

# HONG KONG VIRAL HEPATITIS ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2030

## HIGHLIGHTS

## Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2025-2030

Building on the foundation laid by the inaugural *Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020 – 2024*, a comprehensive set of initiatives has been successfully implemented, driving measurable progress in the prevention and control of viral hepatitis across the territory.

To carry forward this momentum, the Steering Committee on Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis formulated the *Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2025 – 2030*, setting actions along four strategic axes:



### Vision

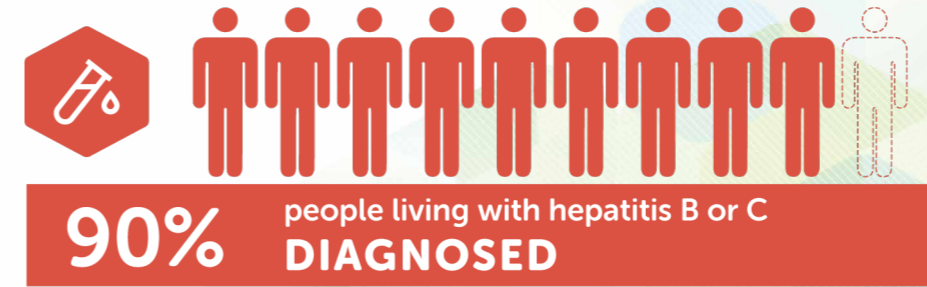
Hong Kong will be a place where new viral hepatitis infections have ceased, and where everyone with chronic viral hepatitis has access to effective and affordable care and treatment.

### Goals

- Reducing transmission of viral hepatitis
- Reducing morbidity and mortality due to viral hepatitis, especially liver cancer

## Global targets on viral hepatitis elimination

Aligning with the global targets set by the World Health Organization (WHO), Hong Kong sets to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030:



Number of new infections per year

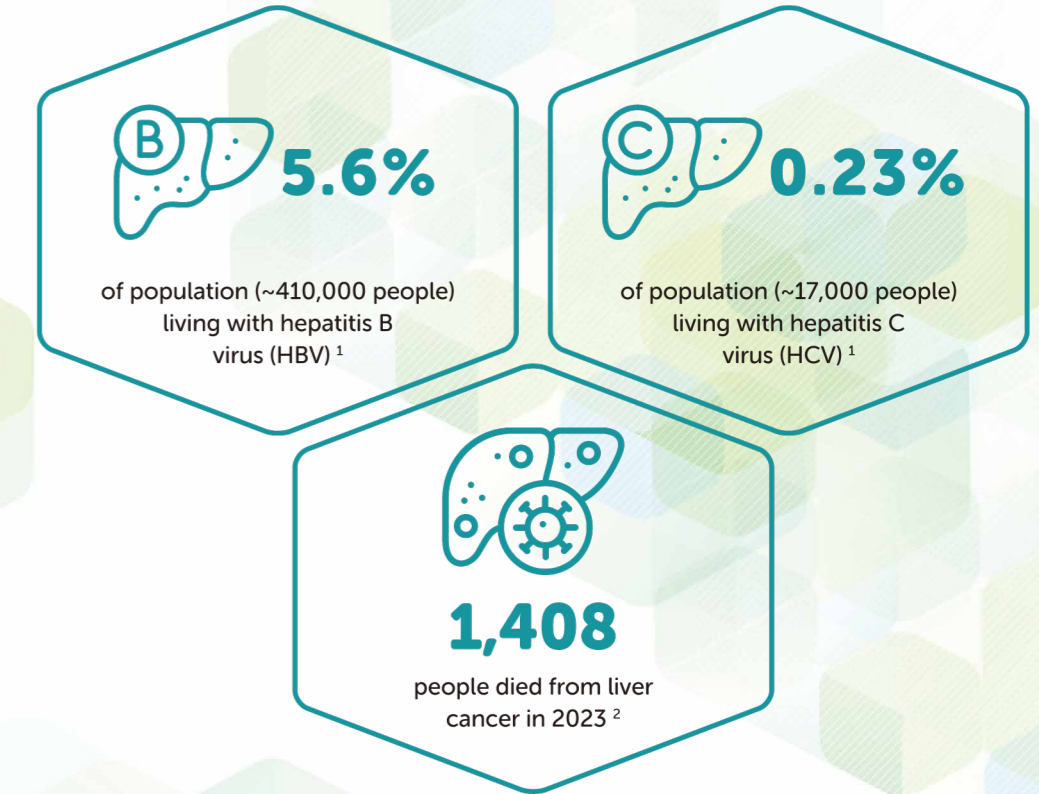
Hepatitis B:  
 $\leq 2$  per 100 000 population

