



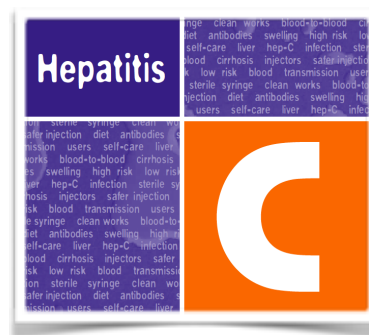
Why HCV?

A Small Agency with a Big Footprint

Samaritan Ministry, a small HIV Service Organization in Knoxville, TN, has been working since mid-2013 to advocate for increased awareness around the Hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic. With trainings and workshops, community stakeholder meetings, and HCV antibody testing, Samaritan Ministry has had an impact on how the Tennessee Department of Health is acting and reacting to this epidemic.

Why HCV? Why is an AIDS Service Organization getting into Hepatitis C testing and training?

First, many people living with HIV are co-infected with HCV (as many as 25%) and there are common risk factors for both infections. HCV is at epidemic proportions in the U.S. and Tennessee (our home state) is having an HCV crisis.



We are also concerned, as a Christian organization, with the social justice implications of a disease that seems to be affecting the injection drug user population in significant numbers. Who will speak up and advocate for this voiceless group.?

And, people want to know about hepatitis. This is true with each and every group where we are doing HIV education. They ask. They want testing.

Our HCV antibody testing, using the OraQuick HCV Rapid Antibody Test, has been successful in helping to identify the problem. Without the help of **OraSure Technologies**, we would not have been able to begin this HCV testing program. Our ramp-up to where we are today has included:

October 2011 - HCV Training by the Hepatitis C Support Project (HCVadvocate.org)

April 2013 - HCV Training by Hepatitis C Support Project

August 2013 - Community Engagement Seminar Hosted by OraSure Technologies

September 2013 - Samaritan Ministry and Helen Ross McNabb Center begin non-clinical HCV rapid testing in Knoxville at Methadone Clinic and Veteran's Stand Down

February 2015 - Began enrolling in Patient Support Program (OraSure Technologies and Abbvie)

June 2015 - HCV Advocate Training and Outreach/Device Training

July 2015 - Tenn. Dept. of Health issues Public Health Alert regarding Hepatitis C (Read it [HERE!](#))

Keeping in mind that we have tested in **high-risk venues**, such as half-way houses, homeless shelters, and methadone clinics, our statistics have been amazing.

YEAR	NUMBER TESTED	IDENTIFIED AS IDU	POSITIVE RESULT	% POSITIVE	Patient Support Program
2013	81	23	19	23%	
2014	217	89	68	31%	
2015	146	53	49	34%	
TOTALS	435	161	134	31%	38



One of our partners in Hepatitis C education and training is the **Hepatitis C Support Project** and their **HCV Advocate** website, located in Sacramento, California. The Hepatitis C Support Project has provided much of our local community HCV training free of charge, and provides a rich assortment of information on viral hepatitis. You can visit our friends at HCVAdvocate.org.

We could not have launched our HCV initiative without **OraSure Technologies**. OraSure has helped “seed” our program with HCV Rapid Test Kits, a lot of technical support, and a personal commitment from Kevin Lawson, our local OraSure Rep. We are providing contact information for OraSure Technologies so you can get the help that you need.



OraSure Technologies

Let's get started!

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