

Executive Summary

The Indiana Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Care, and Elimination of Viral Hepatitis serves as a guide toward action for our state. This plan reflects what is possible at the local and state level when adequate resources are available. To date, 1 in 12 individuals worldwide are living with viral hepatitis with approximately 4 million of those individuals living in the United States. These figures continue to grow every day, which emphasizes the importance of this plan.

The mission of the Indiana Viral Hepatitis Advisory Council (IVHAC) is the following:

To reduce the burden of viral hepatitis and its complications among Indiana citizens.

To decrease viral hepatitis transmission and its complications among Indiana citizens through surveillance, education, prevention, and disease management.

In order to complete our mission, Hoosiers need to realize the resources required to achieve the goals of this plan and seek out those resources. Resources will be needed in the form of time, effort, and funding to carry the plan through the implementation and evaluation phases.

Releasing the plan is only the beginning.

We hope readers of this document will use it to educate themselves and their communities about viral hepatitis and to form partnerships to promote the prevention, care, and eradication of these diseases. The following is a comprehensive and important first step towards eliminating viral hepatitis in Indiana. It is the sincere hope of the IVHAC, and the thousands of Indiana citizens living with or affected by viral hepatitis, that this document is a valuable tool to our state.