

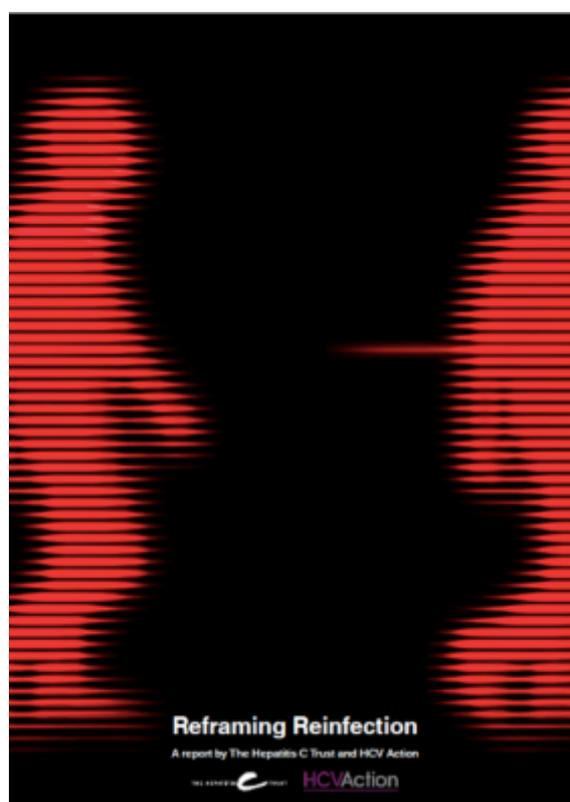
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HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

March 2022

Hepatitis C Trust and HCV Action launch new report on hepatitis C reinfections

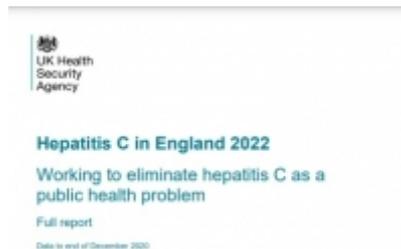


We have just published our HCV Action and [The Hepatitis C Trust](#) joint report on hepatitis C reinfections, [Reframing Reinfection](#).

This report sets out to understand what the NHS and frontline services working with people at risk of hepatitis C are seeing in relation to reinfection, what is already being done, and what more we might put in place locally and nationally to address this. Through our literature analysis, survey, focus groups and interviews, our report found that the key issues identified at the root of reinfection reflect the most critical challenges faced by the UK hepatitis C elimination programme as a whole.

Hepatitis C patients often face many health and care needs, from addiction to mental health to homelessness, that often sit alongside it and indirectly raise reinfection rates as well as immense suffering and unnecessarily shortened lives. The report features specific, holistic recommendations tailored to tackle the reinfections and to ensure that we achieve sustainable elimination by UK's goal of 2030, focused on the following five key areas which need urgent work and development: prevention & harm reduction; addressing wider individual needs; increased testing; support for people not services; and improving data.

Latest 'Hepatitis C in England 2022' report published by UKHSA



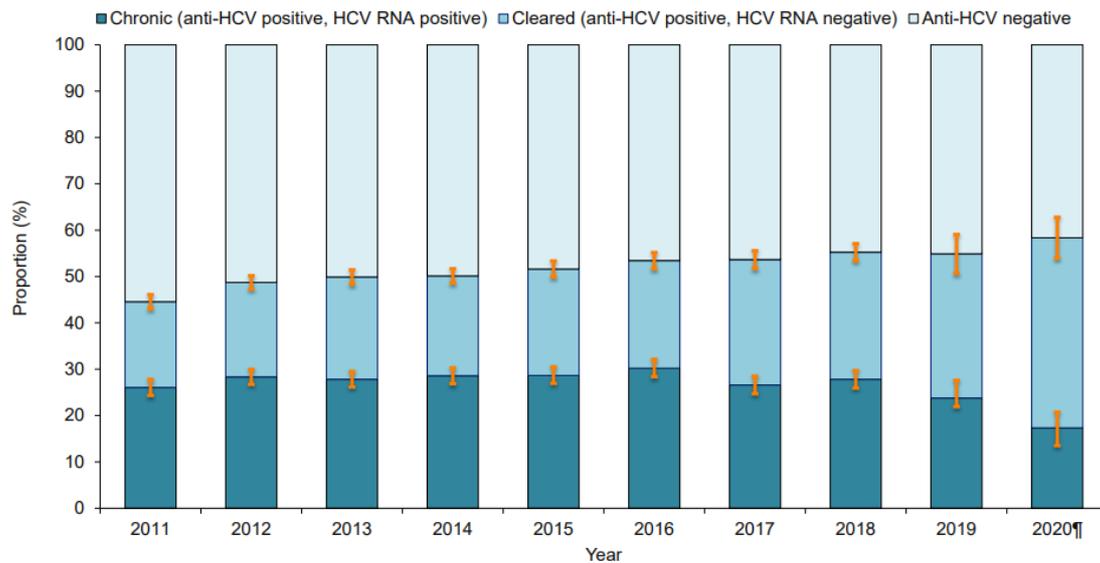
The latest '[Hepatitis C in England 2022](#)' report from the [UK Health Security Agency](#) has been published, with recommendations on the actions needed to reduce incidence, increase testing, and improve linkage into care.

