

ZOOMING THROUGH THE DEEP SOUTH: LOUISIANA'S APPROACH TO REACHING PROVIDERS DURING A PANDEMIC

Brandon Mizroch, MD/MBBS

Provider Network Supervisor

Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health,
STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

DISCLOSURES

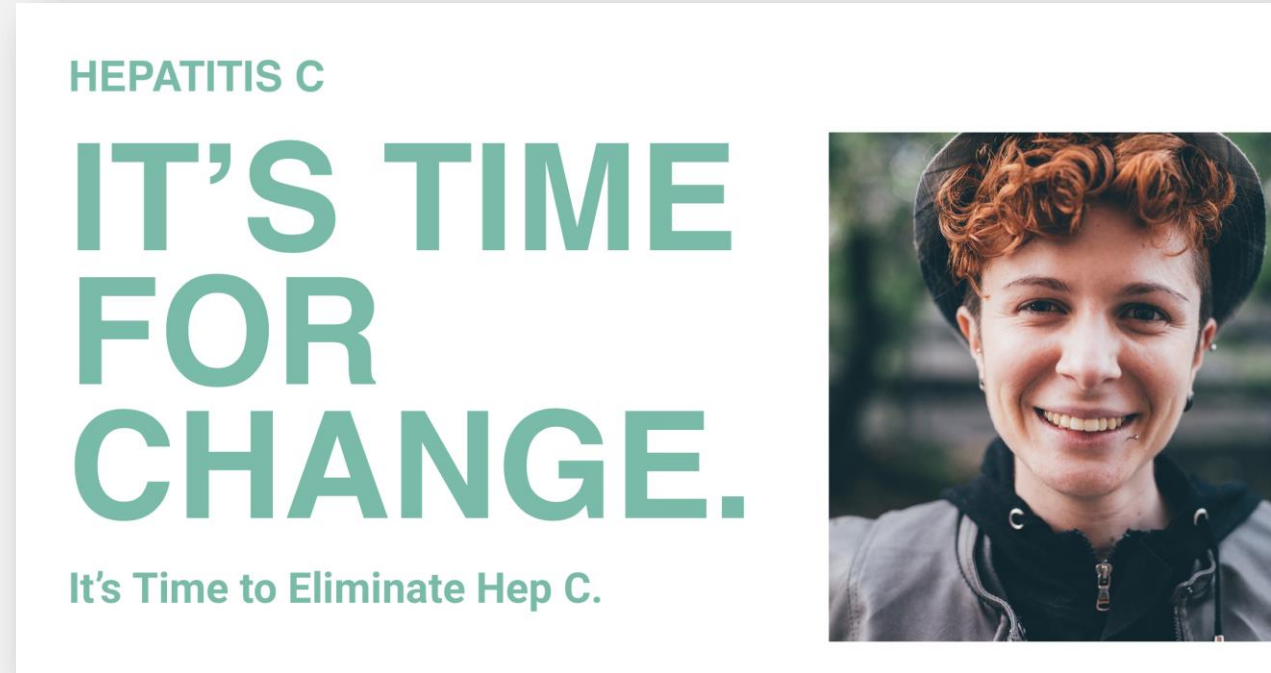
- Dr. Mizroch has no relevant financial disclosures or conflicts of interest related to any information presented here today.

BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR DETAILING PROGRAM

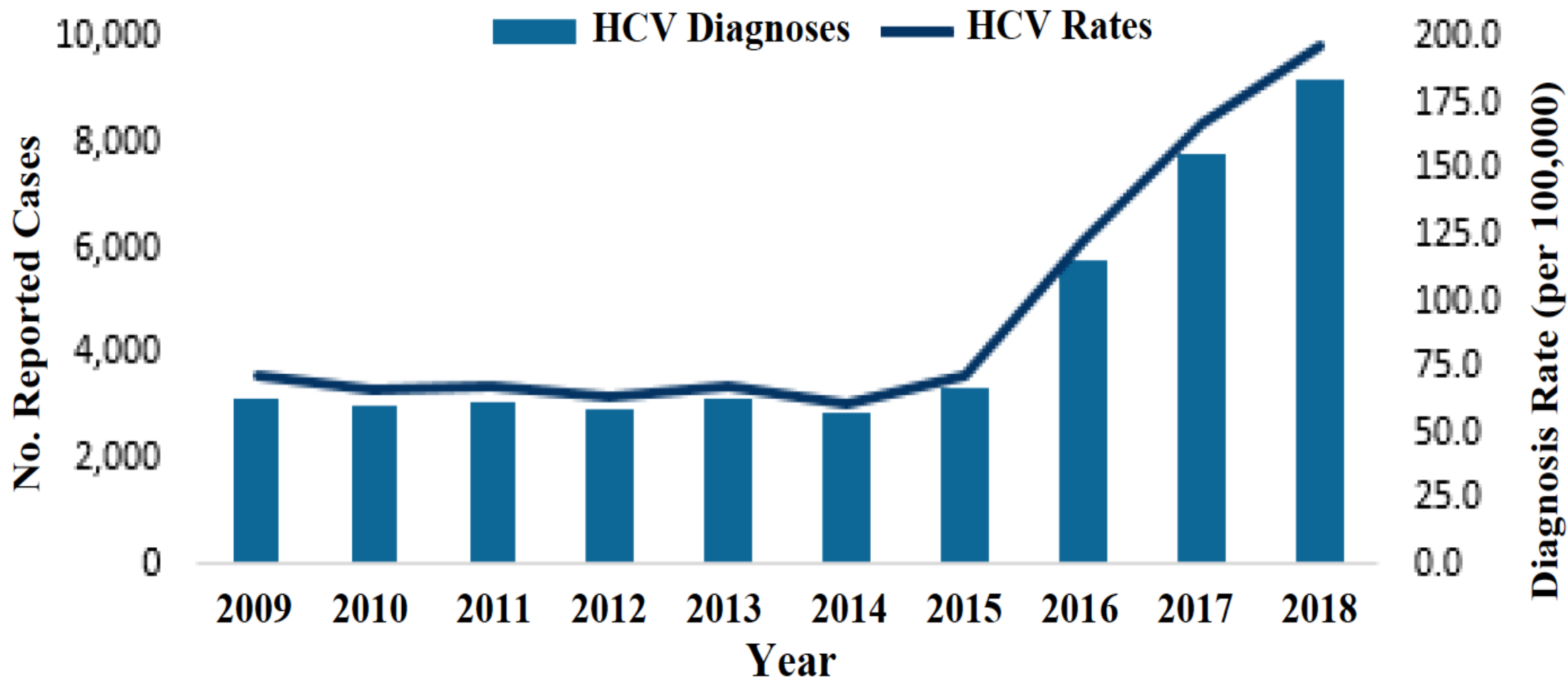
- As part of the **LDH Office of Public Health STD/HIV/Hepatitis program**, our detailing efforts started in 2016, focused mainly here in the New Orleans/BR areas
 - **Created:**
 - *First PrEP provider pack*
 - *PrEP provider directory*
 - *Didactic provider presentation*
 - **In 2017**, I helped expand directory to statewide and trained providers personally across the state
 - Updated provider pack/presentation, incorporated AD 1-on-1 training, partnered with regional medical directors



- Since 2018, our program has **expanded in both scope and focus.**
 - Now running provider education on:
 - **PrEP/PEP**
 - **Syphilis/Congenital Syphilis**
 - **HCV**
 - Staff:
 - **2 full time MDs**
 - **1 MD specialist consultant**
- 2019-2024:
 - **Louisiana Hepatitis C Elimination Project**



Chronic Hepatitis C Diagnosis Trends - Louisiana, 2009-2018



LOUISIANA FACES A HEPATITIS C PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

