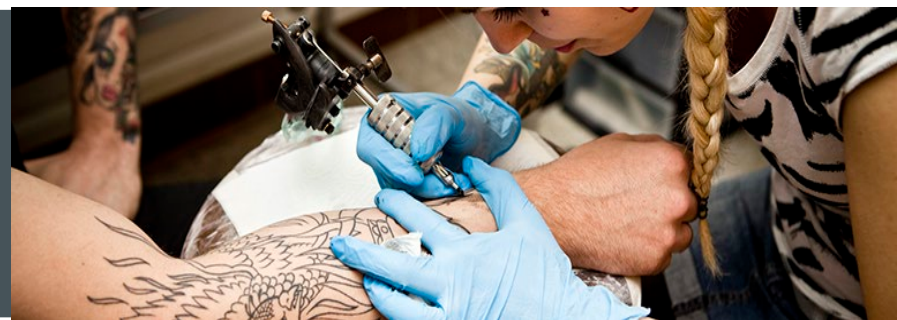


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# Body Art Smart: Hepatitis C Prevention

February 26, 2019

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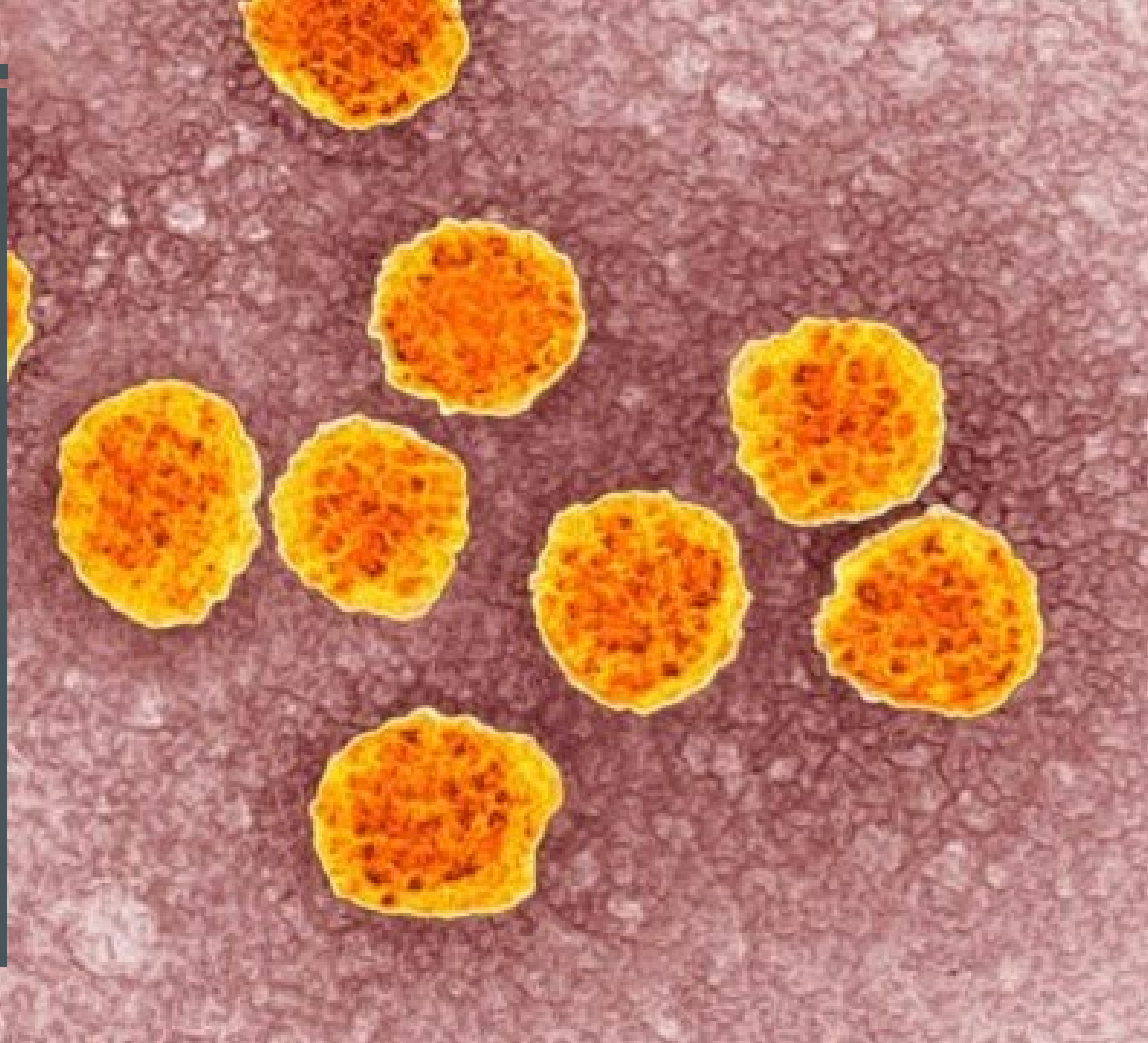