Hepatitis C:  
 $\leq 5$  per 100 000 population

Number of deaths from viral hepatitis per year

$\leq 6$  per 100 000 population

## Local situation of hepatitis B and C



Among hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) cases in 2023, the most common form of primary liver cancer, **74.6%** and **7.8%** had documented HBV and HCV infection, respectively.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As derived from the results of Population Health Survey 2020-22

<sup>2</sup> Data from Hong Kong Cancer Registry

The full report of *Hong Kong Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2025 - 2030* is available at: [www.hepatitis.gov.hk](http://www.hepatitis.gov.hk)



### Strategy 1:

## Heightening Awareness



### Enhance awareness campaigns for the general population

- Observe the annual World Hepatitis Day
- Expand community outreach through public engagement events, social media and mass media with impact-based evaluation

### Conduct targeted education

- Deliver education materials tailored to key populations, people living with viral hepatitis and their service providers
- Integrate viral hepatitis education into HIV and sexually transmitted infection prevention programmes



### Conduct professional training

- Increase healthcare workers' awareness for risk-based screening
- Build capacity regarding the management of patients with chronic hepatitis

### Build supportive environment

- Strengthen collaborative partnerships with District Health Centres and non-governmental organisations
- Update the website of Viral Hepatitis Control Office as an information hub

### Strategy 2:

## Tracking Health Sector Response



### Estimate burden and monitor the trends of HBV and HCV infections

- Continue existing surveillance for acute and chronic viral hepatitis
- Update the local epidemiological situation by Population Health Survey
- Expand the measurement framework with a broader cascade of complications arising from chronic hepatitis

### Make measurement for the Local Indicators

- Update the set of Local Indicators
- Monitor and evaluate the progress towards viral hepatitis elimination

### Evaluate the progress towards elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HBV

- Assess the robustness of the health systems to sustain elimination
- Prepare validation report regarding the elimination of MTCT of HBV

### Strengthen information exchange regarding prevention and control of viral hepatitis

- Report the progress of viral hepatitis elimination to the WHO
- Share experiences in regional and international meetings

### Strategy 3:

## Preventing New Infections



### Eliminate mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B

- Sustain and maintain high coverage of existing MTCT preventive measures, including antenatal screening, neonatal vaccination, immunoglobulin administration, maternal antiviral prophylaxis and post-vaccination serologic testing
- Review the development of MTCT prevention strategies and assess their applicability in Hong Kong



### Prevent healthcare-related transmission of hepatitis B and C

- Uphold blood safety protocol and infection control standards
- Update the local guidelines on post-exposure management

### Reduce risk and disease burden in key populations

- Enhance accessibility of prevention services

### Strategy 4:

## Expanding Access to Screening, Care and Treatment



### Enhance focused risk-based testing services

- Continue offering viral hepatitis testing for high-risk individuals accessing clinical services under the Department of Health
- Pilot risk-based hepatitis B screening programme in primary care or community settings

### Enhance management of adults with chronic hepatitis B (CHB) in primary care

- Develop a standardised service model in primary care settings for management of stable CHB cases
- Update and promulgate clinical guidance resources for primary care physicians
- Establish coordinated service networks to support primary care-based CHB management

### Establish linkage to care for people with hepatitis C

- Continue the system-wide "macro-elimination" initiative by identifying and treating people with viraemic HCV infection

### Promote HCV testing and linkage to care among people who inject drugs and persons in custody

- Strengthen linkage-to-care among methadone users with positive HCV test result
- Plan the way forward based on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot screening programme for persons in custody