WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?
Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). HCV is the most common blood-borne illness in the United States, and new cases are on the rise. Hepatitis C can cause serious health problems including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death.¹

BABY BOOMERS WITH HCV
53% of people with hepatitis C reported to the Iowa Department of Public Health in 2016 were baby boomers, or people born between 1945 and 1965.

WHY DO BABY BOOMERS HAVE HIGH RATES OF HCV?
Nationally, baby boomers - those born between 1945 through 1965 - have high rates of hepatitis C, but the reasons are not completely understood. Many may have been infected from contaminated blood before widespread screening of blood products and universal precautions in 1992. Most are believed to have become infected in the 1970s and 1980s when rates of hepatitis C were the highest.²

WHO SHOULD BE TESTED?
- Those born between 1945 and 1965.
- Those who currently or have ever injected drugs.
- Those who received blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992.
- Those who are infected with HIV.²

For more information on hepatitis C virus and to view the recently released profile on Hepatitis C in Iowa, please visit: http://idph.iowa.gov/hivstdhep/hep/hep-c

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm
²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/media/pdfs/factsheet-boomers.pdf

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