

# Mass Voluntary Viral Screening

Evaluating a Hepatitis C Case-Finding Model in an Irish Prison

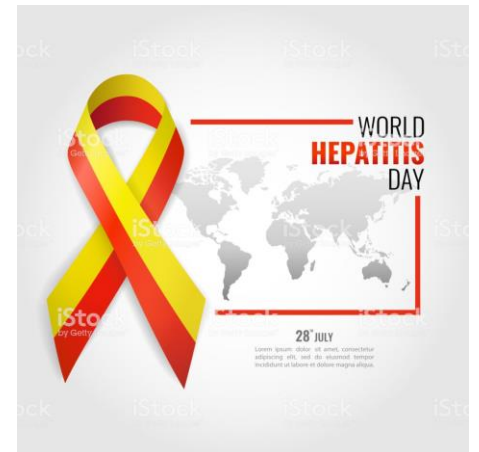
Using Irish Red Cross inmate Volunteers for awareness raising and advocacy for testing

ERNA Luxembourg 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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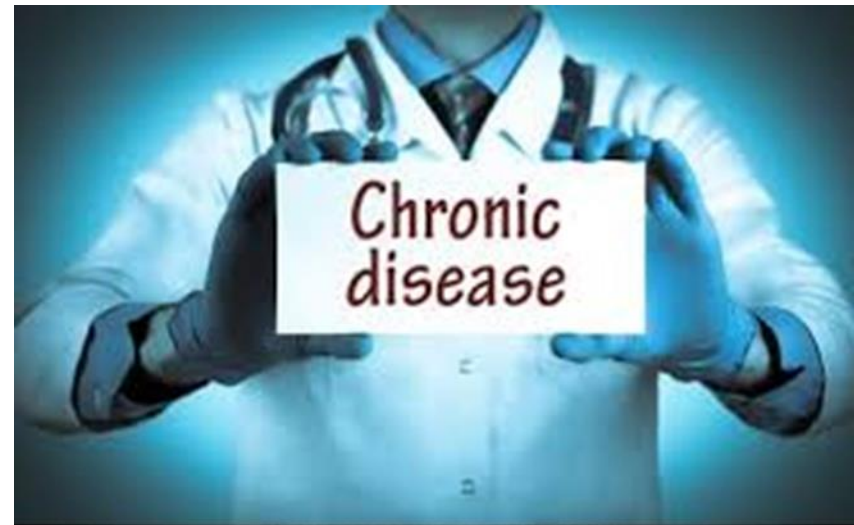
Global Pole of Expertise for Community Based Health in Detention





# A Priority in European Prisons

The Identification,  
Treatment and Prevention  
of Hepatitis C in Prison  
Populations is a Public  
Health Priority



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# An Epidemic of Significant Proportions

