



Eliminating hepatitis C virus (HCV) in England

The number of people with chronic HCV infection in England has fallen by

37%



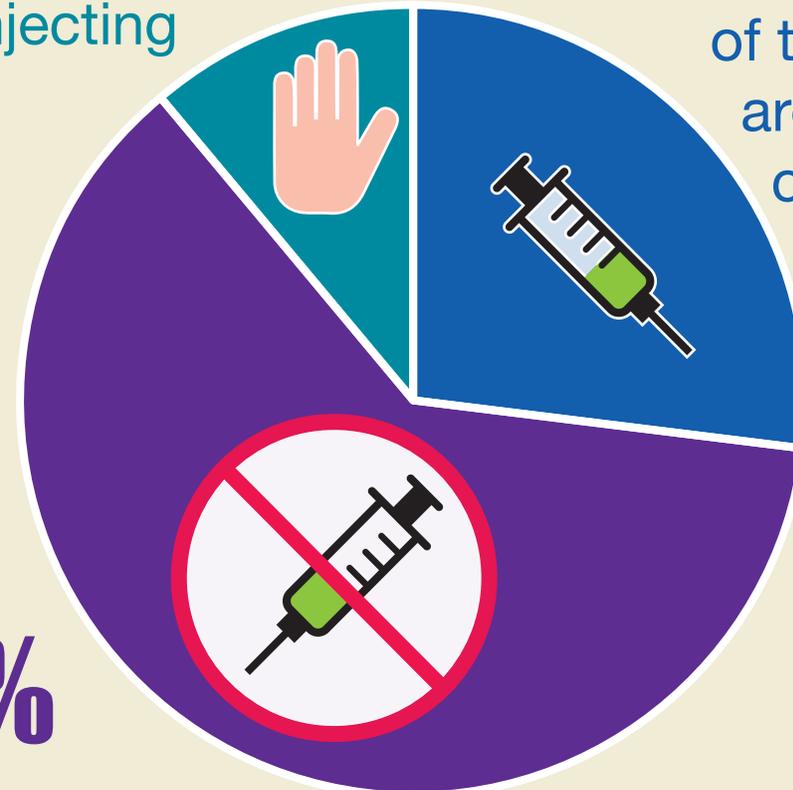
since 2015, to around

81,000 in 2020

Of the 81,000 people living with chronic HCV in 2020, modelling suggests

11% are in those with no history of injecting

27% of these infections are in people with current/recent drug injecting risk



62%

are in those with a past drug injecting history but who are no longer injecting



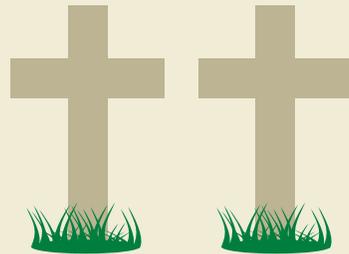
Reducing HCV-related morbidity and mortality

Between 2015 and 2020, HCV-related mortality fell by

35%



This 35% fall has surpassed (more than 3-fold) the World Health Organization (WHO) 2020 elimination target of **10%**



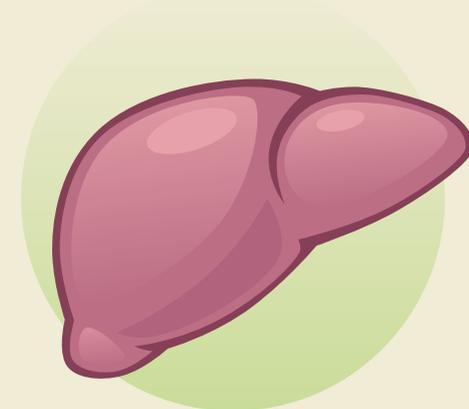
The WHO interim target to reduce HCV-related mortality to less than **2** in **100,000** people has already been hit in England (0.56 in 100,000 people in 2020)



By 2020, first hospitalisations for serious HCV-related liver disease were ...

17%

down on levels in 2015



By 2020, registrations for a first liver transplant in patients with HCV-related disease were ...

