# Hepatitis A Outbreak “On Its Last Legs” in Worcester, Massachusetts

Local health authorities say reaching out to homeless populations was key.

March 15, 2019 By Casey Halter

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As outbreaks of hepatitis A virus (HAV) continue to affect thousands of people across the country, some places are faring better than others in stemming the tide of new infections. One such place is Worcester, Massachusetts, which recently announced its HAV outbreak may be nearing an end, the Associated Press reports.

The industrial city has had a long and difficult history with hepatitis A outbreaks, say local health workers. But this time around, local health officials partnered with various organizations to reach out specifically to homeless communities; since last fall, they have vaccinated hundreds of people considered to be at risk for infection.

Health officials say this kind of outreach provides the best hope for ending the national wave of hepatitis A cases—which have largely spread among homeless communities, men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs.

This week, the Worcester Department of Health informed reporters that the city’s outbreak “seems to be on its last legs.” They cite their quick outreach response as key to their success.

To learn more about the country’s hepatitis A outbreak, click here.

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