

# Hepatitis C Virus in the United States

## Social determinants of infection

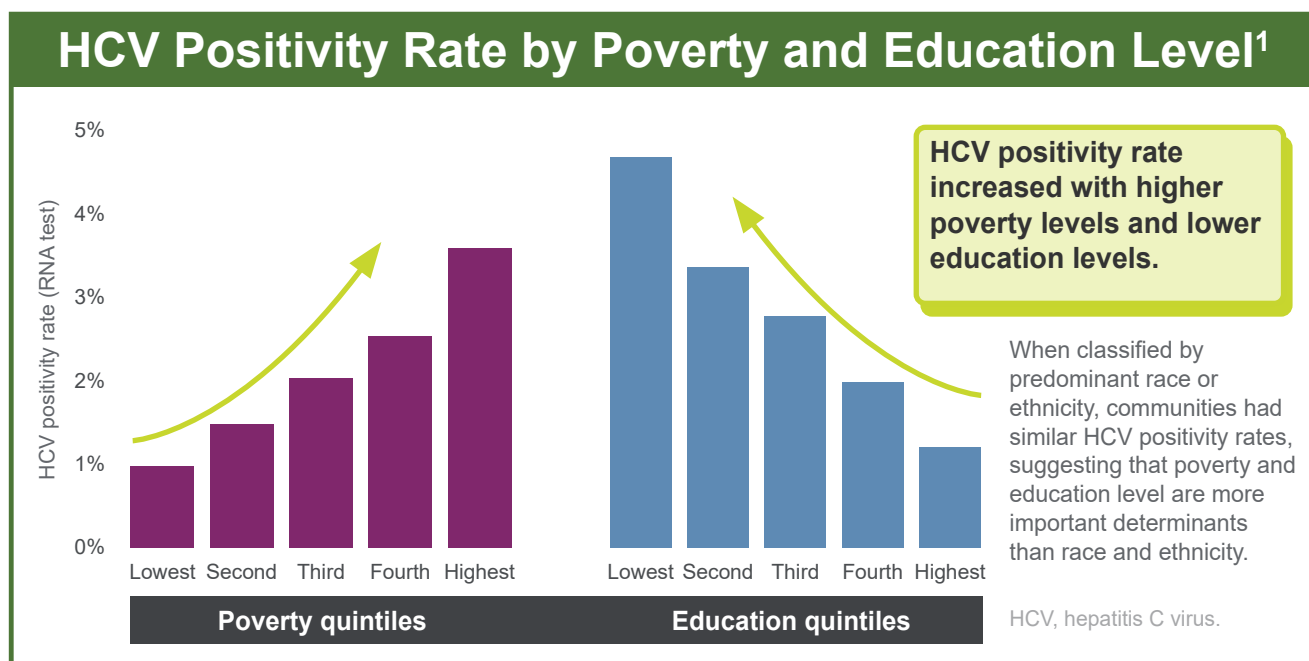
**?** Are rates of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in the United States influenced by nonmedical factors (ie, social determinants of health [SDOH])?

### Background

Findings based on a limited sample size have indicated a link between HCV infection and SDOH factors such as income and education. This study investigates the link between SDOH factors and HCV infection using a more substantial sample size of recent laboratory results and US Census Bureau information.

### Methods and Results

A cross-sectional study examined RNA test results from testing performed from 2016 to 2021 at Quest Diagnostics. Statistical analyses were used to assess the association between HCV infection and poverty and education levels, which were estimated using zip code data.



**→** In the United States, rates of HCV positivity increased as poverty levels increased and education levels decreased. Identification of these SDOH factors may help public health agencies target interventions.

1. Niles JK, Panov A, Saparov A, Meyer III WA, Kaufman HW. Social determinants of hepatitis C virus infection in the United States, 2016-2021. *Popul Health Manag.* 2024;27(4):284-290. doi: 10.1089/pop.2024.0099

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