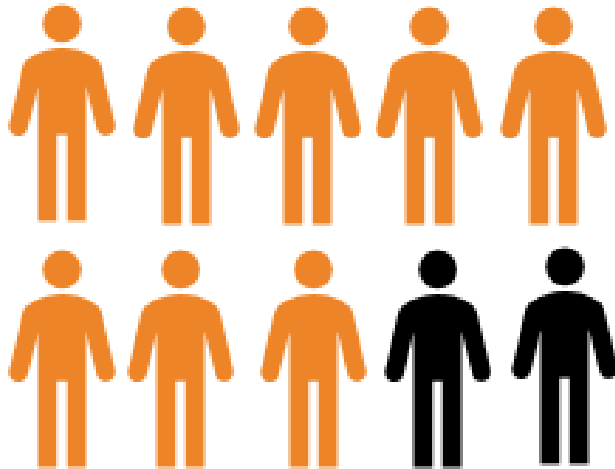
# WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

## WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

- Liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV)
  - Liver inflammation
- Hepatitis C infection often has no symptoms
  - Known as “silent disease” or “silent killer”

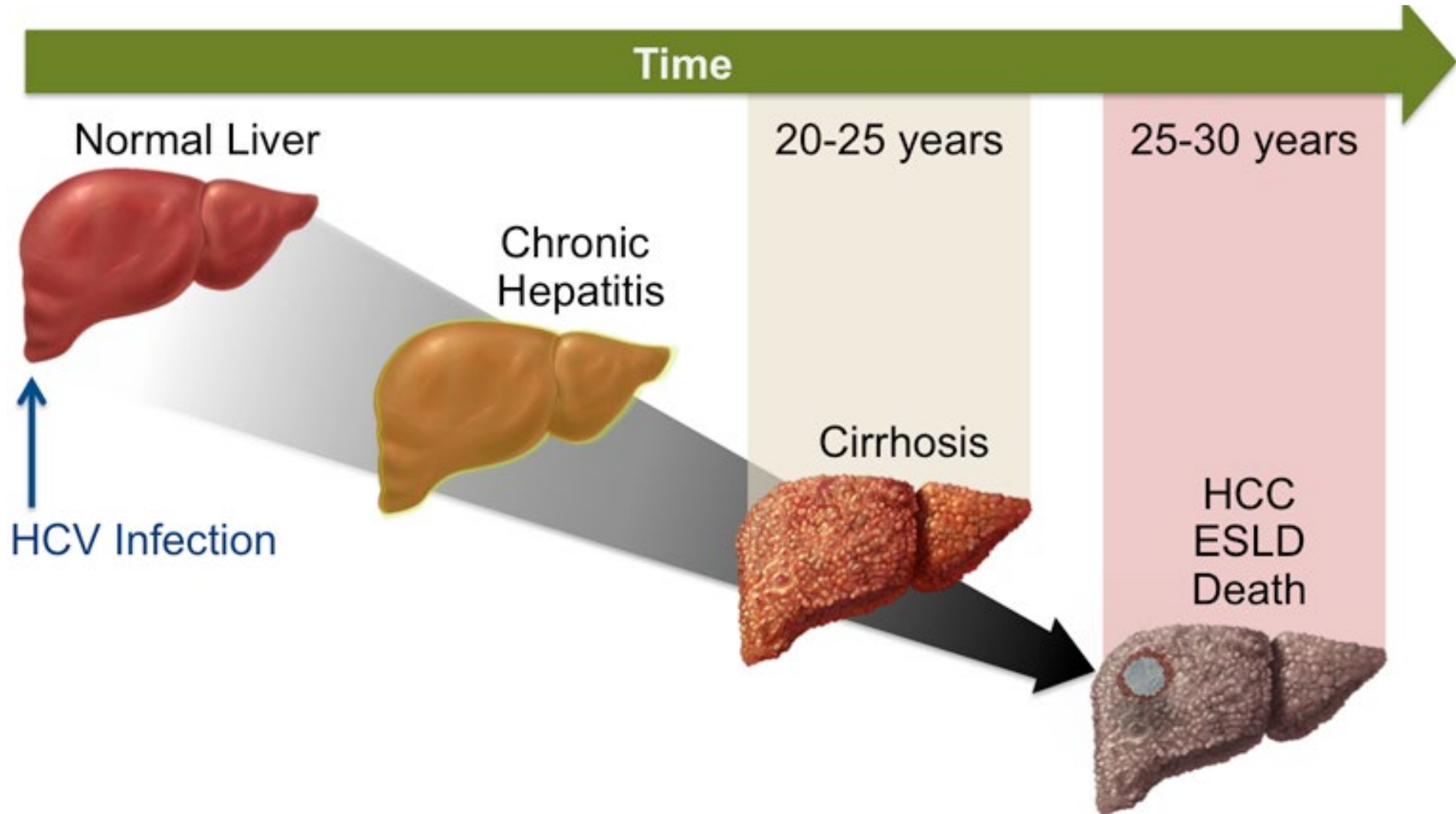


- Hepatitis C infection can be acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term)

