

Hepatitis C in Colorado

2007 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 2007



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and Environment

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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 HCV 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.¹ 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 another reporting system, the VHP uses established [case definitions](#) 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.

¹ Armstrong GL, Wasley A, Simard EP, et al. Prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in the United States, 1999 through 2002. *Ann Int Med* 2006;144(10):705–14.

Reported Hepatitis C Cases, Colorado, 2007
Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)

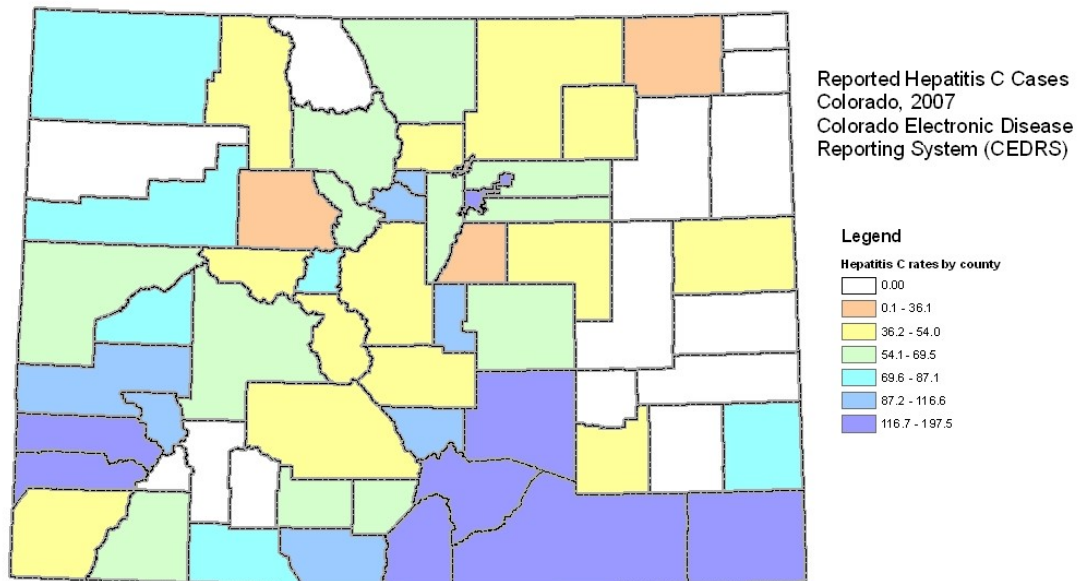
Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV cases		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	24	100%	4087	100%	4111
Case Status		100%		100%	
Confirmed	20	83.33%	3404	83.29%	3424
Probable	1	4.17%	81	1.98%	82
Suspect	3	12.50%	602	14.73%	605
Sex					
Male	12	50.00%	2626	64.25%	2638
Female	12	50.00%	1453	35.55%	1465
Unknown	0	0.00%	8	0.20%	8
Age		100%		100%	
0 - 4	1	4.17%	14	0.34%	15
5 - 9	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
10 - 19	0	0.00%	26	0.64%	26
20 - 29	3	12.50%	318	7.78%	321
30 - 39	7	29.17%	601	14.71%	608
40 - 49	8	33.33%	1318	32.25%	1326
50 - 59	5	20.83%	1421	34.77%	1426
60+	0	0.00%	353	8.64%	353
Unknown	0	0.00%	34	0.83%	34
Race/Ethnicity		100%		100%	
Hispanic	6	25.00%	394	9.64%	400
White non-Hispanic	8	33.33%	1123	27.48%	1131
Black non-Hispanic	0	0.00%	157	3.84%	157
American Indian	0	0.00%	29	0.71%	29
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.00%	20	0.49%	20
Other/Multiple/Unknown	10	41.67%	2364	57.84%	2374
County of Residence		100%		100%	
Adams	1	4.17%	290	7.10%	291
Alamosa	0	0.00%	10	0.24%	10
Arapahoe	0	0.00%	335	8.20%	335
Archuleta	0	0.00%	11	0.27%	11
Baca	0	0.00%	6	0.15%	6
Bent	0	0.00%	1	0.02%	1
Boulder	0	0.00%	149	3.65%	149
Broomfield	0	0.00%	12	0.29%	12
Chaffee	0	0.00%	9	0.22%	9
Cheyenne	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Clear Creek	0	0.00%	9	0.22%	9
Conejos	0	0.00%	8	0.20%	8

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Reported Hepatitis C Cases, Colorado, 2007					
Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV cases		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
County of Residence					
Costilla	0	0.00%	7	0.17%	7
Crowley	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Custer	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Delta	0	0.00%	26	0.64%	26
Denver	7	29.17%	760	18.60%	767
Dolores	0	0.00%	3	0.07%	3
Douglas	0	0.00%	59	1.44%	59
Eagle	1	4.17%	15	0.37%	16
El Paso	7	29.17%	404	9.89%	411
Elbert	0	0.00%	11	0.27%	11
Fremont	2	8.33%	24	0.59%	26
Garfield	1	4.17%	46	1.13%	47
Gilpin	0	0.00%	6	0.15%	6
Grand	0	0.00%	10	0.24%	10
Gunnison	0	0.00%	8	0.20%	8
Hinsdale	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Huerfano	0	0.00%	10	0.24%	10
Jackson	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Jefferson	3	12.50%	322	7.88%	325
Kiowa	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Kit Carson	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
La Plata	0	0.00%	33	0.81%	33
Lake	0	0.00%	7	0.17%	7
Larimer	0	0.00%	166	4.06%	166
Las Animas	0	0.00%	23	0.56%	23
Lincoln	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Logan	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Mesa	0	0.00%	94	2.30%	94
Mineral	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Moffat	0	0.00%	11	0.27%	11
Montezuma	0	0.00%	11	0.27%	11
Montrose	0	0.00%	38	0.93%	38
Morgan	0	0.00%	12	0.29%	12
Otero	0	0.00%	9	0.22%	9
Ouray	0	0.00%	5	0.12%	5
Park	0	0.00%	9	0.22%	9
Phillips	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Pitkin	0	0.00%	6	0.15%	6
Prowers	0	0.00%	10	0.24%	10
Pueblo	2	8.33%	208	5.09%	210

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Reported Hepatitis C Cases, Colorado, 2007					
Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV cases		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
County of Residence					
Rio Blanco	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Rio Grande	0	0.00%	8	0.20%	8
Routt	0	0.00%	12	0.29%	12
Saguache	0	0.00%	3	0.07%	3
San Juan	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
San Miguel	0	0.00%	10	0.24%	10
Sedgwick	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Summit	0	0.00%	17	0.42%	17
Teller	0	0.00%	24	0.59%	24
Washington	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Weld	0	0.00%	124	3.03%	124
Yuma	0	0.00%	1	0.02%	1
Unspecified*	0	0.00%	677	16.56%	677
*Unspecified - For chronic hepatitis C, unspecified includes federal and state inmates housed in a Colorado facility and cases for which no residential address could be obtained					
Total Unspecified	0		677	100%	677
CDOC	---		539	88.58%	539
FCI	---		5	0.66%	5
Unknown	---		133	10.76%	133



Rates were calculated per 100,000 population using 2007 population figures from the 2008-based population projections provided by the Colorado Division of Local Government, Demography Section. Rates calculated for counties with a small number of reported cases should be interpreted with caution.