

HEPATITIS C

A SILENT EPIDEMIC



The hepatitis C virus is a leading cause of **liver disease, liver cancer, and liver transplants**, placing a huge burden on patients, their families, caregivers, and the healthcare system.

The Growing Problem of Hepatitis C in the U.S.

 **>150% increase**
in new cases in recent years

 **3.5 MILLION**
people are living with hepatitis C

 **59 years**
is the average age people are dying

More persons die from hepatitis C than all of the 60 other reported infectious disease combined. According to available data, at least 20,000 deaths occur each year - which is believed to be an underestimate of the actual number.

Hepatitis C Virus is Very Infectious



Hepatitis C virus spreads when blood from an infected person enters the body of someone who is not infected.

10x

Hepatitis C is **10 times more infectious** than HIV.

Testing is Key

50%

At least 50% of persons living with hepatitis C do not know they are infected.



A **blood test** is the only way to know if a person has been infected.

Testing for the hepatitis C virus is recommended for certain individuals, including those who:



Were born from **1945 - 1965**.



Have ever **injected drugs**, even if just once.



Are children born to hepatitis C infected mothers.



Are infected with **HIV**.

Testing, Care, and Treatment Saves Lives



There is **no vaccine** for the hepatitis C virus.

Lifesaving care can prevent serious complications from the hepatitis C virus.



320,000 deaths can be **prevented** by testing and referring infected persons to care and treatment.

New treatments can cure hepatitis C and are cost effective.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

For more information about hepatitis C
Please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/>