

# DON'T LET HEPATITIS C SURPRISE YOU

Hepatitis C is a liver disease that results from infection with the hepatitis C virus. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Most people with chronic (life long) hepatitis C do not have any symptoms until liver problems develop 20–30 years after exposure.

## GET THE FACTS

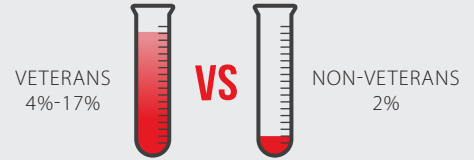
### HEPATITIS C IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF LIVER CANCER



About **four million** Americans have hepatitis C.



**3 out of 4** people living with hepatitis C don't know they have it.



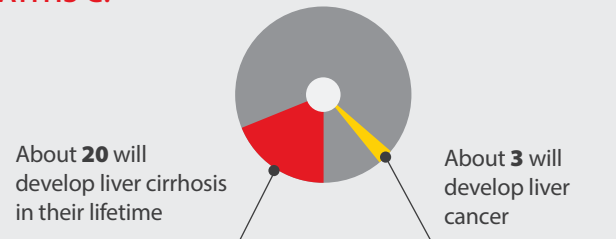
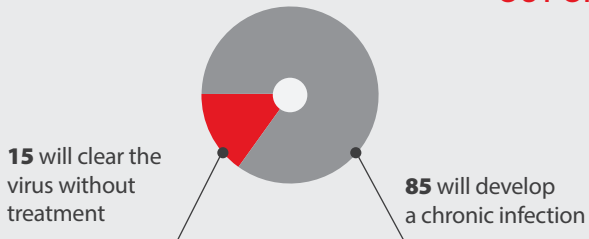
**Veterans are at greater risk of infection.**

Between 4%–17% of Veterans are infected, compared with 2% in the non-Veteran population.

• Visit [www.hepatitis.gov](http://www.hepatitis.gov) or [www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis) for more information •

## KNOW THE RISK

### OUT OF 100 PEOPLE WITH HEPATITIS C:



## GET TESTED

### A BLOOD TEST LETS YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE HEPATITIS C. GET TESTED IF YOU:

- Were born between 1945 and 1965
- Had tattoos or body piercings applied in non-regulated settings
- Ever used a needle to inject drugs
- Had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992

- Have HIV infection
- Have hemophilia and received clotting factor before 1987
- Were on long-term kidney dialysis
- Were born to a mother infected with HCV at the time

TALK TO YOUR PROVIDER ABOUT GETTING TESTED.  
VISIT [WWW.HEPATITIS.VA.GOV](http://WWW.HEPATITIS.VA.GOV) FOR MORE ON HEPATITIS C.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Public Health