

# Prevalence of hepatitis C in Spain: results from a national population-based survey in 2017–2018

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# Background



## Strategic Plan to Address Hepatitis C in the National Health System (PEAHC), 2015

To reduce morbidity and mortality rates in the Spanish population, addressing the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of people infected with HCV

Until 2018, most of the studies on HCV prevalence carried out in Spain were limited to certain regions and lacked information about viraemic confirmation

# Description of the good practice

Decision making in public health needs to be supported by the best available epidemiological evidence

First strategic line of the PEAC included a population based study to estimate the prevalence of HCV infection in the general population in Spain

- **Study design:** Population-based survey
- **Setting:** persons aged 2 to 80 living in Spain
- **Sampling strategy:**
  - two-stage sampling strategy taking into account the size of the population ascribed to the primary health centres.
- **Data & sample collection**
  - Interviewees were approached in the blood extraction queue
  - For confirmed & undetermined HCV cases, letters were sent to health professional requesting information on the case

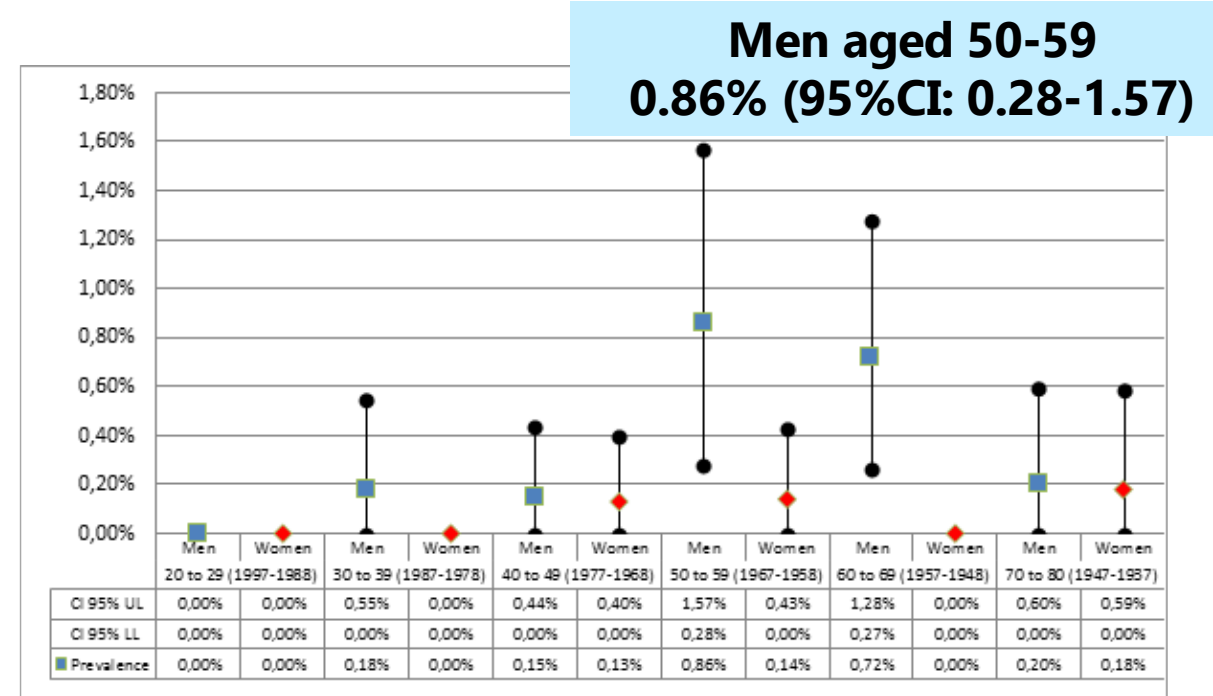
# Results

	N	ANTIBODIES				ACTIVE INFECTION			
		n	%	CI95% LL	CI95% UL	n	%	CI95% LL	CI95% UL
<b>N= 7 675 participants</b>				0.92	1.58	14	0.35	0.17	0.53
				0.28	0.66	3	0.08	0.01	0.18
(birth cohort)									
20 to 29 (1997-1988)	1 207	1	0.07	0.00	0.15	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
30 to 39 (1987-1978)	1 202	1	0.09	0.01	0.17	1	0.09	0.01	0.17
40 to 49 (1977-1968)	1 432	14	0.99	0.57	1.48	2	0.14	0.00	0.28
50 to 59 (1967-1958)	1 417	22	1.56	0.99	2.27	7	0.50	0.22	0.85
60 to 69 (1957-1948)	1 426	12	0.83	0.48	1.25	5	0.34	0.06	0.69
70 to 80 (1947-1937)	991	16	1.63	0.87	2.49	2	0.19	0.00	0.39
Lower than 10 000	1 535	17	1.04	0.59	1.53	3	0.18	0.00	0.38
10 000/50 000	1 986	13	0.71	0.41	1.07	5	0.26	0.06	0.49
50 000/100 000	984	8	0.82	0.32	1.35	1	0.08	0.00	0.29
100 000/500 000 (+prov. cap.)	1 860	18	0.94	0.57	1.33	4	0.24	0.08	0.45
