

## What is the Hepatitis Atlas?

The World Hepatitis Alliance launched the Hepatitis Atlas in 2008 as a resource that will become the first truly global, public compendium of statistics and information relating to chronic viral hepatitis B and C.

## Why do we need it?

Although it is estimated that 500 million people are infected with either hepatitis B or C globally<sup>1</sup>, no up-to-date, central source for these statistics currently exists. Without accurate, comprehensive statistics, it is very difficult to understand the extent of the problem or measure the effectiveness of public health campaigns. In fact, without solid data, governments are working in the dark when directing resources to prevention, screening and treatment. Over the next few years, the Hepatitis Atlas will include increasingly sophisticated data, such as information about services available to patients, vaccination statistics and case studies about what really works to improve the experience of patients the world over. The World Hepatitis Alliance intends the Hepatitis Atlas to become the number one global resource for patient groups, governments and the general public alike.



## What does it show?

In future years, the aim is that the Hepatitis Atlas will contain information about the incidence, prevalence and mortality associated with hepatitis B and C. However, to reach this goal there is a lot of work to be done. Research in the last year has demonstrated the enormous lack of publicly available global and national hepatitis B and C prevalence data. This is evident in the first edition of the Hepatitis Atlas, which highlights areas of the world where there is currently a lack of publicly available data. In 2009 the World Hepatitis Alliance will be launching a 'call to action' to governments to improve surveillance of these two diseases and will be writing to health ministers across the world requesting action to identify these missing data. The Hepatitis Atlas will evolve over time and we hope that with every year we will be able to provide updated figures and a broader scope of information as more countries share data and play an active role in building the Atlas.

## How can the Hepatitis Atlas be used?

The Hepatitis Atlas is a useful visual tool with a powerful story that illustrates the lack of global surveillance and publicly available global and national hepatitis B and C prevalence data. Action needs to be taken to gather these data into one resource that can be used as part of consumer awareness campaigns or as useful background information to governments as they improve their hepatitis monitoring, education, prevention and treatment policy. As it becomes more comprehensive, we hope the Atlas will be used as a primary source for data on hepatitis B and C, but also as a tool to show where global support is needed and where best practice exists in health policy – be it vaccination, surveillance, treatment, support or prevention initiatives.

## For more information

The first edition of the Hepatitis Atlas is available online at <http://www.aminumber12.org/HepatitisAtlas.aspx>. If you would like a hard copy please contact [worldhepday@fleishman.com](mailto:worldhepday@fleishman.com).

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. Viral hepatitis: Report by the Secretariat. [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/A62/A62\\_22-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/A62/A62_22-en.pdf) (accessed May 11, 2009)