

Hepatitis C: An Epidemic Among Baby Boomers

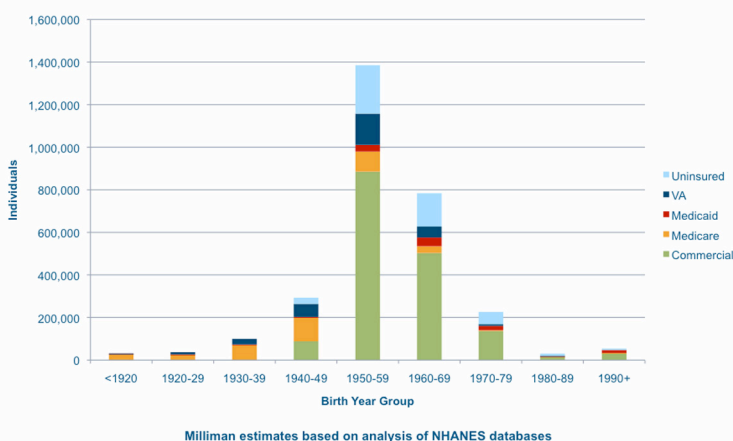


Summary: “Consequences of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV): Costs of a Baby Boomer Epidemic of Liver Disease,” is a new report by Milliman, Inc., commissioned by Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated. The report projects the direct medical cost impact of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection on commercial and government payers over the next 20 years assuming no changes to the current HCV treatment paradigm. Over **3 million Americans** are chronically infected with HCV, most of them baby boomers. As this population ages and they begin to develop advanced liver disease, it is projected that all payers will bear an increasing cost burden for patients with HCV infection. Medicare will be especially hard-hit.

Key points in the report are:

- **Baby boomers account for two out of every three** cases of chronic HCV infection in the United States.
- HCV infection prevalence rates are highest among Americans **born in the early 1950s**.
- As baby boomers infected with HCV age, their disease may progress **from asymptomatic infection to advanced liver disease**. This will result in substantial increases in costs throughout our health care system. Government payers will be responsible for an increasing proportion of costs over the next 20 years.
- The peak of the U.S. HCV infected population has **not yet aged into Medicare eligibility**; however, there is evidence of high prevalence of diagnosed HCV infection in baby boomers with disabilities covered by Medicare.
- Total medical costs for patients with HCV infection are expected to increase from **\$30 billion** in 2009 to over **\$85 billion** in 2024.

Estimated Numbers of Individuals with Chronic HCV infection as of End of 2008 by Birth Decade and Source of Medical Insurance



Annual Medical Costs for People with Chronic HCV infection from 2009 to 2028 by Source of Insurance

