

# HEPATITIS C



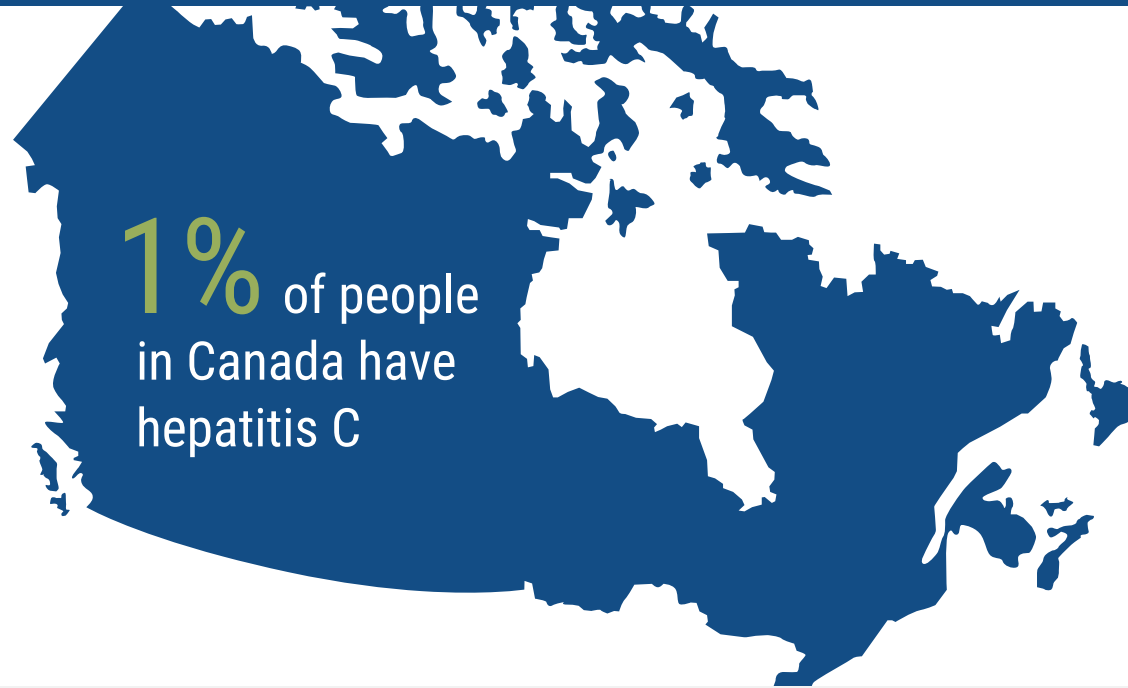
BC Centre for Disease Control



## Get tested. Get treated. Get cured.

### What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is an infectious disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The virus affects the liver, with 10-20% of those chronically infected developing serious liver disease.



HCV is transmitted through exposure to contaminated **blood**.



**75%** of people infected with HCV initially don't have symptoms



**70%** of people infected with HCV develop chronic infection



Of those infected, approximately **1 in 4** don't know they have HCV

### Who should ask about getting tested?

Ask your healthcare provider about getting a blood test if you may have been exposed through:



Injection drug use



Non-sterile tattoo or piercing equipment



Blood products prior to 1992



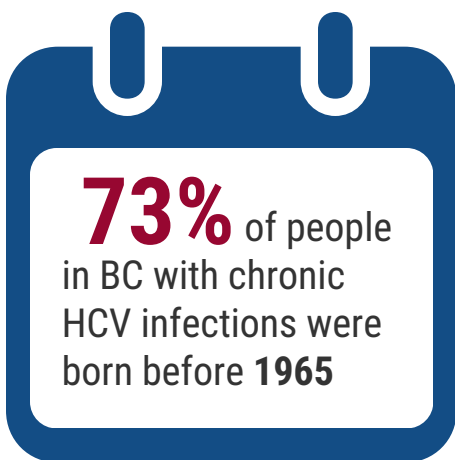
Incarceration



Medical procedures in high risk countries



Sexual practices where blood may have been exchanged



### Hepatitis C is curable!

New medications are now able to cure over **90%** of people who complete treatment.



- Treatment is free in BC
- Often only 1 pill a day for 8-12 weeks
- Typically mild side effects compared to older treatments



To learn more visit [hepatitiseducation.ca](http://hepatitiseducation.ca) or [bccdc.ca](http://bccdc.ca)