The latest annual report shows there has been considerable progress towards eliminating hepatitis C as a public health problem by 2030 in England, with data showing that deaths from hepatitis C have fallen by 35% between 2015 and 2020. The data shows the estimated prevalence of chronic hepatitis C in England has continued to decline to around 81,000 in 2020 (compared to 129,000 in 2015), a 37% fall in the general population. Provisional data suggests that there has been a 40% decline among people who inject drugs. Deaths due to advanced liver disease related to hepatitis C have also fallen, from 482 in 2015 to 314 in 2020, exceeding the World Health Organization target for a 10% drop by 2020.

Alongside the full report, a [short version](#) and [infographics](#) are available.

HCV Action announces latest webinar on what data tells us about progress towards hepatitis C elimination

Figure 2. Trend in HCV prevalence* among people injecting psychoactive drugs in England: 2011 to 2020



The next HCV Action webinar will feature presentations on the latest data on hepatitis C and what it tells us about progress towards elimination. Speakers will explore what we can observe about trends from the current data, and what types of further data collection we need to fill gaps in our current knowledge and guide efforts towards elimination. The webinar will take place from 10.30am-12 midday on **Friday May 6th** - [sign up here](#) to attend.

Dr Monica Desai from the UK Health Security Agency will provide an overview of the latest data from the UKHSA's recent Hepatitis C in England report. **Professor Graham Foster** from NHS England will give a perspective on what the data says about NHSE's elimination efforts and where further focus is needed in terms of testing and treatment, particularly as recovery from COVID-19 continues. **Stuart Smith** from The Hepatitis C Trust will talk about data on the Trust's outreach activity, and **Georgia Threadgold** from NHS England and **Sean Cox** from The Hepatitis C Trust will speak about the situation and present data in prisons. A final speaker will talk about what data shows about efforts to tackle hepatitis C in drug services.

News and reports

* There are [still spaces available](#) for the London Joint Working Group on Substance Use and Hepatitis C ([LJWG](#)) conference on June 17th and they will announce speakers soon.

* "It's love, care, compassion and consistent support" - a Hepatitis C Trust

[#PeerSupportMeans interview](#) with Leicestershire Peer Coordinator Paul Huggett explores his experience of hepatitis C and the value of peer support.

* The Government have confirmed that a [study on the options for an infected blood compensation framework](#) has been completed, prompting a letter from Infected Blood Inquiry chair Sir Brian Langstaff about the publication timetable for study - the Government will publish the study and a response to it "as soon as possible".

* Samantha May from The Hepatitis C Trust [gave evidence to the Infected Blood Inquiry](#) and reported that of 3,800 helpline calls to HCT from 2018-2021, at least 900 had called regarding infected blood, but suggested this may be an underestimation.

* A study published in the journal Scientific Reports has [evaluated Dry Blood Spot \(DBS\) testing](#), suggesting it can expand access to HCV testing to underserved or marginalised populations with limited access to direct HCV care.

In the US, a [University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine](#) study has found that making hepatitis C screening a default order for patients who met certain guidelines, rather than an opt-in for doctors, [almost doubled screening rates](#).

Share good practice

If you would like your service to be featured as a good practice case study on the HCV Action website, have any news to share with colleagues, or would be interested in being an [HCV Action Ambassador](#), please send an email to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.



*HCV Action is co-funded by AbbVie, Gilead, and MSD.
The Hepatitis C Trust provides secretariat support to HCV Action.*

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