>110K

PWID at-
risk for
HCV

39K

HCV+ in
Medicaid &
Corrections

3%

Treated in
Medicaid


5th

Liver & Bile
Duct
Cancers

3rd

Liver & Bile
Duct Cancer
Deaths

LOUISIANA'S HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION PROGRAM

- Establish a Modified **Hepatitis C Medication Subscription Model** for Medicaid and Corrections
- **Educate Public** on Availability of Cure and Mobilize Priority Populations for Screenings
- Expand **HCV Screening and Expedited Linkage** to HCV Cure
- **Strengthen HCV Surveillance** to Link Persons Previously Diagnosed to Treatment
-  ➤ **Expand Provider Capacity** to Treat Hepatitis C
- Implement **Harm Reduction and Complementary Treatment Strategies**
- **Extend Elimination Efforts to All Populations Within the State**

PROVIDER CAPACITY-BUILDING

- **Shift HCV treatment** from specialty care to any prescriber in the state
 - Primary Care/Addiction and Recovery Medicine networks
- **Testing and Treatment Algorithm**
- **HCV Champion Training**
 - 4-hour comprehensive overview of HCV care
- **Project ECHO- Local hospital CME partnership**
 - We provide education; they run administrative side

STREAMLINED POPULATION HEALTH SCREEN & TREAT ALGORITHM

SCREENING FOR ADULT PATIENTS*

HX, PE, Labs

(CMP, CBC, HIV, HepBs Ag, HepBc Ab total, HepBs Ab, HepA IgG, urine pregnancy test)

No genotyping

do not treat →

TO SPECIALIST IF:

- Prior DAAs*
- HIV(+)*, HBV(+), Pregnant
- Decompensated cirrhosis
CTP B or C
or MELD \geq 15

SCREEN FOR CIRRHOSIS



TRANSIENT ELASTOGRAPHY (IF AVAILABLE, IF NOT... PROCEED!)



kPa < (12.5)

not available

**kPa \geq (12.5)
cirrhosis**



**APRI < (2), and
FIB-4 < (3.25)**

**APRI \geq (2), or
FIB-4 \geq (3.25)**



YEAR 1 RESULTS

Since July 15th, 2019, for persons on **Medicaid**:

5,186 persons have accessed treatment for HCV through Medicaid

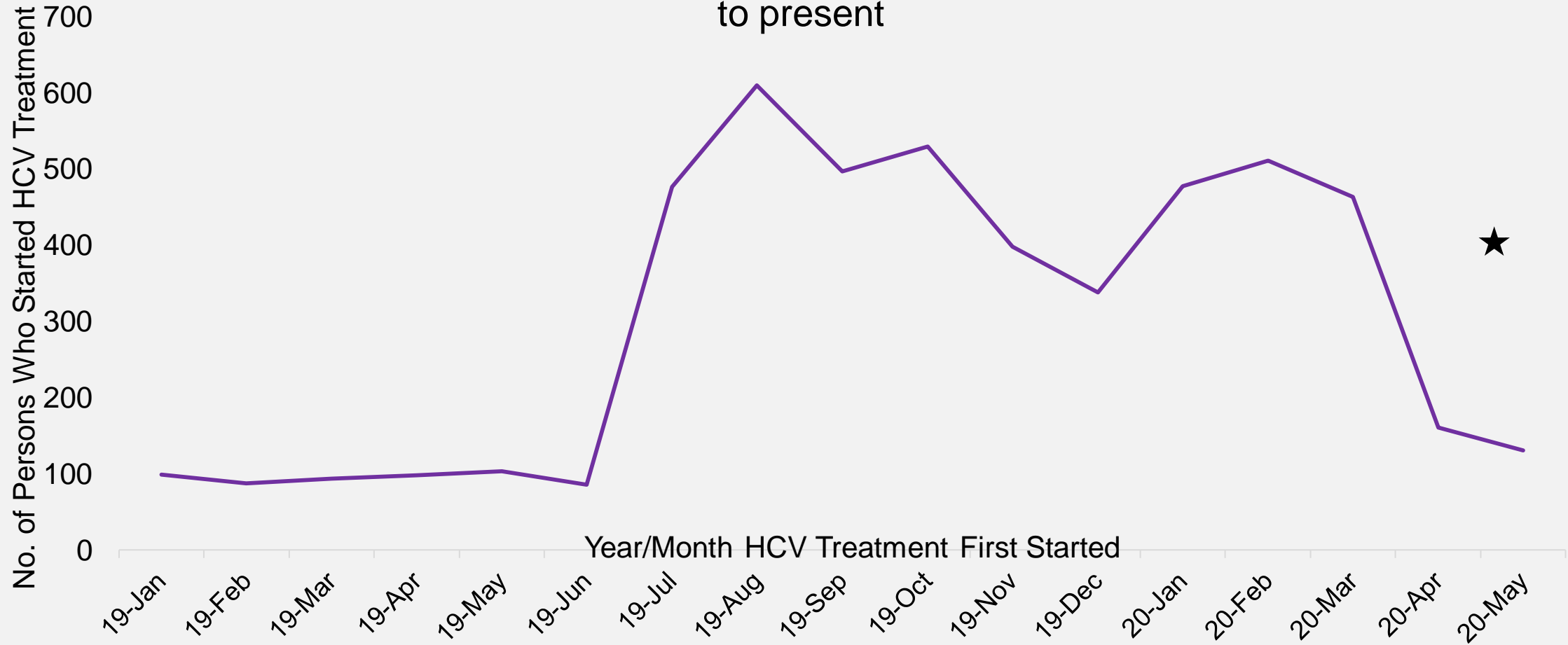
5,038 persons have started treatment for HCV through Medicaid for the first time