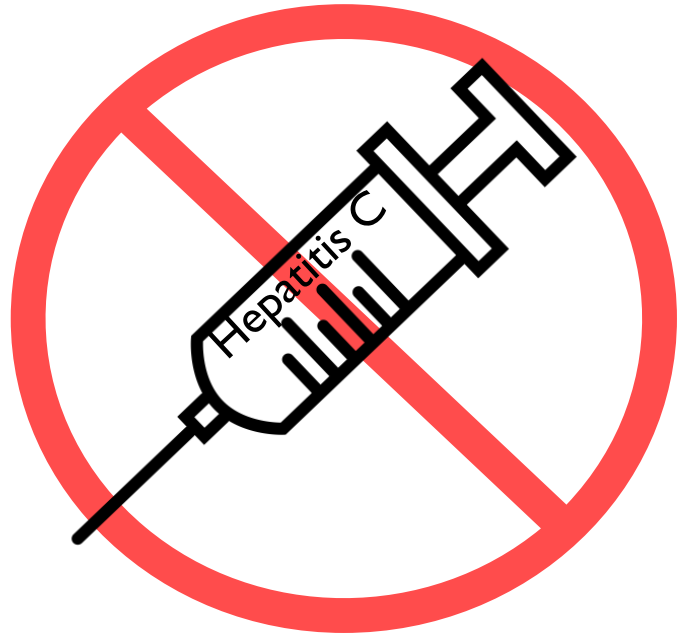


- ~75-85% of hepatitis C infections **become chronic**
- Chronic hepatitis C infection is a leading cause of:
  - Cirrhosis (late-stage liver scarring)
  - Liver cancer
  - Liver transplantation



# Progression of HCV Infection



...But there's a vaccine for Hepatitis C, right?



- There is no vaccine available for hepatitis C
- There are, however, vaccines available for:
  - Hepatitis A
  - Hepatitis B



# HOW IS HEPATITIS C SPREAD?

## HOW IS HEPATITIS C SPREAD?

- **Blood-borne**
  - Spread from person-to-person when the blood of an infected person enters the body of a person not infected
- **Most commonly spread:**
  - Sharing needles, syringes, or other equipment used to inject or prepare drugs
  - Blood transfusions or organ transplants before 1992
  - From a mother who has hepatitis C to her child (~6% of pregnancies)




## HOW IS HEPATITIS C SPREAD?

- **Less commonly spread:**
  - Unregulated body art (e.g., unsterile tattooing and piercing)
  - Healthcare exposures (e.g., needlestick injury, splash of blood to mucous membranes)
  - Sharing personal care items (e.g., nail clippers, toothbrushes, razors, etc.)
  - Unprotected sexual contact involving blood



## WHOSE AT RISK FOR HEPATITIS C?

- Baby boomers (born between 1945-1965)
- People who have or are injecting drugs (even once or many years ago)
- Recipients of blood transfusions and organ transplants before 1992
- People who were ever on long-term hemodialysis
- People with abnormal liver enzyme (ALT) levels
- People who have HIV infection
- Healthcare, emergency medical, and public safety exposures to HCV-positive blood (e.g., after needlesticks, sharps, or mucosal exposures)
- Children born to mothers infected with hepatitis C



WHAT CAN I DO  
TO SEE IF I HAVE  
HEPATITIS C?

# HEPATITIS C - TESTING

- **Hepatitis C Virus Lab-Based Testing**
  - *Antibody Test*
    - Tells you if you have been exposed to HCV, but does not demonstrate if you are currently infected.
  - *RNA Test*
    - Tells you if you are currently infected with HCV.
  - **Hepatitis C Genotype Test**
    - Determines which genotype of the HCV is present
    - Treatment-related

## IT TAKES TWO TESTS TO SEE IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C

### ANTIBODY



An Antibody test tells you if you have ever been exposed to hepatitis C. It does not show if you are still infected.

A positive result means you have been exposed to hepatitis C.

If your Antibody test is positive, a RNA test is needed to see if you still have hepatitis C.

### RNA



A RNA test tells you if you are still infected with hepatitis C.

If you test positive, there are new medications that can CURE your hepatitis C infection with almost no side effects!

A negative RNA test result means you are not currently infected with hepatitis C.

**GET TESTED  
KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**

[www.PhillyHepatitis.org](http://www.PhillyHepatitis.org)



CAN HEPATITIS  
C BE TREATED?



## Yes!

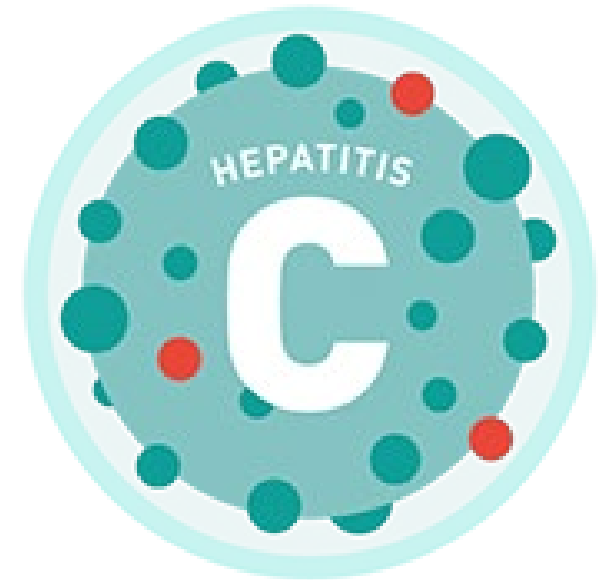
- There are new medications that can treat chronic hepatitis C infection with minimal side effects.
- Over 90% of people with HCV can be cured with 8-12 weeks of oral therapy!

