

HEPATITIS C IN RICHMOND: 3 STEPS COUNCIL MEMBERS CAN TAKE

CNCL - 592

By Shakuntala Soden, PhD and Rosemary Plummer, RN
June 22, 2015, Richmond, British Columbia



Committed to preventing the spread of hepatitis C virus (HCV)
and to providing support and education to HCV+ people

Hepatitis C in Canada – The Stats

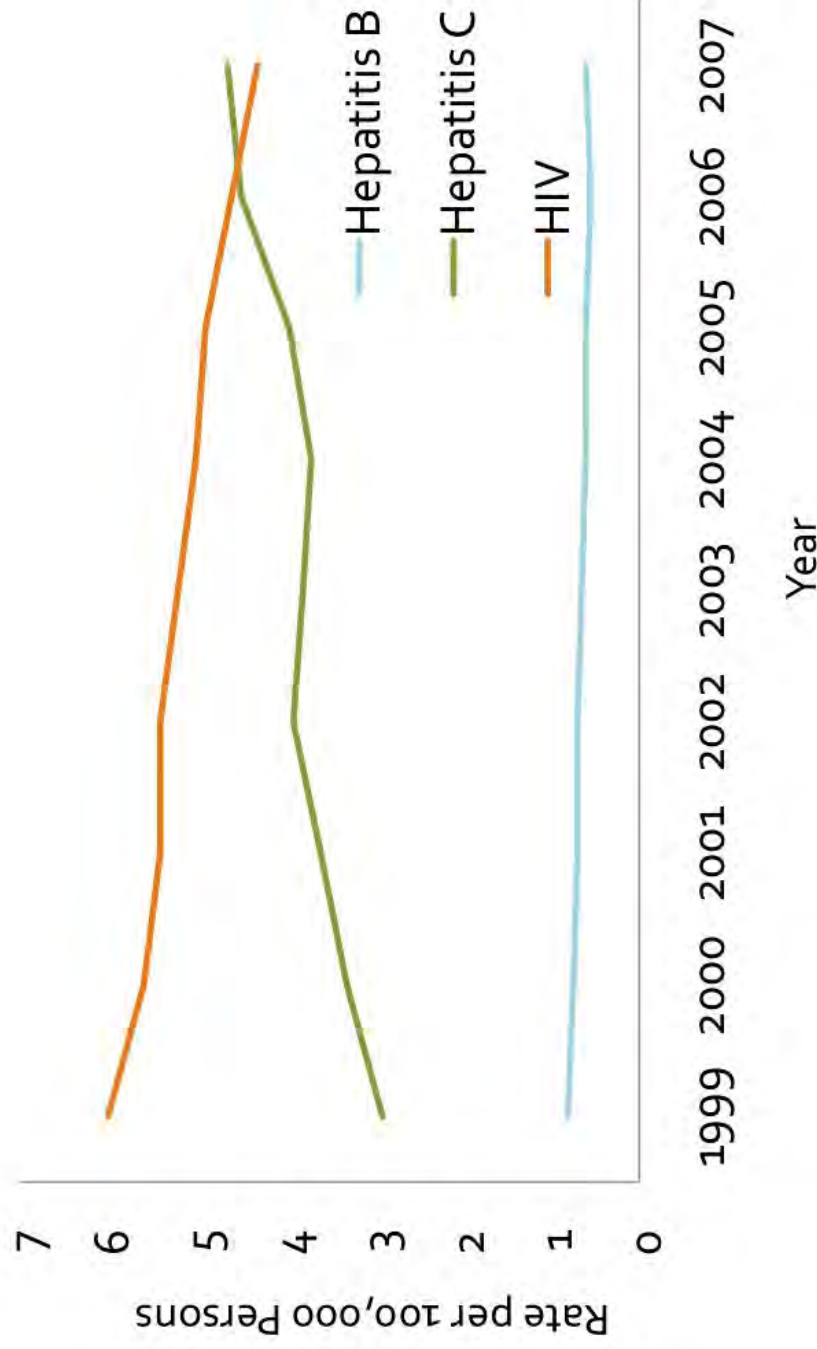
- **At least 220,000** Canadians live with chronic hepatitis C (approx. **1%** of population)
- **About 75%** of affected people are **Baby Boomers** (born between 1945 and 1975)
- People can have this ‘silent killer’ and **not know it for 3 to 4 decades after infection.**
- At least **44%** of these don’t know they have it, **while it silently destroys their liver**