## World wide

Hepatitis C A Major  
Public Health Concern

Leading Cause of Liver-  
related Morbidity and  
Mortality



## Europe

5.6 Million (1.1% of the  
Population) living with  
Chronic HCV infection

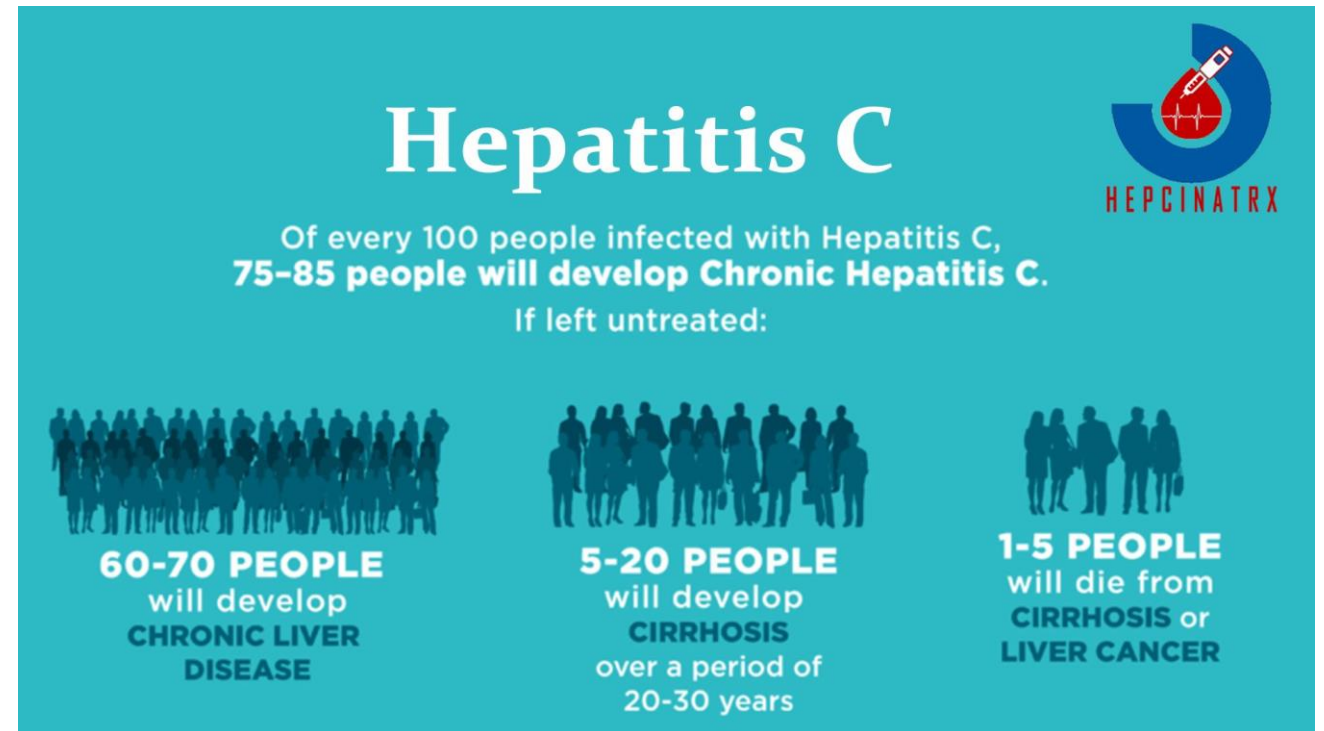
Prevalence in Prisons of  
15.5%

40% of IDU Prisoners



# Why there is a Poor Uptake of Screening

- There is poor uptake for screening from prisoners generally
- Prisoners are less likely to listen to professionals in prison
- Difficulty in prisoners admitting a history of IDU.
- Associated stigma
- Lack of awareness and understanding that Treatment is available.
- Fear from the older Interferon treatments



# Red Cross Red Crescent Volunteers Peer Education Works



Within all Irish Prisons approximately 10% of all inmates are active Irish Red Cross Volunteers. They are available to Give First Responder First Aid



Awareness around Health and Disease Prevention









# The Mountjoy Prison Project Mass Voluntary Viral Screening

538 Inmates

Sentenced Male Prisoners

Known HCV Status <20%

Post Mass Screening Known Status 78%

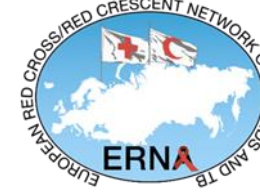




# A Whole Prison Approach to Viral Screening







# Planning the Project

## A Multi-disciplinary and 'Whole Prison Approach' (WHO 2007)

- Irish Prison Service
- Medical/Nursing Staff
- Prison Officers, Governors, Chief Officers
- Irish Red Cross
- Inmate Volunteers
- IRC coordinators
- Counsellors
- Mater Hospital Hepatology Nurses
- HepCare Europe part EU funding
- Abbvie Pharmaceutical part funding





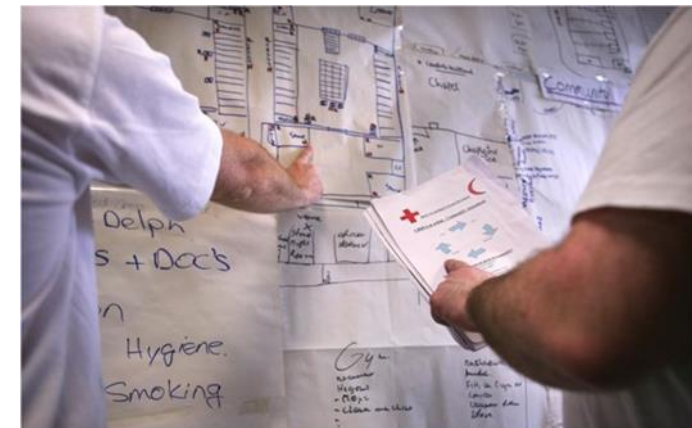
## Red Cross inmate volunteers Learning and Planning for Action