# HEPATITIS C TREATMENT

- Hepatitis C treatment can:
  - Clear virus out of the body
  - Improve inflammation and scarring
  - Slow disease progression
  - Improve symptoms and quality of life, life expectancy

However...

- Having had hepatitis C **does not** make you “immune”
  - You can get re-infected



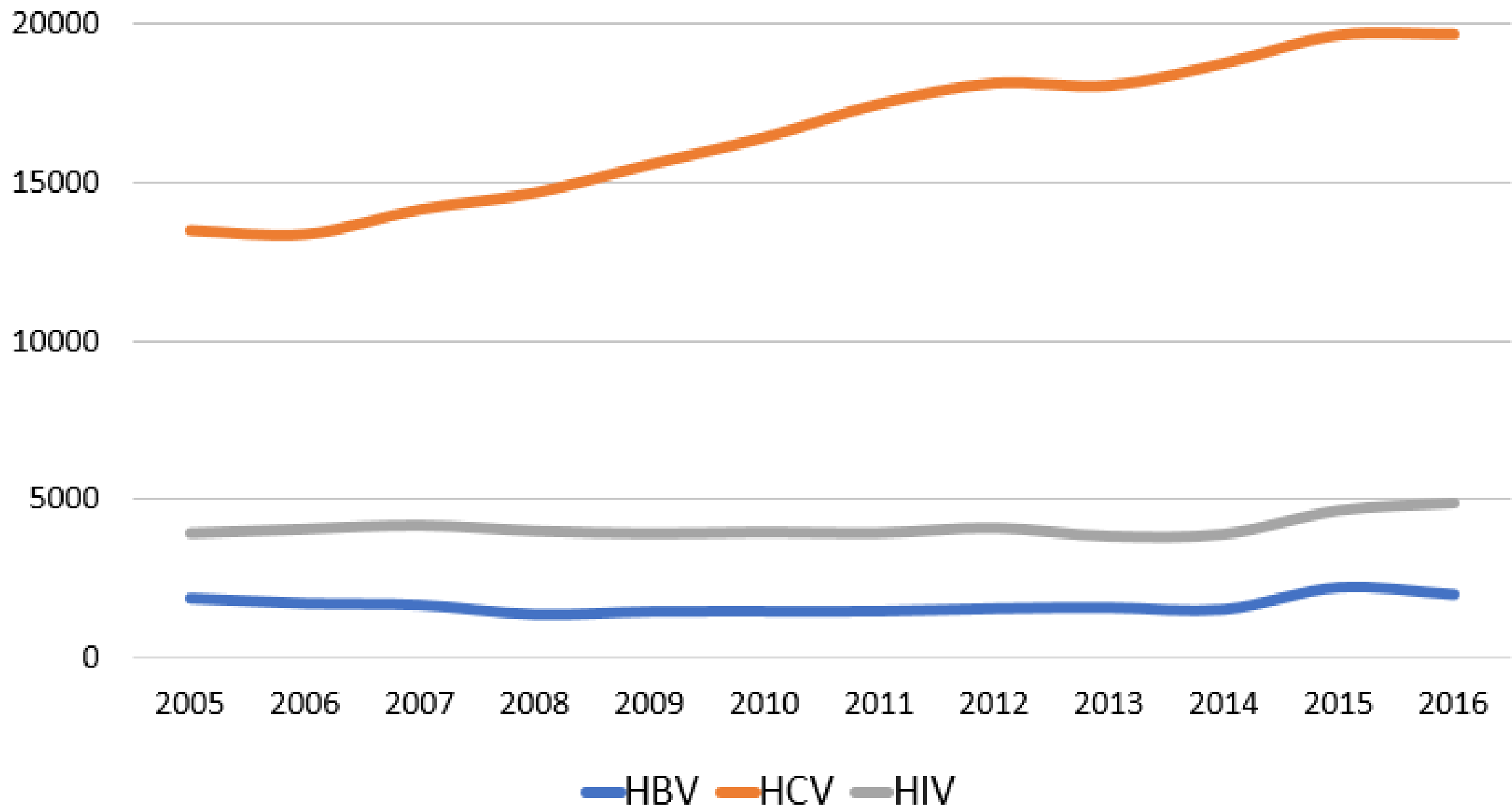


