

HEPATITIS C

KNOW THE FACTS

An estimated **170 million** people are infected with HCV globally¹. In Canada, there are close to **250,000** people living with **hepatitis C**².

About hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a **chronic liver disease** caused by the **hepatitis C virus (HCV)**.³ People can become infected when blood carrying the virus gets into their bloodstream and infects the organ.²

Did you know?



About **1 in 5 people infected with hepatitis C do not know they are infected** and remain **undiagnosed**.⁴

If left untreated, hepatitis C can cause:⁴

- Severe **liver damage**
- Liver **cancer**
- The need for a **liver transplant**



People infected with hepatitis C can live for **decades** with **no symptoms**.⁵

There are several ways to become infected by the hepatitis C virus:²

- Using drug equipment that has been used by someone else
- Getting a blood transfusion or an organ transplant that has not been screened for HCV infection
- Having unprotected sex where blood could be present
- Sharing personal items that might have blood on them
- During pregnancy or childbirth
- Re-using tools for activities that breaks the skin or medical equipment that should be used only once



In Canada:



• **Chronic hepatitis C** is more prevalent among Canadians born **between 1945 and 1975**.⁶

- The incidence of **HCV-related deaths** is estimated to increase from **483 in 2007 to 613 in 2027**.⁸
- **Hepatitis C** is the leading cause of **liver transplants**.⁹

60%

• The **total health care costs** associated with **hepatitis C** (excluding treatment) are expected to **increase by 60%** from 2013 to 2032.⁷

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