

# **Viral Hepatitis: Opportunities for Faith-based Groups**

Thursday, February 18, 2016



# Moderator



# New Opportunities to Address Viral Hepatitis in the U.S.

Faith-based Communities Have an Important Role  
Health Ministers Guide & the Viral Hepatitis Action Plan

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Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy*

February 18, 2016



# HealthMinistersGUIDE to Viral Hepatitis



Health**Ministers**GUIDE  
Connecting Science and Community for Health

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Hepatitis B vaccine is considered the first anti-cancer vaccine. Many Hepatitis infections can be prevented through behavior change and vaccines can help protect you from Hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C, however, there is a cure.

**FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C**  
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

SOME PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHEN THEY WERE INFECTED

**BORN FROM 1945-1965?**  
People born from 1945-1965 are **5X MORE LIKELY TO BE INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS C**  
**3 OUT OF EVERY 4** people with Hepatitis C were born between those years

**Up to 75%** of people living with Hepatitis C **DO NOT** know they are infected  
Many people can live with HEPATITIS C for decades **WITHOUT** symptoms

**GET TESTED**  
CDC recommends everyone born from 1945-1965

TESTED	NOT TESTED
Knowing you have HEPATITIS C can help you make important decisions about your health	<b>LEFT UNTREATED, HEPATITIS C CAN CAUSE LIVER DAMAGE AND LIVER FAILURE</b>
Many people can get LIFE-CHANGING CARE AND TREATMENT	HEPATITIS C IS THE #1 CAUSE OF LIVER TRANSPLANTS
Successful treatment can ELIMINATE the virus from the body	HEPATITIS C IS A leading cause of CANCER

Don't go down the wrong path, talk to your doctor about getting tested. It could save your life.

## Health Minister's Guide to Viral Hepatitis: The Silent Epidemic

Your liver is the largest solid organ in your body! The liver helps your body digest food, store energy, and remove toxins—all incredibly important to daily life. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis can cause scarring of the liver—referred to as cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver failure, and death.

Chronic Viral Hepatitis is caused by either Hepatitis B or C. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 21,000 deaths were caused by Hepatitis B and C in 2013. Although it is not a rare disease, Viral Hepatitis, known as the “silent killer,” remains largely ignored or unknown. Hepatitis B and C are common causes of liver cirrhosis, liver disease, and cancer in the United States.

### Epidemiology of Viral Hepatitis

- As many as 5.3 million Americans are living with chronic Viral Hepatitis, though most do not know that they are infected.<sup>1</sup>
- Chronic Viral Hepatitis is a leading infectious cause of death, claiming the lives of over 21,000 Americans in 2013.<sup>1</sup>
- Among people with new Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C infections, over 60% of people had no risk identified, they were not aware of how they were exposed to Viral Hepatitis.<sup>1</sup>

### Hepatitis B

- 700,000 – 1.4 million people are chronically infected with Hepatitis B in the United States.<sup>2</sup>
- Hepatitis B is spread when blood, semen, or other body fluid from a person who is infected with Hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected.
- In the U.S., chronic Hepatitis B is most common among people born in Asia and Africa.
- Transmission from mother to infant is the main source of Hepatitis B infection worldwide.<sup>3</sup> In the U.S., an estimated 1,000 babies are infected at birth each year.<sup>4</sup>
- About 90% of infants infected with Hepatitis B will become chronically infected.



The Partnership Center  
Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

This guide was developed in collaboration with the Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP). For more information about OHAIDP and Viral Hepatitis, go to [www.AIDS.gov/hepatitis](http://www.AIDS.gov/hepatitis)

## Today's Goals:

- Increase awareness of viral Hepatitis and the urgent need for prevention and testing in the U.S.
- Highlight:
  - Importance of health insurance for people with Viral Hepatitis
- Release the new Health Ministers Guide to Viral Hepatitis
- Share viral hepatitis experiences of faith leaders and community members





# Viral Hepatitis Is a Liver Infection

When people are newly infected with viral hepatitis (A, B, or C) they may have these symptoms:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Dark-colored urine and gray-colored bowel movements
- Jaundice (skin and eyes turn yellow)

When people have a chronic viral hepatitis infection

- They often have no symptoms
- If they have symptoms, they are usually related to chronic liver disease and may include fatigue, memory problems, depression and blood clotting problems



# Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology in the U.S.

