



# Acute Hepatitis C

## Maine Surveillance Report | 2023

### Case Information:

# 79

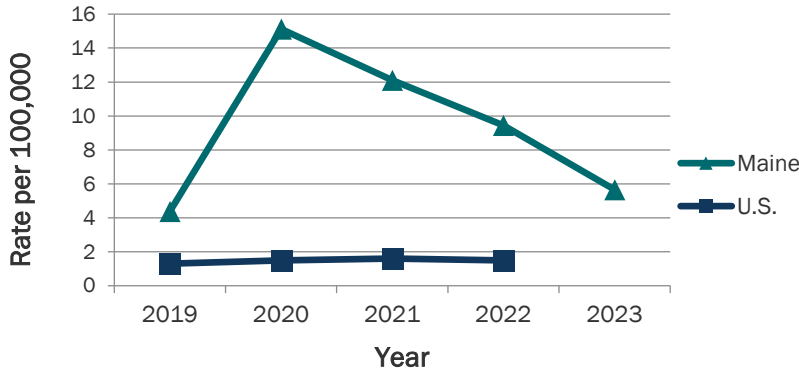
patients diagnosed with acute hepatitis C

# 5.6

cases per 100,000 people

# 39%

decrease since 2022



### Demographics:

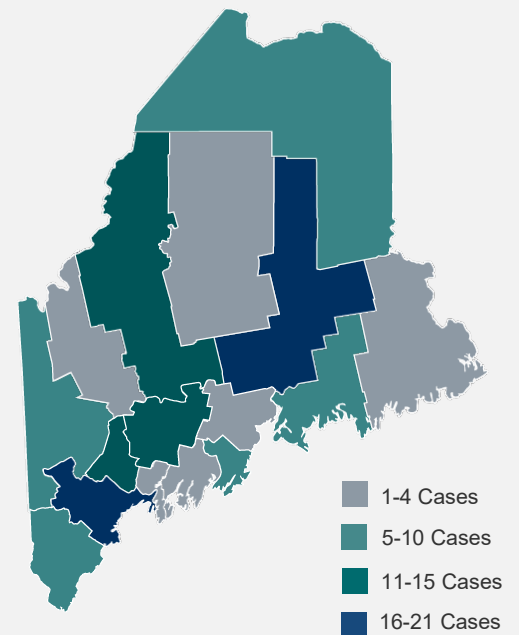


56% of patients were male

Median Age of patients was 37 years

91% of patients were White  
 4% of patients were of other / unknown race  
 1% of patients were American Indian or Alaska Native  
 1% of patients were Black or African American

### Geography:



### Risk Factors:



# 60%

Were people who injected drugs



# 48%

Were people who used non-injection drugs



# 8%

Received an unlicensed tattoo prior to infection



# 9%

Had been incarcerated

## Baby Boomers

# 5%

Were born between 1945-1965

### Case Investigations:



22% of patients were hospitalized

- **52%** of patients had symptoms
- **99%** of patients had elevated liver enzyme lab results
- **18%** 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 | 2023

### Case Information:

**842**

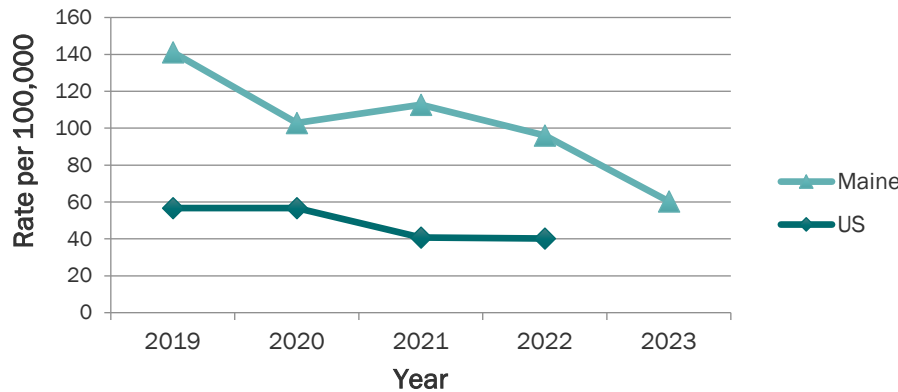
patients diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C

**60.3**

cases per 100,000 people

**37%**

decrease since 2022



### Demographics:

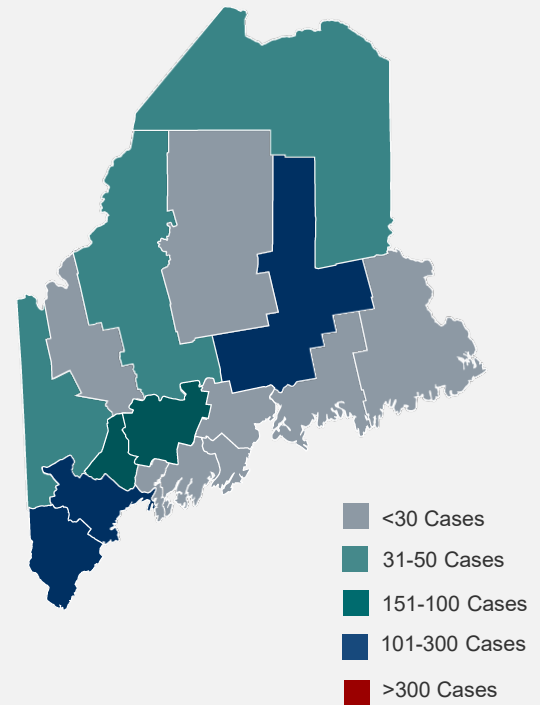


60% of patients were male

Median Age of patients was 41 years

- 83% of patients were White
- 11% of patients were of other / unknown race
- 4% of patients were Black or African American
- 1% of patients were multi-race
- <1% of patients were American Indian or Alaska Native
- <1% of patients were Asian

### Geography:



### 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

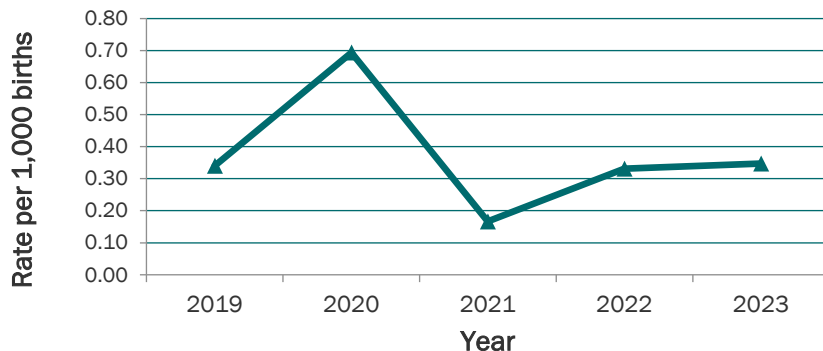
**4**

Cases acquired hepatitis C perinatally

**0.34**

cases per 1,000 live births

No change since 2022



For more information visit:  
[www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>