



Acute Hepatitis C Maine Surveillance Report | 2022

Case Information:

131

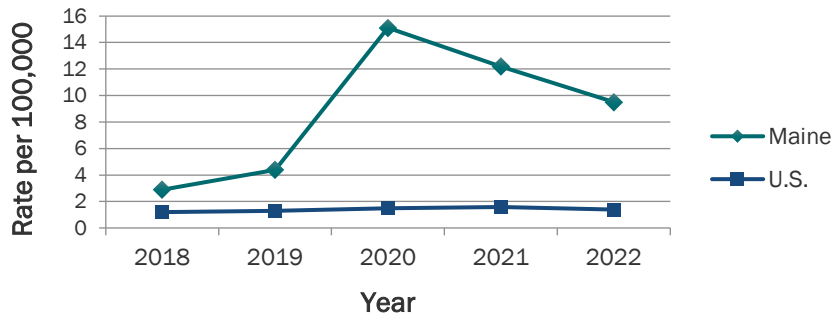
patients diagnosed with acute hepatitis C

9.5

cases per 100,000 people

22%

decrease since 2021



Demographics:



59% of patients were male

Median Age of patients was 37 years

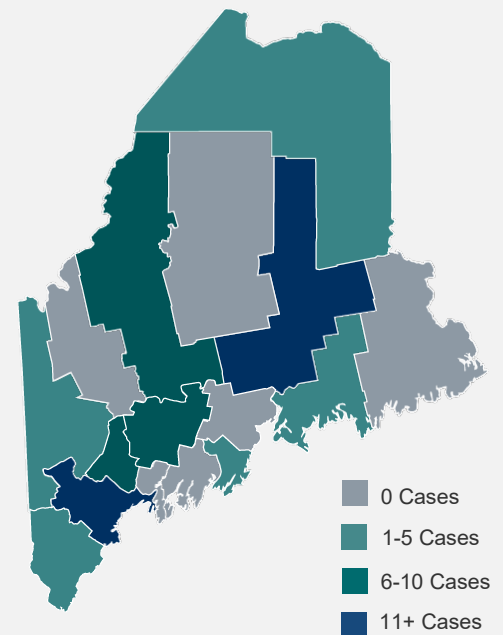
94% of patients were White

3% of patients were American Indian or Alaska Native

2% of patients were Black or African American

<1% of patients were of other / Unknown race

Geography:



Risk Factors:



59%

Were people who injected drugs



48%

Were people who used non-injection drugs



3%

Received an unlicensed tattoo prior to infection



5%

Had been incarcerated

Baby Boomers

8%

Were born between 1945-1965

Case Investigations:



20% of patients were hospitalized

- **42%** of patients had symptoms
- **99%** of patients had elevated liver enzyme lab results
- **13%** of patients had jaundice

Prevention:

- Do not share syringes or injection kit equipment
- Get tested for hepatitis C, especially if you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant, 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 A and B, especially if you have hepatitis C



Chronic Hepatitis C

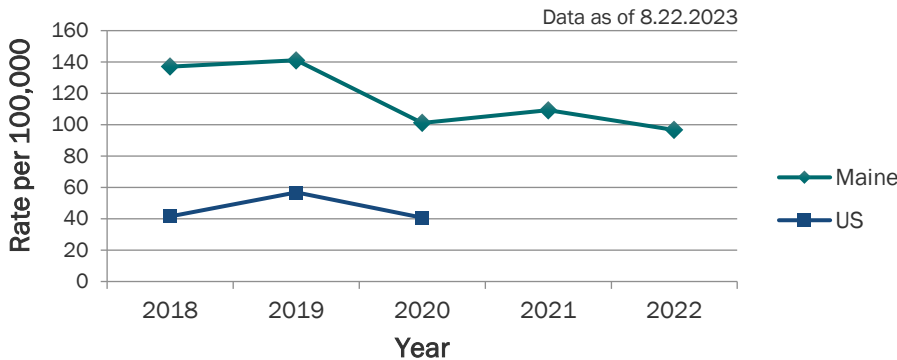
Maine Surveillance Report | 2022

Case Information:

1,339 patients diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C

96.6 cases per 100,000 people

10% decrease since 2021



Demographics:



54% of patients were male

Median Age of patients was 40 years

78% of patients were White
 17% of patients were of other / Unknown race
 2% of patients were Black or African American
 2% of patients were multi-race
 >1% of patients were American Indian or Alaska Native
 <1% of patients were Asian

Acute vs. Chronic Hepatitis C

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

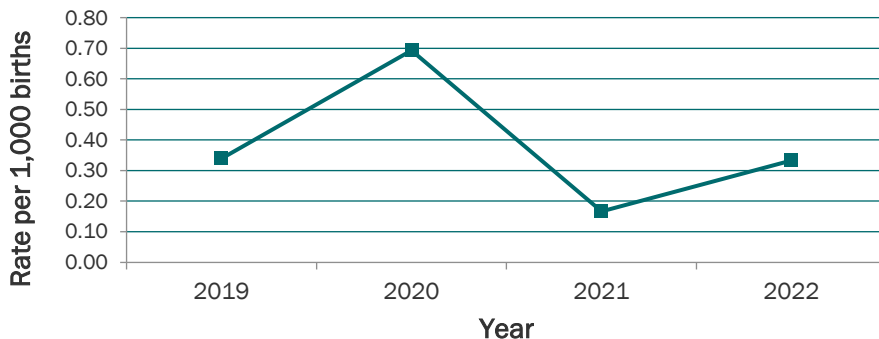
- Acute hepatitis C occurs within the first 6 months after someone is exposed to the hepatitis C virus. Hepatitis C can be a short-term illness, but for most people, acute infection leads to chronic infection.
- Chronic hepatitis C can be a lifelong infection if left untreated. Chronic hepatitis C can 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

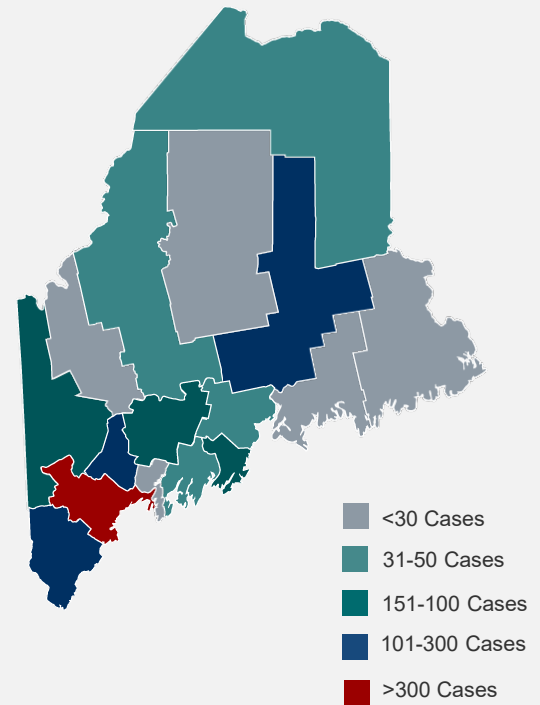
4 Cases acquired hepatitis C perinatally

0.33 cases per 1,000 live births

50% increase since 2021



Geography:



For more information visit:
www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>