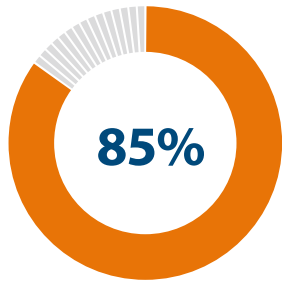


Hepatitis C in Durham Region

2017-2021

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that attacks the liver and is spread through contact with contaminated blood

Quick Facts

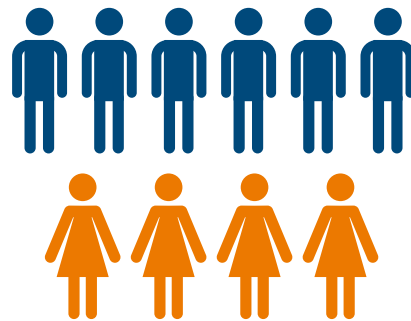


of cases were age 25 - 69 years

On average,

131

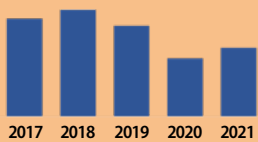
cases of hepatitis C were reported in Durham Region each year between 2017 and 2021



58% of cases were male



The average age at time of illness was 49 years



Cases peaked in 2018 (165) but have decreased since. Interpret 2020 and 2021 data with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms

17%

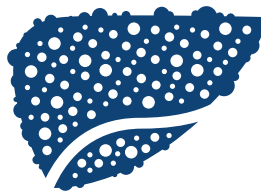
of cases reported



fatigue

15%

of cases reported



liver toxicity

12%

of cases reported



abdominal pain

7%

of cases reported



dark urine



Did You Know? 64% of cases reported having no symptoms

Risk Factors

48%

of cases reported



injection drug use

37%

of cases reported



tattoo or body-piercing

28%

of cases reported



inhalation drug use

20%

of cases reported



sharing drug use equipment

15%

of cases reported



intranasal drug use

Hepatitis C is now considered to be a curable infection

Suspected cases should be referred to an infectious disease specialist or a gastroenterologist for testing and treatment

Early diagnosis can connect someone with treatment, which cures over 95% of people with hepatitis C



Treatment is short-term (12 or 24 weeks)



Medications now have fewer adverse effects

For detailed guidelines on hepatitis C testing and treatment, see: **Hepatitis C: An In-Depth Guide, CATIE** - Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information

- Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2017-2021
- To see Durham compared to Ontario and other public health units go to **Infectious Disease Trends in Ontario**