

Why should people from around the World care about hepatitis?

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver and causes liver damage that most often leads to liver diseases such as cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure. Hepatitis is a global health issue where 130-150 million people worldwide are living with hepatitis C (HCV) and 240 million people worldwide are living with hepatitis B (HBV). Most people do not know they have hepatitis B or C and they live for decades with undiagnosed liver disease.

Hepatitis and You - Get Tested

Upon entering the United States (US), recent immigrants receive hepatitis A and B vaccinations (there are no vaccinations for hepatitis C). However, they are not tested for hepatitis A or B prior to being vaccinated. This means that people could enter the US with hepatitis, not knowing they have it, and live for years mistakenly thinking they are protected through vaccination, during which time they may infect others. If you have not already been exposed, you can protect yourself from hepatitis A and B through vaccination. Also, immigrants are not tested for hepatitis C upon entering the US by the government. The first step to know if you have hepatitis is getting tested for both hepatitis B and C. Let your provider know that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that anyone from

countries with a hepatitis B prevalence rate of 2% or higher be tested at least once. The CDC also recommends that anyone born between 1945 and 1965 be tested for hepatitis C. Ask your healthcare provider to test you for hepatitis antibodies to determine if you have an active infection.

If you are a US citizen and your parents or people who reside(d) with you are immigrants, be sure to get tested for hepatitis B and C. Casual household contact, like sharing razors, toothbrushes, tweezers, injectable medications and sexual contact is an easy way to transmit hepatitis B, in particular. Hepatitis C is transmitted only through blood, and can be transmitted through sharing items where small amounts of blood may be present but not visible.

Even if you feel healthy,
you could still have
Hepatitis C

Left untreated, it can
lead to liver cancer.
Talk to your doctor.

www.CaringAmbassadors.org



The World & HEPATITIS



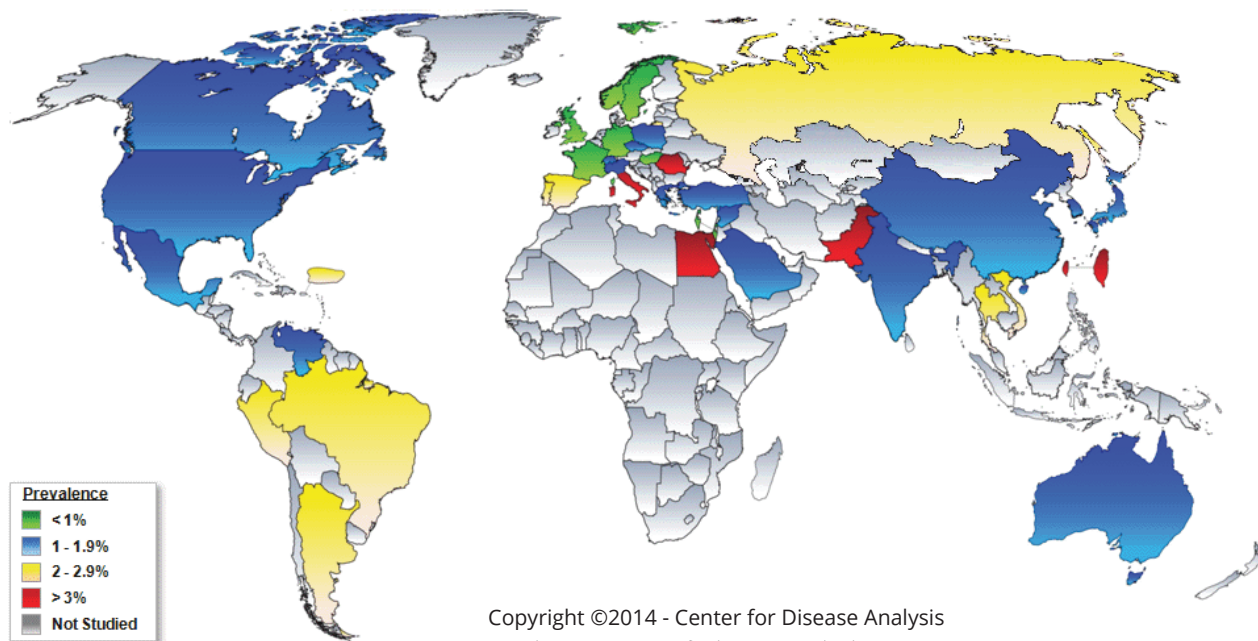
**DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE.
IT AFFECTS MILLIONS
AND CAUSES LIVER CANCER.**

Talk to your doctor about testing. Early detection saves lives.

www.CaringAmbassadors.org

Hepatitis C Worldwide

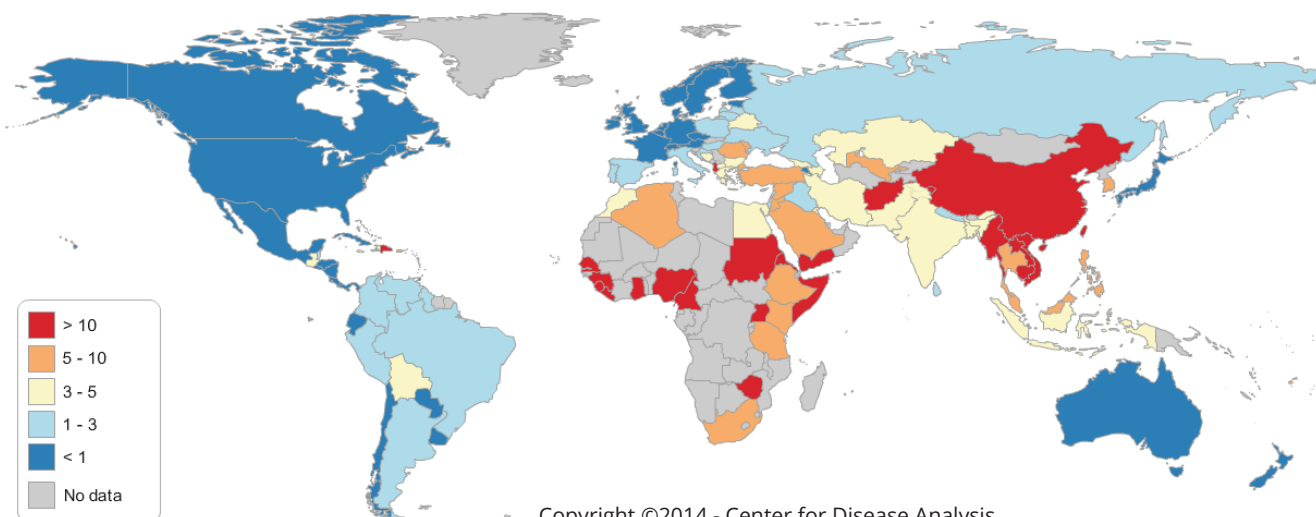
Hepatitis C greatly affects some countries like Egypt, Pakistan, Taiwan, Romania and Italy, where the highest rates of hepatitis C exist worldwide. Other countries or territories like Russia, Spain, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Thailand and Vietnam have high rates of hepatitis C also. Map figure 1 shows hepatitis prevalence by country, where red and yellow represent the hardest hit countries.



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Hepatitis B Worldwide

Worldwide, hepatitis B is a serious health issue affecting almost twice as many people as hepatitis C. Countries like China, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam and many African countries, especially the Sudan and Guinea, have the highest rates of hepatitis B worldwide. Countries like Korea, Thailand, South Africa and Saudi Arabia have high hepatitis B rates too. Map figure 2 shows countries in red and orange representing the hardest hit countries.



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