

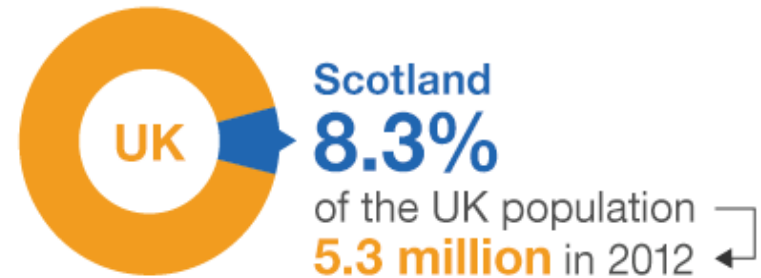
# Tackling Hepatitis C in Scotland

**Dr Nicola Rowan**  
**Scottish Government**



# Context

# About Scotland



## Scotland's population by age

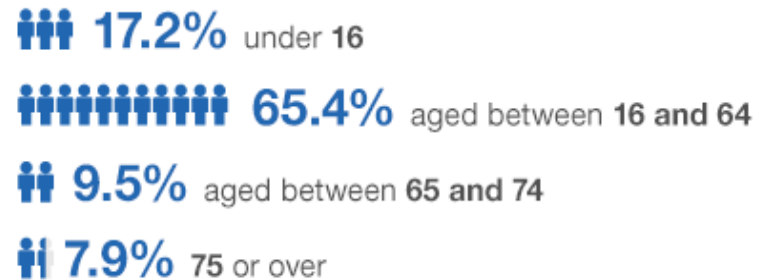


Image: BBC News



People who inject drugs (PWID): **50-80%**



GUM Clinic Attenders: **<1%**

## Prevalence of Hepatitis C in different populations in Scotland



Pregnant women: **<1%**



Surgeons/HCWs: **<1%**

# The National Health Service

- **Funded through national taxes.**
- **Free at point of use to any UK resident.**
- **Responsibility for healthcare in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Government.**
- **Of approximately £34.7 billion controlled by the Scottish Government, around £11.9 billion is spent on health.**
- **14 territorial NHS Health Board areas covering mix of dense urban, semi-rural and rural/remote geographies.**

# Scotland's HCV Timeline: Key Milestones

**Drug Injecting Epidemic begins**

Acute Hep B and HIV among PWID

Harm reduction developed

**1980**

**1989 Discovery of HCV**

**1990**

**1992 INF therapy**

**Epidemiological data**  
- HCV Diagnosis Database  
- HCV Prevalence Surveys

**Patient Advocacy established**

**2000**

**1998 INF + RBV therapy**

**2001 PEGINF + RBV therapy**

**Epidemiological/clinical data**  
- HCV Clinical Database  
- Projections of HCV Disease

**2004 HCV Consensus Conf**

**Parliam/CMO Working Groups**

**2010**

**2006 - 2015 Hepatitis C Action Plan (Phases I, II and III)**



**The Scottish Government**

# Advocacy Milestones

- 1999 National Needs Assessment
- 2003 UK Hepatitis C Resource Centre
- 2003 Scottish Hepatitis C Awareness Day & Parliamentary Event
- 2004 Consensus Conference (RCP, Edin)
- 2004 UK Awareness Day, Parliamentary Events, Parliamentary Questions
- 2004 Parliamentary Working Group on Hepatitis C
- 2004 Parliamentary Debate on Hepatitis C
- 2005 Action Plan Phase I  
(1<sup>st</sup> draft, consultation and further advocacy)

# What We Did



# Hepatitis C Policy in Scotland

## Hepatitis C Action Plan, Phase I (2006-08)

- Gathering evidence to inform Phase II Actions
- Generating actions for Phase II
- Investment: £4 Million

## Hepatitis C Action Plan, Phase II (2008-11)

- Investment to improve services
- High level actions to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care (& monitoring/evaluation)
- Investment: £43 Million

## Phase III - Sexual Health and BBV Framework (2011-15)

- Continued focus on HCV
- Focus on improving joined-up working with SH & HIV/BBVs.
- Investment £116 Million across SH & BBV

## Phase IV - Refreshed Sexual Health & BBV Framework (2015-?)

- Continued outcomes
- New treatments
- Investment £???

