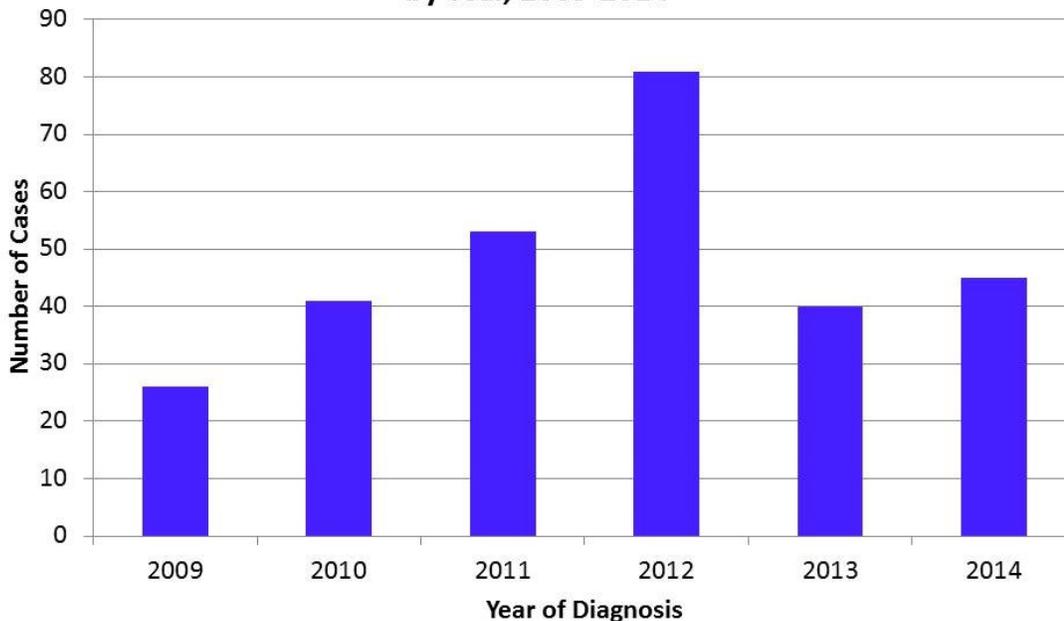


HEPATITIS C IN OKLAHOMA

Acute Hepatitis C Cases Diagnosed in Oklahoma
by Year, 2009-2014



OVERVIEW

Hepatitis C, caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), is a liver disease that is classified as either acute or chronic. The acute (newly acquired) form is a short-term illness that occurs within the first 6 months after exposure to HCV; however, the infection can become chronic. Chronic (long-lasting) infection will develop in 75-85% of HCV infected persons. Of the persons who develop chronic infection, 70% will eventually develop chronic liver disease.

Chronic HCV infection progresses slowly over the course of a 15-30 year period and can lead to cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer. Cirrhosis is a complication of liver disease which involves loss of healthy liver tissues and cells and irreversible scarring of the liver.

Eight thousand to ten thousand deaths occur annually in the United States as a result of chronic HCV infection. Although less than 3% of chronically infected persons die as a result of their infection, HCV remains the leading indication for liver transplantation.

The cause of HCV was not identified until 1989, and the blood supply was not regularly screened for HCV until 1992. Therefore, people who received a blood transfusion before 1992, born between 1945-1965, and past or current injection-drug users, are at highest risk for HCV infection and should be tested.

This fact sheet will focus on acute cases diagnosed in Oklahoma in 2014. In Oklahoma, there were 45 cases reported and confirmed as acute HCV for the year 2014. Males accounted for 62.2% (28) of the cases, and females accounted for 37.8% (17) of the cases.

For More Information Contact:

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Oklahoma State
Department of Health

HEPATITIS C IN OKLAHOMA

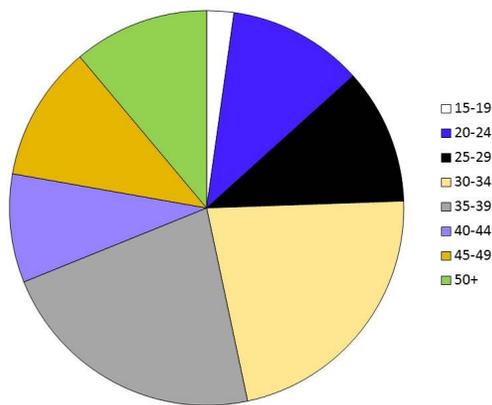
BY AGE GROUP

Nearly half of the acute HCV cases were between 30 and 39 years old, which accounted for 44.4% of all cases. There were 6 cases (13.3%) for patients under 25 years old.