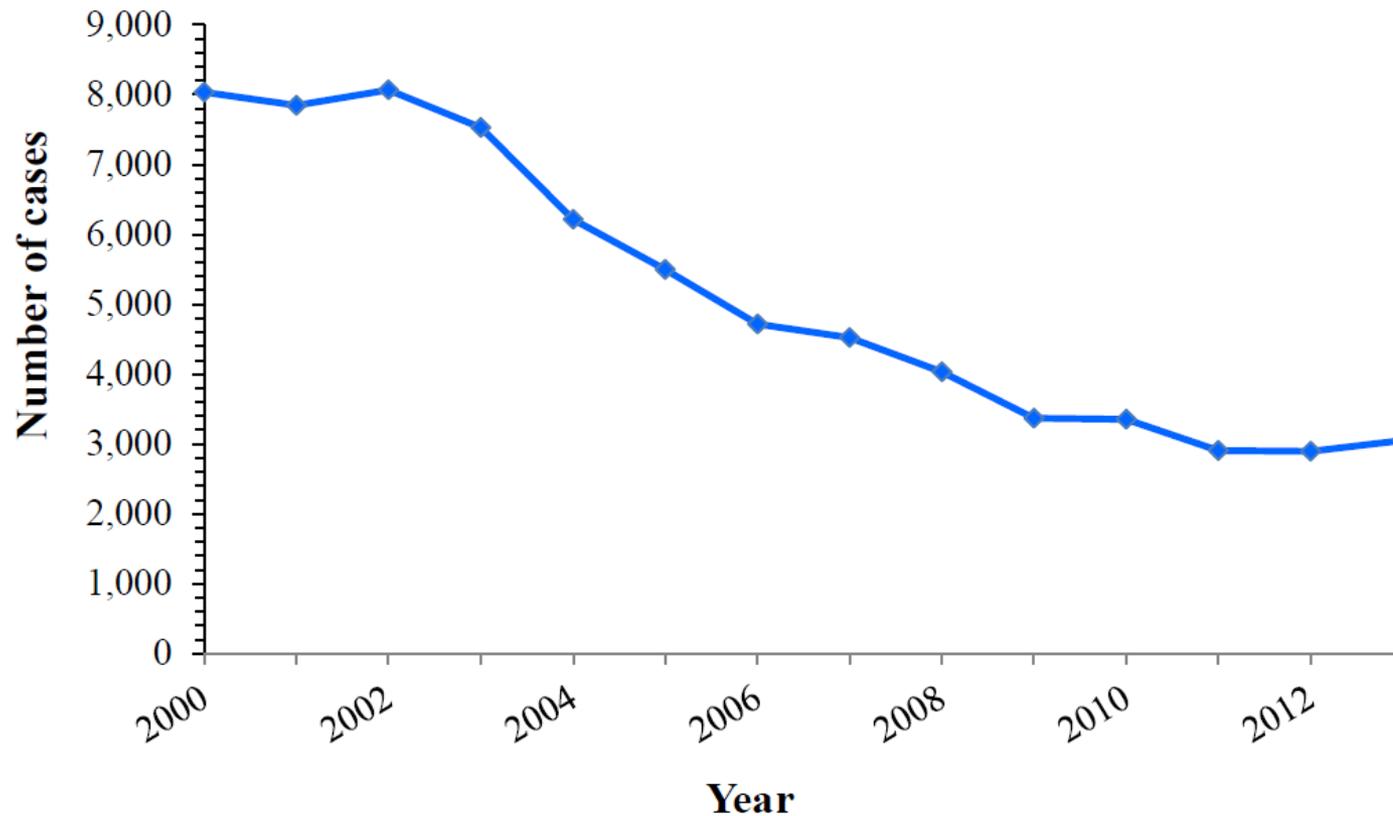
- As many as 5.3 million Americans are living with chronic Viral Hepatitis and most do not know they are infected
- Chronic Viral Hepatitis can be caused by Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C which are spread by exposure to blood and body fluids
- Hepatitis B is most common among people born in Asia and Africa
- 75% of people with chronic Hepatitis C were born between 1945 – 1965
- Hepatitis C causes more deaths than all other 60 nationally notifiable infectious diseases combined

There is:

- A safe and effective vaccine to prevent Hepatitis B
- Therapies that cure more than 90% of people with Hepatitis C

# 5.4% Increase in Reported HBV Cases 2012-2013

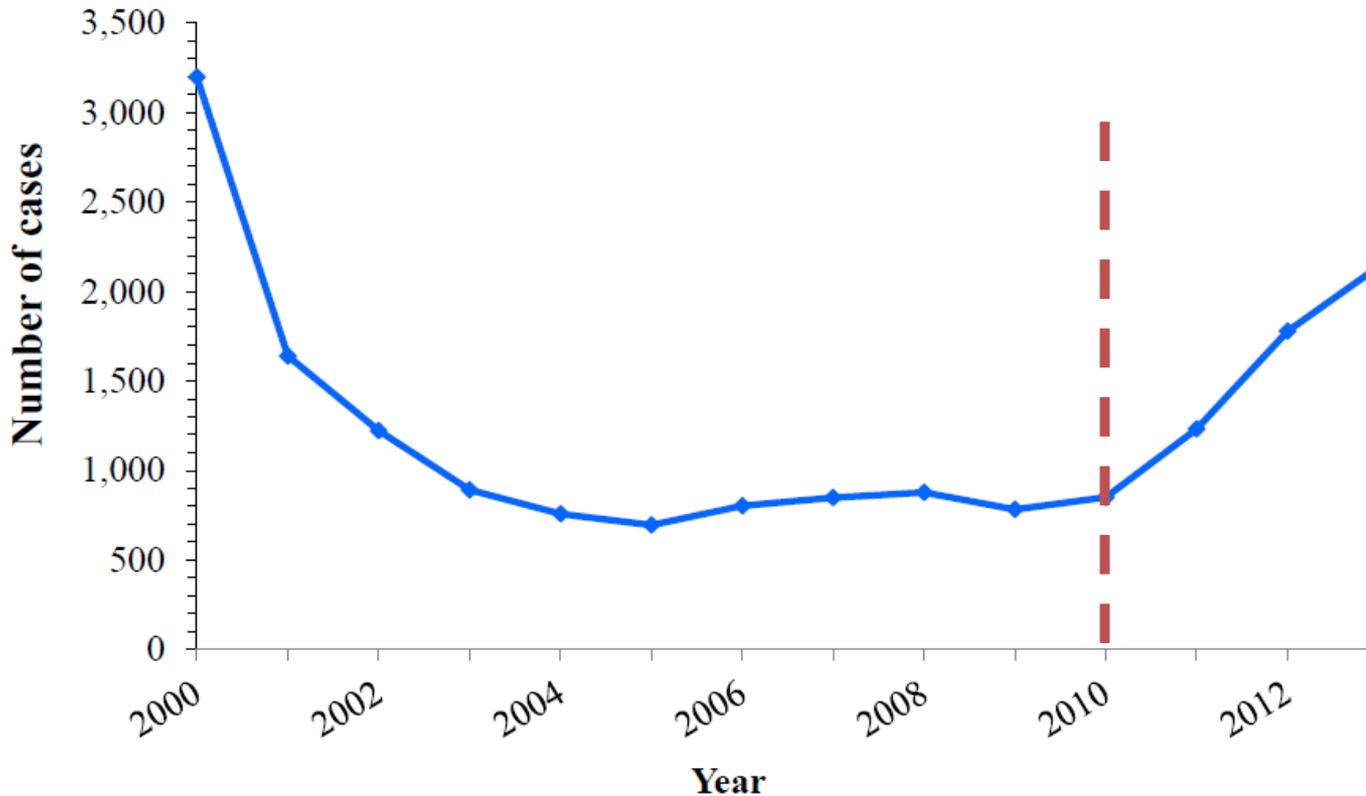
## Reported number of acute Hepatitis B cases 2000-2013