4,119 persons who have accessed treatment have completed it

3,457 persons have accessed treatment because of Medicaid Expansion

332 providers have written prescriptions for DAAs for the first time

Number of Persons Who Started Treatment for HCV Through Medicaid/Corrections by Year/Month Treatment First Started - January 2019 to present



★ For persons on Medicaid treatment is determined by claims data. Due to delays in reporting of claims data recent numbers are preliminary and are likely an undercount.

CHANGES SINCE COVID-19: TIPS AND TRICKS

- Switch to all **virtual interaction**: start wide
 - Difficulty making first contact- Residency Programs, FQHC's,
 - Ability to meet providers **nights and weekends**
 - **CME offerings**- Project ECHO, Champion Training, Online Video
 - Piggyback on **professional group communication**
 - *Nurse practitioners of Louisiana, Primary Care Association, etc.*



- Screen all patients who are ≥ 18 years old for HCV, regardless of risk.
- Screen all pregnant women during each pregnancy.

What can I do for patients that screen HCV positive?

HCV screening in Louisiana is even more important than ever, as Louisiana has launched the first

CHANGES SINCE COVID-19: TIPS AND TRICKS

- **Follow-up is key**

- PDFs, treatment guides, contact information- leave behinds
- Clinician Warm Line: 2 MDs on call via phone/email/text
- Identify Champions and “Super Providers”
 - Few providers write lion’s share of treatments

PROVIDER RESOURCES

Take advantage of our provider resources below:

- [HCV Provider Packet](#)
- [HCV Clinician Letter](#)
- [Louisiana Streamlined HCV Test and Treat Algorithm](#)
- [Standardized HCV Patient Encounter Template & Virtual Encounter Considerations](#)

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Download more information about our various training opportunities below.

- [Prescriber Training Opportunities PDF](#)
- [HCV Champions PDF](#)
- Upcoming training dates:
October 24th

REQUEST TRAINING

ZOOM POLL:

- What do you think is the most common topic asked about by providers who call our clinician warm-line?
- **a)** Concerns about medication interactions
- **b)** Specific questions about particular co-morbidities and HCV
- **c)** How to interpret Hepatitis B Serology
- **d)** Administrative Issues- Coverage/insurance/pharmacy questions, etc.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For anymore information on our PrEP/STI detailing, HCV Elimination Program, or anything else, feel free to reach me at:
- Brandon.Mizroch@LA.Gov