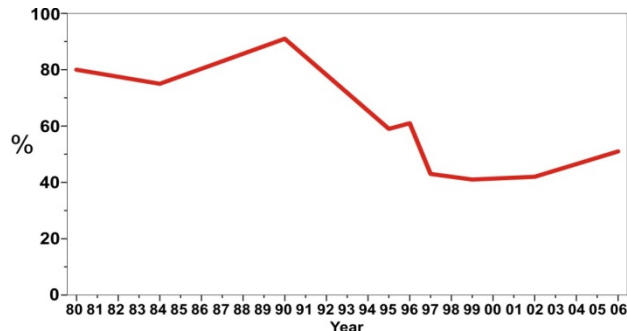


# Phase I – Evidence Gathering (Determined required action)

# Scotland's Hepatitis C Action Plan

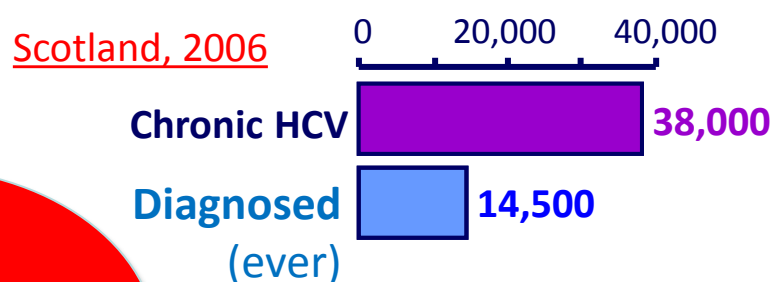
## Prevention

High prevalence of HCV remained among young PWID in Glasgow



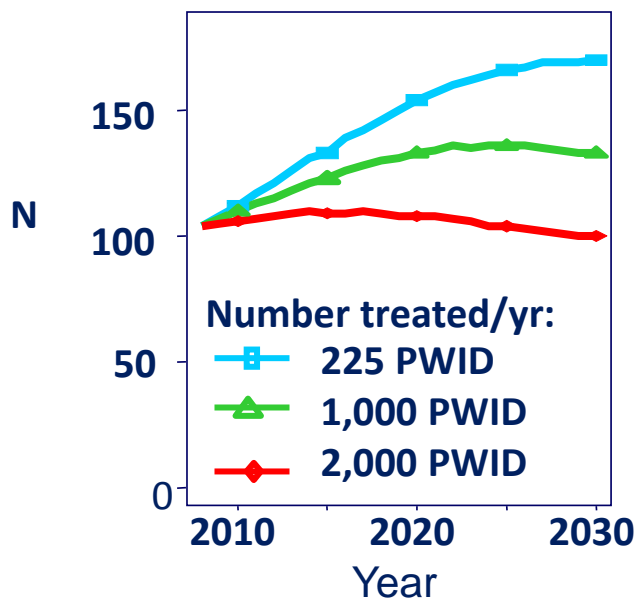
## Diagnosis

Majority of HCV infected in Scotland remained undiagnosed



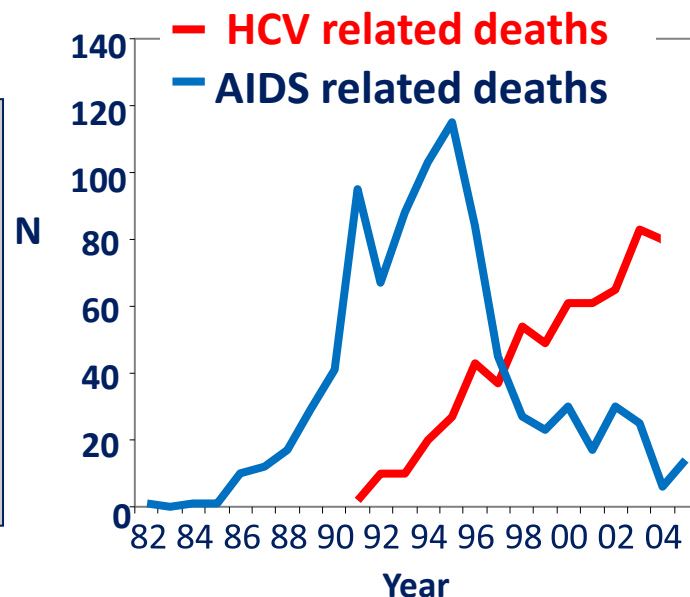
**Key Evidence in Phase I**

## Treatment



Modelling work demonstrated insufficient numbers on HCV treatment to curb rising trend in liver failure/deaths in Scotland

## Disease



# Pre-Phase II Political landscape 2007

- A Chief Medical Officer with a special interest in HCV
- Government's health inequalities agenda
- Hep C problem in Scotland bigger than that in England.
- Hep C problem particularly evident in key MSP constituencies
- Government feeling vulnerable about contaminated blood/blood factor issue
- National Health Service ethos and, fiscally, a time of relative plenty.
- Scottish Parliamentary election the SNP emerged as the largest party for the first time. Alex Salmond became FM.