CDC, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# 150% Increase in Reported HCV Cases 2010-2013

## Reported number of acute hepatitis C cases 2000-2013

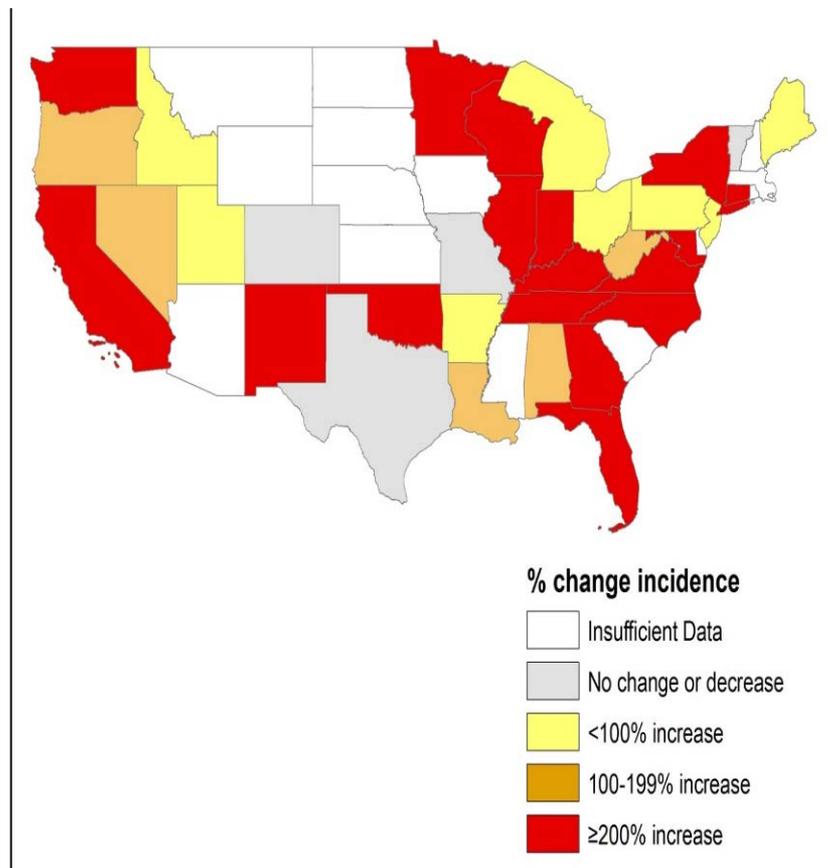


CDC, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

# Change in Incidence by State and by County: Hepatitis C 2006 - 2012

**Of the 34 states that reported to CDC in both 2006 and 2012:**

- **30 states reported increases**
- **16 states reported >200% increase**
- **50% of cases were younger than 30 years**



From: Suryaprasad et al, Clin Infect Dis: 2014; 59 (15 Nov):1411-19

# Exposure to Hepatitis C in the U.S., 2013



More than 1/3 of Hepatitis C reports that included information about risk factors indicated that there was NO exposure or risk behavior

\*Includes case-reports indicating the presence of at least one of the following risks 2 weeks to 6 months prior to onset of acute, symptomatic hepatitis C: 1) using injection drugs; 2) having sexual contact with suspected/confirmed hepatitis C patient; 3) being a man who has sex with men; 4) having multiple sex partners concurrently; 5) having household contact with suspected/confirmed hepatitis C patient; 6) having had occupational exposure to blood; 7) being a hemodialysis patient; 8) having received a blood transfusion; 9) having sustained a percutaneous injury; and 10) having undergone surgery.

Source: CDC, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System



**“A nation committed to combating the  
silent epidemic of viral hepatitis”**

-Vision of the *Action Plan for the Prevention,  
Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis*



# The Role of Health Ministers: Breaking the Silence around Viral Hepatitis

**Michelle Moses-Eisenstein, M.P.H.**

*Public Health Analyst*

*Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy*

February 18, 2016





# Faith Leaders are Powerful Messengers in Health Communications

Faith leaders have a unique opportunity to respond to viral hepatitis. Faith leaders can:

- Serve as influential, powerful, and relatable messengers
- Meet people where they are
- Shatter stigma, raise awareness, and build unity
- Foster partnerships and collaboration

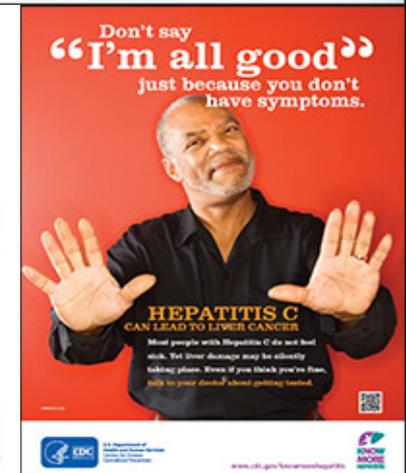
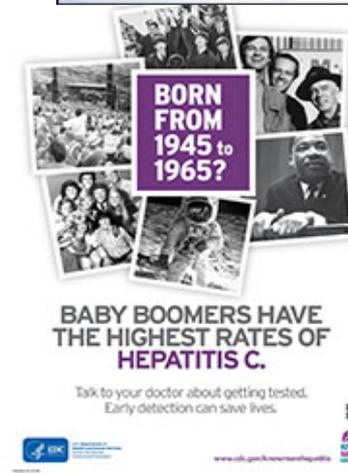


# Trauma Informed Congregations

- Many people in the high-risk groups for Viral Hepatitis have experienced trauma.
- Always listen deeply to the person in need.
- Seek to understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences among your congregation and community.
- Realize the widespread impact of trauma.
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma.
- Respond by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices.

