

Hepatitis C in Colorado

2006 Surveillance Report

Cases of Acute and Chronic Hepatitis C 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 C cases newly reported to CDPHE in 2006



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Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C (HCV) is the most common chronic blood borne infection in the United States. Severity and duration of hepatitis C can range from mild symptoms lasting a few weeks to a serious lifelong illness leading to cirrhosis and/or cancer of the liver. Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted from 1999-2002 indicate that between 3.4 and 4.9 million people in the United States have ever been infected with the hepatitis C virus. In Colorado, it is estimated more than 76,000 residents have ever been infected with hepatitis C. Hepatitis C 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 acute hepatitis C within seven days, and it requires laboratories to report positive HCV serologic tests within seven days. Upon receipt of these reports, either electronically, by fax, or via other reporting system, the VHP uses established [case definitions](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Hepatitis/ViralHepCaseDefinitions.pdf) (http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Hepatitis/ViralHepCaseDefinitions.pdf) to assign the appropriate diagnosis and case status for each patient.

Acute Hepatitis C

Acute hepatitis C is the first stage of hepatitis C infection. It is usually mildly symptomatic, with jaundice and abnormal liver function tests being the most characteristic features. Approximately 15 to 25 percent of individuals appear to resolve hepatitis infection after the acute stage.

Chronic Hepatitis C

A large percentage of persons infected with hepatitis C, 75 to 85 percent, develop chronic infection. Over a 20 to 30 year period, approximately 10 to 25 percent of people infected with chronic hepatitis C develop chronic liver disease or cirrhosis. Laboratories in Colorado report positive tests for HCV antibodies as well as for HCV RNA; thus, reported cases of chronic hepatitis C include persons who are presently infected or who may have been infected in the past.

Hepatitis C Cases Reported in 2006 Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV cases		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Total	37	100%	3825	100%	3862
Case Status		100%		100%	
Confirmed	28	75.68%	3073	80.34%	3101
Probable	1	2.70%	118	3.08%	119
Suspect	8	21.62%	634	16.58%	642
Sex					
Male	17	45.95%	2509	65.59%	2526
Female	20	54.05%	1310	34.25%	1330
Unknown	0	0.00%	6	0.16%	6
Age at Diagnosis		100%		100%	
0 - 4	0	0.00%	15	0.39%	15
5 - 9	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
10 - 19	3	8.11%	24	0.63%	27
20 - 29	10	27.03%	313	8.18%	323
30 - 39	11	29.73%	601	15.71%	612
40 - 49	9	24.32%	1324	34.61%	1333
50 - 59	4	10.81%	1213	31.71%	1217
60+	0	0.00%	330	8.63%	330
Unknown	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Race/Ethnicity		100%		100%	
Hispanic	10	27.03%	385	10.07%	395
White non-Hispanic	23	62.16%	992	25.93%	1015
Black non-Hispanic	1	2.70%	135	3.53%	136
American Indian	0	0.00%	33	0.86%	33
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.00%	44	1.15%	44
Other/Multiple/Unknown	3	8.11%	2236	58.46%	2239
County of Residence		100%		100%	
Adams	2	5.41%	273	7.14%	275
Alamosa	0	0.00%	10	0.26%	10
Arapahoe	4	10.81%	324	8.47%	328
Archuleta	0	0.00%	6	0.16%	6
Baca	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Bent	0	0.00%	12	0.31%	12
Boulder	2	5.41%	150	3.92%	152
Broomfield	0	0.00%	17	0.44%	17
Chaffee	0	0.00%	34	0.89%	34
Cheyenne	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
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Hepatitis C Cases Reported in 2006 Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV cases		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
County of Residence					
Clear Creek	0	0.00%	7	0.18%	7
Conejos	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Costilla	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Crowley	0	0.00%	29	0.76%	29
Custer	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Delta	0	0.00%	27	0.71%	27
Denver	11	29.73%	968	25.31%	979
Dolores	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Douglas	0	0.00%	75	1.96%	75
Eagle	0	0.00%	19	0.50%	19
El Paso	1	2.70%	328	8.58%	329
Elbert	0	0.00%	11	0.29%	11
Fremont	0	0.00%	103	2.69%	103
Garfield	1	2.70%	52	1.36%	53
Gilpin	0	0.00%	7	0.18%	7
Grand	0	0.00%	9	0.24%	9
Gunnison	0	0.00%	5	0.13%	5
Hinsdale	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Huerfano	0	0.00%	15	0.39%	15
Jackson	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Jefferson	4	10.81%	337	8.81%	341
Kiowa	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Kit Carson	0	0.00%	5	0.13%	5
La Plata	0	0.00%	30	0.78%	30
Lake	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Larimer	2	5.41%	162	4.24%	164
Las Animas	1	2.70%	21	0.55%	22
Lincoln	0	0.00%	26	0.68%	26
Logan	2	5.41%	26	0.68%	28
Mesa	0	0.00%	120	3.14%	120
Mineral	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Moffat	1	2.70%	12	0.31%	13
Montezuma	1	2.70%	12	0.31%	13
Montrose	0	0.00%	23	0.60%	23
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Hepatitis C Cases Reported in 2006 Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV cases		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
County of Residence					
Morgan	0	0.00%	22	0.58%	22
Otero	0	0.00%	13	0.34%	13
Ouray	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Park	0	0.00%	13	0.34%	13
Phillips	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Pitkin	0	0.00%	9	0.24%	9
Prowers	0	0.00%	9	0.24%	9
Pueblo	1	2.70%	212	5.54%	213
Rio Blanco	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Rio Grande	0	0.00%	10	0.26%	10
Routt	0	0.00%	13	0.34%	13
Saguache	0	0.00%	5	0.13%	5
San Juan	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
San Miguel	0	0.00%	9	0.24%	9
Sedgwick	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Summit	0	0.00%	12	0.31%	12
Teller	0	0.00%	19	0.50%	19
Washington	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Weld	4	10.81%	133	3.48%	137
Yuma	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Unknown	0	0.00%	61	1.59%	61