Hepatitis C in BC (one of Canada's top provinces for high HCV prevalence)

- The BC Centre for Disease Control estimates that approximately **80,000** British Columbians are living with chronic hepatitis C.
- Leading cause of **cirrhosis of the liver** and **liver cancer** (high risk of other cancers as well) in BC
- Top reason for **liver transplants**; demand soaring
- Estimate of future lifetime costs range from **\$52,000 for patient with no fibrosis to \$328,000 for patient requiring liver transplant**

HCV: a life and death issue

Since 2006, more people have died of hepatitis C than of either HIV/AIDS or of hepatitis B.



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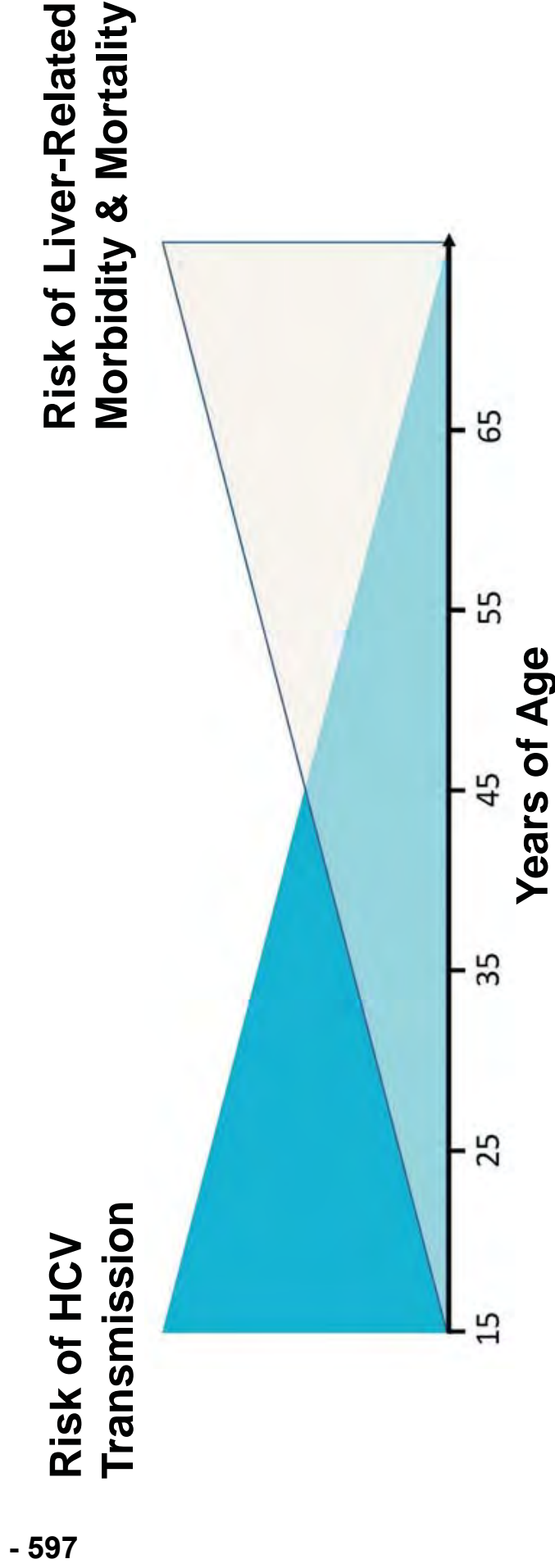
Ly et al. Annals of Internal Medicine. 2012; 156:271-278

Two main populations of patients in Canada

- 1) **Most in danger of infecting others, primarily in early stages of the disease**
 - Injection drug users
 - Users of inhaled drugs (cocaine, meth)
 - MSM (men who have sex with men)
 - Users of injected anabolic steroids
 - Those who have had unsterile tattoos or piercings, particularly common among prisoners
- 2) **No longer in danger of infecting others, in late stages of the disease, but most in danger of morbidities and mortality**
 - Victims of tainted blood tragedy
 - Canada's blood supply not screened until 1992
 - Others paying for excesses of their youth

