

## **REAL WORLD HEPATITIS C CURE RATES IN OPIOID USE DISORDER FROM A STATEWIDE ELIMINATION PROGRAM**

### **Authors:**

Tyson G<sup>1,2,3</sup>, McCall F<sup>1</sup>, Britton E<sup>1</sup>, Chang L<sup>1</sup>, Larson K<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Department of Health <sup>2</sup> Ochsner Health <sup>3</sup> Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

### **Background:**

The World Health Organization has a goal of hepatitis C virus (HCV) elimination by 2030. More than 50% of people who inject drugs (PWIDs) have HCV. PWIDs are often neglected when it comes to HCV treatment or elimination programs. Louisiana (LA) is one of the only states in the United States (US) to have a statewide HCV elimination program. This study was designed to determine cure rates in a real world setting among people with opioid use disorder (OUD).

### **Methods:**

In LA, all Medicaid patients had access to authorized generic sofosbuvir/velpatasvir starting 7/15/2019. OUD was defined by Medicaid claims data between 7/15/2019 – 7/31/2022. HCV treatment completion was 12 weeks of medication. Sustained virologic response (SVR12) or cure defined as a negative HCV RNA at least 12 weeks after treatment completion. SVR 4 (SVR4) weeks after treatment was also analyzed.

### **Results:**

10,221 persons were started on HCV treatment; 4,134 (40%) had OUD. 3,504 (85%) with OUD and 5,527 (91%) without OUD completed treatment. 2,443 (70%) with OUD and 4,048 (73%) without OUD had SVR12 testing. Of those with SVR12 testing, 2,055 (84%) with OUD and 3,773 (93%) without OUD were cured. SVR4 testing was 77% with OUD and 79% without OUD with SVR4 cure of 84% and 93% respectively.

### **Conclusion:**

Persons with OUD can have high rates of HCV treatment completion and cure. Since LA is one of only a few states in the US to have a statewide HCV elimination program, this study provides new real-world data in PWIDs from a public health initiative. Our data also shows that SVR4 is similar to SVR12, but more advantageous with higher rates of SVR4 testing. This is powerful data to support the inclusion of PWIDs in elimination programs and encourage other elimination programs at the beginning of these efforts.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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