

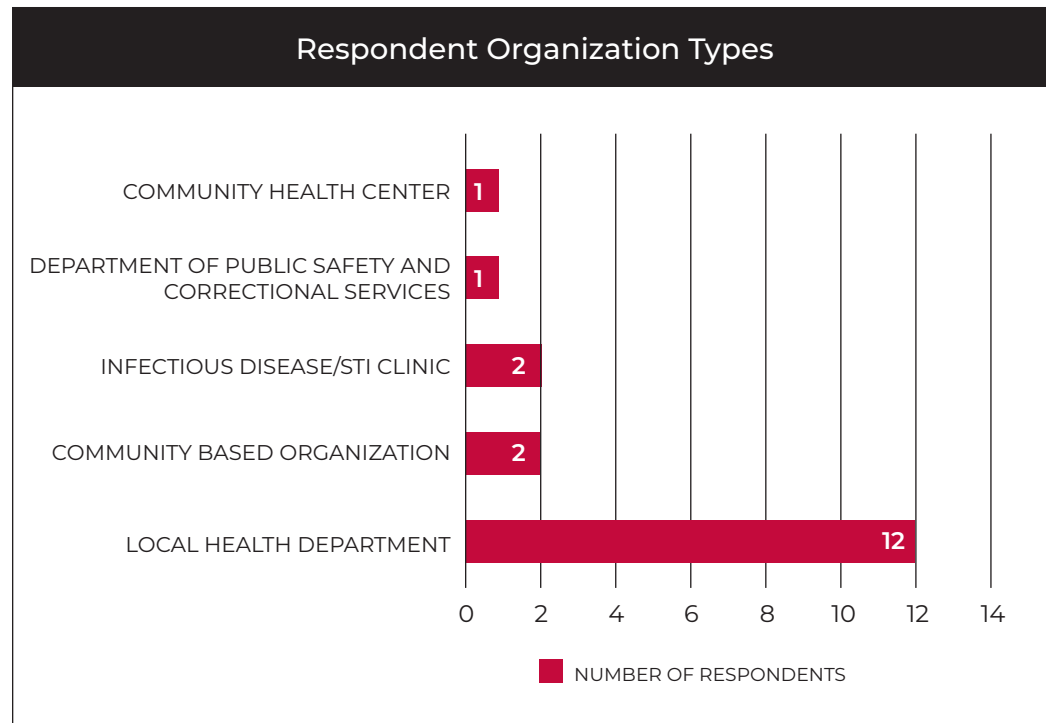
MARYLAND HEPATITIS C PROVIDER SURVEY FINDINGS

CENTER FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration



BACKGROUND

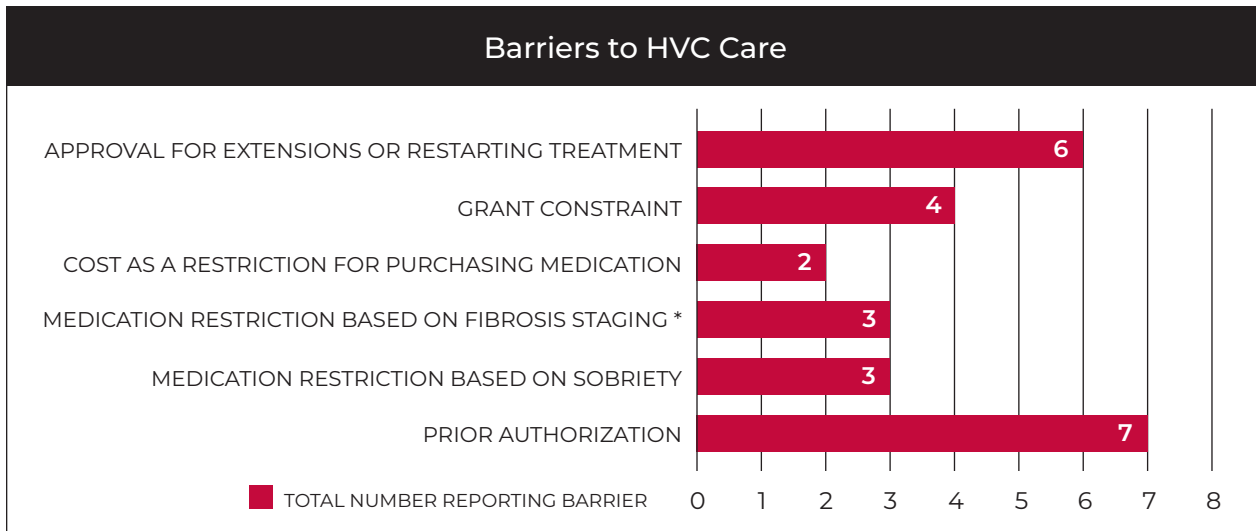
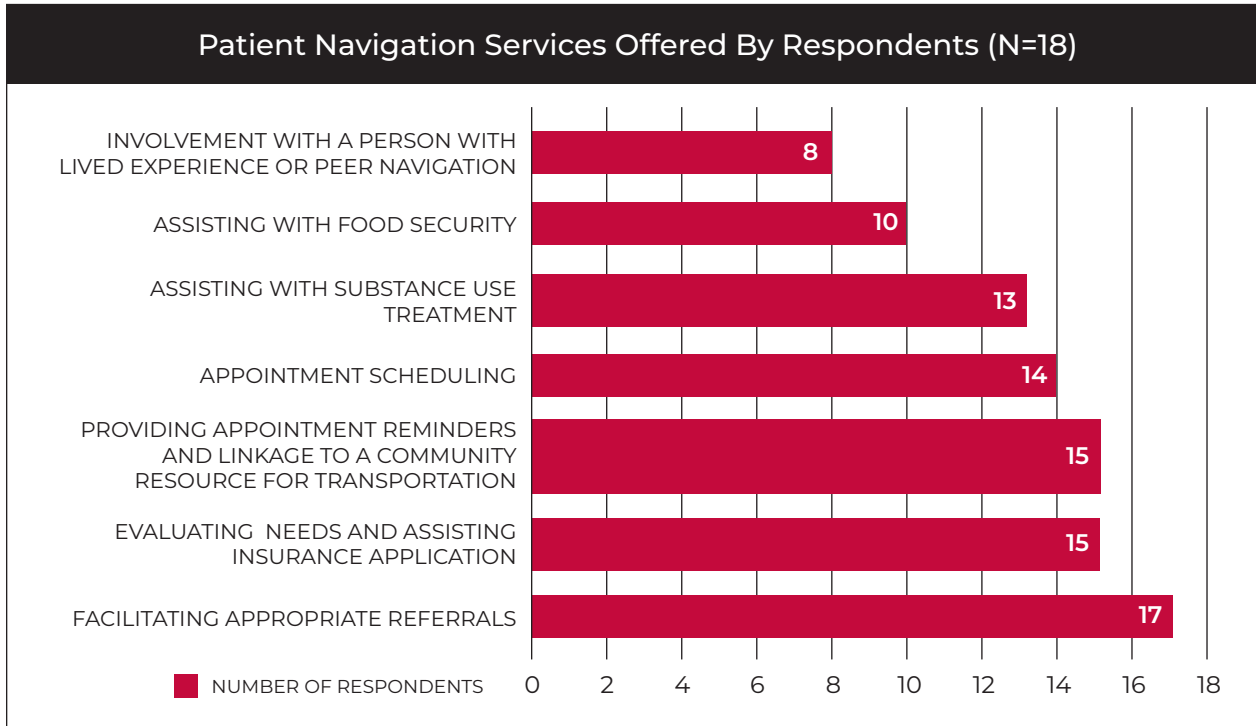
In 2023, the Center for Viral Hepatitis conducted a survey of Maryland providers who test for or treat hepatitis C virus (HCV) as part of their CDC PS2103 grant activities. There were 18 respondents to the survey representing 15 unique sites across the state of Maryland. Most of the respondents (12) were from local health departments. Primary care providers are notably underrepresented in the sample. Results of the survey are summarized below.



KEY FINDINGS

- All respondents reported that they were aware of the most recent CDC recommendations regarding HCV screening for adults in the United States.
- Of the 17 respondents who reported offering HCV rapid antibody testing at their facilities, 15 also offered HCV RNA testing.
- Half of the respondents (9) indicated that they did not have the capacity to treat HCV at their facility, but would instead refer clients to other providers.
- Only four respondents reported the use of electronic medical records (EMR) at their facilities. Most respondents who did not report use of EMR were from local health departments where the investment required for EMR is not merited for the services they typically offer.
- Three respondents indicated that they believed that fibrosis staging requirements could restrict their ability to treat HCV. Such restrictions were eliminated in the state of Maryland with the passage of MD SB598 in 2019.

MARYLAND HEPATITIS C PROVIDER SURVEY FINDINGS



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Providers should offer HCV screening in tandem with STI screening, reproductive health visits, and routine wellness exams.
- Providers should be educated on the elimination of fibrosis staging restrictions on HCV treatment for Medicaid patients in the state of Maryland.
- There should be an investigation into options to address barriers to treatment, such as difficulty obtaining prior authorization or difficulty gaining approval from insurers to extend or reinstate treatment.
- Eligible providers should participate in Sharing the Cure training through Johns Hopkins University so that they can treat HCV.

* Note: fibrosis staging is no longer a restriction in the state of Maryland as of 2019.