

What do

53,000 Iowans
have in common?

Hepatitis C

What is hepatitis C?

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). HCV is the most common bloodborne infection in the United States. Of the estimated 53,000 Iowans infected, over half do not know they have hepatitis C. Many do not have symptoms for 20 – 30 years after being infected.

Who is at risk?

- Persons using needles to take drugs (even once).
- Injection drug users who share needles or other equipment.
- Persons receiving a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992, or clotting factors made before 1987.
- Persons receiving dialysis over a long period of time.

Veterans may be at an increased risk of hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C infection rates among veterans are estimated to be five times higher than the general population.

Highest rates of infection were found among veterans who:

- Reported using a needle to take drugs.
- Served in Vietnam.
- Were exposed to blood in combat.
- Received tattoos from unlicensed tattoo parlors.

Knowledge is freedom. Know your HCV status.



For more information about
hepatitis C and testing:

United States Department of
Veterans Affairs

800-827-1000 • www.va.gov

Iowa Dept. of Public Health
(515) 281-5027

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/hepatitis.asp