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HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch
Medicaid Watch
National ADAP Working Group
Hepatitis, Education, Advocacy &
Leadership

Community Access National Network

ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

The Community Access National Network (CANN) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization (formerly incorporated under the “Ryan White CARE Act Title II Community AIDS National Network”) focusing on public policy issues relating to HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. CANN’s mission is to define, promote, and improve access to healthcare services and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or viral hepatitis through advocacy, education, and networking. These services must be affordable to the people who need them regardless of insurance status, income, or geographic location. The coalition-based work is done on behalf of the patient advocacy groups, pharmaceutical partners, and government agencies.

CANN’s programmatic projects include:

- **National ADAP Working Group, or NAWG**
- **Hepatitis: Education, Advocacy, and Leadership, or HEAL**
- **HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch**
- **Medicaid Watch**

CANN’s 2018 Annual Report outlines their scope and accomplishments.

National ADAP Working Group (NAWG)

The Ryan White CARE Act – including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) – remains the cornerstone of the service delivery system for patients living with HIV/AIDS. There is strong speculation the laws that haven’t been re-authorized (which Ryan White is one of them) by the Congress could come under increased scrutiny under the new Trump Administration, which lends to concerns about potential programmatic changes, and future appropriation levels. Fortunately, Ryan White and ADAP still have strong bipartisan support in Washington, DC. The Trump Administration has proposed some troubling public policy changes, which continue to be monitored by advocates.

CANN is quite mindful of the ongoing legislative and regulatory changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), many of them with potentially devastating impact on our communities. Some states are reconsidering ADAP premium assistance programs used to purchase health insurance because the insurance exchanges are growing unstable in some markets. Some states are reconsidering their Medicaid expansion. And some states are showing early signs of the dreaded ADAP waiting list for services.

Community Access National Network (CANN)

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To that end, CANN leverages its “**National ADAP Working Group**” (NAWG) to address this problem by bringing members of the HIV/AIDS community and industry together to engage in conversation about actions surrounding ADAPs. NAWG is the longest-continually serving coalition of the ADAP stakeholders, creating a comprehensive framework to monitor and discuss program and funding. This approach to ADAP advocacy has proven to be very effective, and has resulted in many similar efforts at the state level.

In 2018, NAWG published twelve (12) news distributions, including information and updates on issues relevant to ADAP.

Additionally in 2018, NAWG co-hosted the following events in partnership with the ADAP Advocacy Association:

- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Annual Conference in Washington, DC on September 20th-21st.

Information about NAWG is available online at <http://tiicann.org/nawg.html>.

Hepatitis: Education, Advocacy & Leadership (HEAL)

Likewise, Hepatitis C (HCV) infection is the most common chronic blood borne infection in the United States; approximately 3.2 million persons are chronically infected. Approximately 12,000 people die every year from HCV-related liver disease. The number of HCV-related deaths per year has outnumbered those dying from AIDS. These numbers are increasing, too. For example, West Virginia’s rate of new Hepatitis C infections jumped from 3.4% in 2015 to 7.2% in 2016, according to the latest surveillance data.

HCV is a common co-infection in people with HIV/AIDS. The federal response to this emerging epidemic has been characterized as slow, and inefficient. Congress continues to provide inadequate appropriations to address HCV. This trend shows no sign of changing in a more positive direction, either.

HCV advocacy efforts are coordinated through the “**Hepatitis: Education, Advocacy & Leadership**” (HEAL) coalition. HEAL’s purpose is to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, with particular focus on HIV/HCV co-infection. HEAL has also devoted significant resources to addressing the issue of timely testing, care, and treatment in our nation’s correctional facilities. People living with HCV (and HIV) incarcerated in our correctional system deserve the same level of appropriate health care services and supports.

In 2018, HEAL published twelve (12) news distributions, including newsworthy articles on the latest testing, treatment, advocacy, and policy news. It published 50 blogs – which are available online at <https://communityaccessnationalnetwork.wordpress.com>.

