

**Institute of Medicine
Committee on Prevention and Control of
Viral Hepatitis Infections in the United States**

*Hepatitis C:
Moving Beyond the Silence*

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... “[Hepatitis C is] one of the most significant preventable and treatable public health problems facing our nation.... a graver threat than the AIDS crisis.”

Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, 1998



**Hepatitis C is the
most common,
chronic, blood-borne
viral infection in the
United States.**

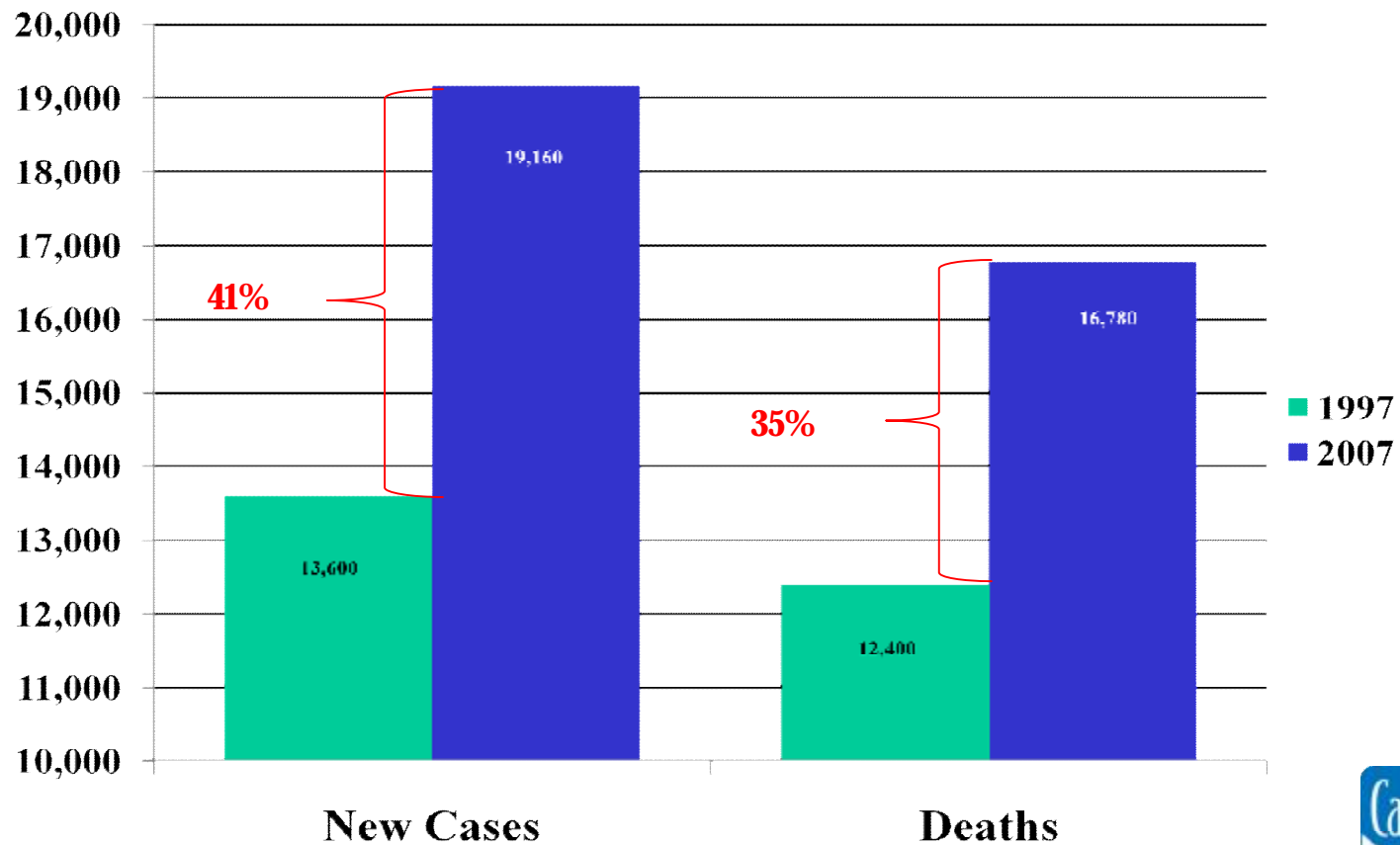


Where Are They?

**Counseling and Testing
Surveillance
Care and Treatment programs
are virtually absent
for hepatitis C.**



Hepatitis C & Liver Cancer: 1997 vs. 2007



The Need

Primary Prevention

• hepatitis C education and
awareness campaigns

• screening



The Need

Secondary Prevention

ü counseling

ü awareness

ü education



The Need

Tertiary Prevention
ü disease management
ü access to care



The Solution

- HCV counseling, testing and referral for medical management programs at the state and local level
- HCV education for medical providers
- Comprehensive national chronic viral hepatitis surveillance system
- HAV and HBV vaccine for those at risk for and infected with HCV



The Solution

- Integration of HCV services into existing public health programs, and community health centers
- Persons co-infected with HIV and HBV/HCV are dependent on the already stretched Ryan White Program. These programs are struggling to provide comprehensive services to their HIV infected clients. Funding for co-infection services must be increased to adequately address the complex needs of these patients.



The Solution

- Funding for an accelerated HCV vaccine research program
- Lift the federal ban on syringe exchange to allow effective prevention initiatives to provide valuable HCV education and link people to prevention, care and treatment programs.
- Funding and increased infrastructure within the Bureau of Primary Care to provide care and treatment for the uninsured.



The Solution

- Increased funding for NIH Liver Disease Action Plan.
- A national education campaign targeted to the people who have been living with hepatitis C since the sixties and seventies needs to be implemented to help identify those with the greatest need for immediate diagnosis and referral to care.



Thank You

C the Problem.

Be Part of the Solution.

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