

# Hepatitis A Surveillance

## 2018-To-Date Key Points

 4,854 cases

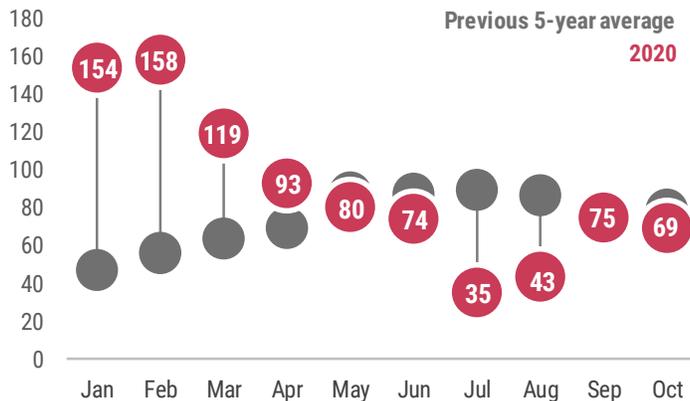
 23% cases linked to other cases

 30-39 year olds had highest incidence

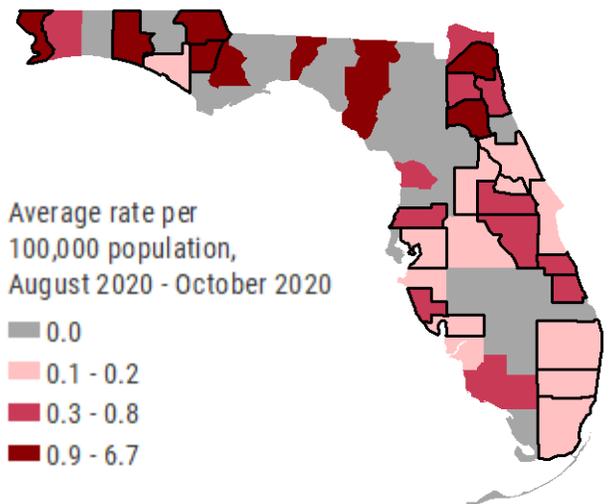
 23% co-infected with hepatitis B or C



The number of reported hepatitis A cases in October decreased from the previous month and was similar to the previous 5-year-average. Since January 1, 2018, 98% of cases have likely been acquired locally in Florida. ▼

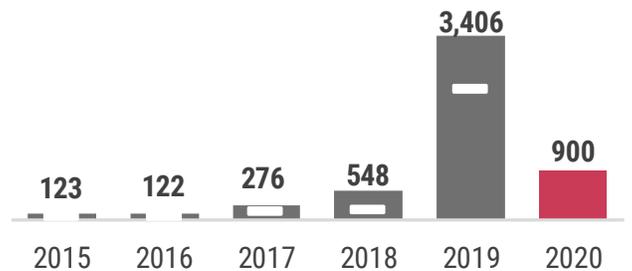


The 69 hepatitis A cases in October were reported in the 22 counties outlined in black. In the past three months North Florida had the highest hepatitis A activity. ▼



From January 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020, 900 hepatitis A cases were reported. ►

The number of reported hepatitis A cases dramatically increased since January 2018, after remaining relatively stable in previous years. In recent months though, case counts have decreased from case counts seen in October 2019.



\*The white bars in the graph indicates total numbers in October for each year



**93%**  
never vaccinated

The best way to prevent hepatitis A infection is through vaccination. Since January 1, 2018, 93% of people with hepatitis A had never received a documented dose of hepatitis A vaccine. In October 2020, 94% of infected people had not received the vaccine. Since 2006, hepatitis A vaccine has been recommended for all children at age 1 year. Hepatitis A vaccine is also recommended for certain high-risk groups of adults including injection and non-injection drug use, 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](http://www.CDC.gov/Vaccines/HCP/VIS/VIS-Statements/Hep-A.html).

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting health care seeking behavior, which may be impacting the diagnosis and reporting of hepatitis A cases that are shown in this report. For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Florida, please visit [FloridaHealthCOVID-19.gov](http://FloridaHealthCOVID-19.gov).



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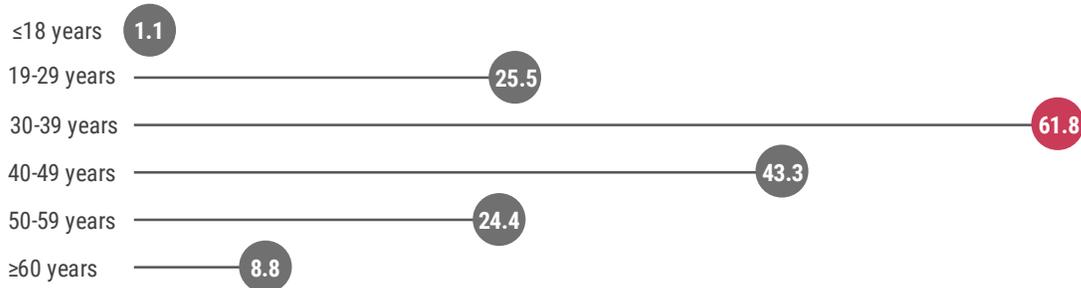
From January 2018 to October 2020, **1,118 (23%)** of **4,854 total cases** of hepatitis A were **epidemiologically (epi) linked to other cases**. In October 2020, 7% of cases were linked to other cases.

