



Case Information:

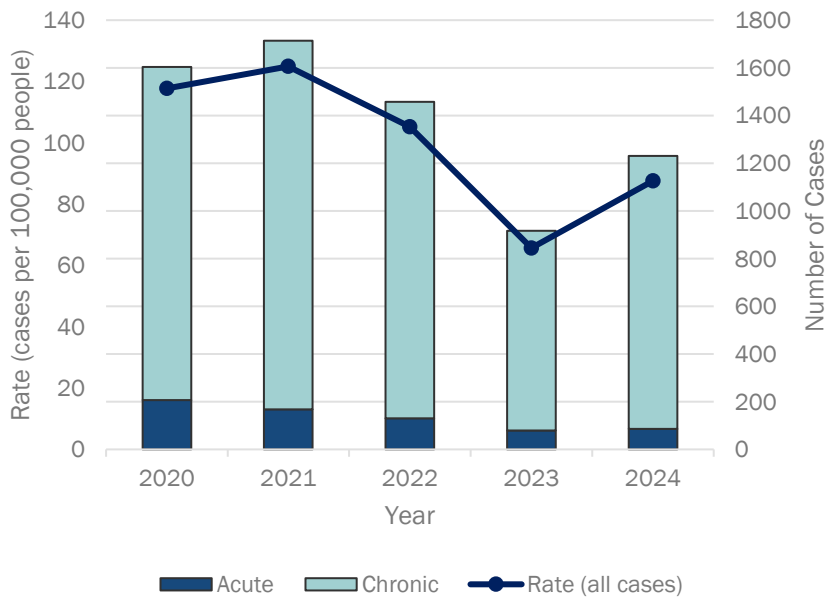
Acute Hepatitis C



Chronic Hepatitis C



Hepatitis C Acute and Chronic; Maine, 2020-2024



Clinical Outcomes (acute cases):



18% of patients were hospitalized

- 42% of patients had symptoms
- 99% of patients had elevated liver enzyme lab results above 200 IU/L
- 14% of patients had jaundice

Hepatitis C

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Demographics (all cases):

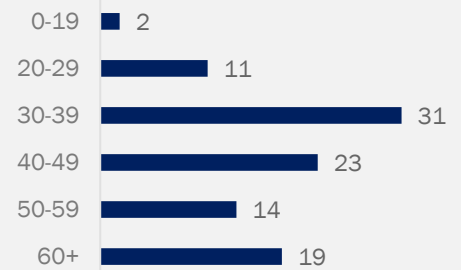
Sex

Male: 61%
Female: 39%

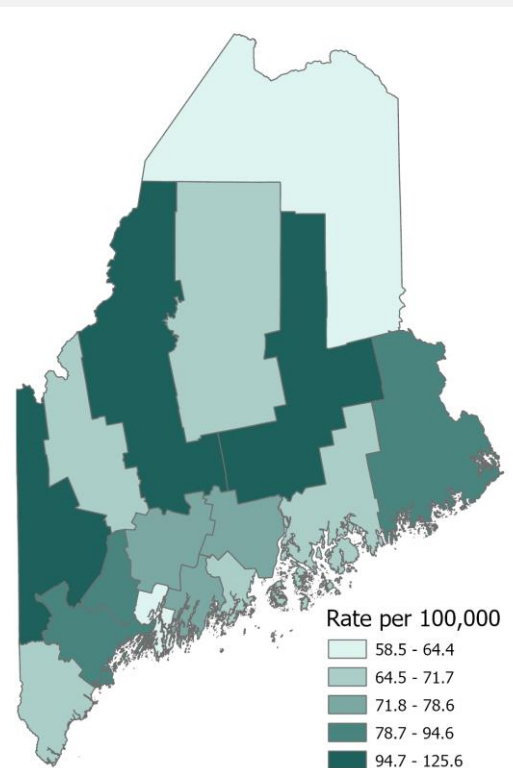
Race

White: 83%
Other/Unknown: 11%
Black or African American: 3%
Multi-race: 1%
American Indian or Alaska Native: 1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: <1%
Asian: <1%

Age Group (percent)



Geography (all cases):





Hepatitis C

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Other Patient* Characteristics (all cases):

*for whom information was available



65%

Had ever injected drugs or used other non-IV drugs



21%

Had ever been incarcerated

Baby Boomers

19%

Were born between 1945 and 1965

Acute vs. Chronic Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is often described as “acute,” meaning a new infection, or “chronic,” meaning long-term infection.

- Acute hepatitis C occurs within the first 6 months after someone is exposed to the hepatitis C virus. Hepatitis C can be a short-term illness, but for most people, acute infection leads to chronic infection.
- Chronic hepatitis C can be a lifelong infection if left untreated. Chronic hepatitis C can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver cancer, and even death.

Perinatal Hepatitis C

cases of hepatitis C in infants ≥ 2 months and ≤ 36 months of age

3

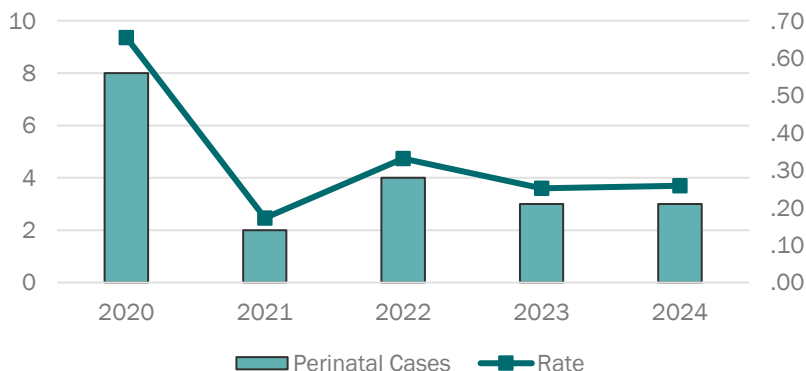
Cases perinatally acquired hepatitis C

0.3

cases per 1,000 live births

No change since 2023

Hepatitis C Perinatal; Maine, 2020-2024



- 24% of all hepatitis C cases were females of reproductive age
- Among females of reproductive age with hepatitis C, 13% were pregnant or recently delivered a baby.
- Perinatally exposed infants should be screened with an HCV RNA test at age 2–6 months

Prevention:

- Do not share syringes or injection kit equipment.
- Everyone should get tested for hepatitis C at least once in their life, especially if:
 - You were ever incarcerated,
 - You were born between 1945-1965
 - You ever received an unlicensed tattoo.
- Some people may need to be tested more often. This includes if:
 - You are pregnant or trying to get pregnant,
 - You are a person who injects drugs or uses non-injection drugs through the sharing of drug paraphernalia like pipes and straws used for snorting or smoking drugs.
- If you have hepatitis C, seek medical care.
- Hepatitis C is treated with medication taken orally as tablets. These medications are highly effective, with many achieving cure rates above 95%.
- Get vaccinated against hepatitis A and B, especially if you have hepatitis C.

For more information visit:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>

For more information on hepatitis C in

pregnant persons and babies visit: [Perinatal Hepatitis C Resources \(Maine CDC\)](#)