




Hepatitis A Surveillance


March Key Points

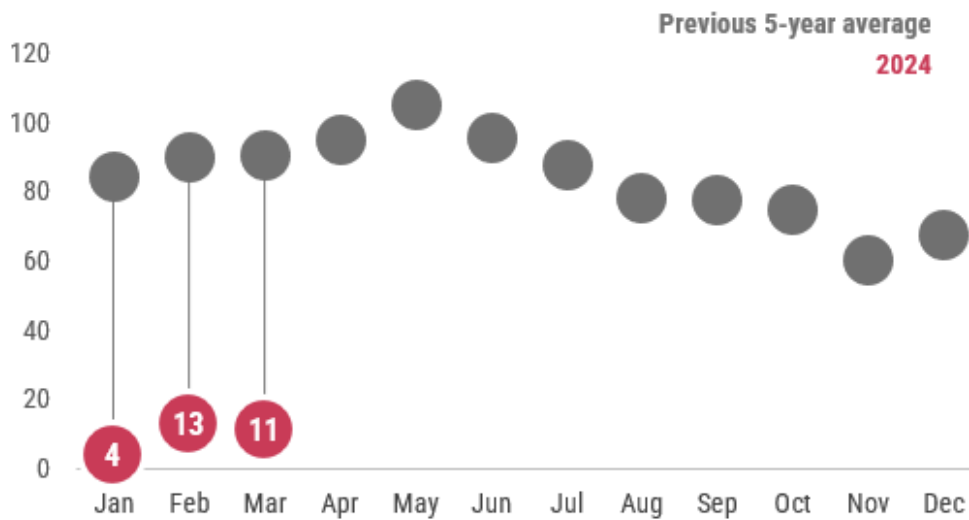
 11 cases

 18% of cases linked to other cases

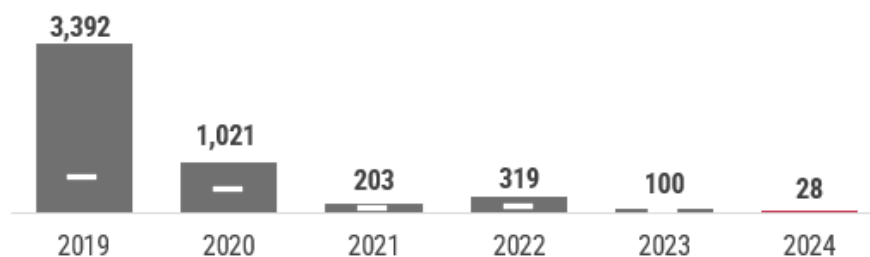
 40-49 year olds had the highest incidence

 64% of cases were not up-to-date and 18% of cases had unknown vaccination status


 In March 2024, 11 hepatitis A cases were reported in 4 counties. The number of reported hepatitis A cases in March decreased from the previous month and was below the previous 5-year average.



In 2024, 28 hepatitis A cases were reported.



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

 **The best way to prevent hepatitis A infection is through vaccination.** In March 2024, 64% of cases were not up-to-date on hepatitis A vaccinations and 18% of cases had unknown hepatitis A 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.

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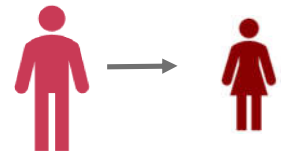


In March 2024, **2 cases** were **epidemiologically (epi) linked to another case**.

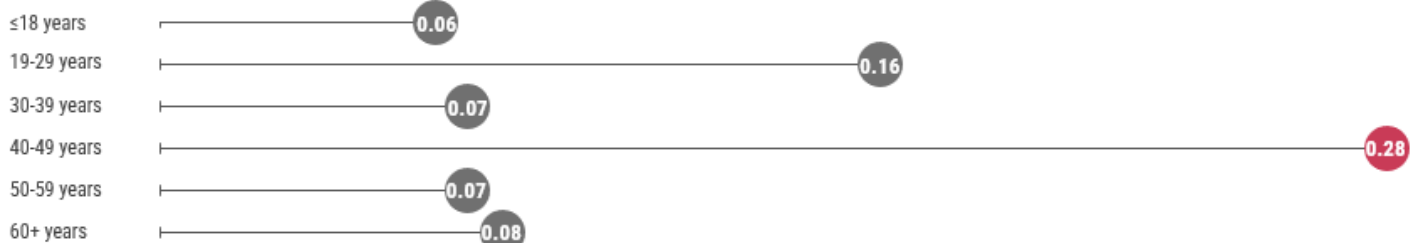
Epi linked cases | **Total cases**

Mar 2024 | **2** | **11**

In March 2024, 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 2024, **40-49 year olds** have the highest incidence rate at **0.28 cases per 100,000 population**.



In March 2024, **no cases** were co-infected with chronic hepatitis C and **no cases** were co-infected with chronic hepatitis B. **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. 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/diseases-and-conditions/vaccine-preventable-disease/hepatitis-a. 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 including men who have sex with men.

For more information about hepatitis A vaccination in Florida visit: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis/hepatitis-vaccination-testing-program.html>



In 2024, 39% of the 28 cases in Florida reported the risk factor of travel outside of the U.S. and 4% of cases reported the risk factor of men who have sex with men. No cases reported drug use or recent homelessness.



Hepatitis A infections can be severe, leading to inpatient hospitalization and sometimes death. In 2024, 18 cases (64%) reported in Florida have been hospitalized due to hepatitis A infection. No deaths have been identified as hepatitis A associated in 2024.



The Florida Department of Health is actively working to vaccinate those most at risk for hepatitis A infection. In March 2024, 3,940 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.

