

World Hepatitis Day 2011

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The World Health Organization (WHO) is today calling for attention to the global health problem posed by viral hepatitis. The first official WHO-supported World Hepatitis Day on 28 July 2011, coordinated by the World Hepatitis Alliance, comes under the slogan: *Hepatitis affects everyone, everywhere. Know it. Confront it.*

It is emphasised that although some 350 million people worldwide live with chronic hepatitis B and 170 million people with chronic hepatitis C, awareness of the disease is low. In Europe, there are an estimated 14 million chronic hepatitis B cases, and about 9 million people infected with hepatitis C. The WHO Regional Office for Europe sees the greatest challenge in improving the currently weak surveillance of hepatitis.

More information can be found on the following websites:

- World Hepatitis Day website (www.worldhepatitisday.info)
- World Hepatitis Alliance (www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/WorldHepatitisDay.aspx)
- World Health Organization (www.who.int)
- World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (www.euro.who.int/en/home)