# HEPATITIS C IN MICHIGAN

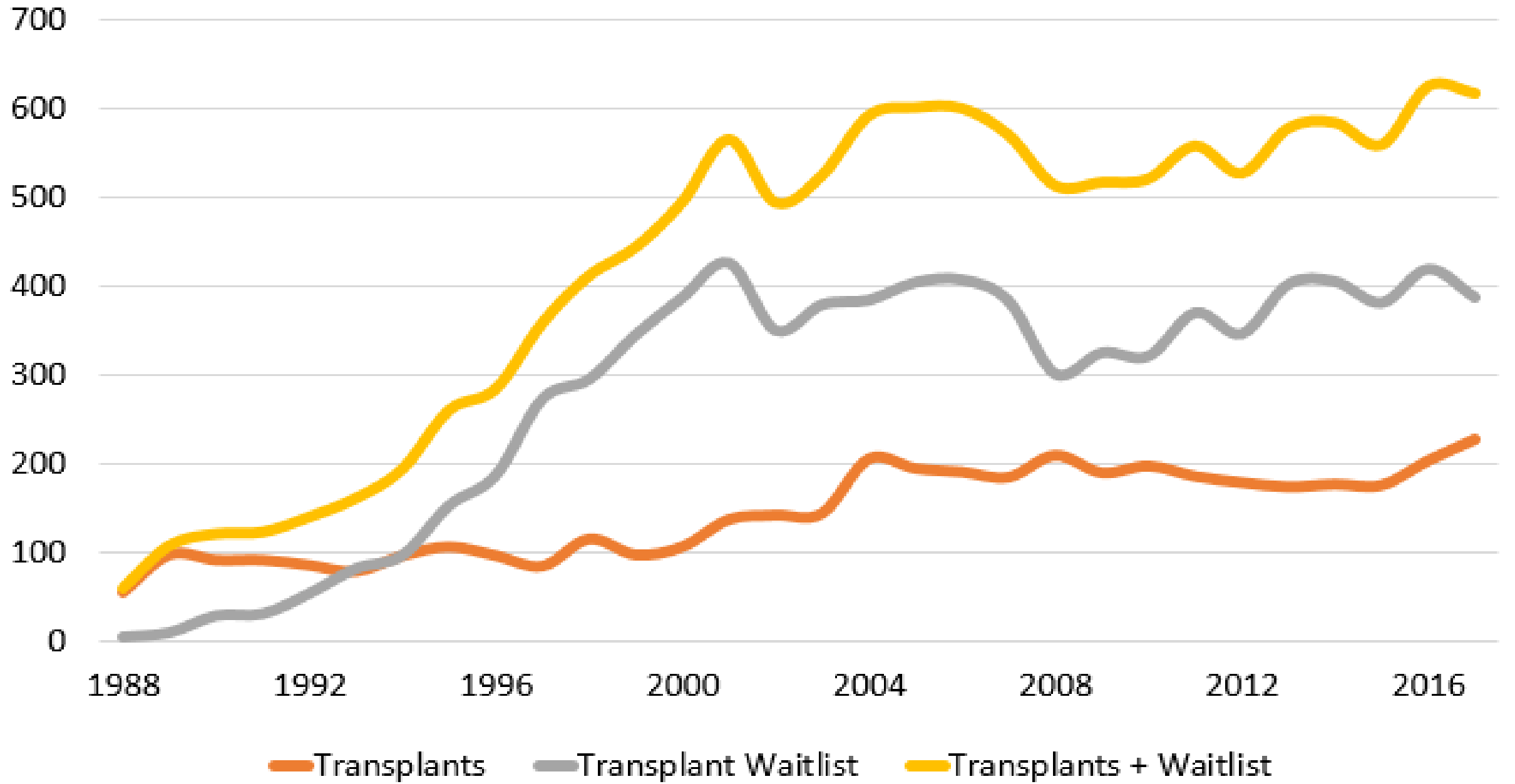


- In 2017, there were **12,062 cases** of chronic hepatitis C reported in Michigan
- The number reported is expected to be much higher; however, because chronic hepatitis C often does not have symptoms, **many people are not aware of their infection.**

