

# Nepal

The Government of Nepal 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: people who inject drugs and people living with HIV.

## Awareness-raising and partnerships

The government did not hold events for World Hepatitis Day 2012 and has not funded other viral hepatitis public awareness campaigns since January 2011.

The government does not collaborate with in-country civil society groups to develop and implement its viral hepatitis prevention and control programme.

## Evidence-based policy and data for action

There is no routine surveillance for viral hepatitis.

There are standard case definitions for hepatitis. Deaths, including from hepatitis, are reported to a central registry. Information was not provided on the percentage of hepatitis cases reported as "undifferentiated" or "unknown" hepatitis.

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

The government does not publish hepatitis disease reports.

Hepatitis outbreaks are reported to the government and are further investigated. There is adequate laboratory capacity nationally to support investigation of viral hepatitis outbreaks and other surveillance activities.

There is no national public health research agenda for viral hepatitis. Viral hepatitis serosurveys are not conducted regularly.

Population (in millions) (2011)	<b>30.5</b>
Country classification (2012)	<b>Low-income</b>
Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$) (2011)	<b>\$1260</b>
Total health expenditure as % of GDP (2010)	<b>5.52%</b>
Per capita total health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	<b>\$66.68</b>
Per capita government health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	<b>\$22.03</b>
Life expectancy at birth (in years) (2009)	<b>67</b>
Human Development Index (2011)	<b>0.458</b>
Median age (in years) (2010)	<b>21</b>
Total fertility rate per woman (2010)	<b>2.7</b>

## Prevention of transmission

There is no national policy on hepatitis A vaccination.

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

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

There is a national policy that specifically targets mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B (Annex B).

There is no specific national strategy and/or policy 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 syringes for therapeutic injections. Single-use or auto-disable syringes, needles and cannulas are always available in all health-care facilities.

Official government estimates of the number and percentage of unnecessary injections administered annually in health-care settings are not known.

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.

There is no national policy relating to the prevention of viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

The government does not have 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.

There are no national clinical guidelines for the management of 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, and there is open access to their names. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C tests are not free of charge and are not compulsory for members of any specific group.

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

The following drugs for treating hepatitis B are on the national essential medicines list: interferon alpha, pegylated interferon, lamivudine, adefovir dipivoxil, entecavir, telbivudine and tenofovir. The following drugs for treating hepatitis C are on the national essential medicines list: interferon alpha, pegylated interferon, ribavirin, boceprevir and telaprevir.

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