40%

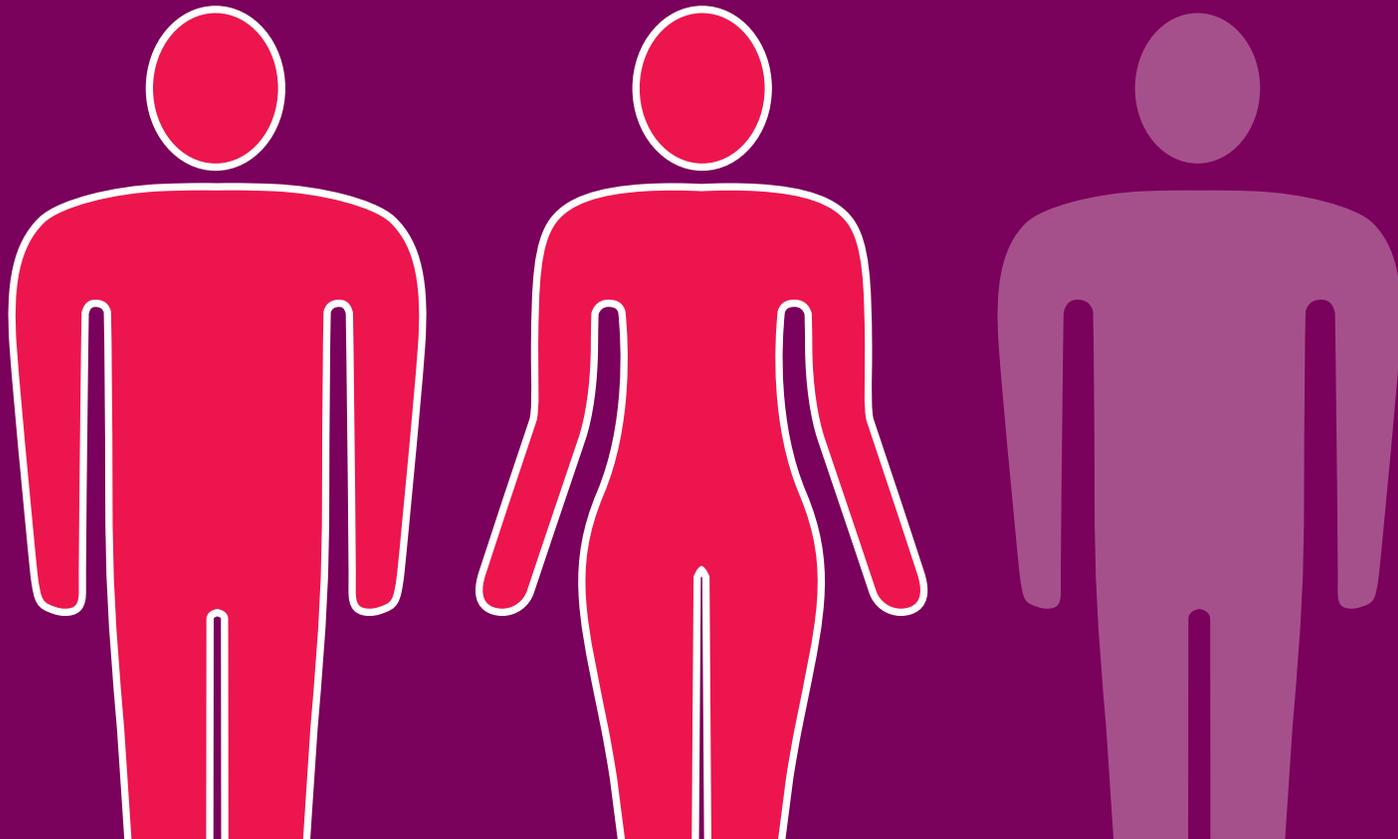
down on levels in 2015



Prevention of HCV infection



Around **2 in 3** people injecting psychoactive drugs participating in the UAM Survey during 2019 and 2020, report adequate needle and syringe provision for their needs



Harm reduction among people who inject drugs needs to be scaled up to prevent both primary infection and reinfection following HCV treatment if elimination is to be achieved and sustained.



Awareness of HCV infection

National data and surveys suggest that **more than half of people who inject drugs** may be unaware of their **chronic HCV infection**



More needs to be done to improve diagnosis overall, including among people with past risk factors for infection.



HCV treatment uptake and response

Increasing numbers are accessing HCV treatment, including vulnerable groups;

around

58,850

treatments took place between 2015/16 and 2020/21.