## Hospitalizations Due to HBV, HCV and HIV, Michigan, 2005-2016

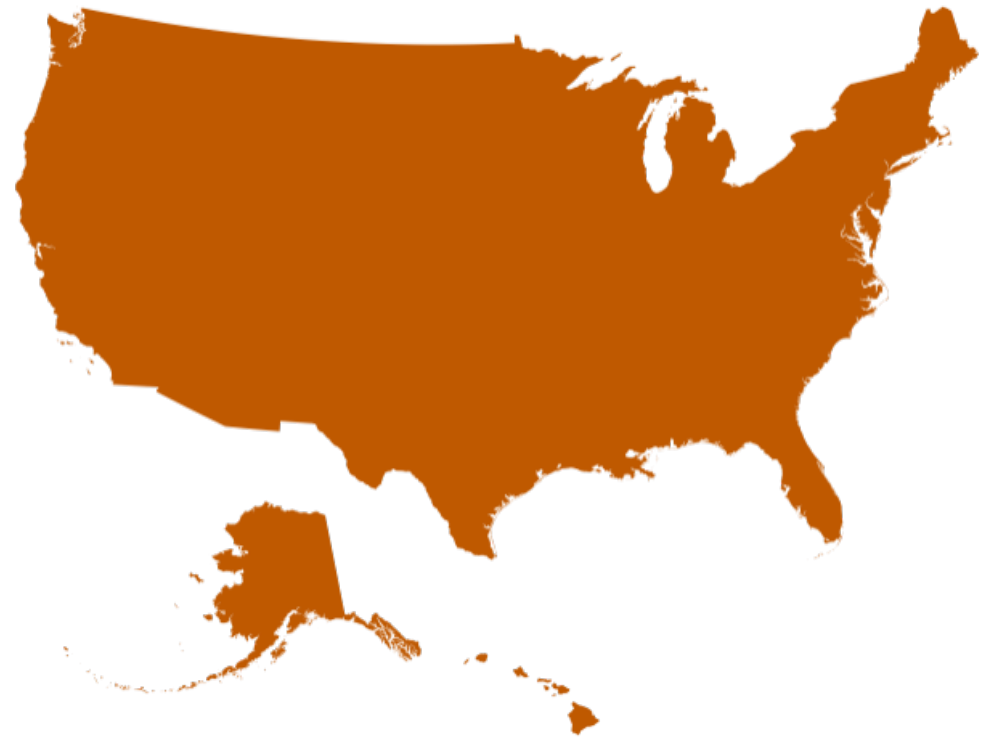


**Liver Transplants and Transplant Waitlist, Michigan, 1988-2017**



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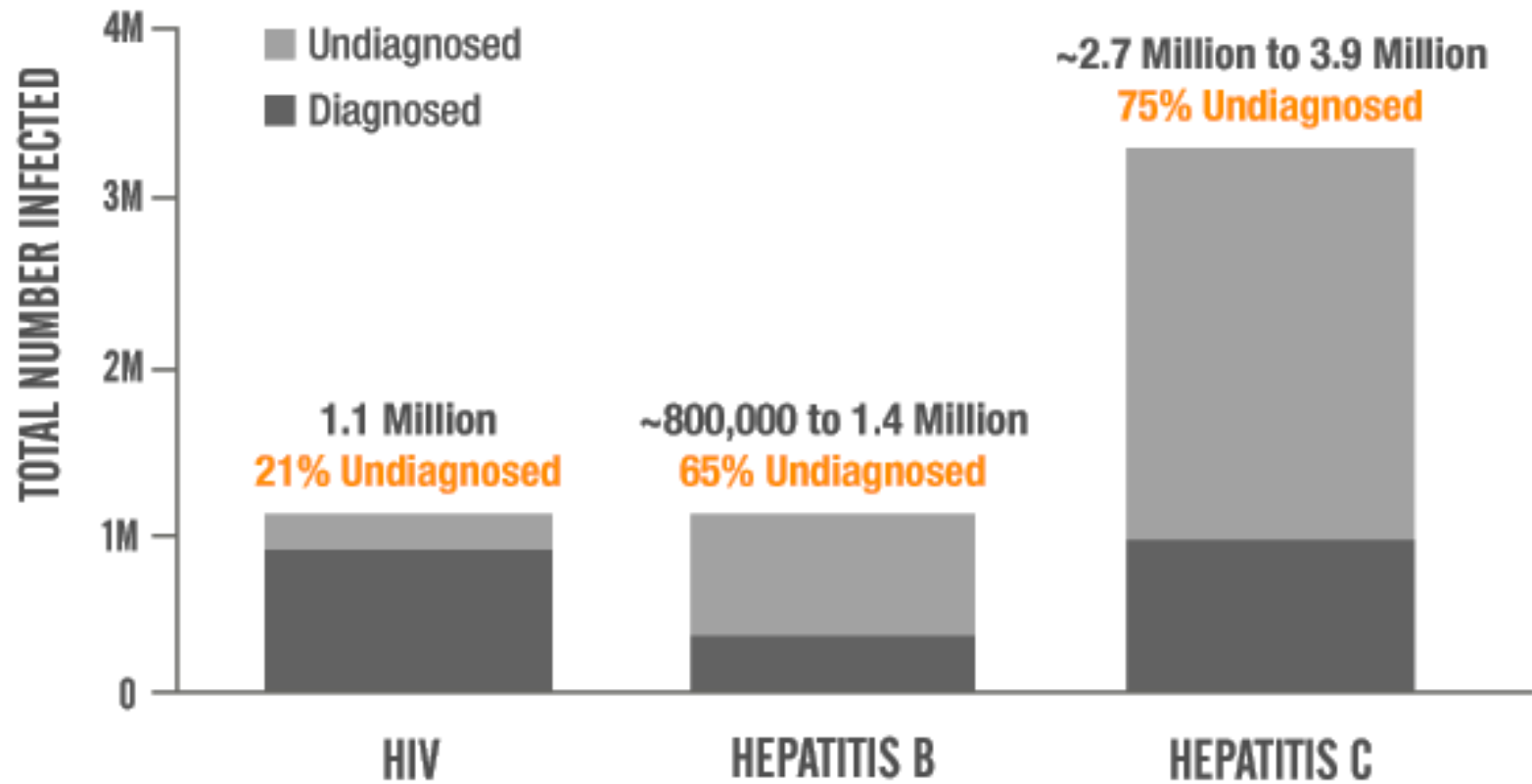
What about  
hepatitis C  
nationally?