# Educate your community with CDC's *Know More Hepatitis* campaign

- Host health-fairs and include campaign materials and other viral hepatitis vaccination and testing information.
- Download **free** campaign materials, or have them shipped to you.
- Free campaign materials include:
  - Fact sheets
  - Posters
  - Infographics
  - Videos
  - Buttons & Badges
  - Email Signatures
  - Radio Ads & Scripts



Visit: [www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis)

# Promote Viral Hepatitis Screening and Other Preventive Services

- Sponsor a Viral Hepatitis testing event and invite a ministry leader to get tested or vaccinated.
- Provide vaccination, testing, and linkages to care through partnering with the health department, a health center, and/or community agencies.
- Take the 5-minute CDC Risk Assessment

**Were you born from 1945-1965? If so, CDC recommends you get tested for Hepatitis C, but what about Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B?**

If you want to find out what other CDC hepatitis testing and vaccination recommendations apply to you, take this 5 minute online hepatitis risk assessment and get a personalized report.

[Begin](#)



# CDC and USPSTF Recommendations for HBV Testing

- **Populations with higher rates of Hepatitis B should be screened for infection, including:**
  - Persons born in countries and regions with a high prevalence of HBV infection
  - US-born persons not vaccinated as infants whose parents were born in regions with a high prevalence of HBV infection
  - HIV-positive persons
  - People who inject drugs
  - Men who have sex with men
  - Household contacts of persons with HBV infection
- **All pregnant women should be screened**
- **for hepatitis B in the first trimester**

**HEPATITIS B**  
Are you at risk?



**What is Hepatitis B?**  
Hepatitis B is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the Hepatitis B virus. When first infected, a person can develop an "acute" infection, which can range in severity from a very mild illness with few or no symptoms to a serious condition requiring hospitalization. Acute Hepatitis B refers to the first 6 months after someone is exposed to the Hepatitis B virus. Some people are able to fight the infection and clear the virus. For others, the infection remains and leads to a "chronic," or lifelong, illness. Chronic Hepatitis B refers to the illness that occurs when the Hepatitis B virus remains in a person's body. Over time, the infection can cause serious health problems.

**How is Hepatitis B spread?**  
Hepatitis B is usually spread when blood, semen, or other body fluids from a person infected with the Hepatitis B virus enter the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through having sex with an infected partner; sharing needles, syringes, or other injection drug equipment; or from direct contact with the blood or open sores of an infected person. Hepatitis B can also be passed from an infected mother to her baby at birth.

**Who should be tested for Hepatitis B?**  
Testing for Hepatitis B is recommended for certain groups of people, including:

- People born in Asia, Africa, and other regions with moderate or high rates of Hepatitis B (see map)
- Unvaccinated people whose parents are from regions with high rates of Hepatitis B
- Anyone having sex with a person infected with Hepatitis B
- People who live with someone with Hepatitis B
- Men who have sexual encounters with other men
- People who inject drugs
- All pregnant women
- People with HIV infection
- People on hemodialysis
- People who receive chemotherapy or other types of immunosuppressive therapy

**Approximately 1.2 million people in the United States and 350 million people worldwide have Hepatitis B. Most are unaware of their infection.**

**Is Hepatitis B common?**  
Yes, Hepatitis B is very common worldwide. Most people with Hepatitis B were infected with the virus at birth or during early childhood and developed a lifelong chronic infection. Many of those infected are unaware that they have Hepatitis B, especially since they may not have symptoms. As a result, they can unknowingly spread the disease to others, including people they live with, sexual partners, and—for women—their newborns.

**Worldwide Rates of Chronic Hepatitis B**



Legend:  
■ High  
■ Moderate  
■ Low

LeFevre et al, *Ann Intern Med.* 2014; 161(1):58-66., USPSTF, *Ann Intern Med.* 2009; 150(12):869-873.



# CDC Expanded Hepatitis C Testing Recommendations, 2012

## All persons born 1945 through 1965

### Why?

- Most are unaware of infection
- Testing is cost-effective
- Therapies can cure 90-100% of cases
- Left untreated, hepatitis C can cause liver damage & liver failure

People born from 1945-1965 are **5X MORE LIKELY TO BE INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS C**

