Acute Hepatitis C

Maine Surveillance Report | 2017

Case Information:

32 Patients diagnosed with acute hepatitis C
2.4 Cases per 100,000 people
243% Increase since 2013

Maine has the 9th highest rate of acute hepatitis C in the US

Demographics:

- 59% of patients were male
- 33 years old on average
- 94% White
- 3% African American
- 3% Unknown race

Geography:

- Maine has the 9th highest rate of acute hepatitis C in the US

Risk Factors:

- 62.5% Were people who injected drugs
- 28.1% Were incarcerated prior to infection
- 3.1% Baby Boomers were born between 1945-1965
- 18.8% Were people with multiple sex partners
- 6.3% Received an unlicensed tattoo prior to infection

Clinical Characteristics:

- 37.5% of patients were hospitalized
- 97% of patients had symptoms
- 97% of patients had elevated liver enzyme lab results
- 37.5% of patients had jaundice

Prevention:

- Do not share syringes or injection kit equipment.
- Get tested for hepatitis C, especially if you are a person who injects drugs, were ever incarcerated, born between 1945-1965 or received an unlicensed tattoo.
- If you have hepatitis C, seek medical care.
- Get vaccinated against hepatitis B, especially if you have hepatitis C.

For more information visit:
https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm

All suspected or confirmed cases of acute hepatitis C must be immediately reported to Maine CDC by calling 1-800-821-5821.