

# Eliminating Hepatitis C

## How close are we?

In 2022, in Australia,

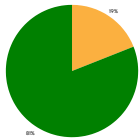
**74,400** people were estimated to be **living with Hepatitis C**, a more than 50% decrease from 162,500 in 2015.<sup>1</sup>

**5210** people received **treatment** for Hepatitis C. **4890** were **cured**.<sup>1</sup>

**2533** people **lost their lives** due to complications attributable to Hepatitis C.<sup>1</sup>

**6728** new **Hepatitis C notifications** were reported.<sup>1</sup>

**1088** of the new notifications were among **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**. Of these, **281** were reported in **Western Australia**.<sup>3</sup>



Estimated **81%** of people living with Hepatitis C have been **diagnosed**. This was similar to the proportion in 2015 (80%).<sup>1</sup>



Hepatitis C notification rates in major cities was **11 times higher** in **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** compared to non-Indigenous people. The rates were more than six times higher in regional areas, and three times higher in remote areas.<sup>3</sup>



The estimated Hepatitis C **prevalence in prisons** is **30%**, and 60% among those who inject drugs in prisons.



Approximately one in three **people who inject drugs** had evidence of past or current Hepatitis C. A decrease from about one in two in 2013.<sup>1</sup>



In **Western Australia**, **one in four** participants of the Australian Needle Syringe Program Survey reported **sharing injecting equipment** (higher compared to the national rates of one in five).<sup>2</sup>



**70%** of health care workers reported **behaving negatively** towards **people who inject drugs**.<sup>1</sup>



**One in three** health workers reported **behaving negatively** towards people living with Hepatitis C.<sup>1</sup>



Awareness of stigma experienced by people who inject drugs and those living with Hepatitis C is crucial for AOD workers. Understanding past negative experiences helps build trust and provide compassionate care, encouraging testing and treatment.

This sheet was compiled as part of WANADA's Hepatitis C Care Capability project in 2024, funded by the WA Department of Health. For more information, please visit [www.wanada.org.au/sector-quality/hepatitis-c](http://www.wanada.org.au/sector-quality/hepatitis-c).



1. King JM, McLachlan J, Romero N, Cowie B, Nguyen A, Broady T, Asselin J, Traeger M, Kwon A, Aung HL, Maher L, Heard S, Bavinton B, Holt M, Gray RT, and McGregor S. Tracking the Progress 2023. Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney. <https://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/Tracking-the-progress-2023-National-Hepatitis-C-Strategy.pdf>  
2. Kirby Institute. (March 2023). Australian Needle Syringe program Survey: Recent trends in WA. <https://www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/Improving-health/STI-and-BBV-Quarterly-Forums/22-March-2023/Australian-Needle-and-Syringe-Program-Survey-Data-Report-Update.pdf>  
3. Naruka, E., Miller, A., Thomas, J.R., Monaghan, R., King, J., McManus, H., McGregor, S. (2023). Bloodborne viral and sexually transmissible infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: Annual surveillance report 2023. Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney. [http://handle.unsw.edu.au/1959.4/unswworks\\_8478](http://handle.unsw.edu.au/1959.4/unswworks_8478)