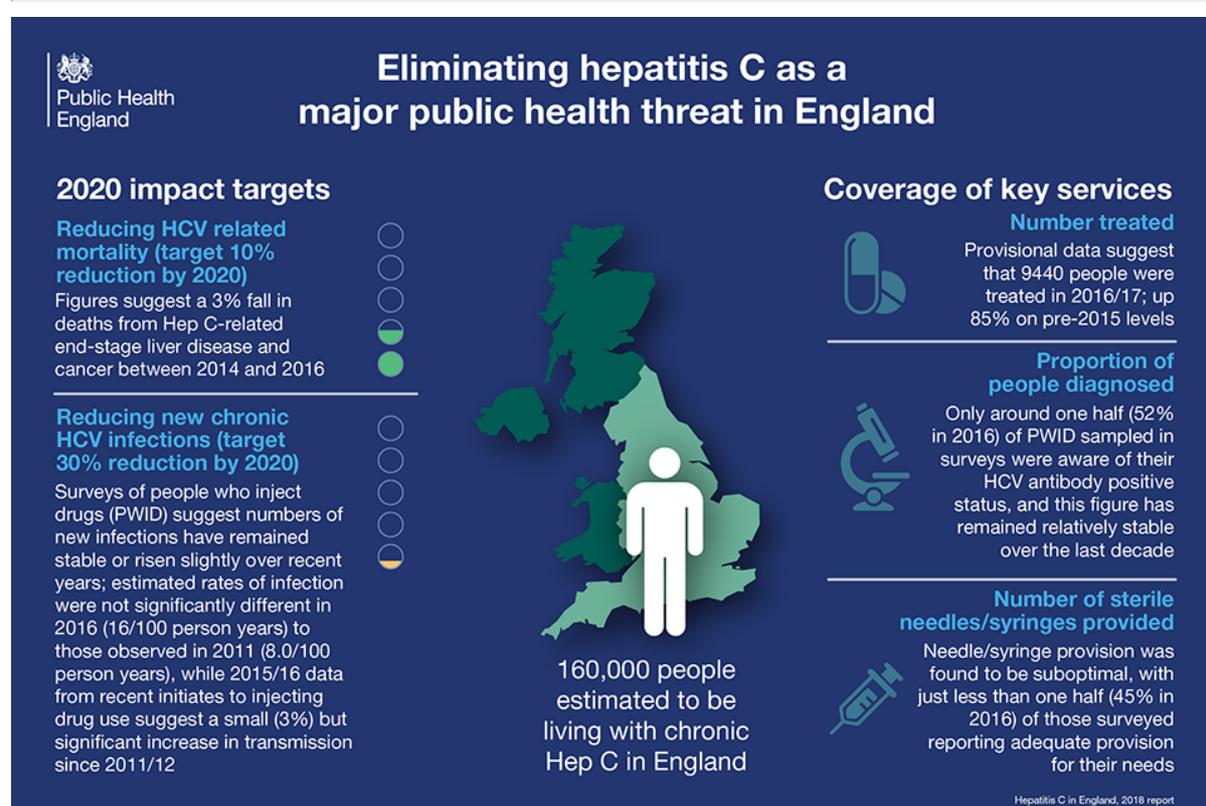


HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

August 2018

Public Health England publishes annual 'Hepatitis C in the UK report', showing 11% fall in deaths from hepatitis C



[Public Health England](#) has published its annual '[Hepatitis C in the UK](#)' report containing key national data setting out progress towards eliminating hepatitis C.

Encouragingly, the report indicates an 11% fall in deaths from hepatitis C in 2017, building on a 3% fall in deaths in 2016. The proportion of at-risk groups being tested is increasing, with surveys estimating that two thirds of people who inject drugs are now aware of their HCV-positive status. More people are accessing treatment than ever before, with an increase of 19% on the previous year.

However, there has not been any significant reduction in overall prevalence of

hepatitis C or numbers of new infections, demonstrating that it will still be a significant challenge to achieve the [World Health Organization](#) targets to reduce new cases of hepatitis C by 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2030.

According to the report's findings, much more must be done to improve prevention and increase numbers of people tested and treated to move towards elimination and achieve the World Health Organization 2030 targets.

Read the report [here](#) and a summary of the findings [here](#).

New good practice case study on Edinburgh Access Practice homeless service available in HCV Action resource library

[HCV Action](#) has published a new good practice case study featuring an outreach service providing hepatitis C testing and treatment to the local homeless population.

[Edinburgh Access Practice](#) (EAP) is a primary care facility designed to provide healthcare services to patients who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In 2014, a hepatitis C treatment clinic was established within EAP to target homeless patients infected with hepatitis C.