Age Breakdown:

- 15 to 19 years— 2.2% (1)
- 20 to 24 years— 11.1% (5)
- 25 to 29 years— 11.1% (5)
- 30 to 34 years— 22.2% (10)
- 35 to 39 years— 22.2% (10)
- 40 to 44 years— 8.9% (4)
- 45 to 49 years— 11.1% (5)
- 50 years and greater—11.1% (5)

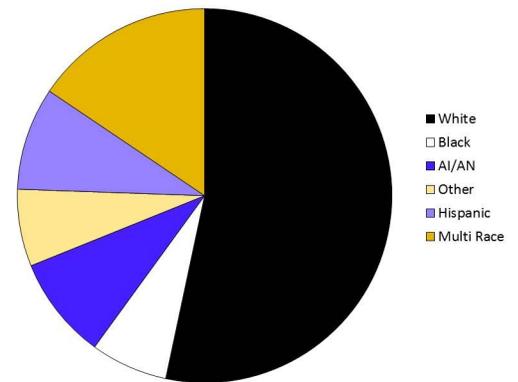
Acute Hepatitis Cases Diagnosed in Oklahoma by Age, 2014



BY RACE/ETHNICITY

About half (24, 53.3%) of the acute HCV cases reported in 2014 were White, followed by Multi Race (7, 15.5%). Hispanics (4, 8.9%) and American Indians/Alaska Natives (4, 8.9%) each accounted for less than 10%. Both Blacks and persons with race classified as Other/Unknown accounted for about 7% each (3, 6.7%).

Acute Hepatitis C Cases Diagnosed in Oklahoma by Race/Ethnicity, 2014



BY RISKS

HCV is transmitted when blood from a person infected with HCV enters the body of someone who is not infected. Today, most people become infected with HCV by sharing needles, syringes, or any other equipment to inject drugs. While rare, sexual transmission of HCV is possible. HCV can also be spread when getting tattoos and body piercings in with non-sterile instruments.

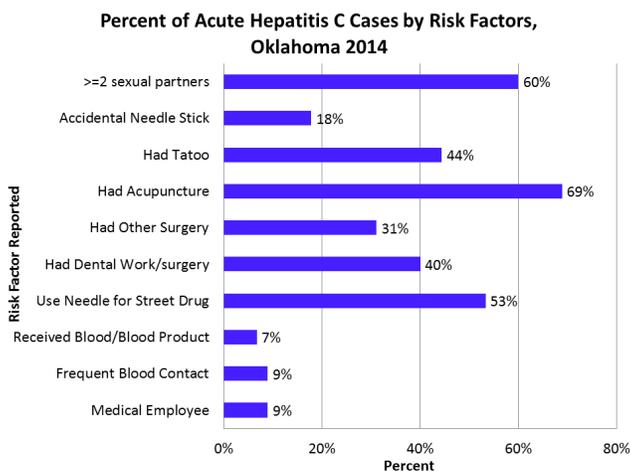
The HCV risk factors were reported if the patient finished the disease investigations. The percentages presented in this section were based on all 45 acute hepatitis C patients, in 2014, for each risk factor. Each patient could report more than one risk factor.

In 2014, 53.3% (24) of the acute HCV cases reported using needles for the injection of street drugs and 60.0% (27) reported having two or more sexual partners. Among all cases, 68.9% (31) reported that they had acupuncture in the past.

Males accounted for **62.2%** of acute HCV.

30-39 years age group accounted for almost **half** of newly diagnosed HCV.

HEPATITIS C IN OKLAHOMA



BY GEOGRAPHY

Geographically, about half of the acute HCV cases in 2014 resided in the following five counties:

- Tulsa County (9, 20%)
- Oklahoma County (5, 11.1%)
- Comanche County (3, 6.7%)
- Creek County (3, 6.7%)
- Kay County (3, 6.7%)