Additionally, HEAL hosted (or co-hosted) the following events:

- Community Roundtable on Linkages to Care for Incarcerated Citizens Living with Hepatitis C – Year Two Update.
- 3rd Annual National Monitoring Report on HIV/HCV Co-Infection.

Information about HEAL is available online at <http://tiicann.org/heal.html>.

HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch

The **HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch** is a patient-centric informational portal serving three primary groups – patients, healthcare providers, and AIDS Service Organizations.

It is estimated 200,000-300,000 people in the United States are co-infected with both HIV and HCV infections. Experts believe that about 25% of Americans with HIV also have HCV; conversely some 10% of people with HCV are thought to also have HIV. Without information, and access to comprehensive medical treatment, patients living with HIV and HCV infections are likely to progress to complicated liver diseases, such as cirrhosis of the liver, ultimately leading to liver failure and early death.

In 2018, eleven (11) HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch reports were published and posted online at <http://tiicann.org/co-infection-watch.html>. Additionally, other valuable resources were made available to the community, including:

- Infographic on HCV and Health Law in U.S. Incarceration Settings, available at http://www.tiicann.org/co-infection-watch_2018.html.



Medicaid Watch

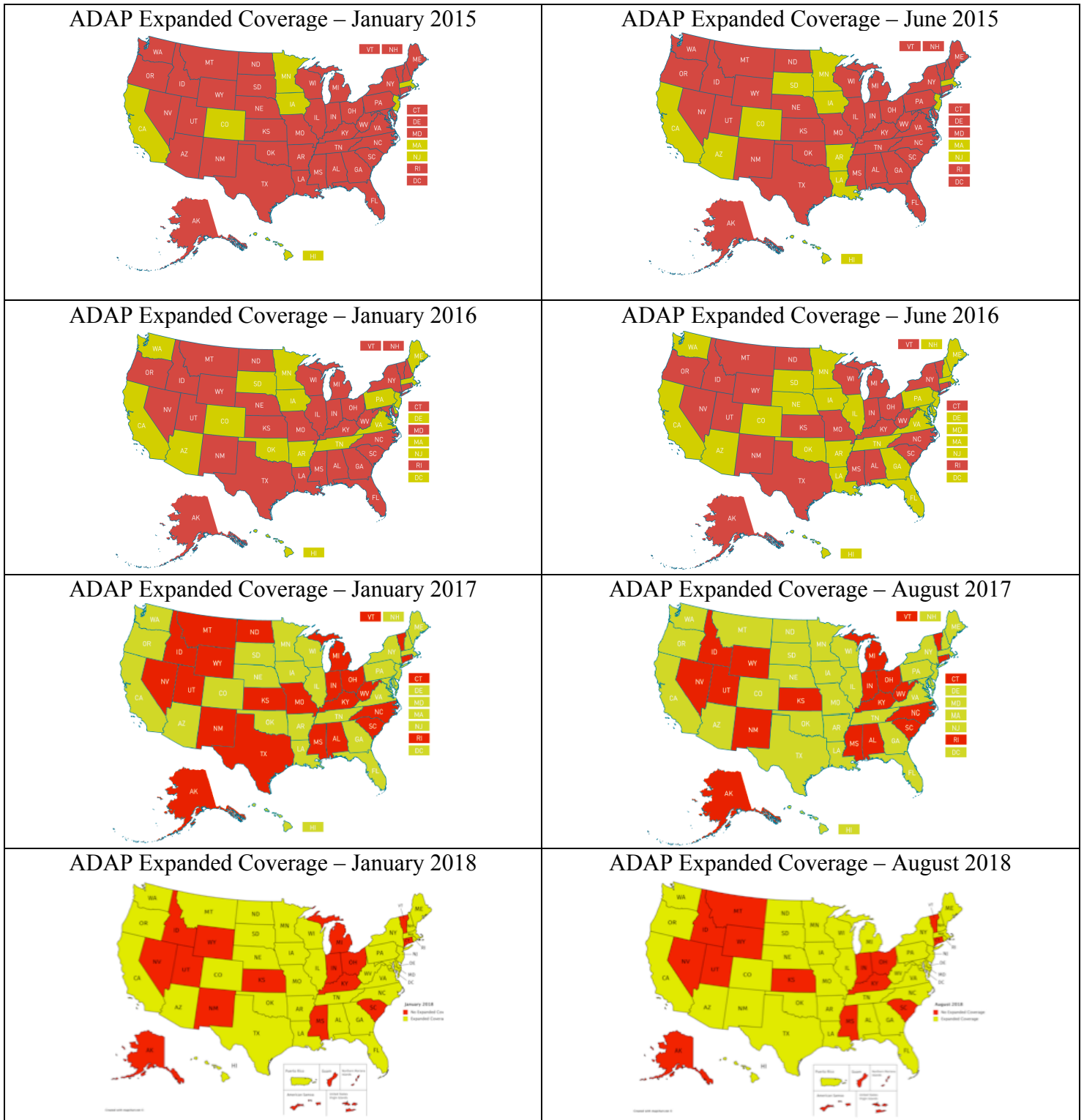
The **Medicaid Watch** offers an update on state Medicaid and health-related cuts and expansions. It covers state-level Medicaid eligibility and access news, as well as other state health assistance programs.

