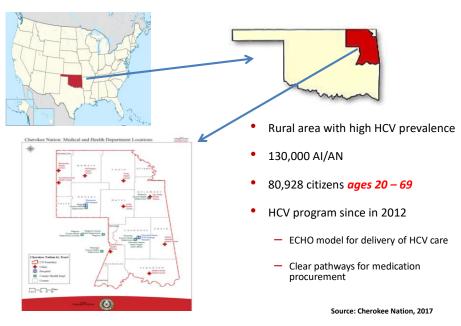
# **Cherokee Nation HCV Program:** From Evaluation to Cure to Elimination

Jorge Mera, MD, FACP Whitney Essex, MSN, FNP-BC

#### **Cherokee Nation Jurisdiction**



## CNHS HCV Elimination Program Goals 8/2015 – 10/2018

- 1. Secure political commitment for HCV elimination
- 2. Expand the HCV screening program
- 3. Establish robust programs to link to care, treat, and cure patients with HCV.
- 4. Reduce the incidence of new HCV infections

**CNHS: Cherokee Nation Health Services** 

#### **Goal #1: Political Commitment**

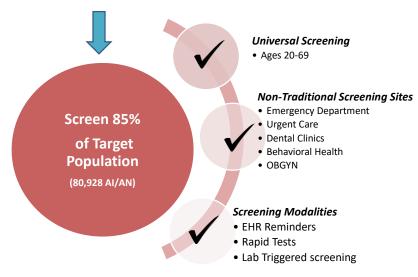
October 30, 2015, CNHS HCV Awareness Day



"As Native people and as Cherokee Nation citizens, we must keep striving to eliminate hepatitis C from our population." Chief Bill John Baker

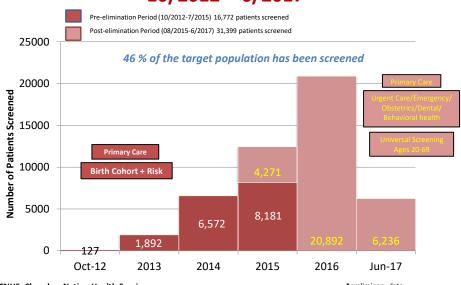
CNHS: Cherokee Nation Health Services

**Goal #2: Expand Screening Program** 



**Cherokee Nation Health Services** 

# **HCV Screening in CNHS\*** 10/2012 – 6/2017



**CNHS: Cherokee Nation Health Services** 

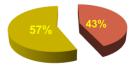
\*preliminary data

## **HCV: Prevalence and Age Distribution\* Post Elimination Period, 8/2015 – 5/2017**

#### **Prevalence**

- 31,399 patients screened
- 1,076 HCV seropositive
- Overall Prevalence ~ 3.4%
  - Male 4.4%
  - Female 2.9%
  - Baby boomers
    - 3.7% (12,540)
  - Younger than Baby Boomers
    - 3.3% (18,319)

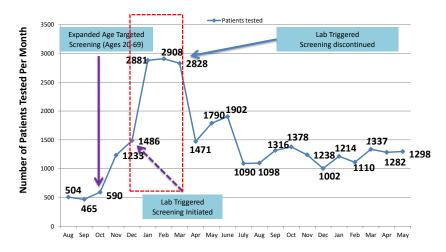
Age Distribution of HCV Ab (+) patients



- Baby Boomers
- Younger than Baby Boomers

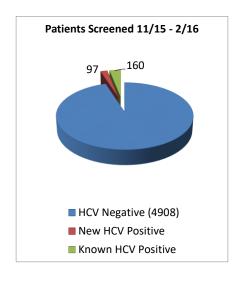
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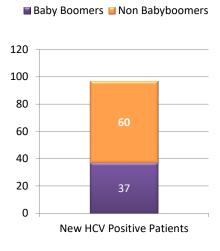
## **HCV Screening in Cherokee Nation\*** 8/2015 – 5/2017