In the period from March 2014 to December 2016, 70% of patients referred to the clinic attended their appointments and 31% started treatment, compared with typical hospital clinical attendance rates of 30-50%. Interviews with patients revealed positive responses to engagement with the clinic, with ongoing relationships with staff members cited as a significant factor.

The case study demonstrates the effectiveness of community-based hepatitis C clinics in reaching vulnerable populations which may find traditional healthcare services difficult to access.

The case study is available in the HCV Action resource library [here](#).

Register now for HCV Action and PHE hepatitis C good practice roadshows in Kent and Sheffield

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A final few places are still available for [HCV Action](#) and [Public Health England's](#)

latest Hepatitis C Good Practice Roadshows, taking place in Kent on 5th September and in Sheffield on 17th October.

The roadshows will bring together health professionals, drug service workers, public health specialists and others from across the Kent and South Yorkshire areas for a day of talks and workshops. The events will highlight local good practice and act as a forum for discussion about local challenges and solutions surrounding hepatitis C.

Each roadshow will feature a range of talks and workshops on topics such as local epidemiology, treatments and possibilities for elimination, and primary care case-finding. The event will also include patient perspectives and good practice case studies from the local area.

Other outreach activities are also planned during the week of the roadshow, including a mobile testing van and harm reduction services at homeless hostels and drug and alcohol services.

The events are free to attend. Register for the Kent roadshow [here](#) and the Sheffield roadshow [here](#).

News & Reports

* Substance misuse service [Addaction](#) has produced a Hepatitis C Strategy, detailing the service's five-point plan for contributing to efforts to tackle hepatitis C. Each Addaction service will use the strategy to develop a local plan to achieve elimination by 2030. The plan commits Addaction to offering hepatitis C testing in all services, providing staff with hepatitis C training, and ensuring each service has clear referral pathways in place to link new diagnoses into treatment quickly. Partnership working with advocacy groups including HCV Action and The Hepatitis C Trust is also emphasised. Read the strategy document [here](#).

* New data published in [HIV Medicine](#) demonstrates that the majority of people who are co-infected with hepatitis C and HIV are men who have sex with men (MSM). The majority of co-infected MSM were diagnosed with HIV at least six months before their HCV infection was detected, showing that more needs to be done to increase testing and awareness of HCV infection risks among MSM. Read a summary of the study's findings [here](#).

* A project in the United States found that expanding hepatitis C testing in emergency departments beyond typical high-risk populations was effective in diagnosing people who might otherwise have gone without treatment. During the project, the Boston Medical Center increased HCV screening rates in emergency

departments by more than 6000%, and found that if they had not done this, there would have been 155 missed active infections. The findings have been published in [Academic Emergency Medicine](#) and a summary is available [here](#).

* A new interview-based investigation published in [Harm Reduction Journal](#) found that people who inject drugs going through treatment for hepatitis C are looking for outcomes beyond just a cure for the infection. The interviewees stated that they were also hoping that the treatment process would support them with improved physical and mental health, positive changes in identity and social relationships and managing future health and risk. However, these outcomes were often not addressed in their experience of treatment. Read the findings [here](#).

* [Public Health England](#) has published new guidance on improving the integration of care pathways from prison to the community. The guidance aims to address weaknesses identified in the care pathway between prison and the community, including low attendance at appointments and clinics following release, limited follow-up with those who did not attend, and referrals made by prison services not being received by community treatment services. Read the new guidance [here](#).

* [King's College Hospital](#) are hosting an informational event aimed at homeless service staff to raise awareness of hepatitis C treatment and services. The event will take place on the 19th September in collaboration with [Homeless Link](#) and [The Hepatitis C Trust](#), and registration is available [here](#).

* Substance use charity [Adfam](#) will launch a new resource supporting families affected by hepatitis C on the 12th September at an event in Kings Cross. Registration for the event is available [here](#).

* On the 14th of August, [BBC Radio Sheffield](#) featured extensive coverage of hepatitis C, including a discussion on the risk factors, how to get tested and treated, interviews with former patients, and peer support work in the region. The broadcast is available [here](#).

* The [Infected Blood Inquiry](#) will hold preliminary hearings in London from 24th-26th September, with a commemoration for those affected on the morning of 24th. The hearings are open to the public, and more information about taking part can be found [here](#).

Share your good practice...

If you would like your service to be featured as a good practice case study on the HCV Action website, or if you have any news to share with colleagues, please send an email to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.



*HCV Action is co-funded by AbbVie, Gilead, and MSD.
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Please encourage colleagues to join HCV Action for free hepatitis C related updates and tools by emailing their full contact details to [**hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk**](mailto:hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk).

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