

**WHY SHOULD PEOPLE BORN FROM 1945-1965 GET TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C.**

* People born from 1945–1965, sometimes referred to as baby boomers, are 5 times more likely to have hepatitis C than other adults.
* 75% of people with Hepatitis C were born from 1945-1965
* Of the more than 3 million people living with Hepatitis C, 3 out of every 4 were born from 1945-1965.
* Hepatitis C can lead to liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer. Most people with hepatitis C do not know they are infected.
* Many people can get lifesaving care and treatment.
* Knowing you have Hepatitis C can help you make important decisions about your health.
* Successful treatments can eliminate the virus from the body and prevent liver damage, cirrhosis, and even liver cancer.

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**HEPATITIS**

**HEPATITIS C**

Hepatitis C is a serious liver disease that results from infection with the Hepatitis C virus.

* Hepatitis C has been called a silent epidemic because most people with Hepatitis C do not know they are infected.
* Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus.
* There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C.
* The best way to prevent Hepatitis C is by avoiding behaviors that can spread the disease, especially injecting drugs.
* Hepatitis C is a short-term illness but for 70%–85% of people who become infected with Hepatitis C, it becomes a long-term, chronic infection.

**HEPATITIS**: The word "hepatitis" means inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis is most often caused by a virus. (CDC, 2015)

**HEPATITIS A**

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable, communicable disease of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV).

* It is usually transmitted from person-to-person through the fecal-oral route or consumption of contaminated food or water.
* Hepatitis A is a self-limited disease that does not result in chronic infection.
* Symptom of hepatitis A are fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice.
* It resolve within 2 months of infection.
* Antibodies produced in response to hepatitis A infection last for life and protect against reinfection.
* The best way to prevent hepatitis A infection is to get vaccinated.

**HEPATITIS B**

Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV).

* Hepatitis B is transmitted when blood, semen, or another body fluid from a person infected with the Hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected.
* This can happen through sexual contact; sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment; or from mother to baby at birth.
* Chronic Hepatitis B can lead to serious health issues, like cirrhosis or liver cancer.
* Serologic testing for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) is the primary way to identify persons chronic HBV infection.
* The best way to prevent Hepatitis B is by getting vaccinated.

**RREFERENCE**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2015) Hepatitis C. <https://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016) Hepatitis C. <https://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/media/pdfs/factsheet-boomers.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017) Hepatitis A. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2017) Hepatitis B. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/index.htm**Why do people born from 1945-1965 have such high rates of hepatitis C?**

* Hepatitis C is primarily spread through contact with blood from an infected person.
* Most baby boomers are believed to have become infected in the 1960s through the 1980s when transmission of hepatitis C was highest.
* Baby boomers could have gotten infected from medical equipment or procedures before universal precautions and infection control procedures were adopted.
* Others could have gotten infected from contaminated blood and blood products before widespread screening virtually eliminated the virus from the blood supply by 1992.
* Sharing needles or equipment used to prepare or inject drugs, even if only once in the past, could spread hepatitis C.