Why Is This Important?

Hepatitis C is a virus transmitted through exposure to blood from an infected person. Common routes of infection include the sharing of injection drug equipment, tattoo & piercing equipment, and personal hygiene items like razors and toothbrushes. Some people with hepatitis C can clear the virus but most become chronic carriers of the virus and are at risk for developing liver damage or liver cancer.

Hepatitis C may have no signs and symptoms and therefore poses a risk for ongoing transmission.

Based on several equity measures a gap in hepatitis C infection rates persists within the Region’s population. From 2004 to 2010, 66% of hepatitis C cases were reported in individuals living in the least advantaged areas of Saskatoon (see Advancing Health Equity in Health Care – Hepatitis C).

What Is Being Done?

What’s Being Done In Saskatoon Health Region to Reduce STIs and Bloodborne Illness?

To Learn More:

Destiny’s Story (YouTube): a personal story from a hepatitis C positive individual living in our Region.

Chief Medical Health Officer’s 2014 Call to Action

Advancing Health Equity in Health Care - What is Health Equity?

Highlights

Hepatitis C rates are declining but still high in the Region.

- Hepatitis C rates have steadily decreased in the Region but are still higher than national rates (Figure 1).
- In 2016, 155 cases of hepatitis C were reported, including 92 cases in males and 63 cases in females (Figure 2). Twenty-five cases were acute infections. At least 7% of all cases were co-infected with HIV (not shown).
- The Region’s rate decreased by 7% from the previous year (Figure 1).
- Rates vary by age group with the highest rates occurring in young women 20 to 24 and adult men 30 to 39 years old. See cases and rates by gender and age group.
- In 2016, 70% (106) of individuals with hepatitis C reported injection drug use as a transmission risk, an increase from 2016. See transmission risk for hepatitis C.

Figure 1: Hepatitis C Rates per 100,000 Population, Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan, and Canada, 2007 to 2016

![Graph showing Hepatitis C rates per 100,000 population for Saskatoon Health Region, Saskatchewan, and Canada, 2007 to 2016.]

Figure 2: Hepatitis C Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population by Gender, Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016

![Graph showing Hepatitis C cases and rates per 100,000 population by gender for Saskatoon Health Region, 2007 to 2016.]

Source: PHAC, Ministry of Health, iPHIS

For more information: [www.communityview.ca](http://www.communityview.ca)