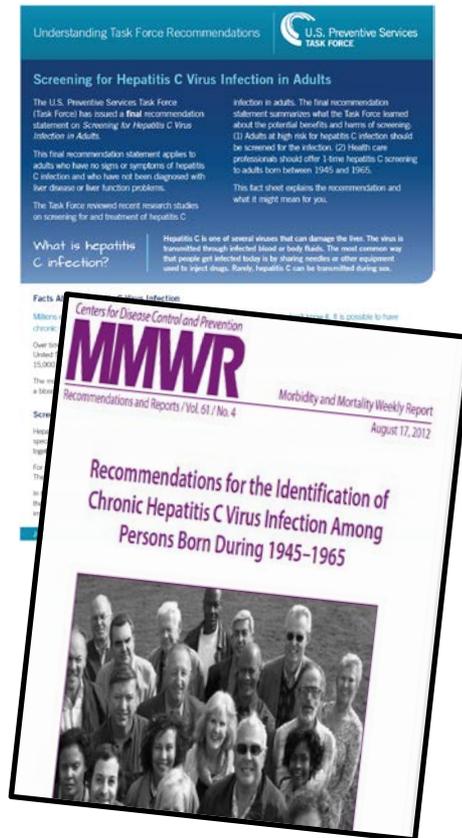


**3 OUT OF EVERY 4** people with Hepatitis C were born between these years

*(CDC Fact Sheet, Aug 2012)*

# CDC & USPSTF Recommendations for HCV Testing

- **One-time testing for persons born 1945-1965**
- **Risk based:**
  - Past or present injection drug use
  - Received blood/organs prior to June 1992
  - Received blood products made prior to 1987
  - Ever on chronic hemodialysis
  - Infants born to HCV infected mothers
  - Intranasal drug use
  - Unregulated tattoo
  - History of incarceration
  - Persistently elevated ALT (liver enzyme)
  - **HIV infection**
    - Initial evaluation
    - Routine testing for HIV (+) MSM with high risk sexual behaviors or ulcerative STDs



Moyer VA, *Ann Int Med* 2013.  
MMWR Aug 2012.

# Affordable Care Act Opportunities

## Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB Through Health Care

USCOSTE > Prevention Through Health Care > Preventive Service Tables

Recommend Tweet Share

### Viral Hepatitis Preventive Services

Preventive Service	Recommending Authority (Authorized under Section 1003 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)	Eligible Populations and Service Specifics	Health Insurance Plans That Cover the Service Without Cost-Sharing	Additional Resources
Hepatitis A Vaccination	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) (Recommendations issued and adopted by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention May 2008)	Routine hepatitis A vaccination for children, for persons who are at increased risk for infection, and for any person wanting to obtain immunity.  (See <a href="#">MMWR: Prevention of Hepatitis A Through Active or Passive Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for a discussion of risk factors.</a> )		
Hepatitis B Vaccination	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) (Recommendations issued and adopted by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention December 2005)	Universal vaccination for infants; vaccination of children and adolescents who were not previously vaccinated; pregnant women who are identified as being at risk for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection during pregnancy; unvaccinated adults at risk for HBV infection; and all adults requesting protection from HBV infection. <sup>1,2</sup>  (See <a href="#">MMWR: A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States Part 1: Immunization of Infants, Children, and Adolescents</a> and <a href="#">MMWR: A Comprehensive Immunization Strategy to Eliminate Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States Part 2: Immunization of Adults</a> for a discussion of risk factors.)		
Hepatitis B Testing	USPSTF (Grade "B" recommendation issued May 2014)	Screening for hepatitis B virus infection in persons at high risk for infection <sup>1</sup>		

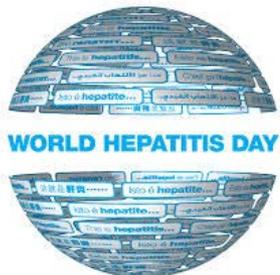
**Prevention Through Health Care**

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

- Elimination of pre-existing condition restrictions
- Expanded access to health insurance
- Preventive health care coverage
  - Screening for HBV & HCV
  - Vaccination for HAV & HBV
  - Learn more at [www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)

# Connect Your Community Around Viral Hepatitis

- Invite people affected by Viral Hepatitis to speak before the congregation – Personal connections can help humanize public health issues.
- Light a candle and have a moment of silence and meditation for the healing of Viral Hepatitis and other chronic diseases.
- Plan activities in observance of Viral Hepatitis awareness days, including World Hepatitis Day on July 28<sup>th</sup> and Hepatitis Testing Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>.



# Join us for National Hepatitis Testing Day on May 19

### Learn About Hepatitis Testing Events in May



Map Satellite

North Pacific Ocean

Canada

United States

Mexico

North Atlantic Ocean

Google

Map data ©2016 Terms of Use

ZIP code

City

and State

or

[Reset](#) [View All Events](#)

### Register Your Event

Help us build our hepatitis testing resources and fill in the map. Submit your event.

[Register Your Event](#)

### Spread the Word about Hepatitis Testing Day

Use free [resources](#) to promote Hepatitis Testing Day and Hepatitis Awareness Month, including buttons and banners, live script radio PSAs, posters, and more.

### Find Hepatitis Testing Year Round Near You

Locate organizations offering hepatitis testing and additional services including vaccines and treatment in the [NPIN Organizations Database](#).

### Are You at Risk for Hepatitis?

We can help you find out with CDC's [assessment tool](#).

### Get Connected



Friend us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

Visit <https://npin.cdc.gov/htd/HTD.aspx> to find an event near you or register your event.



## Take Action Now

- Learn more about preventive services available without cost-sharing: <https://healthfinder.gov/>
- Join Hepatitis Awareness Events: <https://npin.cdc.gov/htd>
- Educate: [www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/](http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/)
- Learn More: [www.aids.gov/hepatitis](http://www.aids.gov/hepatitis)



# COMMUNITY ACTION

*Faith Leaders Role in Addressing Hepatitis C  
and Other Health Disparities*



*Cary L.  
Goodman  
Program  
Coordinator  
The Balm In Gilead, Inc.*



27+

years

## Healing Through Prayer, Education, Advocacy and Service

For more than 27 years, The Balm In Gilead has been meeting the unique needs of African American faith communities in the United State as well as African congregations by developing educational and training programs specifically designed to decrease the extreme disproportionate rates of health disparities within these populations.

