




Hepatitis A Surveillance

March Key Points

 33 cases

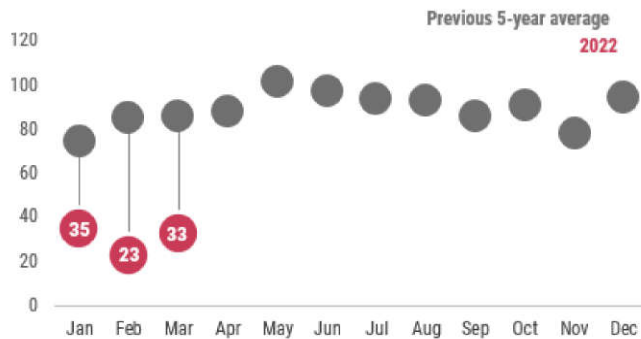
 2 cases linked to other cases

 30-39 year olds had the highest incidence rate

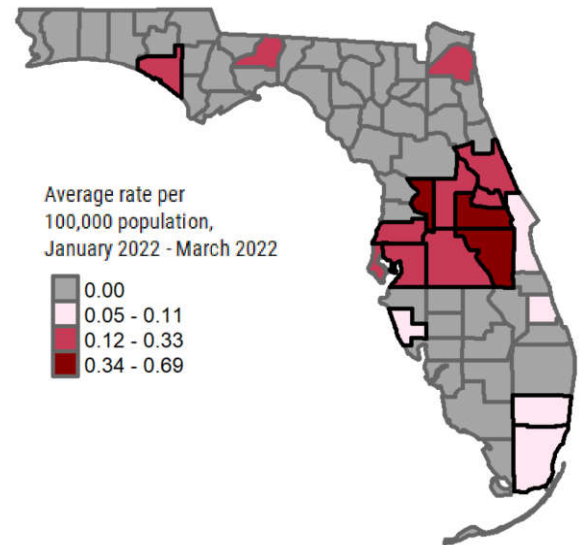
 86% of cases not up-to-date or unknown vaccination status



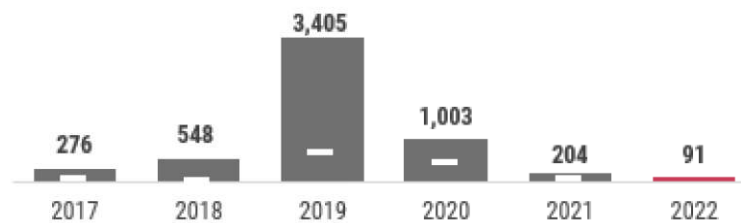
The number of reported hepatitis A cases in March increased from the previous month and was below the previous 5-year average.



In March 2022, 33 hepatitis A cases were reported in 13 counties, outlined in black in the map below. Since January 2022, the average county rates were highest in Central Florida.



In 2022, 91 hepatitis A cases* were reported.



*The white bars indicate the total number of cases as of March for each year



86%
not vaccinated

The best way to prevent hepatitis A infection is through vaccination. In March 2022, 86% of infected people had not received the vaccine or had unknown vaccination status. Since 2006, hepatitis A vaccine has been recommended for all children at age 1 year. Hepatitis A vaccine is also recommended for certain adult high-risk groups, including persons using injection and non-injection drugs, persons experiencing homelessness, and men who have sex with men. To learn more about the hepatitis A vaccine, talk to your doctor or visit: www.CDC.gov/Vaccines/HCP/VIS/VIS-Statements/Hep-A.html.

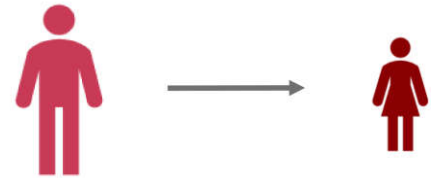
* Of the 35 cases reported in January 2022, 8 cases had illness prior to 2021, but were not reported prior to January 2022.

Hepatitis A Surveillance



In March 2022, **2 cases** were **epidemiologically (epi) linked to another case**.

In March 2022, there was an average of **1 contact to reported cases**. Contacts are those who were exposed to the virus and recommended prophylaxis for illness prevention.



In March 2022, **30-39 year olds have the highest incidence rate at 1.11 cases per 100,000 population**. Similarly in 2021, 30-39 year olds also had the highest incidence rate at 1.48 cases per 100,000 population.



In March 2022, **no cases were co-infected with chronic hepatitis C** and **1 case was co-infected with chronic hepatitis B**. In 2021, the **most common coinfection was with chronic hepatitis C with 15%** of reported cases being coinfecting. Co-infection with more than one type of viral hepatitis can lead to more severe liver disease and increase the risk of developing liver cancer.