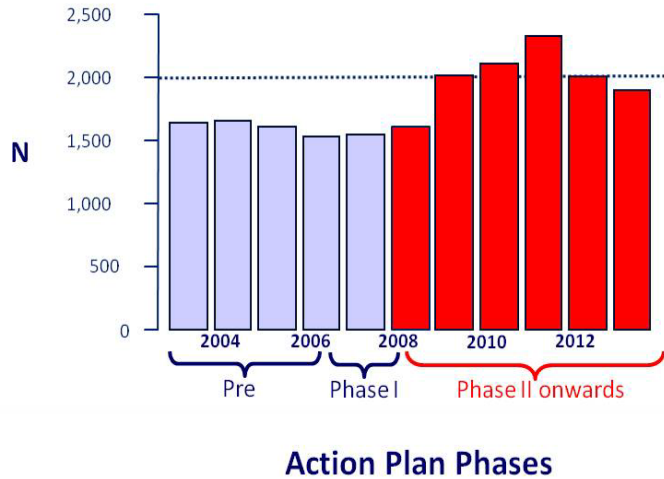
# Phase II – Service Improvement and Investment

# Phase II: Service Improvement Actions (2008-2011)

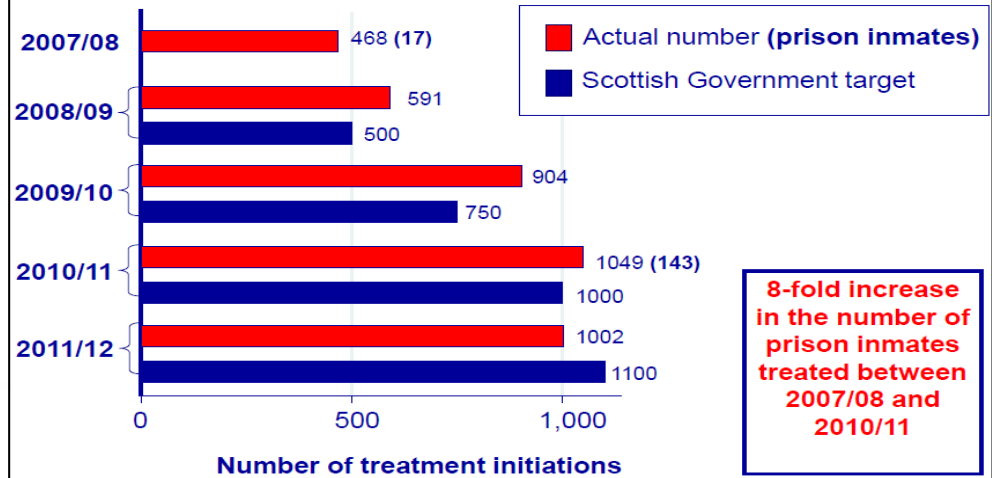
- **Prevention:**
  - Improvements in Injection Equipment provision and education
- **Diagnosis:**
  - Awareness raising initiatives
  - Finger prick sampling in non-clinical settings
- **Treatment:**
  - Increase in clinical capacity
  - Funding for treatment and national procurement of antiviral therapy

# HCV infection and disease trends (2012)

Number of new HCV diagnoses per year in Scotland



Annual number of people initiated on HCV antiviral therapy in Scotland



Outcome Indicator	Outcome		New Intervention
	2007	2011/12	
<b>Prevention</b> Transmissions/yr *	1500	500	Injection paraphernalia provision (and methadone provision)
<b>Diagnosis</b> % of Infected Population Diagnosed	39%	50%	Dried Blood Spot Testing
<b>Treatment</b> Initiations/yr	400	1000	Improved Access to Therapy

\* Preliminary estimates: the reduction in transmissions are contemporaneous with, but not necessarily due to, the introduction of the stated new intervention

# Outcome of Phase II

- ↑ **Number of people treated**
- ↑ **Number of people diagnosed**
- ↑ **Prevention activity**
- ↑ **Diagnoses**
  
- ↓ **Transmissions**
- ↓ **Incidence in IDU**
- ↓ **Chronic HCV infection**



# Phase III – Focused outcome based approach (2011-2015)

# Hepatitis C Policy in Scotland



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# Lessons

# Lessons

- **Start with evidence**
  - Gather sound evidence base of need
- **Add funding**
  - invest to save / cost effective
- **Monitor closely**
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Government priorities
  - National Support
- **Continue to update / re-evaluate**

# Thank-you

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