The Balm In Gilead has developed an international reputation for providing insightful understanding of religious cultures, values and extraordinary abilities to build strong, trusted partnerships with faith communities. Working with these faith-based partners in urban, rural and remote communities helps deliver much needed health services to national, regional and local congregations so they may become community centers for health promotion and disease prevention.

*The Balm In Gilead, Inc. is an international NGO based in Richmond, VA (USA) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Skyway Building).*

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

# *Organizational Objectives*



- 1. Build the capacity of faith communities to:**
  - Provide compassionate leadership in the prevention of life-threatening diseases.
  - Disseminate prevention, treatment and care information
  - Deliver supportive services to those infected and affected by life threatening diseases.

# *Organizational Objectives*



2. Build the capacity of community-based organizations and state and local agencies to collaborate with faith institutions to address Public health issues in communities most disproportionately affected by life threatening diseases.

3. Raise awareness in the community at-large of the unique strengths of Faith institutions to address public health issues.

***What is the Importance for  
Engaging Faith Communities  
In Public Health Initiatives?***

**Historically, churches are considered by the people to be the most important institution in the community.**





- Churches are strategically positioned to play a major role in the fight against life-threatening diseases.

- Churches are the places where the community sets and enforces social norms.

- Churches represent the ideal place for the dissemination of health information and the provision of services.



# ***FROM THE PULPIT***

***Faith Leaders play a unique role in disseminating information***



***Faith Leaders  
play a crucial  
role in issues  
related to:***

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- Human Rights
- Social Justice
- Business Ethics
- Political
- Public Health

# The Balm in Gilead, Inc.






## PRAISE & EDUCATION

### TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ACTION FORUM ON HEPATITIS C


**WITH STELLAR AND GRAMMY AWARD WINNER  
CELEBRITY PARTNER | GOSPEL ARTIST**  
**VASHAWN MITCHELL**

**MASTER OF CEREMONY**  

**Terry Mason, MD, F.A.C.S.**  
 Chief Medical Officer  
 Cook County Health  
 and Hospitals System

**PANEL MODERATOR**  

**Bishop Horace E. Smith, MD**  
 Pastor, Apostolic Faith Church  
 Director, Comprehensive Sickle  
 Cell/Thalassemia Program at  
 Children's Memorial Hospital  
 Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at  
 Northwestern University Feinberg  
 School of Medicine

### PANELISTS


**Gregory Huhn, MD**  
 Department of  
 Infectious Diseases  
 John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital  
 Assistant Professor of Medicine  
 Rush University Medical Center


**Doriane C. Miller, MD**  
 Director  
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 Health and Vitality  
 Associate Professor of Medicine  
 University of Chicago Medicine


**Sean W. P. Koppe, MD**  
 Department of Medicine  
 Gastroenterology &  
 Hepatology  
 Assistant Professor at  
 Northwestern University  
 Feinberg School of Medicine

**August 14, 2014**  
 Trinity United  
 Church of Christ  
 400 W. 95th Street  
 Chicago, Illinois  
 Hosted by:  
**Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III**  
**6:00 — 9:00 PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

For More Information  
 Call 888-225-6243 or visit [www.HealthyChurches2020.org](http://www.HealthyChurches2020.org)  
[www.BalmInGilead.org](http://www.BalmInGilead.org)

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
 HAS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT EVERY BABY BOOMER  
 LIVING IN THE USA GET SCREENED FOR HEPATITIS C!  
**Come!** WORSHIP WITH US AND GET THE FACTS  
 FROM LEADING PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS IN CHICAGO!

# *The Balm in Gilead, Inc.*



You Are Cordially Invited!

**A Senatorial Briefing on Hepatitis C  
and The Role of Faith Leaders  
Serving African American Communities**

**Honorary Co-Sponsors**

The Honorable  
Barbara Mikulski (D)  
United States Senator

The Honorable  
Bill Cassidy, MD (R)  
United States Senator

**Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

The Hart Senate Office Building

Room 902

12 noon – 2:00 pm

↻ Lunch will be Served ↻

This Senatorial Briefing is a follow up to The Balm in Gilead's faith-based Town Hall and Community Action Forum Series on Hepatitis C, which educated more than 20,000+ baby boomers through their faith communities. The purpose of this Senatorial Briefing is to educate and update policy makers, as well as faith leaders, on the burden of Hepatitis C among African Americans, especially among persons over 50 years of age.

*You Must RSVP - Space is Limited*

Click Here to RSVP or visit [www.BalmInGilead.org](http://www.BalmInGilead.org)

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



[www.healthychurches2020.org](http://www.healthychurches2020.org)

# FAITH-BASED LEADERS AND HEALTH MINISTERS CAN RESPOND TO VIRAL HEPATITIS AND LIVER CANCER

**Ivonne Fuller Cameron, NRPP, MPA, PMP  
President & CEO**

**Hepatitis Foundation International  
[www.HepatitisFoundation.org](http://www.HepatitisFoundation.org)**



# VIRAL HEPATITIS & LIVER CANCER



- **Viral hepatitis is caused by infection by 5 distinct viruses: hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis D virus (HDV), and hepatitis E virus (HEV).**
- **Exposure to infected blood is the most common risk factor for viral hepatitis transmission.**
- **Viral hepatitis (HBV or HCV) slowly damages the liver over many years, progressing from inflammation to irreversible scarring (cirrhosis), liver cancer the and ultimately liver failure.**
- **According to the 2012 Annuals of Internal Medicine upwards to 75% of HCV related deaths occurred among baby boomers (individuals born between 1945 and 1964) who are unaware of the infection.**
- **Chronic HBV can lead to cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, and liver failure.**
- **Chronic hepatitis C virus is the most frequent cause of liver transplantation in the United States.**

