



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

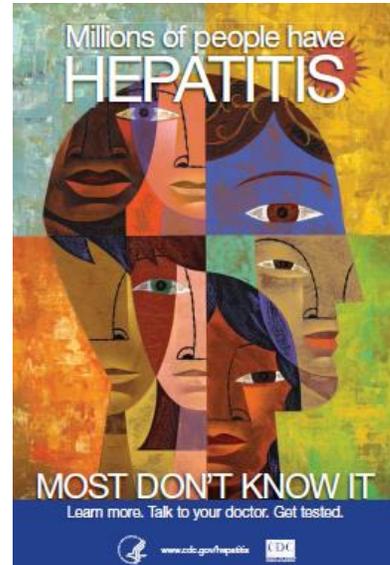
Contact:

Abby Hinz RN, BSN, PHN
715-839-4718
abby.hinz@co.eau-claire.wi.us

MILLIONS HAVE HEPATITIS; MOST DON'T KNOW
World Hepatitis Day is July 28th

Eau Claire, WI, July 28th, 2016 – According to the CDC, roughly half of Americans who have hepatitis C don't know it. Today, World Hepatitis Day is a reminder to get tested and learn the facts – to keep everyone healthier. To raise local awareness, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and the Eau Claire City-County Health Department are holding a hepatitis C testing event on August 9th.

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus. The disease is spread through contact with the blood of a person who already has hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is dangerous because it often does not cause symptoms. Once diagnosed, it is treatable and curable. **Last year in Eau Claire County there were 62 reported cases of hepatitis C. According to**



the CDC, over 74,000 people in Wisconsin and 3.5 million across the U.S. are estimated to have the disease.

Those most at risk for hepatitis C include baby boomers (people born between 1945 to 1965), and young adults with a history of injection drug use. Many baby boomers have been living with the infection for years without knowing. In young adults, injection drug use and needle sharing increases their risk of getting hepatitis C. "Hepatitis C is preventable and curable, yet it kills more Americans than any other infectious disease," says Abby Hinz, Public Health Nurse at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

Did you know you can get tested for free? The Eau Claire City-County Health Department and AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin are partnering to provide free and confidential Hepatitis C testing for those at risk including: veterans, baby boomers, and those with a history of injection drug use.

- DATE: August 9th, 2016
- TIME: 10am-2pm
- LOCATION: Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Immunization Clinic, Room G052
720 Second Ave

For questions about testing contact ARCW at 715-836-7710 ext.#324

###