

HEPATITIS C IN CANADA



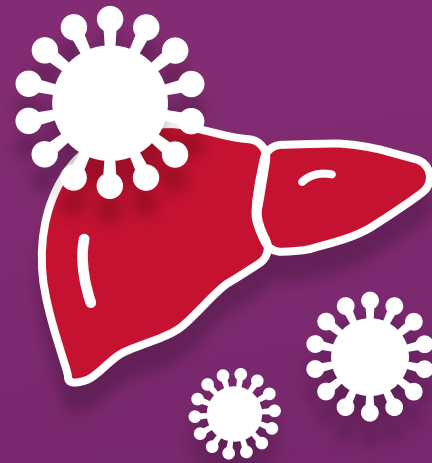
Canada's source for
HIV and hepatitis C
information

An estimated 1 in 100 people in Canada has had hepatitis C in their lifetime.*

Hepatitis C is a common illness in Canada, but many people have little knowledge of hepatitis C and are unaware that they have it.

WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

Hepatitis C is a virus that infects and attacks the liver, an organ that helps the body fight infections, break down substances, digest food and more. Over time, untreated hepatitis C can lead to serious health problems and even death.



WHO DOES HEPATITIS C IMPACT?

Anyone can get hepatitis C, but certain populations have been hit harder.

These include:

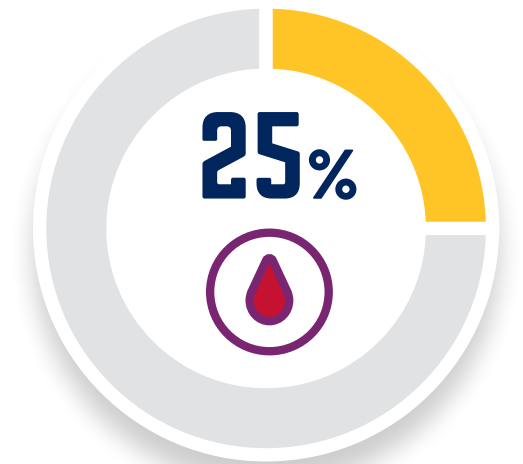
- People who inject drugs
- People with prison experience
- Indigenous peoples
- Gay, bi and other men who have sex with men
- Immigrants and newcomers



HOW IS HEPATITIS C DIAGNOSED?

The only way to know if a person has hepatitis C is by getting tested.

About 25% of people who have ever had hepatitis C are not aware of their current or past infection.* A person can have hepatitis C for decades before they notice any symptoms.



HOW IS HEPATITIS C TREATED?

Hepatitis C can be cured!

Most people will need treatment to cure a hepatitis C infection. **Treatment cures over 95% of all people with hepatitis C** and is simple to take. It involves taking one to three pills every day for **eight or 12 weeks**, with mild to no side effects.



*2019 estimate from the Public Health Agency of Canada