

# 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.

**10 x**

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

#### Testing is Key





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/>