

Hepatitis B in Colorado

2006 Surveillance Report

Cases of Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B in Colorado

Note: This report is published by the Viral Hepatitis Program (VHP), Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver Colorado. Data are presented for acute and chronic hepatitis B cases newly reported to CDPHE in 2006



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Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a disease that results from infection with the bloodborne hepatitis B virus. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Though the number of new infections is on the decline, data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey indicate that the prevalence of HBV infection has remained steady at around five percent over the past two decades.¹ In Colorado, as many as 240,000 residents have ever been infected with hepatitis B. HBV can be either “acute” or “chronic.”

Viral hepatitis surveillance in Colorado is primarily based on laboratory reporting of serologic results. Laboratory-based reporting enables the identification of asymptomatic persons infected by the virus as well as those displaying symptoms. In Colorado, the Board of Health requires physicians and other health care providers to report suspected cases of hepatitis B within seven days, and it requires laboratories to report positive HBV serologic tests within seven days. Upon receipt of these reports, either electronically, by fax, or via another reporting system, the VHP uses established [case definitions](#) to assign the appropriate diagnosis and case status for each patient.

Acute Hepatitis B

Acute hepatitis B is a short-term illness that occurs within the first six months of infection with the hepatitis B virus. It is usually mildly symptomatic, with abdominal pain, jaundice and abnormal liver function tests being the most characteristic features. Older children and adults are more likely to develop symptoms than younger children. Approximately 5 percent of older children and adults, 25 to 50 percent of younger children, and up to 90 percent of infants will fail to resolve hepatitis B infection and will develop chronic hepatitis B.

Chronic Hepatitis B

Chronic hepatitis B results when the hepatitis B virus remains in the body after the acute phase of illness. Over time, chronic hepatitis B can produce liver disease, cirrhosis, or cancer. Each year approximately 2,000 to 4,000 people die from diseases related to hepatitis B in the U.S.

¹ National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: Viral Hepatitis Databrief. National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/databriefs/viralhep.pdf>

Hepatitis B Cases Reported in 2006 Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
Category	Acute HBV Cases		Chronic HBV cases		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Total	36	100%	496	100%	532
Case Status		100%		100%	
Confirmed	34	94.44%	148	29.84%	182
Probable	1	2.78%	348	70.16%	349
Suspect	1	2.78%	---	---	---
Sex					
Male	25	69.44%	258	52.02%	283
Female	11	30.56%	238	47.98%	249
Unknown	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Age at Diagnosis		100%		100%	
0 - 4	0	0.00%	11	2.22%	11
5 - 9	0	0.00%	9	1.81%	9
10 - 19	0	0.00%	13	2.62%	13
20 - 29	7	19.44%	99	19.96%	106
30 - 39	11	30.56%	129	26.01%	140
40 - 49	8	22.22%	119	23.99%	127
50 - 59	6	16.67%	78	15.73%	84
60+	4	11.11%	38	7.66%	42
Unknown	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Race/Ethnicity		100%		100%	
Hispanic	6	16.67%	32	6.45%	38
White non-Hispanic	18	50.00%	104	20.97%	122
Black non-Hispanic	4	11.11%	71	14.31%	75
American Indian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	2.78%	186	37.50%	187
Other/Multiple/Unknown	7	19.44%	103	20.77%	110
All Hazards Region of Residence		100%		100%	
South Central	5	13.89%	69	13.91%	74
North Central	27	75.00%	353	71.17%	380
Northeast	0	0.00%	29	5.85%	29
Northwest	1	2.78%	20	4.03%	21
San Luis	0	0.00%	1	0.20%	1
South	0	0.00%	13	2.62%	13
Southeast	2	5.56%	4	0.81%	6
Southwest	0	0.00%	4	0.81%	4
West	0	0.00%	3	0.60%	3
Unknown	1	2.78%	0	0.00%	1