

Hep C, HIV & Prison

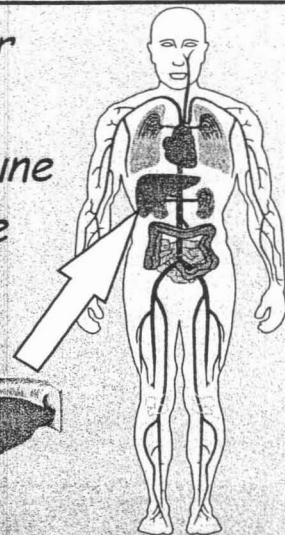
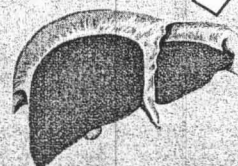
Produced by B.C. Persons with AIDS Society and Vancouver Native Health Society

Hepatitis C and HIV are very common among men in prison.

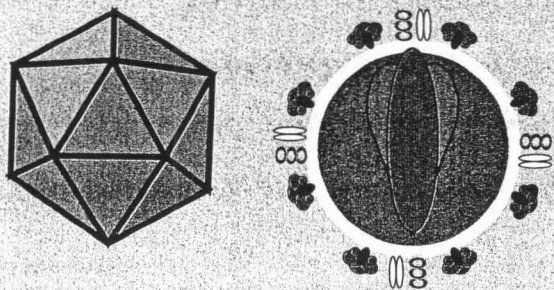


Hepatitis C is a liver disease. HIV is a disease of the immune system. The immune system fights infections.

liver



Both diseases are caused by viruses.



	Hep C	HIV
spread by sex	possibly	yes
spread by household contact	possibly	no

Use condoms for fucking or getting fucked. The risk of spreading HIV by oral sex is low.

	Hep C	HIV
spread by blood on injection equipment, needles and water, tattooing needles and ink, piercing equipment	very easily	easily
cleaning rigs, tattooing and piercing equipment with bleach will remove virus	not known	yes

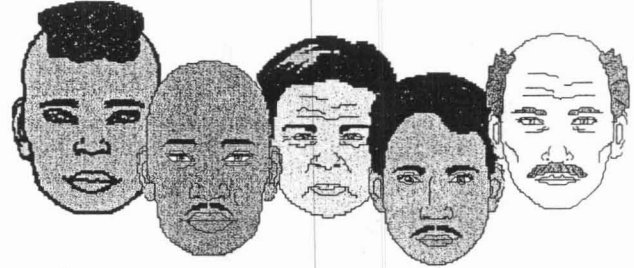


The only way to find out if you have Hep C or HIV is by a blood test. Other blood tests can show if your liver and immune system are healthy.

You may get sick when you first get Hepatitis C or HIV, but then you may feel better. You still have Hepatitis C or HIV.



Hepatitis C may make you sick many years later. HIV will make you sick from two to ten or more years after infection.



Hepatitis C and HIV together may make you sicker. Treating HIV may help Hep C. Even if you already have Hep C, you could get infected with a different Hep C virus.



Medications for HIV are lifelong and can have difficult side effects. The medicines may stop you getting AIDS.



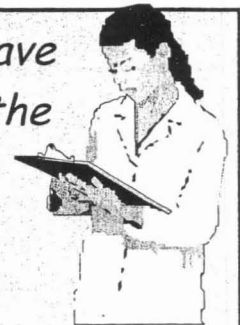
Hep C is hard to treat and medicines are used only if you are very sick.

Whether or not you have HIV or Hep C, protect yourself and others from shared injection, tattooing and piercing equipment and unprotected fucking.



If you think you may have HIV or Hep C, talk to the doctor.

You're not alone - get help from the prison support group or the Prison Outreach Program.



PRISON
Outreach
Program