C the Light! Exploring Dynamic Changes in Hepatitis C
Epidemiology, Screening, and Treatment

Recommended Citation
Miller, Lesley; Travis, Natasha; Lom, Jennifer; and Fluker, Shelly-Ann (2017) "C the Light! Exploring Dynamic Changes in Hepatitis C Epidemiology, Screening, and Treatment," Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association: Vol. 7 : No. 1 , Article 29.
DOI: 10.21633/jgpha.7.130
Available at: https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jgpha/vol7/iss1/29

This conference abstract is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.
C the light! Exploring dynamic changes in hepatitis C epidemiology, screening, and treatment

Lesley Miller, MD, Natasha Travis, MD, Jennifer Lom, MD, and Shelly-Ann Fluker, MD

Emory University School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital

Corresponding author: Lesley Miller • Emory University School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital • 49 Jesse Hill Jr Dr SE, Atlanta, GA • lesley.miller@emory.edu

Background: Hepatitis C is common, deadly and curable. A major public health epidemic, it affects close to 4 million Americans, and kills more Americans than HIV, hepatitis B and tuberculosis combined. New all-oral therapies for hepatitis C can cure over 90% of those treated with few side effects and with a short 12-week course. However, many people with hepatitis C are unaware of their infection and access to curative therapy remains limited, especially for underserved populations.

Methods: Our workshop will focus on areas of dynamic change in hepatitis C. We will discuss the changing epidemiology, focusing on the epidemic of new infections among young injection drug users. We will discuss hepatitis C screening recommendations and how these are applied in medical and public health settings, including barriers and facilitators to screening and linkage to care. We will describe current available therapies for hepatitis C and challenges to accessing these medications.

Results: We will present results of our screening and linkage to care cascade, as well as the impact of our primary care-based hepatitis C clinic on antiviral treatment outcomes. We will focus on ways that workshop attendees can apply these principles to hepatitis C screening in their individual settings throughout the state of Georgia.

Conclusions: We will conclude by making the compelling argument that combining public awareness of the disease, screening, linkage to care and treatment can lead to hepatitis C elimination in an unexpectedly short time frame.

Key words: hepatitis C, epidemiology, screening, underserved populations, chronic disease prevention

https://doi.org/10.21633/jgpha.7.130

© Lesley Miller, Natasha Travis, Jennifer Lom, and Shelly-Ann Fluker. Originally published in jGPHA (http://www.gapha.org/jgpha/) December 20, 2017. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No-Derivatives License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work ("first published in the Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association...") is properly cited with original URL and bibliographic citation information. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on http://www.gapha.jgpha.org/, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.