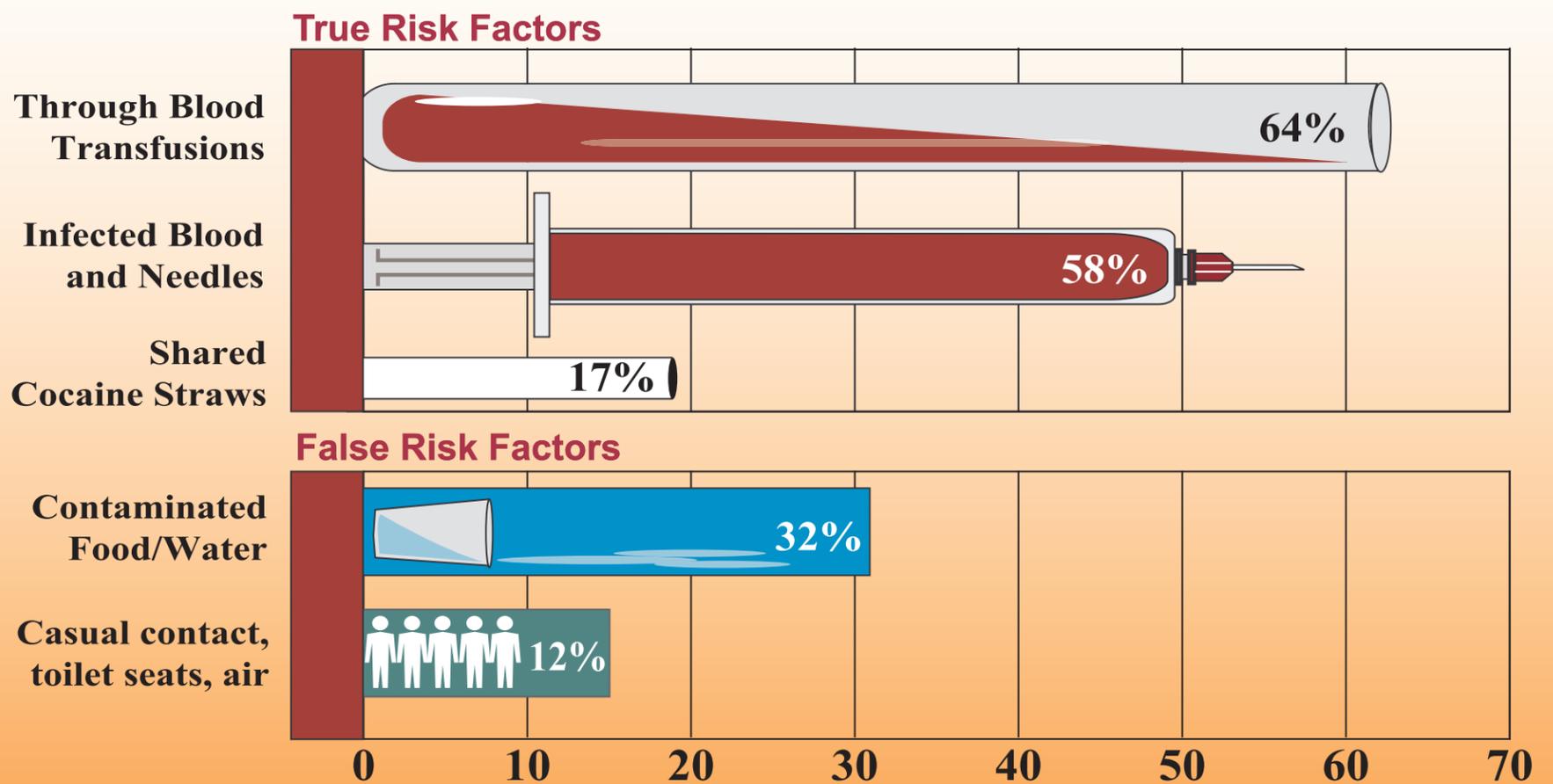


## Know the Risk Factors For Hepatitis C

Many Americans are misinformed about the risk factors associated with hepatitis C, often incorrectly attributing risk factors for other forms of hepatitis. Here is what the public believes are the risk factors:



Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is spread through blood to blood contact. Approximately 30-40 percent of patients have no identifiable risk factors. However, people at highest risk for contracting HCV are those who have had a blood transfusion prior to 1992 and those who utilize intravenous drugs even once. Also at risk are health care workers who were accidentally stuck by a needle, hemophiliacs and patients with renal failure on dialysis. Other factors that may be linked to HCV exposure include inhaling cocaine through the nasal passages and receiving multiple tattoos or body peircings.