Acute Hepatitis C
Maine Surveillance Report | 2018

Case Information:

39 patients diagnosed with acute hepatitis C
2.9 cases per 100,000 people
314% increase since 2013

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

Risk Factors:

- 51.3% Were people who injected drugs
- 35.9% Were incarcerated prior to infection
- 35.9% Were people who used non-injection drugs
- 7.7% Received an unlicensed tattoo prior to infection
- 7.7% Were people with multiple sex partners
- 5.1% Were born between 1945-1965

Contact Investigations:

- 31% of patients were hospitalized
- 97% of patients had symptoms
- 97% of patients had elevated liver enzyme lab results
- 44% of patients had jaundice

Demographics:

- 56% of patients were male
- 33 years old on average
- 85% White
- 5% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 2% Black
- 8% Unknown

Geography:

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, were 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 hepatitis C must be immediately reported to Maine CDC by calling 1-800-821-5821.