

END HEP C SF AND THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE IMPACT

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Background:

Approximately 11,500 people are living with active, untreated hepatitis C virus (HCV) in San Francisco; an estimated 90% of those are people who inject drugs (PWID). In 2016 multiple community partners came together to establish *End Hep C SF* (EHCSF), a multi-sector independent consortium operating under the principles of collective impact and working toward HCV elimination in San Francisco.

Description of model of care/intervention:

Collective impact models bring people together in a structured way to achieve social change. Collective impact initiatives have five pillars—a common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and a strong backbone. Given the disproportionate impact of HCV on marginalized groups, EHCSF leadership values the meaningful involvement of impacted community members. Accordingly, EHCSF undergoes an annual multimodal evaluation, combining a results-based accountability approach to quantitative data with a qualitative approach, to assess EHCSF adherence to the collective impact model, meaningful community leadership, and elimination outcomes.

Effectiveness:

EHCSF 2021 outcome data reveal encouraging trends following COVID-19-related disruptions; HCV treatment initiation for low-income San Franciscans increased by 12% in 2021 relative to 2020, while HCV-related mortality decreased 27% from 2020 to 2021. Process evaluation data revealed consistency in the initiative's shared vision and strong backbone, but challenges around communication and representation efforts persist.

Conclusion and next steps:

Outcome data alone do not tell the complete story about the functioning of HCV elimination efforts. Supplementing quantitative data with qualitative data specifically on initiative process compels a more comprehensive understanding of initiative functioning and adherence to collective impact principles. EHCSF leadership will address process challenges around communication and representation with targeted outreach efforts in 2022.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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