Harnessing the COVID-19 Response Towards Hepatitis Elimination: South Africa

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February 2021
Overview

• Harm reduction & HCV services
• COVID-19
• Advocacy priorities
Harm reduction coverage

Largest metros (Feb 2020)
COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa

CONFIRMED CASES: 1,417,537 (↑ 4,551)
ACTIVE CASES: 134,999
DEATHS: 41,117 (↑ 243)
RECOVERED: 1,241,421 (87.6%)
TESTS: 8,019,239 (+ 26,113)

Active cases are confirmed cases minus recoveries and deaths.

Daily confirmed cases

This chart shows the daily confirmed cases since March 2020. The levels refer to the lockdown levels.

https://mediahack.co.za/datastories/coronavirus/dashboard/
COVID-19
COVID provided a platform to extend the reach of health facilities to the most vulnerable. A range of protectors and champions of harm reduction emerged.

Michael Wilson, AA&D
The scale up of flexible harm reduction services was non-negotiable during lock down to reduce the onward transmission of Hep C, HIV and other illnesses.

Andrea Schneider, NACOSA
HCV elimination advocacy priorities

• Scale-up the use of rapid viral hepatitis diagnostics, including procurement through the National Department of Health

• Increase access to needle and syringe services and opioid substitution therapy

• Increase access to direct acting antivirals
  • Move towards community-based delivery
  • Registration of DAAs
  • Affordable (generic) DAAs
Acknowledgements

Nishi Prabdial Singh
Wendy Spearman
Harry Hausler
Shaun Shelly
Sasha Lalla
Andrea Schneider
Lesley Odendal
Mike and Angela Buckland
Michael Wilson
Monique Marks
Kalvanya Padayachee