

AUSTRALIA CAN'T WAIT TO ELIMINATE HEPATITIS!

#WorldHepatitisDay #HepCantWait

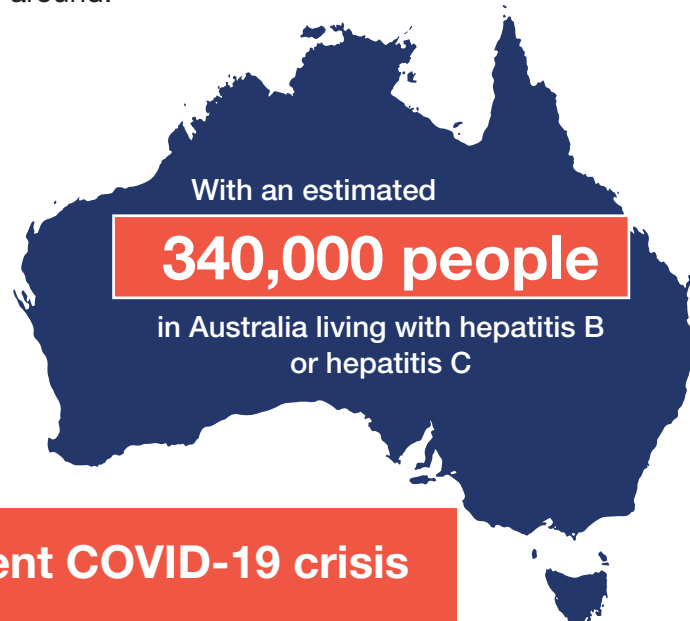


This document provides some useful statistics and information for World Hepatitis Day communications, including some new data not previously available in the public domain. We encourage you to use this information and share it with your networks.

World Hepatitis Day held on 28 July is an opportunity to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis.

Australia is one of 194 World Health Organization member states who voted unanimously to adopt the Global Hepatitis Elimination Strategy to achieve elimination of hepatitis B and hepatitis C by 2030. This commitment has informed the development of our [National Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander BBV/STIs Strategies 2018-2022](#), which provide national progress targets to the end of 2022.

The 2021 theme for World Hepatitis Day is 'Hepatitis Can't Wait', which recognises that even in the current COVID-19 crisis, we can't wait to act on hepatitis B and hepatitis C. COVID-19 has significantly interrupted hepatitis screening and hepatitis B monitoring in Australia, but with concerted and unified effort we can turn that around.



- even in the current COVID-19 crisis

Australia can't wait to eliminate hepatitis!

Find out more about hepatitis visit:
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HEPATITIS B CAN'T WAIT!

Approximately 220,000 people are living with chronic hepatitis B in 2020 in Australia.¹



95%+

The coverage rate for hepatitis B immunisation in 12-month old babies now exceeds 95% in Australia – ahead of our 2022 National Strategy childhood immunisation target!²



**1700
PREVENTABLE
DEATHS**

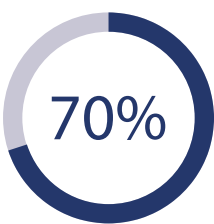
Australia needs a large scale-up of investment to achieve its targets related to hepatitis B diagnosis, treatment, care, and mortality reduction. An additional **1,700 preventable deaths** due to cirrhosis and liver cancer are expected by 2030 unless significant change is made.³

PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDIAGNOSED CAN'T WAIT FOR HEPATITIS B TESTING

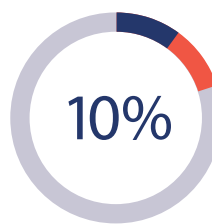
It is estimated more than one quarter of people living with chronic hepatitis B have not been diagnosed and are unaware of their infection.⁴



PEOPLE LIVING WITH HEPATITIS B CAN'T WAIT FOR LIFE SAVING TREATMENTS



More than **70%** of people living with chronic hepatitis B are not receiving care.⁵



Only **10%** of people living with chronic hepatitis B are getting antiviral treatment. This is **half the number** estimated to need treatment.⁶

DECISION MAKERS CAN'T WAIT TO PRIORITISE HEPATITIS B ELIMINATION THROUGH EFFECTIVE POLICY AND FUNDING. INVESTMENT NOW SAVES LIVES AND MONEY.