Further work is required to reach the 2030 WHO target of at least

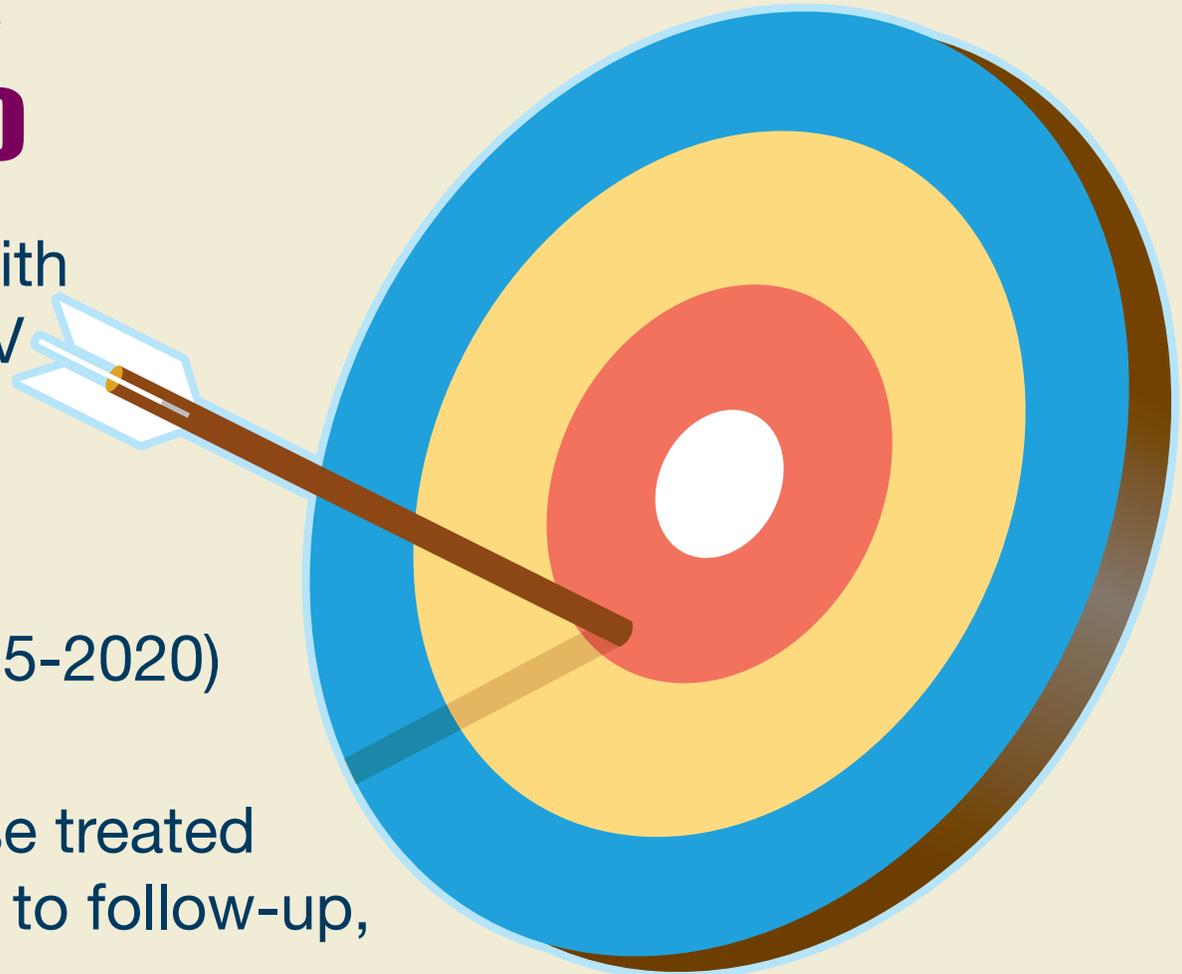
80%

of people with chronic HCV diagnosed, accessing treatment

(65% in 2015-2020)

Among those treated and not lost to follow-up,

95% were cured.





Elimination of HCV, addressing inequalities

There is an urgent need, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic, to redouble efforts to improve harm reduction, testing and access to treatment for the most vulnerable populations or inequalities will widen.