The news summaries appearing in Medicaid Watch are based on original information from news organizations and are produced by CANN. The information is not compiled or summarized by CANN.

In 2018, forty-nine (49) Medicaid Watch weekly reports were published and posted online at <http://www.tiicann.org/medicaid-watch.html>.

Excerpts from the 2nd Annual National Monitoring Report on HIV/HCV Co-Infection

The following maps demonstrate how between 2015-2018 more State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP) have covered various drug therapies to treat Hepatitis C (HCV) in the United States:



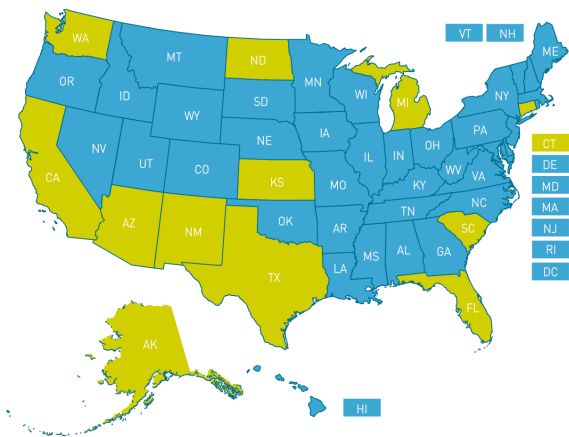
Excerpts from the Annual National Monitoring Report on HIV/HCV Co-Infection

Community Access National Network (CANN)

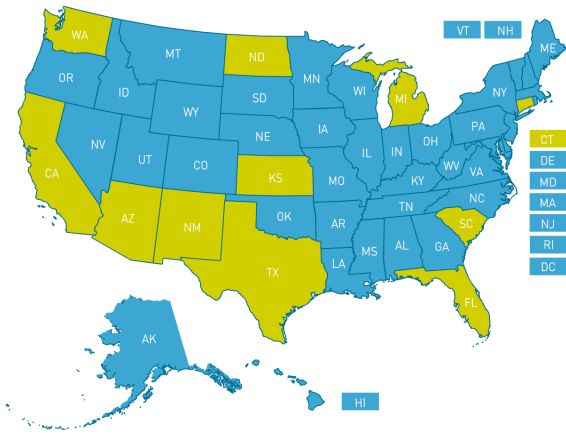
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All states currently offer Expanded Coverage for HCV drugs. Medicaid programs quicker to adopt HCV drugs than ADAPs. States with multiple coverage plans are likelier to have plans offering only one or two HCV therapies.

