July 2025

Hepatitis C Programme

Central Region Update

World hepatitis day

World Hepatitis Day is celebrated on 28 July each year. The theme this year is Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down. It's a call for action on dismantling financial, social and systemic barriers – including stigma- that stand in the way of hepatitis elimination[1].

Check out the video link below to hear from Melissa, a nurse in our Hep C Team, share how we are reducing barriers to hepatitis C screening and treatment in our region.

Click here to listen to Melissa talk about the Central Region Hep C Programme services

Programme Update

Thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to eliminate Hep C by 2030.

Here's a quick look at some of our data collected from screening tests in the last two years:

Total number tests completed **10,423**

Total number positive for Hepatitis C exposure **272 (2.6%)**

We are currently supporting 65 people identified with hepatitis C exposure, and 202 people have now been through our service since November 2022.

Where have we been screening?

The Programme has over 40 providers now screening in the community throughout the lower North Island in addition to the Mobile Service team who offer screening at various community and hauora events. If you would like help and resources to offer screening tests at a community event please get in touch.



Here is Lena from Te Ara Waiora in Waipukurau offering screening in June



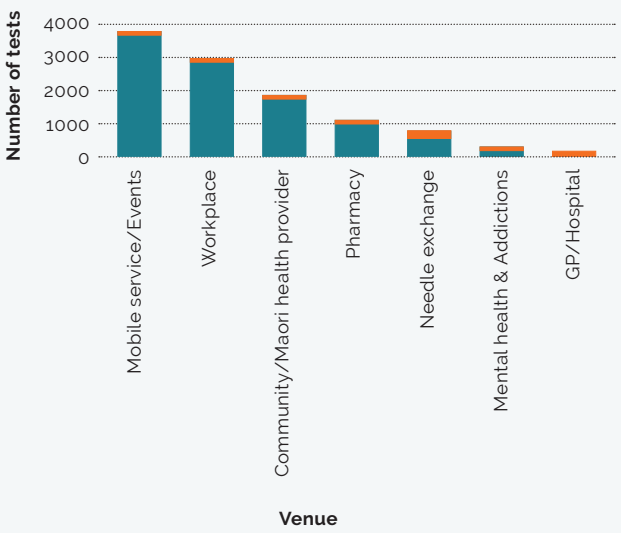
And Franklin looking the part offering hepatitis C testing at Central Districts Field Days in March

Stick it to hep C.

Who is testing positive

Over half of the people with exposure to hepatitis C were screened at needle exchanges. Mobile screening at community locations and events identified 22% of those exposed to the virus. Nine percent of people with hep C exposure were screened by community providers, and 7% by pharmacies.

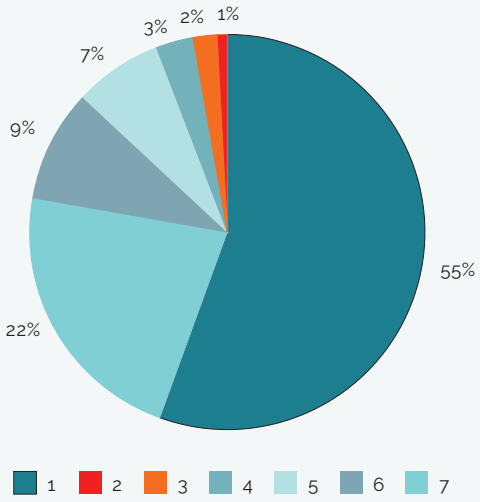
Hepatitis C tests completed by venue (Feb 22 to June 25)



Total Positive
Central Region total POCT HCV-Ab by venue (Feb22-Jun2025)

Total Number
Central Region total POCT HCV-Ab by venue (Feb22-Jun2025)

Source of positive Hep C screening by venue



1	Needle Exchange	55%
2	Mobile Service / Events	22%
3	Community/Maori Health Provider	9%
4	Pharmacy	7%
5	Workplace	3%
6	Mental Health & Addictions	2%
7	GP / Hospital	1%

Quick links

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Contact us

Tū Ora Compass Health
Central Region Hep C Programme
Phone: 0800 195 115
Email: hepcservice@tuora.org.nz

Free treatment available.
For more information visit the website Hep C Awareness (stickittohepc.co.nz)

Need something else?
Email us here: hepcservice@tuora.org.nz

1 https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2025/07/28/default-calendar/world-hepatitis-day-2025-let-s-break-it down#:~:text=World%20Hepatitis%20Day%20is%20observed,liver%20disease%20and%20liver%20cancer