# WHO ARE THE HARD TO REACH, HARD TO TREAT



- **Racial and Ethnic minority groups in the United States such as (Asian, African, and Native Americans, Hispanics).**
- **According to 2013 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, the hepatitis C mortality rate per 100,000 was 4.4 for Caucasians but 8.35 for African Americans.**
- **American Indians have the highest cases of hepatitis C per 100,000 of the with 1.7 per 100,000. They are twice as likely to have hepatitis C as Caucasian Americans.**
- **Asian Americans make up 5.6 % percent of the U.S. population, but account for more than 1/2 of all Americans living with chronic hepatitis B. 1 in 12 Asian Americans are living with the virus.**
- **A National Institute of Health (NIH) study determined Latinos with viral hepatitis have faster liver fibrosis progression, are infected at an earlier age, and are more likely to be HIV co-infected.**
- **According to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, nearly 8,000 hepatitis C-positive veterans died in 2013, up from 1,986 in 2001**

# WHO ARE THE HARD TO REACH, HARD TO TREAT



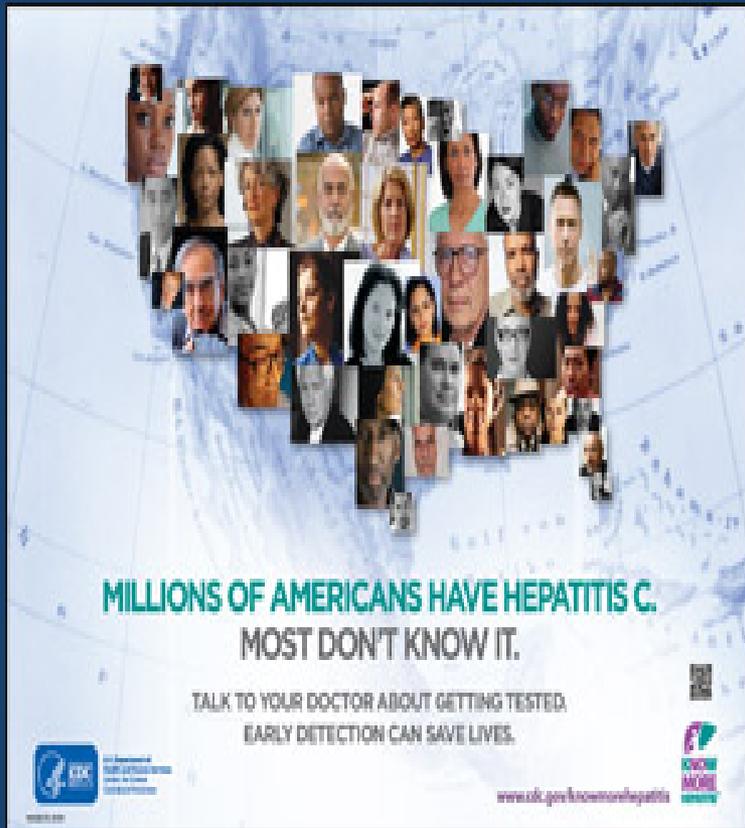
- Other subsets of population groups (Homeless, Juveniles) that have been:
  - Socio-economically disadvantaged;
  - Politically oppressed;
  - Racially polarized; and
  - Culturally overlooked.
- Myths and stereotypes minimize and/or deny the impact of sexual trauma and stigma.

# SEXUAL TRAUMA & VIRAL HEPATITIS---HARD TO REACH, HARD TO TREAT POPULATIONS



- **Individuals that survive sexual trauma are more likely to face risk factors for viral hepatitis, such as substance and alcohol abuse – including injection drug use, and multiple sexual partner contact.**
- **Sexual trauma --Any sexual act that is imposed on another person against their will and without their consent.**
- **Sexual trauma victims often suffer physical and psychological harm or pain.**
- **Survivors of sexual trauma are often from racial and ethnic groups such as Native Americans (more than double the rate of other racial groups); (40% of Black women report coercive sexual contact by age 18.), etc.**

# OUTREACH--HARD TO REACH, HARD TO TREAT POPULATIONS



- **Multiple chronic and infectious disease (viral hepatitis and co-infection) are concentrated in populations that face social and economic challenges.**
- **Socioeconomic factors may create barriers for better health choices and access to care.**
- **The risk of viral hepatitis sexual transmission is higher for those who:**
  - **Engage in anal intercourse,**
  - **May have experienced sexual trauma and resulting changes to the genital mucosa, or**
  - **Have a sexually transmitted infection, i.e. HIV/AIDS.**

# BRIDGING THE GAP



- **Faith leaders can discuss hepatitis in ways that establish trust and build a therapeutic relationship.**
- **The most important factor in creating stigma free environments is education.**
- **Dispel inaccurate and misinformation. Encourage testing.**
- **Implement/create judgement free safe spaces.**
- **Exhibit Grace-Treat everyone equally regardless of how they contracted viral hepatitis.**
- **Connect individuals with additional resources.**
- **Implement/establish support groups.**
- **Motivate - Offer cultural and clinical expertise to individualize each person's journey to wellness (good health and recovery).**

# KEY HFI RESOURCES



## HEPATITIS PATIENT REGISTRY NETWORK (HepPRN)

- National Hepatitis Survey-Access to Treatment, specific to Medicaid Populations, For more information Email-- [NatHepSurvey@HepatitisFoudnation.org](mailto:NatHepSurvey@HepatitisFoudnation.org)

- Issue Briefs & Fact Sheets - Hep, B , C, Liver Disease, Patient Assistance, Support Groups, Etc.

- Addressing Viral Hepatitis Disparities Across Racial and Ethnic Groups – White Paper & Fact Sheets

- National Hepatitis Patient Registry Network - Portal to clinical trials & research

- Street Drug Fact Sheets, i.e., Krokodil, Spice, Bath Salts, Flakka, Meth, Etc.

