

# HCV Prevalence in Methadone Maintenance: Self-report Versus Serum Test

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**Objectives:** To assess hepatitis C virus (HCV) serostatus, risk factors, and desire for education about HCV among methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) patients.

**Methods:** We surveyed 200 MMT patients and reviewed charts for 276 patients. **Results:** The self-report HCV seroprevalence was 34%, adjusted to 52%. The chart review HCV seroprevalence was 70%. Most participants had risk factors for contracting or spread-

ing HCV. **Conclusions:** There is discrepancy in HCV seroprevalence by self-report versus serum test results among MMT patients. Some HCV+ MMT patients engage in high-risk behaviors for HCV transmission and may not disclose HCV+ status. MMT patients want HCV education.

**Key words:** hepatitis C virus, methadone maintenance, injection drug use, epidemiology

*Am J Health Behav.* 2005;29(5):387-394

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