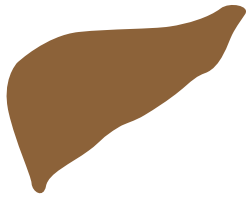


HEPATITIS C: THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

Hepatitis C is a virus that causes damage to the liver. It is spread only through blood, mainly through sharing needles, and increasingly through anal sex. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.



Your liver has many responsibilities.

A few of them include:

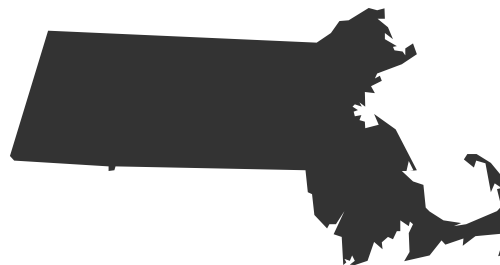
1. removing harmful chemicals from your blood
2. fighting infection
3. storing nutrients, vitamins, and energy.

HEPATITIS C & BABY BOOMERS



CDC recommends getting tested if you were **born between 1945 and 1965.**

Adults born from 1945-1965 are **5 times** more likely to have hepatitis C.



110,000 people in MA are living with hepatitis C.

3 out of 4 infected people **don't know it.**

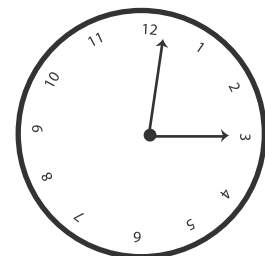


HEPATITIS C & HIV



30 percent of HIV positive people are also living with hepatitis C.

HIV can **speed up** the liver damage caused by hepatitis C.



WANT TO LEARN MORE OR GET TESTED?

You can call the **Massachusetts Hepatitis Hotline at 1-888-443-HEPC (4372).** Trained Hotline Counselors can answer many questions and can provide referrals to other places to get tested and access to information about prevention and care.

Sources:

AIDS Action Committee of MA, "Hepatitis C," www.aac.org/get-info/health-library-topics/hepatitis-c.html
Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Hepatitis C: Testing Baby Boomers Saves Lives," www.cdc.gov/features/vitalsigns/hepatitis
HCV Advocate, "A Guide to HIV/HCV Coinfection," www.hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/Coinfection%20Guide.pdf
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, "Hepatitis," www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/wellness/disease-prevention/communicable-diseases/hepatitis
National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse (NDDIC), "What I Need to Know About Hepatitis C," http://digestive.niddk.nih.gov/diseases/pubs/hepc_ez/