



Hepatitis C: Update for the Northwest

DN Forums June 2018

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- The global burden of viral hepatitis has been increasing since 1990, reaching 1.46 million deaths in 2013.
 - In England, around 160,000 people are chronically infected with hepatitis C, the majority of whom are from specific and underserved groups in society.

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- 215,000 people in the UK have hepatitis C. During 2016.
 - **HCV is the third most common cause of liver disease in the UK.**

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- Early estimates suggest that numbers of new cases of HCV-related end-stage liver disease (ESLD) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in England have remained relatively stable, averaging 1,700 new cases per year over the last five years.

In the Northwest

- The most recent estimates suggest at least 40,000 people across the north-west acquired HCV, and of those 27,000 have developed chronic infection.
- Data for HCV in north-west England shows that an estimated 16,000 people remain undiagnosed.

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- Data shows that the highest burden of disease is in the Greater Manchester area, while Lancashire and Liverpool also have high numbers of people living with HCV. (59.4% in Oldham to 93.6% in Warrington)

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- Those most at risk of contracting hepatitis C infection in the North West are people who inject drugs or have injected drugs in the past - especially if they have shared injecting equipment.

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- A nationwide survey carried out in 2013 revealed that, in the North West, up to 68% of individuals who inject drugs have HCV infection.
 - People in prison settings also have an increased risk. 78.6% of people who inject drugs in drug treatment in the North West were tested for HCV infection between 2014 and 2015.
 - Downward trend in levels of direct sharing of injecting equipment amongst drug users (IV) in the North West of England between 2005 and 2015.
 - However, one-third are still indirectly sharing injecting equipment.

Mortality/ Hospital Admissions

The rate of hepatitis C-related mortality and hospital admissions for hepatitis C-related end stage liver disease in the North West is almost twice as high as the rate in England.

PHE VISION

- All people at risk of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in England should have access to testing and, once tested, that action should be taken to either reduce their risk of infection, prevent further transmission of the virus or place the patient on a treatment pathway.
- In response to the Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) for viral hepatitis, PHE have published a UK report to help support focused action to eliminate hepatitis C as a major public health threat in the UK by 2030.

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- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hepatitis-c-in-the-north-west-report-released>