**WHEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT DATA DON'T CUT IT: STRATEGIES TO TRACK AN EPIDEMIC**

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**Background:**
In the United States there is no nationalized data system that allows for easy tracking of the hepatitis C virus (HCV). In San Francisco, the health department viral hepatitis surveillance program currently only reports descriptive statistics regarding positive HCV results. Therefore, the city's HCV elimination initiative, End Hep C SF, needed to find creative ways to measure elimination progress.

**Methods:**
With the guidance of epidemiologists and other researchers in the Community Research and Data Stewardship workgroup of End Hep C SF, we have employed numerous strategies to triangulate existing data to better understand our progress toward HCV elimination. Drawing on existing datasets from local studies and community-based programs supplements surveillance data.

**Results:**
We have estimated prevalence of HCV antibodies and active HCV infection among people who inject drugs and the city overall (an estimated 1,000 fewer people with chronic infection in 2019 than 2015); an HIV and HCV surveillance registry match to identify people co-infected with HIV and HCV, as a part of our co-infection microelimination effort (approximately 600 co-infected people left to treat); an analysis of quarterly community-based testing and treatment rates for 2019 and 2020 to assess the impact of COVID-19; hiring consultants to complete data analyses to assess perinatal HCV and jail-related HCV testing and treatment needs; and a Results-Based Accountability evaluation system with an associated data dashboard of HCV-related indicators and performance measures (Figure 1).

**Conclusion:** Like the patchwork strategy required to obtain healthcare in the absence of a national health system, for US cities to track progress toward HCV elimination we must similarly devise a patchwork of available data. This presentation will provide details on the strategies used by End Hep C SF, along with lessons learned for replication of these methods in other jurisdictions where systematic citywide data are not available.

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**Figure 1. Sample indicators of progress toward HCV elimination in SF (data dashboard)**