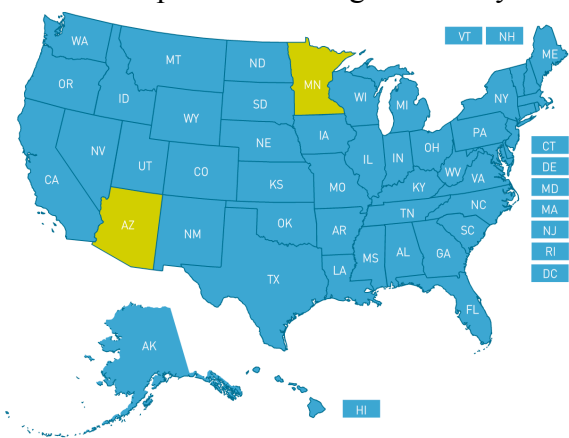
Medicaid Expanded Coverage – January 2015



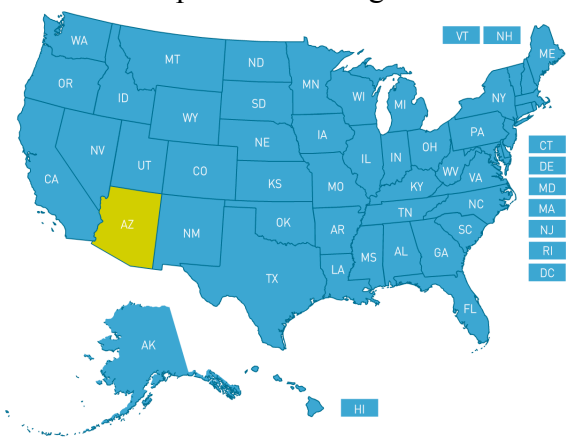
Medicaid Expanded Coverage – June 2015



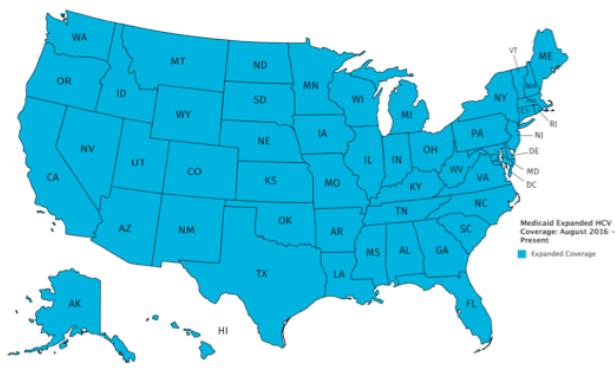
Medicaid Expanded Coverage – January 2016



Medicaid Expanded Coverage – June 2016

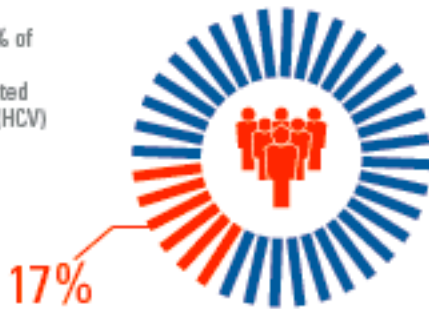


Medicaid Expanded Coverage: August 2016 – Present



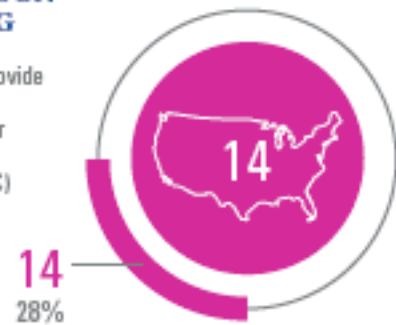
INFECTED INMATES

An estimated 17% of inmates in state prisons are infected with Hepatitis C (HCV) (Beckwith, 2015)



STATE PRISON SCREENING

Only 14 states provide specific testing protocols on their Department of Corrections (DOC) websites (Hopkins, 2018)



SCREENING USING OPT-OUT METHOD

Only 17 states screen for HCV using an Opt-Out method of delivery. (Hopkins, 2018)

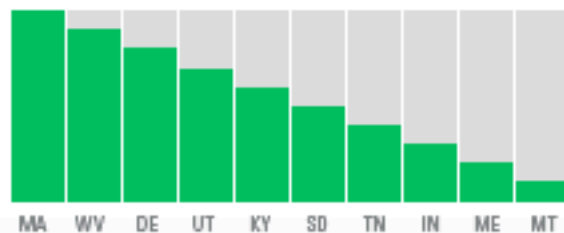
MA **TN**

Although MA and TN do offer Opt-Out screening, they do not require inmates to be tested unless ordered by a physician using Clinical Criteria



