatitis Education Project's Washington team attended Hepatitis B Foundation's Hepatitis B Summit on World Hepatitis Day. They also shared Find the Missing Millions campaign materials on social media.

International Association of Hepatitis Task Force (IAHTF) tweeted on World Hepatitis Day.

NASTAD marked World Hepatitis Day by releasing two instalments of their Success Stories on social media, a series of profiles which highlight local programmes that address individual, community and systems level needs to advance efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis and HIV.

The Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS Project (CHOW Project) shared posts on Facebook and Instagram celebrating World Hepatitis Day.

The Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, INC. shared the Find the Missing Millions film on Twitter. They also shared a message on Facebook encouraging people to get tested the day before WHD.

Liver Health Connection marked World Hepatitis Day by holding a screening camp offering free hepatitis testing, as well as a stand with educational materials, to raise awareness of viral hepatitis amongst the general public, in Skyline Park, Denver, on 26 July, in partnership with American Liver Foundation's Rocky Mountain division. They engaged 50 people and tested 11 for viral hepatitis. They also used the #FindtheMissingMillions hashtag within their WHD posts on Facebook.

San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force marked World Hepatitis Day at the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable and HEP's Patient Summit. Close to 100 new hepatitis C advocates convened for a two day training and mobilisation for hepatitis C advocacy. In total 120 people attended.

The Bonnie Morgan Foundation for HCV marked World Hepatitis Day with an awareness-raising and educational event and an online campaign. They held a booth with educational materials to raise awareness amongst the general public. Local media also covered their event on TV. They also conducted an online campaign, sharing the Find the Missing Millions film and tweeting their own graphics and NOhep graphics, encouraging people to get tested.

No activity reported from **Berkeley Free Clinic (Berkeley Community Health Project), Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc., Climbing for Carleen, Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment (COPE), Hepatitis C Alliance, Hepatitis C Association, HONOREFORM Foundation, Laotian American National Alliance (LANA), Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA), Pharmacists Planning Services Inc,- National Pharmacists Council on Hepatitis and Liver Disease, PKIDS (Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases), Project INFORM, Roots Community Health Center or Suncoast Hep C Friends Incorporated**

Uruguay

APAHE shared Find the Missing Millions advocacy materials across social media to mark World Hepatitis Day, as well as their own messages congratulating all civil society organisations for their hard work on the day and encouraging people to get tested.

Asociación Comunidad Hepatitis C Uruguay held a policy event to commemorate World Hepatitis Day at the National Human Rights Institution, which has supported their work helping to find and treat people living with viral hepatitis before. The event was carried out in partnership with the Department of Liver Transplantation, the Military Hospital, and the Department of Pharmacology of the University of the Republic of Uruguay. They also held an awareness-raising event on 28 July educating the general public about viral hepatitis. This was covered by local media.

Venezuela

Hepatitis C Venezuela AC shared educational graphics on World Hepatitis Day, linking to Find the Missing Millions advocacy resources. They also shared messages on WHD itself across Twitter and Instagram highlighting the day.