COVID-19 has significantly impacted access to health care services. An estimated 200,000 fewer people received hepatitis screening compared to the expected number in 2020 – a 20% decrease.⁷



9%

2,000 fewer people received hepatitis B monitoring during 2020 compared to 2019 – a 9% decrease.⁸

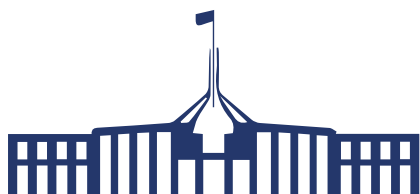


15%

There was a 15% decline in new diagnoses of hepatitis B during 2020.⁹

HEPATITIS C CAN'T WAIT!

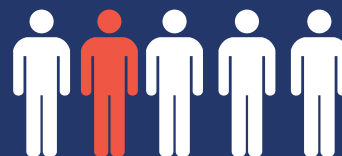
Approximately 120,000 people were living with chronic hepatitis C at the end of 2019 in Australia.¹⁰



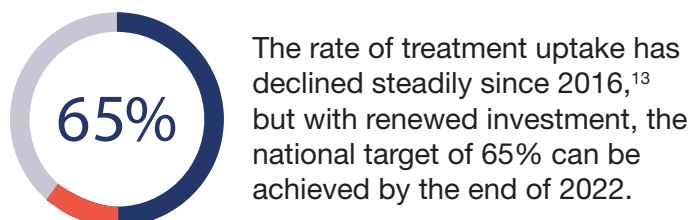
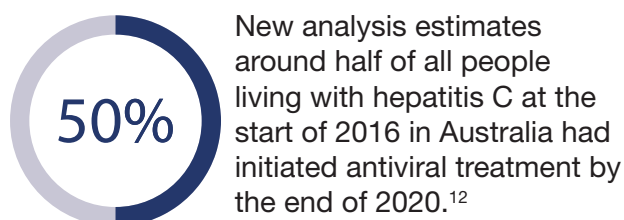
With a scale-up of investment, Australia can achieve its 2022 national targets for hepatitis C testing and cure.

PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDIAGNOSED CAN'T WAIT FOR HEPATITIS C TESTING

It is estimated that one in five people living with chronic hepatitis C have not been diagnosed and are unaware of their infection. Of those who are considered 'diagnosed', one-quarter have not received confirmatory testing to know whether their hepatitis C is chronic.¹¹



PEOPLE LIVING WITH HEPATITIS C CAN'T WAIT FOR LIFE SAVING CURES



DECISION MAKERS CAN'T WAIT TO PRIORITISE HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION THROUGH EFFECTIVE POLICY AND FUNDING. INVESTMENT NOW SAVES LIVES AND MONEY.



Hepatitis C screening and treatment uptake has been affected by COVID-19, particularly in the harder-hit states of New South Wales and Victoria.¹⁴

65%



Australia needs additional investment to reach the national target of 65% treated by 2022, a milestone on the path to the global goal of 80% treated by 2030.



NATIONAL HEPATITIS INFO LINE

If you or someone you care about is living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C and you have questions or concerns, please phone our info line on 1800 437 222 or speak to a GP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Data provided in this document was collated by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis, The Doherty Institute.

REFERENCES

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2. Ibid
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4. Ibid
5. Ibid
6. Ibid
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10. Kirby Institute. [HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia: annual surveillance report 2018](#). Sydney: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney; 2018, **with approximation based on 2019 treatment numbers.**
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13. MacLachlan JH, Smith C, Towell V, Cowie BC. [Viral Hepatitis Mapping Project: National Report 2018–19](#). Darlinghurst, NSW, Australia: Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM), 2020.
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