

Challenges and opportunities for reengaging diagnosed but untreated HBV or HCV-infected individuals in the US to care

Preliminary results from a multi-center relink program

March 19th, 2025

[The US Hepatitis Relink Collaborator Network](#)

Disclosures

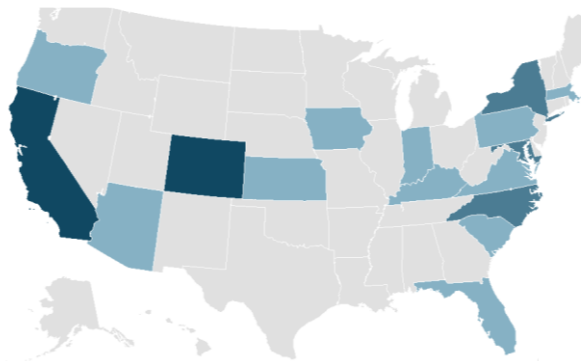


- This Relink program is funded by a grant from Gilead Sciences.

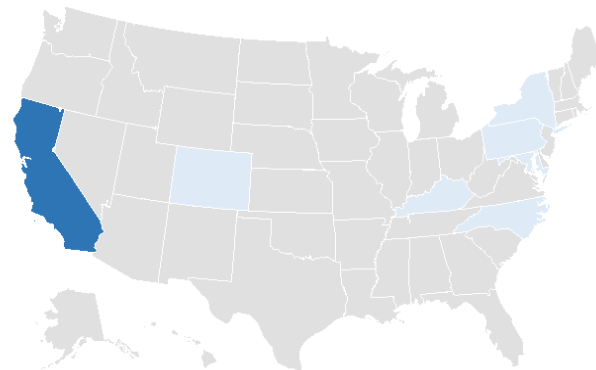
Overview

- **Objective:** The Relink program aims to support community health organizations, healthcare institutions, and state health agencies to find and reconnect DBU HBV or HCV-infected individuals to care in different settings and geographical regions across the U.S.
- **Proposals Funded in 2024:** 23 out of 61, with USD 3.1 million to be disbursed, and the potential to reach approximately 57,000 DBU individuals.
- **HBV-related Proposals:** 8 out of 23, with USD 1.1 million to be disbursed and the potential to reach 13,300 HBV-infected DBU individuals.

All Relink Sites (2024)



Relink sites which reported data for this analysis



Methodology

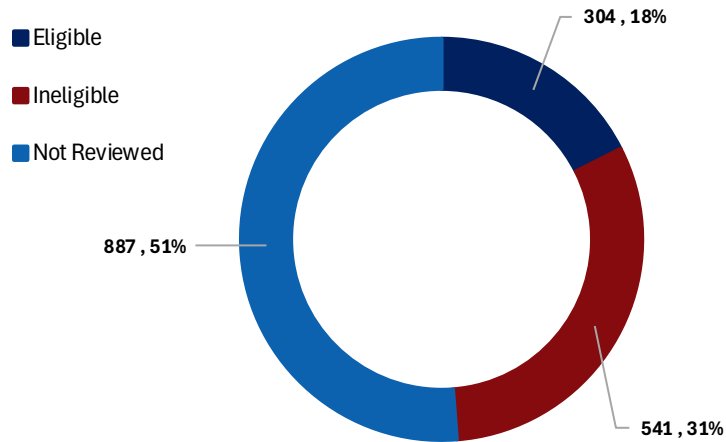
- **Selection Criteria**

- » Population size
- » Risk profile
- » Geographical diversity
- » Cost
- » Duration
- » Innovation

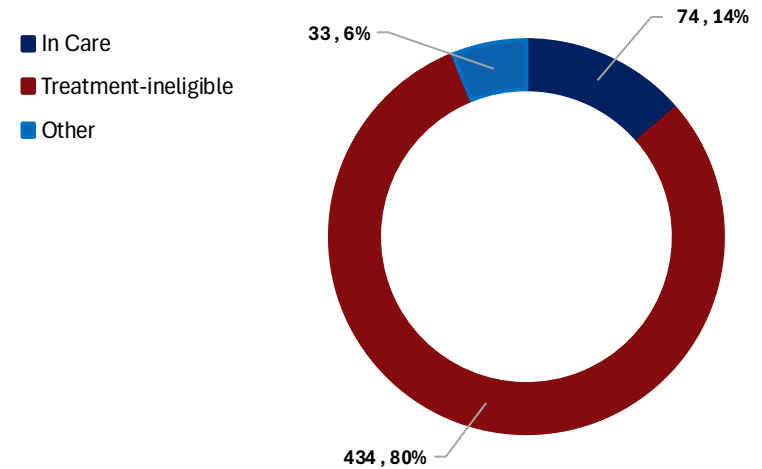
- **Diagnosed-but-Untreated** – Defined as being HBV surface antigen or DNA positive but untreated or lost to follow-up.
- **Outreach** – Could be technology-facilitated or in-person with a recommended minimum of four attempts.
- **Relinkage** – Defined as contact with a health provider after outreach, with telehealth appointments included.