In October 2020, 80% of epi links were household contact, and 20% were personal contacts. No cases were sexual contacts.

**Epi linked cases** | **Total cases**



Since January 1, 2018, the incidence rate was highest among **adults aged 30–39 years old at 61.8 cases per 100,000 population**. In October 2020, the incidence rate was highest among adults aged 30–39 years old at 0.9 case per 100,000 population. Since January 1, 2018, cases were reported primarily among **men (64%)** and persons who identify as **non-Hispanic white (93%)**.



Since January 1, 2018, **85 (2%) cases were co-infected with chronic hepatitis B**, **951 (20%) cases were co-infected with chronic hepatitis C**, and **104 (2%) cases were co-infected with both chronic hepatitis B and C**. In October 2020, 18 (26%) cases were co-infected with chronic hepatitis B or C. 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.

**Chronic hepatitis B** | **Chronic hepatitis C** | **Chronic hepatitis B and C** | **No co-infection**



## National activity

Hepatitis A rates have decreased by more than 95% since the first vaccine became available in 1995. However, since May of 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been monitoring outbreaks in 35 states among persons who use drugs and persons who are experiencing homelessness. More information about these outbreaks can be found here: [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm)

## Hepatitis A surveillance goals

- Identify and control outbreaks and monitor trends
- Identify and mitigate common sources
- Monitor effectiveness of immunization programs and vaccines

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

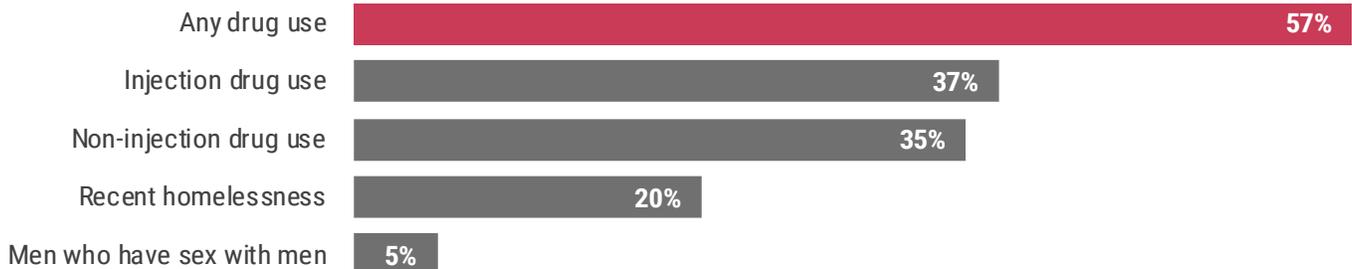
# Hepatitis A Surveillance

## Statewide Response to the Increase in Hepatitis A Cases

Several Florida counties have experienced ongoing local transmission of hepatitis A since 2017. Since January 1, 2018, 98% of Florida's cases (n=4,854) have likely been acquired in Florida. Cases likely acquired in Florida share several common risk factors including drug use (both injection or non-injection drugs), identifying as men who have sex with men, or recently experiencing homelessness. **Individuals with any of these risk factors should receive the hepatitis A vaccine, and health care providers are encouraged to actively offer the hepatitis A vaccine to individuals at risk. Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection.**

For additional information, please see the declaration of public health emergency issued by the State Surgeon General in August 2019, available at: [FloridaHealth.gov/\\_documents/newsroom/press-releases/2019/08/phe-hav-filed-08-01-2019.pdf](https://www.floridahealth.gov/_documents/newsroom/press-releases/2019/08/phe-hav-filed-08-01-2019.pdf).

Over half (62%) of the 4,854 cases likely acquired in Florida since January 1, 2018 reported at least one of the risk factors below, while 38% reported no or unknown risk factors. The most commonly identified risk factor was **drug use**, reported by 2,700 (57%) cases. Non-injection (35%) and injection (37%) were both common forms of drug use. Recent homelessness, reported by 20% of cases, was an additional risk factor.



Hepatitis A infections can be severe, leading to inpatient hospitalization and sometimes death. Since January 1, 2018, 3,316 (70%) cases likely acquired in Florida have been hospitalized because of their hepatitis A infection, and there were 76 hepatitis A associated deaths identified.

**70%** hospitalized  
**76** deaths

The Florida Department of Health is actively working to vaccinate those most at risk for hepatitis A infection. In October, **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 slightly and was below the **previous 5-year-average** in October 2020. This may be due to changes in vaccine administration during the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2020, a total of 5,137 doses were administered. **Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection.**

