

# HEPATITIS C

## KNOW THE FACTS



**~170 million people**

are living with chronic hepatitis C (HCV) infection globally

**In the United States...**

**~3.5 million people**  
have chronic HCV infection



Up to **75%**  
don't know they  
are infected



HCV is spread through **contact with blood**  
from a person infected with the virus

Chronic HCV is a contagious liver disease that can lead to serious liver problems, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) or liver cancer



**Symptoms of chronic HCV can take  
decades to develop**



The first symptoms to appear are often a sign of advanced liver disease. Symptoms may include:



**fever**



**feeling  
tired**



**lack of  
appetite**



**upset  
stomach**



**jaundice**



**joint  
pain**

**In the United States...**



Baby boomers are **5X**  
more likely to be infected  
with chronic HCV than  
other adults  
(born between 1945-1965)

African Americans have a **substantially higher rate**  
of chronic HCV infection than Caucasians and other  
ethnic groups in the U.S.

**Worldwide...**

An estimated **4–5 million persons**  
with HCV are coinfectd with HIV



## Risk Factors

Some people are at increased risk for HCV, including:



**Current or past  
injection drug users**



**Recipients of blood  
products, donated  
blood and organs**



**People who received  
a blood product made  
before 1992**



**Hemodialysis  
patients or individuals  
who spent many  
years on dialysis for  
kidney failure**



**HIV-infected  
persons**



**People who received  
body piercing or  
tattoos with non-  
sterile instruments**