

Hepatitis C in Colorado 2008 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 2008



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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, 2008
Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)

Category	Acute HCV Cases		Chronic HCV Cases		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	22	100%	3994	100%	4016
Case Status		100%		100%	
Confirmed	14	63.7%	3465	86.75%	3479
Probable	8	36.3%	0	0.00%	8
Suspect	0	0.00%	529	13.25%	529
Sex					
Male	16	72.7%	2618	65.55%	2634
Female	6	27.3%	1331	33.32%	1337
Unknown	0	0.00%	45	1.13%	45
Age					
0 – 4	0	0.00%	16	0.40%	16
5 – 9	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
10 – 19	0	0.00%	28	0.70%	28
20 – 29	6	27.3%	374	9.36%	380
30 – 39	7	31.8%	589	14.74%	596
40 – 49	4	18.2%	1228	30.73%	1232
50 – 59	5	22.7%	1358	33.98%	1363
60+	0	0.00%	375	9.41%	375
Unknown	0	0.00%	24	0.63%	24
Race/Ethnicity					
Hispanic	6	27.3%	233	5.80%	239
White non-Hispanic	14	63.7%	949	23.80%	963
Black non-Hispanic	1	4.50%	124	3.10%	125
American Indian	0	0.00%	11	0.28%	11
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0.00%	18	0.45%	18
Other/Multiple/Unknown	1	4.50%	2659	66.57%	2660
County of Residence					
Adams	3	13.64%	302	7.60%	305
Alamosa	0	0.00%	11	0.28%	11
Arapahoe	0	0.00%	356	8.90%	356
Archuleta	0	0.00%	5	0.12%	5
Baca	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Bent	0	0.00%	7	0.17%	7
Boulder	1	4.55%	148	3.70%	149
Broomfield	0	0.00%	24	0.60%	24
Chaffee	0	0.00%	9	0.22%	9
Cheyenne	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Clear Creek	0	0.00%	12	0.30%	12
Conejos	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1

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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Costilla	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Crowley	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Custer	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Delta	0	0.00%	20	0.50%	20
Denver	4	18.20%	761	19.1%	765
Dolores	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Douglas	1	4.54%	81	2.00%	82
Eagle	0	0.00%	31	0.80%	31
El Paso	0	0.00%	387	9.70%	387
Elbert	0	0.00%	5	0.12%	5
Fremont	0	0.00%	36	0.90%	36
Garfield	1	4.54%	38	1.00%	39
Gilpin	1	4.54%	4	0.10%	5
Grand	0	0.00%	7	0.17%	7
Gunnison	0	0.00%	6	0.15%	6
Hinsdale	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Huerfano	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Jackson	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Jefferson	1	4.54%	293	7.30%	294
Kiowa	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Kit Carson	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
La Plata	0	0.00%	30	0.80%	30
Lake	0	0.00%	1	0.03%	1
Larimer	2	9.10%	160	4.00%	162
Las Animas	1	4.54%	15	0.38%	16
Lincoln	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Logan	1	4.54%	11	0.28%	12
Mesa	0	0.00%	100	2.50%	100
Mineral	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Moffat	0	0.00%	13	0.32%	13
Montezuma	0	0.00%	15	0.38%	15
Montrose	0	0.00%	24	0.60%	24
Morgan	0	0.00%	12	0.30%	12
Otero	0	0.00%	12	0.30%	12
Ouray	0	0.00%	6	0.15%	6
Park	0	0.00%	11	0.28%	11
Phillips	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	2
Pitkin	4	4.54%	7	0.17%	11
Prowers	0	0.00%	7	0.17%	7
Pueblo	2	9.10%	163	4.10%	165
Rio Blanco	0	0.00%	3	0.08%	3
Rio Grande	0	0.00%	5	0.12%	5

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Routt	0	0.00%	13	0.32%	13
Saguache	0	0.00%	6	0.15%	6
San Juan	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
San Miguel	0	0.00%	5	0.12%	5
Sedgwick	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Summit	0	0.00%	13	0.32%	13
Teller	0	0.00%	17	0.41%	17
Washington	0	0.00%	4	0.10%	4
Weld	3	13.64%	136	3.40%	136
Yuma	0	0.00%	5	0.12%	5
Unspecified*	0	0.00%	627	15.6%	627
*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	0.00%	627	100%	627
CDOC	--		585	93.3%	585
FCI	--		2	0.30%	2
Unknown	--		40	6.40%	40