

Hepatitis C Impact in Canada



In Canada, an estimated
250,000 people
are living with chronic hepatitis C

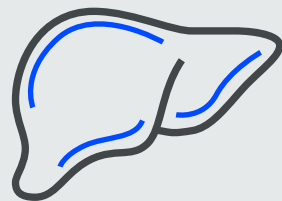


but as many as

40%

are not aware that they have it.ⁱ

What is Hepatitis C?



Hepatitis is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus that attacks the liver.ⁱⁱ



People with hepatitis C often have no symptoms and can live for up to

20 OR 30

years without feeling sick.ⁱⁱ

If hepatitis C is left undiagnosed and untreated, it can lead to
cirrhosis, liver cancer or liver failure.ⁱⁱⁱ

It is the leading indication for liver transplant in Canada.ⁱⁱ

Signs and Symptoms:

People with hepatitis C often have no symptoms. If symptoms appear during the late stage of infection, the damage to the liver can be severe.ⁱⁱ

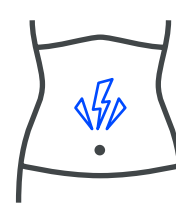
Mild symptoms can includeⁱⁱ:



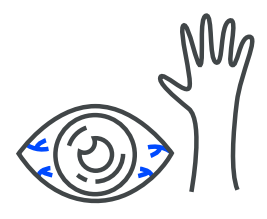
Fatigue



Nausea

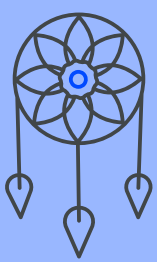


Abdominal pain

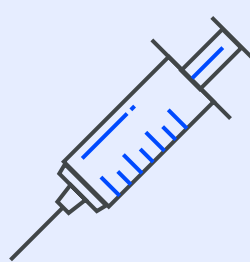


Jaundice

Priority Populations affected by Hepatitis Cⁱ:



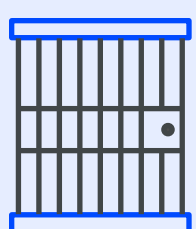
HCV rates are **five times higher** among Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit, Métis).



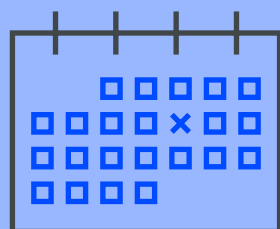
66% of people who inject or use drugs have past or current HCV infection.



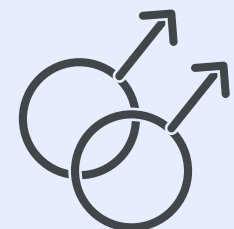
Up to 35% of all HCV infections in Canada are among Immigrants from countries where HCV is common.



Nearly 24% of people with experience in the prison system have a past or current HCV infection.



Up to 75% of all HCV infections in Canada are among people born between 1945-1975.



Approximately 5% of Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GMSM) have past or current HCV infection.

How do I know if I have Hepatitis C?

It all starts with getting tested.

For more information on hepatitis C testing and/or if you have been recently diagnosed with hepatitis C,

VISIT CATIE.CA FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

ⁱ Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC). Blueprint to inform hepatitis C elimination efforts in Canada. https://www.canhepc.ca/sites/default/files/media/documents/blueprint_hcv_2019_05.pdf Accessed July 2021.

ⁱⁱ Canadian Liver Foundation. Hepatitis C. <https://www.liver.ca/patients-caregivers/liver-diseases/hepatitis-c/> Accessed July 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Canadian Liver Foundation. How you advocate. <https://www.liver.ca/how-you-help/advocate/> Accessed July 2021.