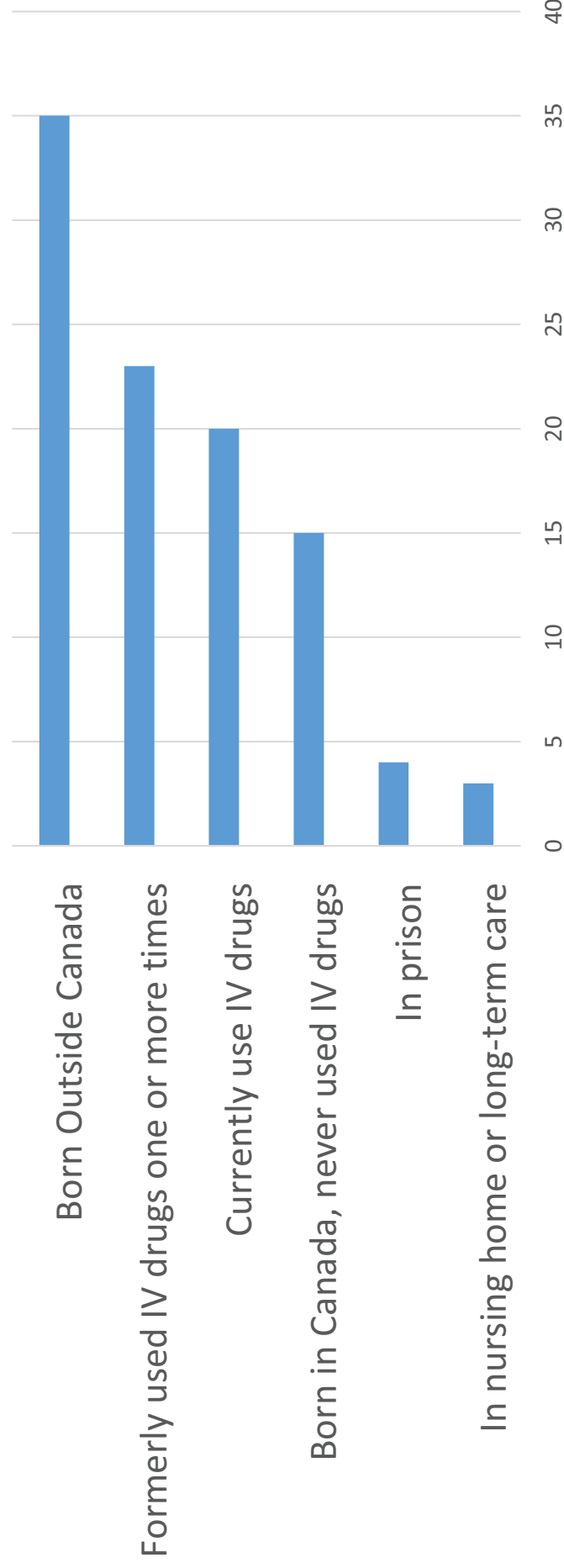
Risk of Transmission vs. Risk of Dying

Young people are at greater risk of contracting or transmitting HCV (Hepatitis C Virus) and generally need **PREVENTION** programs. **Older people** (some of whom may have used drugs at one time) are now at far greater risk of HCV-related morbidity and mortality, and generally need a **SCREEN-TREAT-CURE** program.



Who has hepatitis C in Canada?

Characteristics of the est. 220,000+ Canadians with Chronic Hepatitis C



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- **Approx. 75% of these 220,000 people are Baby Boomers.**
- **Approx. 80% of them have never used, or no longer use, IV drugs.**

We want One-Time-Only Screening of those born between 1945 and 1965

- In US, this is **promoted by the Center for Disease Control** and widely advertised.
- In Canada, both the Canadian Liver Foundation and Canadian gastroenterologists suggest **1945-1975!**
- **This simple blood test** need only be given once; this cohort generally no longer transmits nor contracts HCV.
- **HCV tests are not regularly given.** A patient must generally request this test specifically. Most don't ask for it.

