

## Hepatitis C is on the Rise in North Carolina

### Reported Acute Hepatitis C Infections, North Carolina, 2000-2015

#### Acute hepatitis C

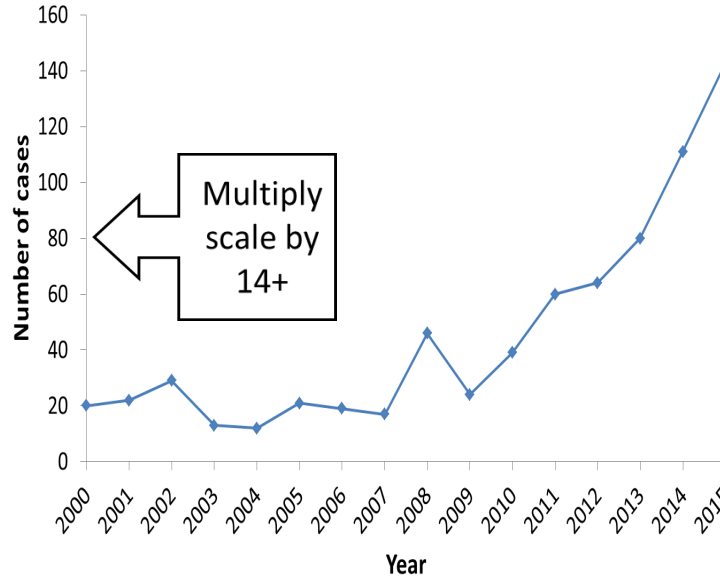
- Reported cases in NC have tripled during 2010-2014
- Acute hepatitis C is underreported and underestimated

#### Chronic hepatitis C

- An estimated 110,000 North Carolinians are infected with hepatitis C
- ~ 25% of HIV-infected persons are co-infected with HCV\*
- ~75% of the infected population are unaware that they are infected with Hepatitis C\*

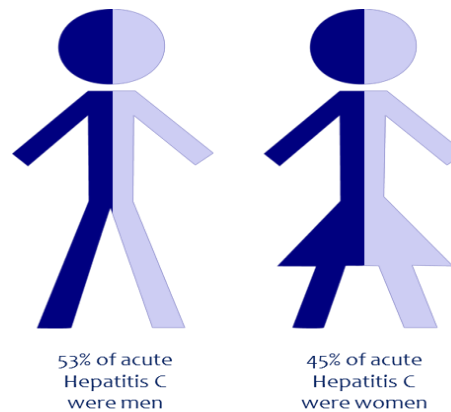
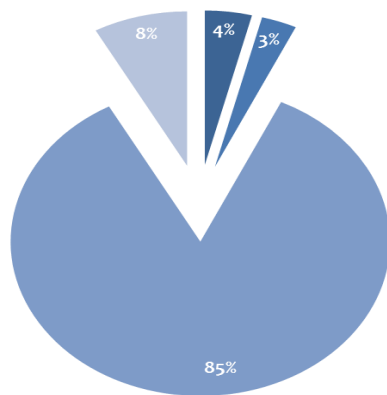
#### In the United States

- Hepatitis C-related deaths reached an all-time high in 2014\*



## Demographics of Acute Hepatitis C in North Carolina

■ Black/African American\*   ■ Hispanic/Latino  
■ White/Caucasian\*   ■ Other\*\*



- 41% were between the ages of 21 and 30
- 37% reported injection drug use

## What CLINICIANS can do

- Follow the USPSTF guidelines for hepatitis C screening
- Counsel patients about liver health
- Vaccinate for hepatitis A and B
- Share with patients that hepatitis C is not spread by sneezing, hugging, holding hands, coughing, sharing eating utensils or drinking glasses, or through food or water

### Want More Information?

NC HCV Facts and Figures website:

<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/figures.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fact Sheets on HCV:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/>

### Data Source:

Data downloaded from NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS) on March 23, 2016

\*All data and information sourced from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov>

State of North Carolina • Roy Cooper, Governor  
Department of Health and Human Services • Mandy Cohen MD, MPH, Secretary  
Division of Public Health • Daniel Staley, Division Director  
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[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov)

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## Chronic Hepatitis C

### Progression of Hepatitis C\*



- 75%- 85% of people infected with Hepatitis C will develop chronic illness\*
- 50% are unaware they are infected\*
- More than 75% of adults with Hepatitis C are Baby Boomers (or people born between 1945-1965)\*
- Hepatitis C virus is 10X more infectious than HIV\*

CDC, 2010

### What YOU can do

- Don't share any injecting equipment: needles or syringes
- Don't share tattooing equipment, razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers
- Use standard precautions in occupations which involve exposure to blood
- Wear a condom every time you have sex (vaginal or anal)
- Get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B

### What is North Carolina doing to decrease Hepatitis C?

NC DHHS has launched *North Carolina Hepatitis C: Test, Link, Cure (TLC)* ; a program to combat the increasing acute hepatitis C epidemic. The program aims to establish new partnerships with health care providers and stakeholders in North Carolina with a specific focus on hepatitis C screening, testing, prevention education, linkage to care, and treatment. Initial activities will be implemented through local health departments, community based organizations, substance use disorder treatment centers, and federally qualified health centers in the western and southeast coastal regions of the state. The goal is to eventually advance the program statewide.

Please refer to CDC HCV Screening Guidelines at :

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>

#### Abbreviated CDC Screening Guidelines

Universal one-time testing recommended for:

Baby Boomers (born between 1945-1965)

People at increased risk (should be screened annually):

- People who inject drugs (PWIDs) - present or past
- HIV-infected
- Certain medical conditions\*
- Recognized exposure to infected blood

#### Contact Us

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