



## **What is #hepCityFree**

#hepCityFree is a movement for cities **to lead the fight for elimination of hepatitis C** in Spain, with the aim of becoming the first great country free of HCV, in line with the objectives set by the WHO for developed countries. A 90% reduction in transmission and 65% reduction in HCV-associated mortality by 2030. It is inspired by the FastTrack HIV movement (Paris Declaration).

#hepCityFree



## Why cities?

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- ✓ The demographic concentration of cities makes them **fundamental drivers in the strategies and public health actions.**
- ✓ With a high population density, cities represent a **higher proportion of people living with HCV.**
- ✓ The risk and vulnerability to infection and **reinfection are greater in urban settings.**
- ✓ For the first time, people with the virus have **the right to treatment that cures the illness.**
- ✓ **It is estimated that between 35,000 and 50,000 people have hepatitis C in Spain** and do not know it, for what it is necessary to promote active search policies.
- ✓ New cases are concentrated in vulnerable groups in urban settings, where it is necessary to implement micro-elimination strategies.
- ✓ These groups use less the usual access routes to the health system (health centers), so it is necessary to involve community institutions (NGOs, STD / STI centers, addictions, ...) and social services that work in these cities towards these objectives.
- ✓ Although the competence in Health corresponds to regions, the City Council is the Administration closest to the citizen.

## What for

#hepCityFree works with two fundamental strategic objectives / axes:



**Communication and awareness** of general population for detection of undiagnosed cases and encouragement screening / treatment strategy by risk factors, including age / sex (based on epidemiological evidence available).



**Action** in vulnerable groups / risk groups, accelerating micro-elimination strategies in these populations. Simplification and decentralization of the screening and treatment.



## HepCityFree: Spanish cities committed to accelerating HCV Elimination in Spain

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- 1. Develop awareness campaigns to favour the hepatitis C screening in the population between the ages of 40 and 70 years**, where most of the undiagnosed cases are concentrated. We are committed in our city to promote, disseminate and stimulate own campaigns and / or collaborating entities so that all adults in this age group are tested for hepatitis C. This test has a very high diagnostic profitability, it is simple, cheap and it is done only once.
- 2. Contribute to the objective of simplifying diagnosis and treatment, as well as its decentralization, crucial for the care and healing of the most vulnerable groups.** We are committed to make available to the regional health administration our social services centers, care for immigrants, homeless people, etc., so that they can become assistive entities for the rapid diagnosis of hepatitis C virus infection in the highest risk populations.
- 3. Involve the NGOs that work in our city with the most vulnerable groups in the goal of the hepatitis C elimination**, favouring the interlocution and meetings with the sanitary system to approach the diagnosis to the population groups of greater risk, normally more distant from the usual assistance circuits. We commit ourselves to work and build bridges between the administration and NGOs working in the field of MSM, programs For Preventing Sexually-Transmitted Infections, AIDS, etc.
- 4. Collaborate with the fulfillment of the hygienic-sanitary conditions of the tattoo, micropigmentation or piercing shops**, developing information actions related to hepatitis C aimed at both the owners of these centres and their users, and collaborating with the competent health administration in monitoring the requirements set by law.
- 5. Develop prevention policies that affect risk practices**, increasing general knowledge about hepatitis C in the general population. We commit ourselves to develop campaigns through workshops, our own media, social networks and external supports of municipal property, in order to bring to the population the message of what it is and how hepatitis C is transmitted, and above all, how its treatment makes it a curable disease today.
- 6. Promote specific prevention policies in the most exposed and vulnerable groups, collaborating with NGOs that know better the idiosyncrasy of these populations.** We are committed to this purpose to develop and stimulate the organization of workshops and informative talks, as well as to produce informative material such as posters, brochures, etc., that can support this dissemination, awareness and prevention work.
- 7. Agglutinate the information necessary for the development, measurement and monitoring of elimination indicators**, that allow to know the results of the programs carried out and the progress of the city in the final objective of eliminating this public health problem.
- 8. Share information and experiences.** We are committed to share experiences and results, working as a network of cities involved in a common goal. Likewise, we will work to inform our progress and promote the adherence of new cities to this network, thus stimulating the acceleration of the elimination of hepatitis C in Spain.