Widespread Baby-Boomer Screening

Would De-Stigmatize HCV Testing

- A one-time-only test for **all of those born 1945 – 1975** (the most commonly recommended cohort for **Canada**) would “**catch**” **75% or more of the HCV+ people** in Canada
- ***Without singling out any group of people***
- ***Without using stigmatizing ‘risk-based’ testing***
- ***Would find the 44% who don’t know they have it***, enabling them to get treated in time to avoid advanced liver disease, cancer, need for transplant

Baby Boomer Testing Targets the Most Vulnerable to HCV Morbidity & Mortality

- **73% of HCV-related deaths are in this cohort. A one-time hepatitis C Screen-Treat-Cure program in Canada for Baby Boomers would prevent at least 21,000 HCV-related deaths.**
- **This sort of screen-treat-cure approach “is likely to be cost-effective, at \$34,359 to \$44,034 per QALY (Quality-Adjusted Year of Life) gained...”**

Sources: CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (August, 2012) and

Cost-effectiveness of screening for hepatitis C in Canada, William W.L. Wong PhD, Hong-Anh Tu PhD, Jordan J. Feld MD MPH, Tom Wong MD MPH, Murray Krahn MD MSc

<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2015/01/12/cmaj.140711.full.pdf>

Our BC bus ad campaign (July 1-28) will run in 7 cities including Richmond!

You Can Have Hepatitis C and Not Know it.



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It can kill. There is a cure. Get tested.

hep c bc

Find out more at
HEPCBC.ca

80,000
BC residents
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75%
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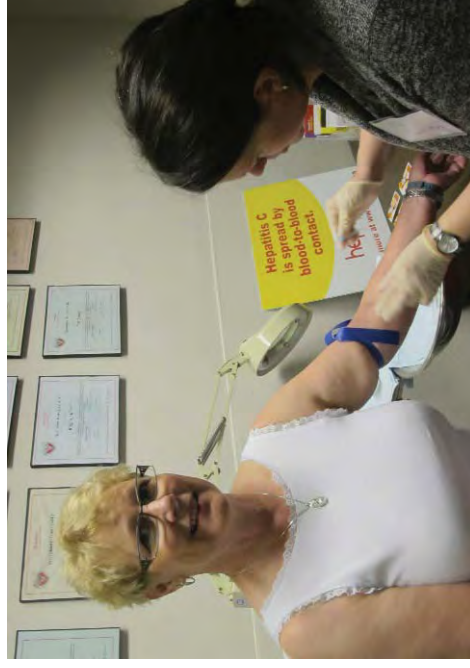
Step #1: Would you please take a picture holding our BUS AD?

World Hepatitis Day is July 28th

- Hepatitis C can now actually be eradicated from the earth!
- 150 million or more people have it, worldwide.

Step #2: Support the Mayor's Proclamation of July 28th as "World Hepatitis Day" in Richmond.

Political leaders are “rolling up their sleeves” in support of Baby Boomer Hepatitis C testing!



Step #3: Would you be willing to be publicly tested for hepatitis C?

THANKS SO MUCH FOR LISTENING TO OUR PRESENTATION!

Contact Information, HepCBC

- **Victoria, BC (Main) Office**
 - #20 – 1139 Yates Street
 - Victoria, BC V8V 3N2
 - 250-595-3892
- **Vancouver, BC (Outreach) Office**
 - #206A – 938 Howe Street
 - Vancouver, BC V6Z 1N9
 - 604-259-0500
- Email: info@hepcbc.ca
- Website: www.hepcbc.ca, FB: hepcbc, Twitter: @hepcbc
- Incorporated 1996 as a BC Society
- Revenue Canada Charitable #86800-4979-RR0001

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It can kill. There is a cure. Get tested.



Find out more at
HEPCBC.ca

80,000

BC residents
have hepatitis C

75%

infected are
Baby Boomers

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You Can Have Hepatitis C and Not Know it.

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There is a Cure.

Find out more at HEPCBC.ca

**Get
TESTED!**

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Friday, May 29 2015