\*preliminary data

# HCV "Lab Triggered" Screening\* WW Hastings Hospital

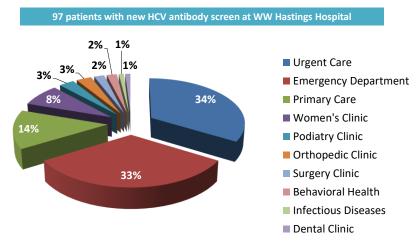




\*preliminary data

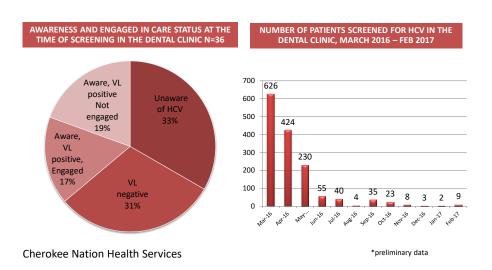
#### **Lab Triggered Screening:**

Location Where Patients Were Screened

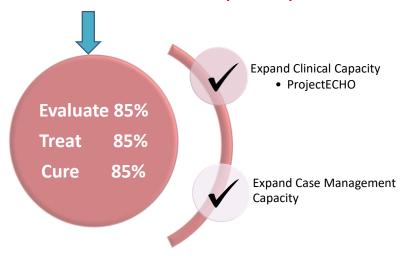


67 % of the HCV seropositive patients were detected in the Urgent Care/Emergency Department

#### **HCV Screening in the Hospital Dental Clinic\***

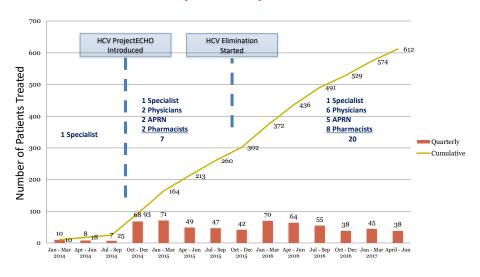


**Goal #3: Link to Care, Treat, and Cure** 



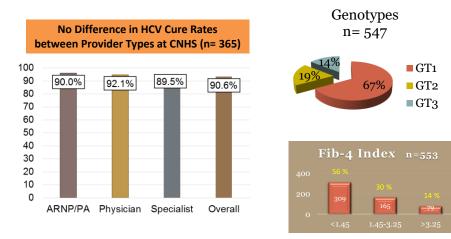
Cherokee Nation Health Services

### CNHS HCV Program: Clinical Capacity Expansion\* 1/2014 – 6/2017



\*preliminary data

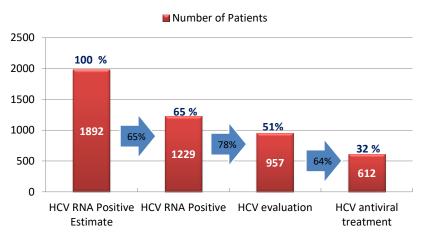
### **Treatment Group Characteristics\***



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\*preliminary data

#### CNHS HCV Cascade of Care\* 10/2012 - 6/2017

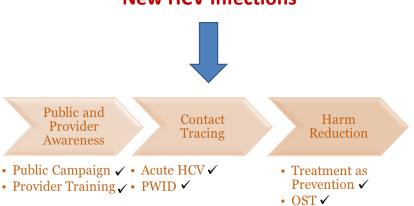


90% of patients who have completed treatment have achieved cure

\*preliminary data

NSEP (Not Implemented)

### Goal #4: Reduce the Incidence of New HCV Infections



Cherokee Nation Health Services. PWID: People Who Inject Drugs OST: Opioid Substitution Therapy, NSEP: Needle and Syringe Exchange Program

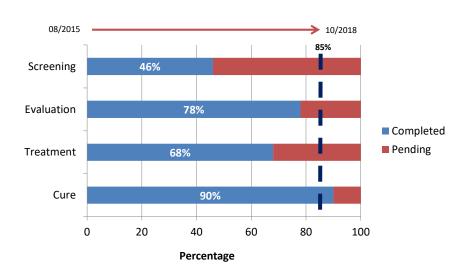
#### **CNHS Buprenorphine Clinic\***

- ➤ Buprenorphine Clinic started in March 2016 with 2 prescribers currently managing ~ 40 patients each
- > Drop out rate has been < 10 % since March 2016
- ➤ No Emergency Department (ED) visits or hospitalizations due to buprenorphine misuse
- ➤ No ED visits or Hospitalizations for opioid overdose in patients managed with buprenorphine

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\*preliminary data

#### How are we doing with our 85% Goals?



### **Moving Forward**

- Advocate for NSEP
- Expand OST to all CNHS clinics
- · Increase public awareness
- Intensify HCV screening in "hot spots"
- · Engage and retain in care difficult to reach populations
- Identify networks of transmission to implement focused interventions
- Adapt program goals to the newly defined recommendations for HCV elimination in the United States

Cherokee Nation Health Services

### HCV IN NATIVE OKLAHOMA: The whole is more than the sum of its parts

