

Georgia

The Government of Georgia 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 a designated governmental unit/department responsible solely for coordinating and/or carrying out viral hepatitis-related activities. It has three staff members. It is part of the Surveillance Division of the Communicable Diseases Department within the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health. There are 65 full-time equivalent staff members who work on hepatitis-related activities in all government agencies/bodies.

The government does not have a viral hepatitis prevention and control programme that includes activities targeting specific populations.

Awareness-raising and partnerships

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

The government collaborates with the following in-country civil society groups to develop and implement its viral hepatitis prevention and control programme: Bemoni Public Union, Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health Tanadgoma, and Curatio International Foundation.

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, C and E, and for the following types of chronic hepatitis: B and C.

There are standard case definitions for hepatitis. Deaths, including from hepatitis, are reported to a central registry. The percentage of hepatitis cases reported as "undifferentiated" or "unclassified" hepatitis is not known.

Liver cancer cases are not registered nationally, but cases with HIV/hepatitis coinfection are.

The government publishes hepatitis disease reports annually.

Hepatitis outbreaks are required to be reported to the government and are further

Population (in millions) (2011)	4.3
Country classification (2012)	Lower-middle-income
Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$) (2011)	\$5350
Total health expenditure as % of GDP (2010)	10.13%
Per capita total health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$522.03
Per capita government health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$123.38
Life expectancy at birth (in years) (2009)	71
Human Development Index (2011)	0.843
Median age (in years) (2010)	37
Total fertility rate per woman (2010)	1.6

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.

Prevention of transmission

There is no national policy on hepatitis A vaccination.

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

Nationally, 93% of newborn infants in a given recent year received the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth and 89% of one-year-olds (ages 12–23 months) 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/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 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 a 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), on-the-job training and postgraduate training.

There are national clinical guidelines for the management of viral hepatitis, which include recommendations for cases with HIV coinfection.

The government has national policies relating to screening and referral to care for hepatitis B and 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 not free of charge for all individuals, but they are free of charge for pregnant women and blood donors. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C tests are compulsory for blood donors.

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

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