

### Situation

In May 2018, Nashville MPHD declared an outbreak of hepatitis A after a confirmation of eight cases in five months, a 400% increase in the typical number of reported cases in a year.

Of the initial 12 cases of hepatitis A in Nashville, 50% were reported among men who have sexual contact with other men (MSM).

This highly contagious viral infection can be prevented through vaccination.



### Intervention

To reduce the number of new cases seen in this community, targeted outreach to educate and vaccinate MSM was made a top priority in the outbreak response strategy.

Within the first month of the outbreak, all seven LGBT venues in Nashville were contacted with Hepatitis A information including details about the outbreak, risk factors for infection, resources to access free vaccine, and sexual transmission of the virus. Venue owners were also offered the opportunity to host vaccination points of dispensing (PODs) at their location where vaccine could be offered to all patrons and employees free of charge. Coordinators of major LGBT festivals and cultural events were similarly contacted.



### Impact

Between June and September nine LGBT specific hepatitis A vaccination PODs were deployed at six LGBT venues, a Nashville pride event, a LGBT music festival, and a major drag benefit event. MPHD vaccinated 409 individuals for hepatitis A.

Although the outbreak persists, no cases have been reported among MSM since October 2018.

Offering free vaccine at LGBT venues, festivals, and cultural events is an effective way to raise community awareness of hepatitis A and vaccinate those at a higher risk of infection