More than 500 000	1 310	10	0.70	0.27	1.19	4	0.24	0.01	0.52
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	1 888	5	0.27	0.06	0.49	1	0.05	0.00	0.15
Social class									
I (Privileged)				0.6	0.71	2	0.12	0.00	0.29
II (Middle)				0.6	0.85	2	0.10	0.00	0.30
III (Under-priv)				0.1	1.53	13	0.31	0.17	0.48
<b>TOTAL</b>				0.92	1.58	17	0.22	0.13	0.31

**HCV Ab prevalence 0.85% (0.64%-1.08%)**

**HCV active infection 0.22% (0.13%-0.31%)**

**Undiagnosed fraction 29%**



# Challenges

The survey was not designed to estimate the undiagnosed fraction of HCV infection nor the proportion of persons unlinked to care

**34 753 283 million inhabitants aged 20 - 80 years, given an HCV active infection prevalence 0.22%**

- **76 839 persons with active HCV infection**

**Given an undiagnosed fraction of 29.4%**

- **22 478 persons with undiagnosed active HCV infection**
- **54 361 persons with diagnosed active HCV infection**
  - **50% on DAA: 27 181**
  - **17% with no evidence of linkage to care: 9 241**
  - **33% with no information: 17 939**

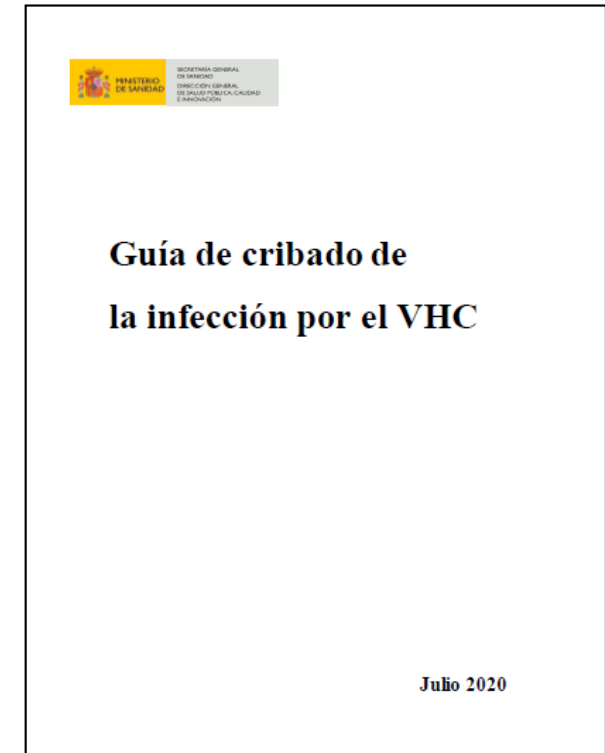
Integrating data from this survey and other data sources to develop Screening recommendations at national level was challenging

Conforming a multidisciplinary group with different expectations was the most challenging (and rewarding) aspect

# Lessons learned

The data generated fed the technical group on HCV screening ; 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 16th of July 2019,

- Ministry of Health: Directorate of Public Health, National Plan on HIV & STIs, Coordinator of Screening strategies, Directorate of Pharmacy and National Plan on Drugs, CNE, ISCIII
- PEABC Scientific Advisory Board
- Commission for public health screening strategies
- HCV surveillance
- Directors of HCV Elimination Plans of the Autonomous Communities
- Public Health Prison Department
- Presidents of Primary Health Care scientific societies
- Presidents of Hepatology and Infectious Diseases scientific societies
- Patients' associations and NGOs



## **\*Working group of the HCV prevalence study in Spain in 2017-2018 :**

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