

WHAT IS HEPATITIS C ?

Hepatitis C is a **contagious liver disease** that results from infection with the Hepatitis C virus. It is called a **silent disease** because people can get infected and not know it.



TWO STAGES OF INFECTION

ACUTE HEPATITIS C

occurs within the **first 6 months** after exposure to Hepatitis C.

If not treated, acute Hepatitis C can develop into

CHRONIC HEPATITIS C,

a chronic illness that can **lead to long-term liver damage.**

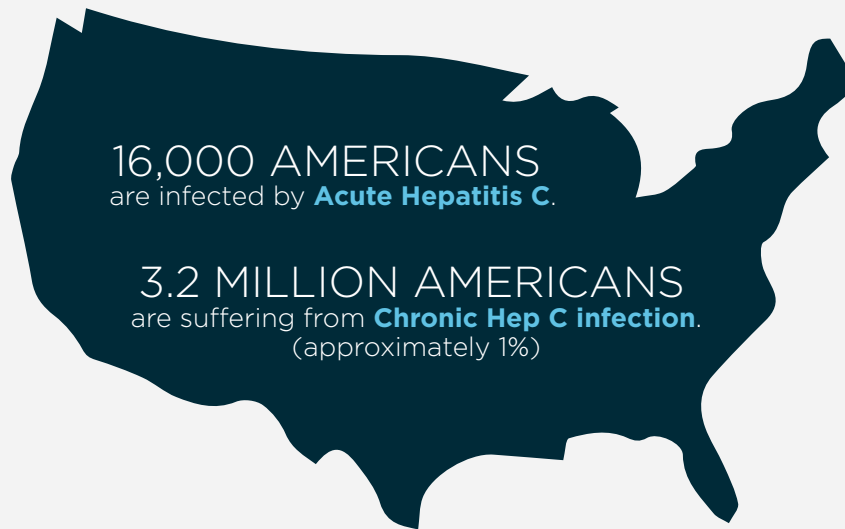
STAGE 1

STAGE 2



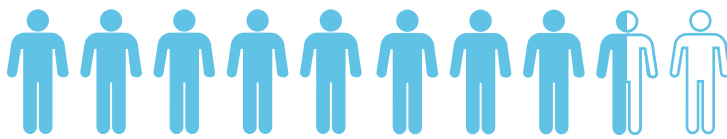
Hep C is contagious and spreads through **blood contact.**

FACTS



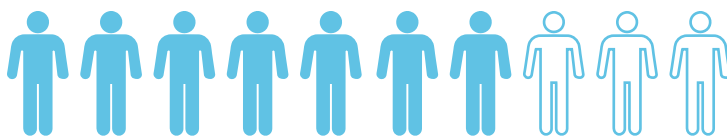
FOR EVERY 100 PEOPLE
that get infected with the virus:

 = 10 people



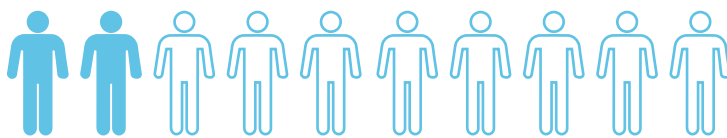
of these people

75 to 85 people
will develop **chronic Hep C**.



of these people

60 to 70 people
will develop **chronic liver disease**.



of these people

5 to 20 people
will **develop cirrhosis**.



1 to 5 people
will die of **cirrhosis**.

The Average incubation time
6 TO 7 WEEKS.

70 TO 80%
don't show any symptoms.

POPULATION MOST AT RISK



BABY BOOMERS ARE 5 TIMES
as likely to get Hep C and represent **75% of infected population.**

Since 2001, a new **high-risk population**
for acute Hep C has emerged:



YOUNG PERSON WHO
INJECTS DRUGS (20-29 years old)

Most common Hep C contaminations occur this way:



Concurrently injecting drugs
(needle sharing)



Tattoos / piercing
(sharp equipment sharing)



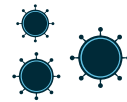
Unprotected sex



Received donated blood
or **organs** before 1992



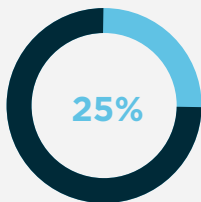
Have **abnormal tests**
or **liver disease**



Have **Human Immunodeficiency Virus**

COMORBIDITY

Heavy alcohol use, toxins, some medications and certain medical conditions can also cause hepatitis.



25% of HIV positive are also infected with **Hep C. Coinfection is common.**

Hep C infection progresses **faster with HIV-positive individuals** and may also impact the course of case management for HIV-infected individuals.

HOW DO I KNOW I AM INFECTED?

When symptoms appear, it generally means the liver is at an advanced stage of infection. Common symptoms, when they do appear, include:



Fatigue



Loss of appetite



Nausea



Grey-colored stools



Abdominal pain



Dark urine



Vomiting



Joint pain and jaundice

HOW TO PREVENT HEP C

Hep C infection is effectively treatable with antiviral medication intended to clear the virus from your body if spotted early.



TALK TO
YOUR DOCTOR
AND **ASK:**



Is it safe for me to drink alcohol?



What are your treatment options?



Is there a treatment that is best for you?



If you have other medical conditions?



What is your level of infection?



TAKE ACTION NOW.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to discuss the best option for you. They are here to help.

 BOCA PHARMACY GROUP

www.BocaPharmacyGroup.com

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