- National Viral Hepatitis Summits held nationwide.

Engaging Individuals...  
Finding Solutions ...  
Saving Lives...



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# FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:



Follow Us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HFIconnect>

Follow Us On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hepatitis-Foundation-International-184199430647/>

Join Our Online Patient Community:

<https://healthunlocked.com/hepatitisfoundation>

General E-Mail:

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Hotline: 800-891-0707

Telephone: 301-565-9410

Mailing Address: 8121 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring,  
MD 20910, USA



# A PATIENT'S JOURNEY TO HEALING



Mollie Jackson-Woodson

Patient Ambassador, Hepatitis Foundation International

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

# MY JOURNEY TO HEALING



- My Original Diagnosis
  - Biopsy Experience
  - Working with Specialists
- Lifestyle Changes
- Ongoing Educational Experience on Hepatitis C Virus
- Ongoing Screenings and Follow-Ups



# ADD YOUR VOICE!



The Patient Advisory Council (PAC) was created to advocate and present the needs of patients, individuals, caregivers and communities affected by or infected with viral hepatitis and other liver related diseases.

#### HFI IS LOOKING FOR PATIENT ADVOCATES WHO WILL:

Represent patients, individuals, caregivers and communities who are impacted by hepatitis and liver diseases in meetings, research, Capitol Hill, and in the media.

Help patients gain access to quality care and treatment regimens for all communities

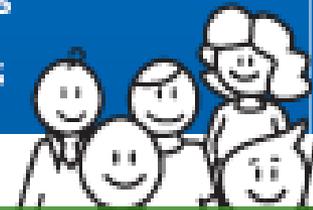
Assist in creating HFI's public health, research programs, services and/or campaigns that are culturally appropriate.

Increase awareness of hepatitis and other related illnesses and liver disorders among communities nationwide and globally.

If you are interested in participating with HFI, please contact HFI at 301-565-9410 or email at [kuzoigwe@hepatitisfoundation.org](mailto:kuzoigwe@hepatitisfoundation.org).

Connect with others  
living with Hepatitis

▶ Join today!



HealthUnlocked

Join our online patient  
community today at  
[https://healthunlocked.com  
/hepatitisfoundation](https://healthunlocked.com/hepatitisfoundation)

# FOR MORE INFORMATION



## **Mailing Address:**

Hepatitis Foundation International  
8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 350  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Email:** [mbelljackson@yahoo.com](mailto:mbelljackson@yahoo.com)

**Telephone:** (301)-565-9410



# The Partnership Center Community Resources

Health Ministers Guides, Toolkits, and other resources available at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/partnerships/about-the-partnership-center/community-resources/index.html>

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Hepatitis B vaccine is considered the first anti-cancer vaccine. Many Hepatitis infections can be prevented through behavior change and vaccines can help protect you from Hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C, however, there is a cure.  
*Text only version of infographic.*

**FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C**  
**IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE**  
SOME PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHEN THEY WERE INFECTED

**BORN FROM 1945-1965?**  
People born from 1945-1965 are 57 times more likely to be infected with Hepatitis C.  
3 out of every 4 people with Hepatitis C have liver damage or liver disease.

**GET TESTED**  
CDC recommends all people born from 1945-1965 get tested for Hepatitis C.

TESTED	NOT TESTED
<p>Untreated Hepatitis C can help increase liver damage and liver failure.</p> <p>Many people with Hepatitis C are unaware they have the virus.</p> <p>Successful treatment can clear the virus from the body.</p>	<p>LEFT UNTREATED, HEPAITIS C CAN LEAD TO LIVER FAILURE.</p> <p>HEPATITIS C IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF LIVER TRANSPLANTS.</p>

*Don't go down the wrong path, talk to your doctor about getting tested. It could save your life.*

## Health Minister's Guide to Viral Hepatitis: The Silent Epidemic

Your liver is the largest solid organ in your body! The liver helps your body digest food, store energy, and remove toxins—all incredibly important to daily life. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis can cause scarring of the liver—referred to as cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver failure, and death.

Chronic Viral Hepatitis is caused by either Hepatitis B or C. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 21,000 deaths were caused by Hepatitis B and C in 2013. Although it is not a rare disease, Viral Hepatitis, known as the "silent killer," remains largely ignored or unknown. Hepatitis B and C are common causes of liver cirrhosis, liver disease, and cancer in the United States.

### Epidemiology of Viral Hepatitis

- As many as 5.3 million Americans are living with chronic Viral Hepatitis, though most do not know that they are infected.<sup>1</sup>
- Chronic Viral Hepatitis is a leading infectious cause of death, claiming the lives of over 21,000 Americans in 2013.<sup>2</sup>
- Among people with new Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C infections, over 60% of people had no risk identified, they were not aware of how they were exposed to Viral Hepatitis.<sup>3</sup>

### Hepatitis B

- 700,000 – 1.4 million people are chronically infected with Hepatitis B in the United States.<sup>4</sup>
- Hepatitis B is spread when blood, semen, or other body fluid from a person who is infected with Hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected.
- In the U.S., chronic Hepatitis B is most common among people born in Asia and Africa.
- Transmission from mother to infant is the main source of Hepatitis B infection worldwide.<sup>5</sup> In the U.S., an estimated 1,000 babies are infected at birth each year.<sup>6</sup>
- About 90% of infants infected with Hepatitis B will become chronically infected.



The Partnership Center  
Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

This guide was developed in collaboration with the Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OIAIDP). For more information about CHADCP and Viral Hepatitis, go to [www.AIDS.gov/hepatitis](http://www.AIDS.gov/hepatitis)

