

HCV Screening During Pregnancy

Impact of Updated Recommendations



Have updated recommendations for hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening during pregnancy affected rates of HCV screening among pregnant people?



Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) published recommendations for near-universal HCV screening during pregnancy in March and April of 2020. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists released similar recommendations in May 2021.



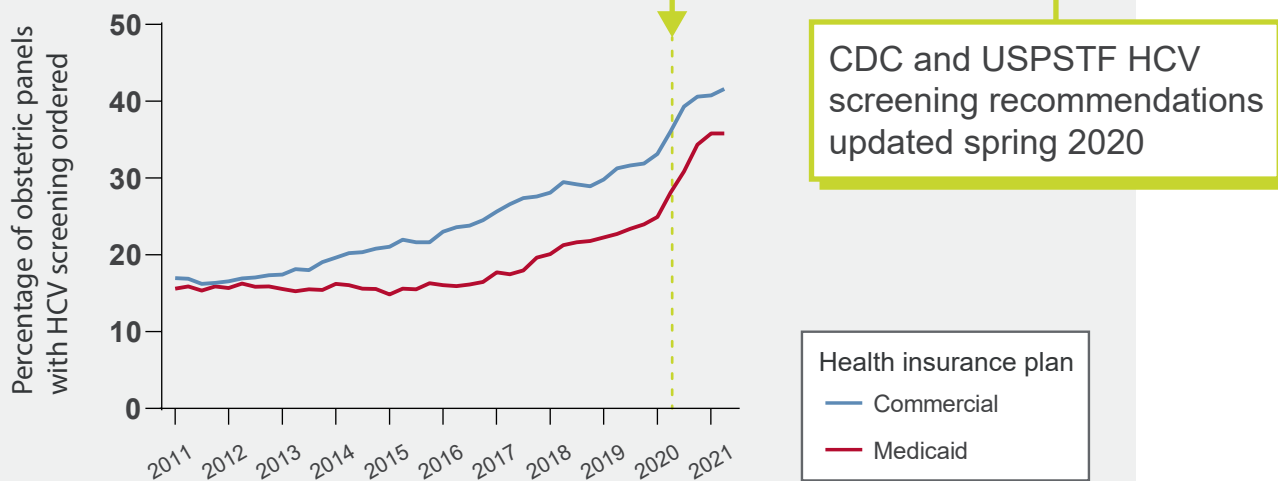
Population

>5 million pregnant individuals 15-44 years old who received an obstetric panel test at Quest Diagnostics through January 2011 and June 2021.



Results

HCV screening ordered during pregnancy



The rate of HCV screening among pregnant people has increased following the release of updated recommendations. However, wider screening adoption is needed, especially among people with Medicaid.

¹Kaufman HW, Osinubi A, Meyer WA III, et al. Hepatitis C Virus Testing During Pregnancy After Universal Screening Recommendations. *Obstet Gynecol.* Published online June 9, 2022. doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000004822

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Article Title: Hepatitis C Virus Testing During Pregnancy Following Universal Screening Recommendations

Harvey W Kaufman,^a Ademola Osinubi,^b William A Meyer III,^a Mohammed Khan,^b Xiaohua Huang,^a Lakshmi Panagiotakopoulos,^b William W Thompson,^b Noele Nelson,^b Carolyn Wester^b

^a Quest Diagnostics, Secaucus, NJ, USA

^b Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA

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Background

- In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) updated their recommendations for HCV screening among pregnant persons. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists released similar recommendations in May 2021.³
- **Objective:** This study evaluated the effect of updated recommendations on HCV screening among pregnant individuals.

Methods

- This retrospective analysis was based on testing data from commercially or Medicaid-insured pregnant persons who were screened at Quest Diagnostics from January 2011 through June 2021.^{1,2}
- Rates HCV screening before (Q1 2011 through Q1 2020) and after (Q2 2020 through Q2 2021) implementation of the updated recommendations were compared.

Results

- The study cohort included 5,048,428 pregnant persons (aged 15-44 years), including 3,765,931 (74.6%) with commercial health insurance and 1,282,497 (25.4%) with Medicaid.
 - Overall HCV screening rates were higher in commercially insured persons (25.0%) than in persons with Medicaid (18.4%) ($P < 0.001$).
- HCV screening rates increased throughout the study period; after CDC and USPSTF recommendations were updated, rates increased significantly in both commercially insured (relative risk [RR] 1.088; 95% CI: 1.078, 1.099) and Medicaid-insured (RR, 1.138; 95% CI, 1.116-1.161) persons.

Conclusions

- HCV screening among pregnant persons increased before and accelerated following the 2020 update of CDC and USPSTF recommendations on screening, but remain suboptimal.
- Individuals with Medicaid had lower HCV screening rates than those with commercial insurance through much of the study period, a disparity that persisted after recommendation updates.
- These findings suggest that wider adoption of HCV screening is needed despite substantial progress in the proportion of pregnant persons screened for HCV.

References

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