

Nicaragua

The Government of Nicaragua reports as follows.

National coordination

There is no written national strategy or plan that focuses exclusively or primarily on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

There is no designated governmental unit/department responsible solely for coordinating and/or carrying out viral hepatitis-related activities. It is not known how many people work full-time on hepatitis-related activities in all government agencies/bodies.

The government has a viral hepatitis prevention and control programme that includes activities targeting the following specific populations: health-care workers (including health-care waste handlers) and people living with HIV.

Awareness-raising and partnerships

The government held events for World Hepatitis Day 2012. It is not known whether the government has funded other viral hepatitis public awareness campaigns since January 2011.

The government collaborates with in-country civil society groups to develop and implement its viral hepatitis prevention and control programme, but the identity of these partners was not provided.

Evidence-based policy and data for action

There is routine surveillance for viral hepatitis. There is a national surveillance system for the following types of acute hepatitis: A, B and C, but not for any type of chronic hepatitis.

There are standard case definitions for hepatitis. Deaths, including from hepatitis, are reported to a central registry.

Liver cancer cases and cases with HIV/hepatitis coinfection are registered nationally.

The government publishes hepatitis disease reports as warranted.

Hepatitis outbreaks are required to be reported to the government and are further investigated. There is adequate laboratory capacity nationally to support outbreak investigations and other surveillance activities for hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Information was not provided on whether this is the case for hepatitis E.

There is no national public health research agenda for viral hepatitis. It is not known

Population (in millions) (2011)	5.9
Country classification (2012)	Lower-middle-income
Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$) (2011)	\$3730
Total health expenditure as % of GDP (2010)	9.14%
Per capita total health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$252.73
Per capita government health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$134.65
Life expectancy at birth (in years) (2009)	74
Human Development Index (2011)	0.589
Median age (in years) (2010)	22
Total fertility rate per woman (2010)	2.6

whether viral hepatitis serosurveys are conducted regularly.

Prevention of transmission

There is a national policy on hepatitis A vaccination.

The government has not established the goal of eliminating hepatitis B.

Information was not provided on the percentage of newborn infants nationally in a given recent year who received the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth or the percentage of one-year-olds nationally (ages 12–23 months) in a given recent year who received three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

There is no national policy that specifically targets mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B.

It is not known whether there is a specific national strategy and/or policy/guidelines for preventing hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection in health-care settings. Health-care workers are not vaccinated against hepatitis B prior to starting work that might put them at risk of exposure to blood.

There is a national policy on injection safety in health-care settings, which recommends single-use and auto-disable syringes for therapeutic injections. Single-use or auto-disable syringes, needles and cannulas are always available in all health-care facilities.

Information was not provided regarding official government estimates of the number and percentage of unnecessary injections administered annually in health-care settings.

There is a national infection control policy for blood banks. All donated blood units (including family donations) and blood products nationwide are screened for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Information was not provided on whether there is a national policy relating to the prevention of viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

Information was not provided on whether the government has guidelines that address how hepatitis A and hepatitis E can be prevented through food and water safety.

Screening, care and treatment

Health professionals obtain the skills and competencies required to effectively care for people with viral hepatitis through schools for health professionals (pre-service education) and on-the-job training.

Information was not provided on whether there are national clinical guidelines for the management of viral hepatitis or for the management of HIV, and whether the latter include recommendations for coinfection with viral hepatitis.

The government does not have national policies relating to screening and referral to care for hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

People testing for both hepatitis B and hepatitis C register by name; the names are kept confidential within the system. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C tests are free of charge for all individuals and are compulsory for donors.

Publicly funded treatment is not available for hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

The following drug for treating hepatitis B is on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha. No drug for treating hepatitis C is on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government.

The Government of Nicaragua welcomes assistance from WHO in one or more areas of viral hepatitis prevention and control (Annex C).