National activity

Hepatitis A rates have decreased by more than 95% since the first vaccine became available in 1995. However, since outbreaks were first identified in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been monitoring outbreaks in 37 states. As of March 2022, 15 states (including Florida) have declared an end to their outbreak. More information about these outbreaks can be found here: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm

Hepatitis A surveillance goals

- Identify cases to limit transmission
- Identify and prevent outbreaks
- Monitor effectiveness of immunization programs and vaccines

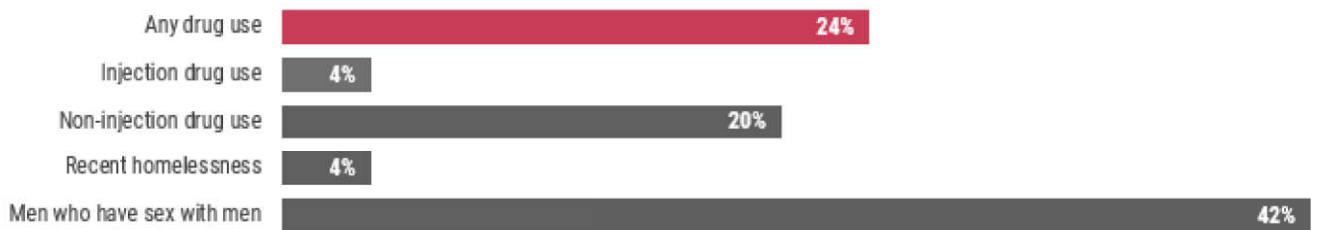
To learn more about hepatitis A, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/HepA. For more information on the data sources used in Florida for hepatitis A surveillance, see the last page of this report.

Hepatitis A Surveillance

Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection. Health care providers are encouraged to actively offer the hepatitis A vaccine to individuals at risk.



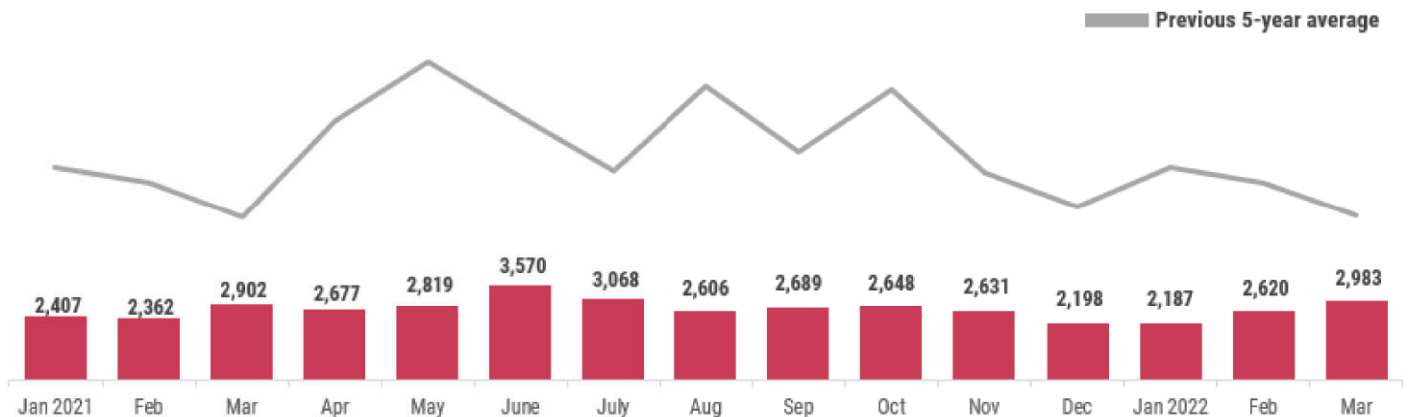
In 2022, 53% of the 83 reported cases* in Florida reported at least one of the risk factors below, while 47% reported no or unknown risk factors. The most commonly identified risk factor was **men who have sex with men**, reported by 35 cases (42%). The next most common risk factor was **any drug use (24%)** reported in 20 cases. Of the 20 cases, the most common form of drug use was **non-injection drug (20%)** reported in 17 cases. **Injection drug use (4%)** was reported in 3 cases. **Recent homelessness** was reported in (4%) of reported cases. In 2022, there has been an increase in reported cases among men who have sex with men when compared to 2021.



Hepatitis A infections can be severe, leading to inpatient hospitalization and sometimes death. In 2022, 48 cases (58%) reported in Florida* have been hospitalized due to hepatitis A infection. No deaths have been identified as hepatitis A associated in 2022.



The Florida Department of Health is actively working to vaccinate those most at risk for hepatitis A infection. In March 2022, 2,983 doses were administered. The number of first doses of hepatitis A vaccine administered by both private providers and county health departments to adults age 18 years and older, as recorded in Florida SHOTS, increased and was below the previous 5-year-average. Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection.



* The 8 cases with illness prior to 2021 are excluded from this analysis.