Pre-Contact Review – HBV Only

Pre-Contact Review Outcomes



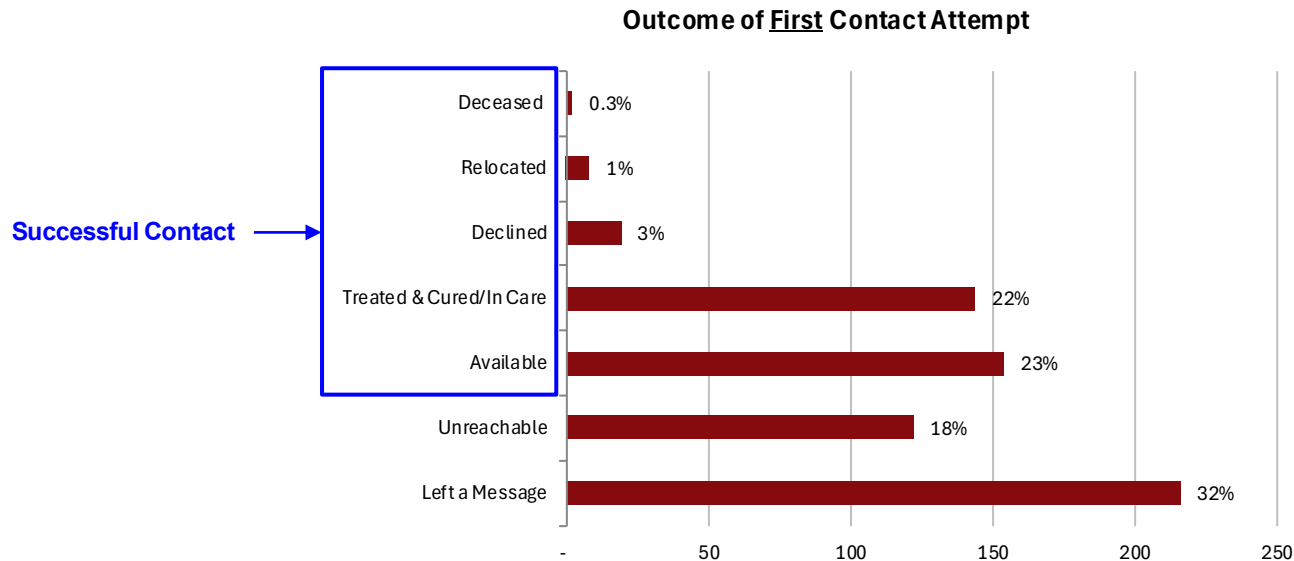
Reason for Ineligibility



Key Findings

- Almost all (99%) pre-contact information was sourced from chart reviews.
- Most contact-ineligible HBV-infected individuals were found to be ineligible for treatment per guidelines.
- 69% of all contact-ineligible individuals were aged between 30-59, over half were male.

Contact Outcomes – HBV Only



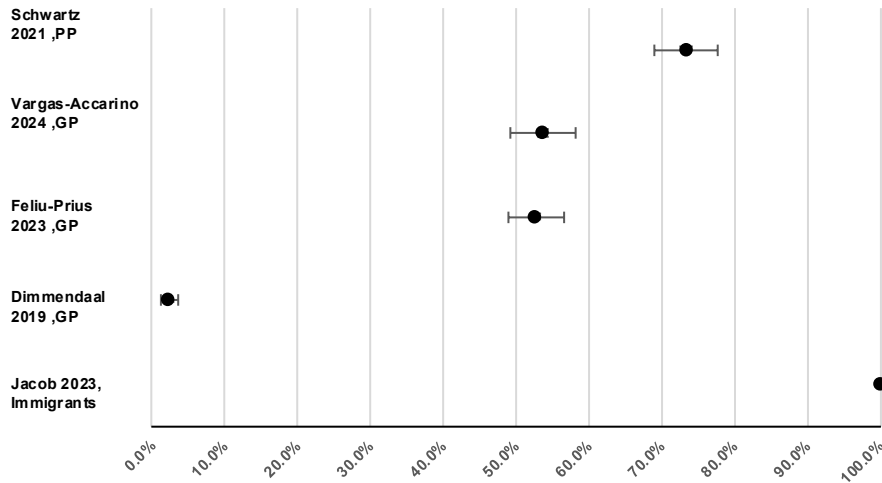
Key Findings

- Overall, 60% (n=398) of contact attempts were successful. Only 25% (n=2,047) for HCV.
- Overall, 43% (n=171) of successfully contacted individuals were found to be in care, the majority of whom (67%) were Asian immigrants.

Linkage Outcomes – HBV Only

Primary Population	Contact Attempted	Successful Contact	Linked	% Successful Contact of all Contact Attempts	% Linked of Successful Contact	% Linked of all Contact Attempts
General Population	152	112	8	74%	7%	5%
Immigrants	332	203	32	61%	16%	10%
PWID	178	80	25	45%	31%	14%
Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals	5	3	1	60%	33%	20%
Overall	667	398	66	60%	17%	10%

Linkage outcomes of HBV relink studies published between 2019 – 2023



Key Finding

- The linkage success in programs serving Immigrants and PWID is likely influenced by the location of these programs (CA).

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenge 1: Better quantifying the number of diagnosed but untreated individuals



Opportunity 1: Improved case finding algorithms and methodologies

Challenge 2: Reaching and relinking individuals from high-risk populations



Opportunity 2: Expand and assess the impact of mobile units and telehealth appointments

Challenge 3: Fragmented patient management systems and missing or incomplete contact information



Opportunity 3: Leverage State Health Agency and other national level resources, informal partnerships like the HEP-Care Network, *Opportunity 1*

Challenge 4: Persistent barriers to accessing treatment



Opportunity 4: Advocacy and sharing strategies to navigate existing treatment access barriers



Thank You!