# HEPATITIS C VIRUS IS NEARLY 4 TIMES AS PREVALENT AS HIV AND HEPATITIS B VIRUS IN THE UNITED STATES

Number of Infected Individuals vs  
Number Aware They Are Infected (Diagnosed)



Adapted from Pyenson B et al. *Consequences of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV): Costs of a Baby Boomer Epidemic of Liver Disease*. New York, NY: Milliman, Inc; May 18, 2009. <http://publications.milliman.com/research/healthrr/pdfs/consequences-hepatitis-c-virus-RR05-18-09.pdf>. Accessed August 28, 2012. This report was commissioned by Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated.

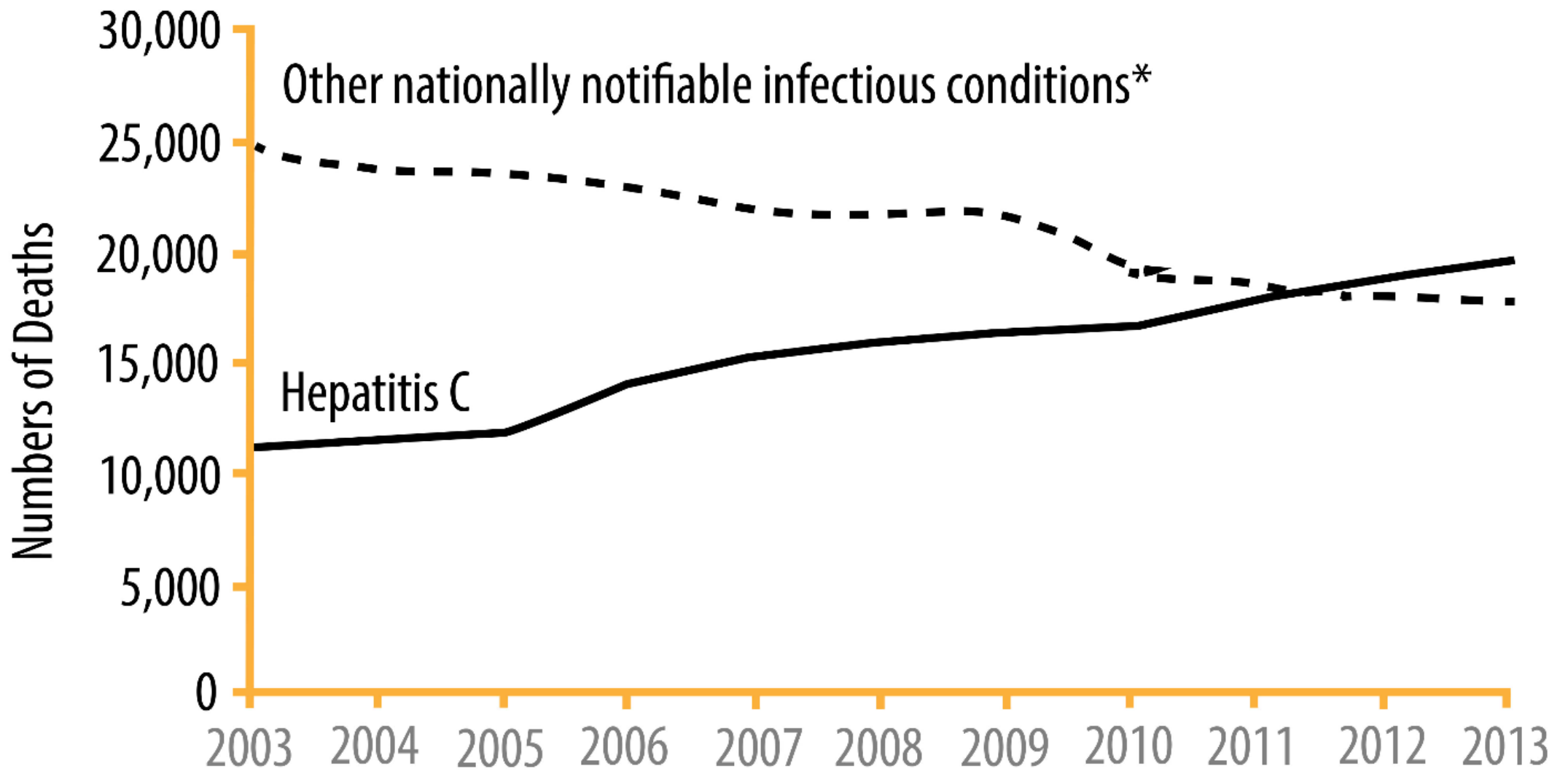
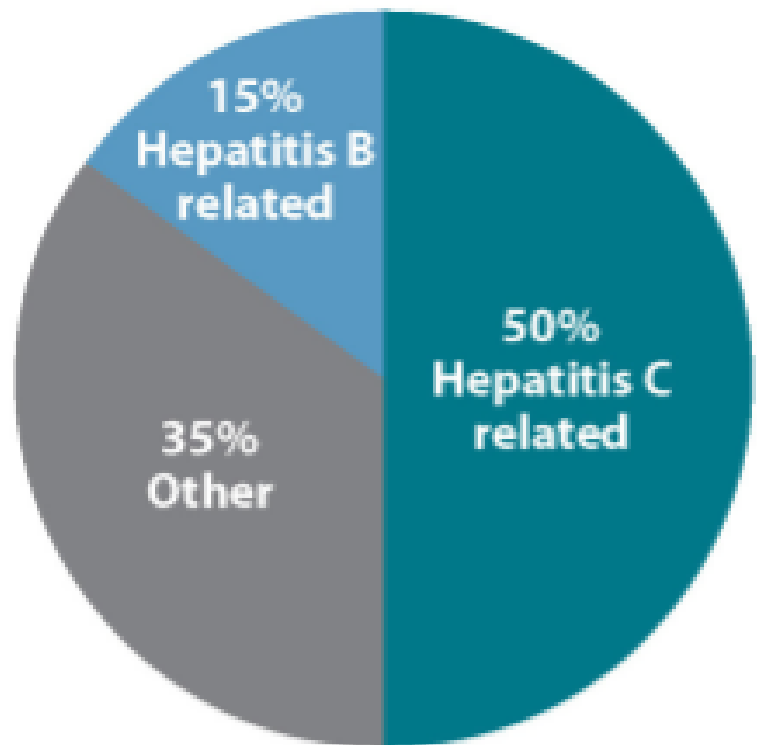