Learning about hepatitis C prior to disseminating awareness and encouraging inmates to present for Screening

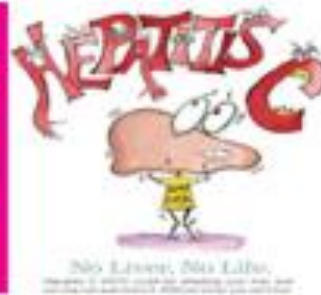


IRC inmate Volunteers planning their campaign



# Mass Voluntary Viral Screening Project

Testing for Hepatitis coming soon



Ask addiction nurse or Irish Red Cross  
volunteer for more information



## Mass Voluntary Viral Screening Project



Testing for Hepatitis  
coming soon



Ask addiction Nurse or Irish Red Cross Volunteer for more information



## Mass Voluntary Viral Screening Project

3·days·¶

until·Hepatitis·testing¶

Monday·&·Tuesday··

10<sup>th</sup>·&·11<sup>th</sup>·April¶

12·days·¶

until·Hepatitis·testing¶

¶

April·10th·&·11th·



¶  
Ask·addiction·  
nurse·or·Red·  
Cross·volunteer·  
for·more·  
information¶



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Ask·addiction·  
nurse·or·Red·  
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information¶



# Hepatitis Testing



**Tuesday  
Wednesday 20th &  
21<sup>st</sup> June**

## Implementation



Treatment 1

Phlebotomy

Treatment 2

Phlebotomy



Prison officers continually feeding prisoners out back to cells.

Registration and  
Consent  
Questionnaire  
Completion

Waiting area 6  
prisoners at any one  
time

Entrance

Exit

538 population available for testing

- 13 excluded on mental health grounds
- 58 refused to participate
- 24 released before testing date
- 21 transferred to other prisons

Total of 422 Participated

78% of prison population



**Campaign was over six 4 hour days**

Prison officers continuously feeding prisoners into waiting area



# Hepatitis Screening



Wednesday 31st May





The outcome of screening reflected an untreated chronic HCV infection prevalence of 13.2% amongst 403 prisoners tested.



# How Many New Cases of HCV Were Detected?



Of 403 prisoners screened for Hepatitis C, 19 new cases were found.  
This means that 19 cases can be channelled into treatment regimes  
19 prisoners no longer infecting other people in prison or on release



# Health Economics of the Project

## Identifying the Life Time Costs of a Chronically infected HCV Case



- A simulation is made with one person in the first disease stage.
- The model then uses yearly probabilities of disease progression to work out the probability of being in each disease stage over time.
- This is then multiplied by the cost of being in each disease stage for a year.
- The result is the expected cost of HCV for a chronically infected person on average and includes costs for decompensated cirrhosis and liver transplant.



# Health Economics - Doing the Maths

- Cost of Mass Screening: 30,443 Euro (includes all materials and human resource costs)
- Cost of Treatment: Euro 9,000 per patient for a 12 week course
- Cost of Treatment for 19 cases: Euro 171,000
- Cost of Life Time Management of Chronically infected case per person: 216,000
- Lifetime Cost of 19 people NOT detected: Euro 4,104,000

Cost of Mass Screening, Treatment and Through care for 19 cases: Euro 410,443

**Societal Cost Savings: Euro 3,902,557**

**19 People with Normal Quality of Life**

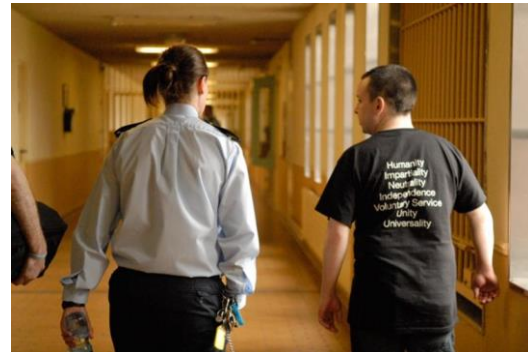




# Addressing Hepatitis C in Irish Prisons

## A Replicable Cost Effective Model

### The Power of Red Cross/Red Crescent Volunteers in Prisons





# Thank you

## Questions