# Hepatitis C Impact in Canada

In Canada, an estimated
**250,000 people**
are living with chronic hepatitis C

but as many as
**40%**
are not aware that they have it.[i]

## What is Hepatitis C?

Hepatitis is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus that attacks the liver.[ii]

People with hepatitis C often have no symptoms and can live for up to
**20 OR 30**
years without feeling sick.[iii]

If hepatitis C is left undiagnosed and untreated, it can lead to
**cirrhosis, liver cancer OR liver failure.[iii]**

It is the leading indication for liver transplant in Canada.[ii]

## Signs and Symptoms:

People with hepatitis C often have no symptoms. If symptoms appear during the late stage of infection, the damage to the liver can be severe.[ii]

**Mild symptoms can include[ii]:**

- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Jaundice

## Priority Populations affected by Hepatitis C[i]:

HCV rates are **five times higher** among Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit, Métis).

**66% of people** who inject or use drugs have past or current HCV infection.

**Up to 35% of all HCV infections** in Canada are among Immigrants from countries where HCV is common.

**Nearly 24% of people** with experience in the prison system have a past or current HCV infection.

**Up to 75% of all HCV infections** in Canada are among people born between 1945-1975.

**Approximately 5% of Gay, bisexual** and other **men** who have sex with men (GbMSM) have past or current HCV infection.

## How do I know if I have Hepatitis C?

It all starts with getting tested.

For more information on hepatitis C testing and/or if you have been recently diagnosed with hepatitis C,

**VISIT CATIE.CA FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**


i Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC). Blueprint to inform hepatitis C elimination efforts in Canada. https://www.canhepc.ca/sites/default/files/media/documents/blueprint_hcv_2019_05.pdf Accessed July 2021.

ii Canadian Liver Foundation. Hepatitis C. https://www.liver.ca/patients-caregivers/liver-diseases/hepatitis-c/ Accessed July 2021.

iii Canadian Liver Foundation. How you advocate. https://www.liver.ca/how-you-help/advocate/ Accessed July 2021.


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