

Hepatitis C & Injection Drug Use

What is Hepatitis C? What are the symptoms?

- * A virus spread by blood-to-blood contact
- * The most common blood-borne disease in the USA
- * Hurts your liver and can lead to cancer and liver failure
- * Symptoms include: fever, upset stomach, throwing up, gray-colored poop, dark-colored urine, yellow eyes and skin, and joint pain

Can Hep C be cured?

- * There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C
- * Treatment usually involves a combination of 2 or 3 medications over a period of time



50%

Of People with Hepatitis C
do not know
they are infected

How do you avoid Hep C?

- * Do not share needles or other drug equipment
- * Set up a clean surface before setting up injection equipment
- * Wash your hands before and after injecting
- * Only handle your own injection equipment. If you inject with other people, keep your equipment separate

How do you get Hepatitis C?

- * Injection drug use and needle sharing
- * Contact with infected surfaces (Hep C virus can live on dry surfaces for 6 weeks)
- * Babies born to infected mothers



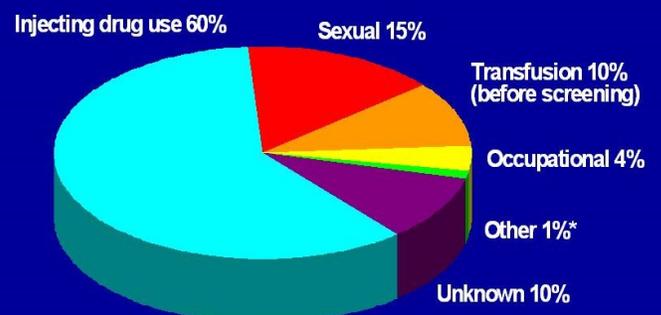
**SURRY COUNTY
HEALTH &
NUTRITION
CENTER**

If you have ever injected drugs, you are at risk for Hepatitis C! You can get tested at the Surry County Health & Nutrition Center in Dobson.

336-401-8400

118 Hamby Road, Dobson

Routes of Transmission



* Nosocomial; iatrogenic; perinatal

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HIV/AIDS & Injection Drug Use

What is HIV/AIDS? What are the symptoms?

- * A virus spread by blood-to-blood contact
- * HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) if not treated
- * Attacks the immune system and makes it hard for the body to fight off disease and illness
- * There may be no symptoms at first. Symptoms can include fever, cough, runny nose, and tired feeling.

How do you get HIV/AIDS?

- * Injection drug use and needle sharing (injection drug users are 22 times more likely to get HIV than the regular population)
 - * Contact with infected surfaces
 - * Babies born to infected mothers

Can HIV/AIDS be cured?

- * There is no cure for HIV/AIDS. Once you get it, you have it for life.

How do you avoid HIV/AIDS?

- * Do not share needles or other drug equipment
- * Set up a clean surface before setting up injection equipment
- * Wash your hands before and after injecting
- * Only handle your own injection equipment. If you inject with other people, keep your equipment separate

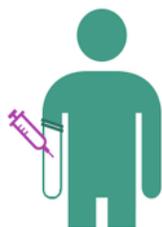
YOU CAN GET HIV VIA...



Sex without a condom



Passed from mother to baby



Sharing injecting equipment



Contaminated blood transfusions & organ transplants



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HEALTH &
NUTRITION
CENTER**

If you have ever injected drugs, you are at risk for HIV/AIDS. You can get tested at the Surry County Health & Nutrition Center in Dobson or you can buy an at-home test from a pharmacy.

336-401-8400

118 Hamby Road, Dobson