Figure 1. Annual number of deaths associate with Hepatitis C virus and all other nationally notifiable infections conditions\* listed as multiple causes of death in the United States between 2003 and 2013. \*Identified in the absence of Hepatitis C. The list of 60 other nationally notifiable infectious conditions was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

# Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer

Factors Contributing to Liver Cancer Incidence in the U.S.



- Together, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C make up 65% of the factors contributing to liver cancer incidence in the U.S.
- Currently, liver cancer is the **sixth leading cause of cancer deaths in Michigan.**



WHY IS THIS  
IMPORTANT  
TO YOU?

# You have an important role in preventing bloodborne infections!



You and your employees have an occupational risk of being exposed to blood or other material that may be infectious.



Meet all annual industry-specific training requirements, including training on blood borne pathogens, blood borne pathogen prevention, MIOSHA Blood Borne Infectious Diseases Standards, and annual site-specific training on implementation of MIOSHA Blood Borne Infectious Disease Standards in the facility



# HEPATITIS C PREVENTION



## **I. Perform appropriate handwashing in a timely manner.**

- Follow appropriate handwashing techniques when performing body procedures, assisting with setting up for, performing, or cleaning up after body art procedures
- Wash hands in warm, running water with liquid soap on all surfaces of hands and wrists for at least 15 seconds, rinse hands, and dry hands with a clean, disposable paper towel. Turn off faucet with a new disposable paper towel.

## 2. Use a pair of new, disposable gloves.

- Remove all personal protective equipment (PPE) before leaving the work area
- Do not re-use gloves (even if you wash or decontaminate them)
- If gloves are torn or punctured, replace with a brand new pair of gloves immediately





### **3. Wear PPE to protect yourself!**

- Wear gloves!
- Wear protective eyewear and a mask or face shield to prevent splattering or splashing of blood into the eyes, nose or mouth
- Wear fluid-resistant clothing to prevent blood or other potentially infectious material to pass through clothes.

#### 4. Use new and single-use ink caps for each client.

- Re-using ink or ink caps can transmit the hepatitis C virus
- Use single-use ink pots to prevent the spread of disease
- Discard of any leftover, used ink or any used single-use ink pots





## 5. Use new, sterile needles every time and properly dispose used needles!

- Sharing used needles can spread bloodborne pathogens like hepatitis C.
- Reusing needles can make the point dull, causing the client pain and increasing their risk of infection.
- Properly dispose of used needles in sharps containers.

## 6. Educate client on proper branding, piercing, and tattoo aftercare.

- Properly cover site(s) to prevent transmission of blood
- Provide client with proper tattoo, branding, and piercing aftercare instructions and education (verbal and written) to prevent infections
- Advise the client to seek medical care in the event the site becomes infected or painful



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## 7. CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND STERILIZING PROCEDURES



- Use an EPA-registered tuberculocidal disinfectant to clean all procedure surfaces, regardless of visible contamination
  - After each use
  - Between clients
- Follow disinfectant instructions for proper disinfection





## 9. PROPER DISPOSAL

- Place all contaminated waste that may release liquid blood, dried blood, or other potentially infectious materials in a biohazard bag
- Place all sharps ready for disposal in an approved sharps disposal container



IN THE NEWS:  
HEPATITIS C  
AND BODY ART



VIDEO

LIVE

SHOWS



# Pamela Anderson Has Hepatitis C

"I contracted hepatitis C while sharing a tattoo needle with my ex-husband Tommy Lee," Anderson said in the statement. "Tommy has the disease and never disclosed it to me during our marriage."



# THANKS!

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