DID YOU KNOW?

Hepatitis = inflammation of the liver, a vital organ in the body. There are several types of viral hepatitis, including A, B, C, D and E.

Any of the hepatitis viruses can cause serious illness or death but hepatitis C (HCV) is the most burdensome on the public health infrastructure.

There are effective vaccines for Hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine for HCV. Hepatitis D & E are uncommon in the U.S.

Less than 50% of those infected with chronic HCV know their status, though damage is occurring silently to the liver.

Up to 20% of those living with chronic HCV will develop cirrhosis (severe scarring of the liver). This may lead to liver cancer and the need for liver transplant.

120,000 individuals living now will need a transplant in the future. There are only 7,000 livers available for transplant in the U.S. in any given year.

People with chronic hepatitis C remain infectious throughout their lives and can transmit HCV to others.

THE HEPATITIS C NUMBERS

- 4 million U.S. residents are living with HCV.
- 17,000 new HCV infections occur annually in the United States.
- 15,000 deaths occur each year—now exceeding those who die of HIV.
- 300,000 Floridians are living with HCV.

THE BOOMER FACTOR

- 5.3 million Baby Boomers live in Florida.
- Boomers with chronic HCV have now lived long enough to develop serious, life-threatening liver disease.
- Treatment can prevent HCV transmission to others and help to slow the epidemic.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Testing is now recommended by the CDC, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the AASLD/IDSA physician groups.
- Testing for HCV has become more accurate, making diagnosis easier.
- Historically, the available treatments were difficult to take (side effects and length of treatment).
- New treatment regimens that can effectively CURE Hepatitis C are available and more are coming soon.
- FUNDING HAS DECREASED BY 55% SINCE 2008 FOR HEPATITIS TESTING AND PREVENTION.

Legislative Contact
Chris Fisher
(850) 510-7518
christinefishe@aol.com

The AIDS Institute
Michael Ruppal
(813) 258-5929
MRuppal@theaidsinstitute.org

Lew Sibert
(813) 390-1333
LSibert@theaidsinstitute.org