TESTING DURING INTAKE PROCESS

Of the ten states with the highest rates of HCV in 2016, zero require inmates to be tested for HCV during the intake process. (CDC, 2016)



STATES FACING LAWSUITS

14 state DOCs are currently facing Class Action or Civil Rights Action lawsuits. (Hopkins, 2018)

14 STATES

AL, AZ, CA, CO, FL, IL, IN, MA, MN, MO, PA, SC, TN, VA)



Newsworthy Announcements

- **HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch Enters its Fourth Year**

Monthly publication offers a patient-centric informational portal serving three primary groups – patients, healthcare providers, and AIDS Service Organizations

WASHINGTON, DC (January 10, 2018) – CANN announced that its groundbreaking HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch would continue in 2018, representing its fourth year in publication. The HIV/HCV Co-Infection Watch offers a patient-centric informational portal serving three primary groups – patients, healthcare providers, and AIDS Service Organizations.

- **Joint Statement on Discriminatory Proposed Healthcare “Conscience Rule”**

The Proposed Rule on “Moral Exemptions & Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act” Harkens Back to the Dark, Early Days of the AIDS Epidemic

WASHINGTON, DC (February 20, 2018) – CANN issued a joint statement with the ADAP Advocacy Association that the proposed changes put forth by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) are unacceptable, at best, and unconscionable, at worst. People living with HIV/AIDS have been down this path, before; our community refuses to go down this path, again.

- **CANN Tackles Challenges Facing the 340B Drug Pricing Program**

Launches National Commission to Make Recommendations to Congress

WASHINGTON, DC (April 18, 2018) – CANN appointed a national commission to take a thorough and candid review of the 340B Drug Pricing Program (hereafter referred to as 340B Program), and make specific recommendations to Congress on how and in what ways the program should be strengthened. In this effort to address the myriad of issues confronting the 340B Program and bring a reasoned strategy to the forefront, CANN’s President & CEO, William E. Arnold will co-chair the commission, along with Jeffrey R. Lewis, President & CEO of the Legacy Health Endowment (LHE) based in Turlock, California.

- **CANN Names 2018 HIV Advocacy Scholarship Honorees**

Inaugural Honorees include Eric Paulk of Georgia, Robert Skinner of Oregon, and Tez Anderson of California

WASHINGTON, DC (July 18, 2018) – CANN named the inaugural honorees for its three advocacy scholarships. Named in memoriam after Thomas P. McCormick, Gary R. Rose, and the Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C, each of the advocacy scholarships focus on HIV/AIDS-related public policy issues.

- **CANN Seats New Board Member; Trelvis D. Randolph, Esq.**

Also, Five Current Board Members Seated for Two More Years

WASHINGTON, DC (September 10, 2018) – CANN announced it has seated Trelvis D Randolph, Esq. to its board of directors. In addition, CANN re-seated several current board members to serve another two-year term. Mr. Randolph is a partner in the Miami office of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A..

Community Partners

- [ADAP Advocacy Association \(aaa+\)](#)
- [AIDS Alabama](#)
- [The AIDS Institute \(TAI\)](#)
- [AIDS United](#)
- [Dab the AIDS Bear Project](#)
- [Flowers Heritage Foundation](#)
- [Hepatitis Foundation International \(HFI\)](#)
- [Housing Works](#)
- [National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project \(NATAP\)](#)
- [National Association of State & Territorial AIDS Directors \(NASTAD\)](#)
- [National Minority AIDS Council \(NMAC\)](#)
- [National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable \(NVHR\)](#)
- [Partnership for Prescription Assistance \(PPA\)](#)
- [Patient Access Network Foundation](#)
- [Southern AIDS Coalition \(SAC\)](#)
- [The Partnership for Safe Medicines](#)
- [Treatment Expansion Access Project \(TAEP\)](#)

Industry Partners



Contact Us

General inquiries: info@tiicann.org

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