

Hepatitis A

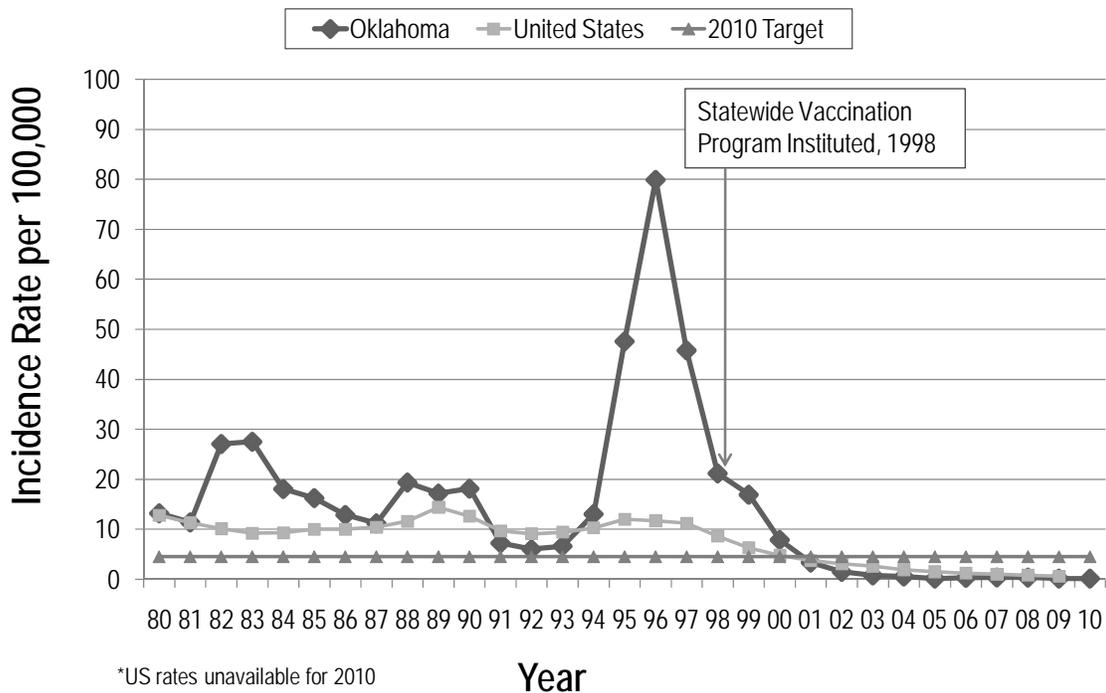
2010 Case Total	6	2010 Incidence Rate	0.16 per 100,000
2009 Case Total	6	2009 Incidence Rate	0.16 per 100,000

Since the hepatitis A epidemic that took place in Oklahoma from 1995 through 1997, with the peak in 1996 of 2,516 cases (incidence rate = 79.99 per 100,000), the incidence of hepatitis A in the state has dramatically declined. The number of cases has been less than 20 per year since 2004.

Of the six cases identified in 2010, none were associated with high-risk settings. One secondary case in a household member was identified through public health investigations. One case was hospitalized, and none of the cases expired.

A total of 45 close contacts were investigated (median: 5, range: 1 – 18 per case). Of those, 18 did not have evidence of immunity through previous testing or history of vaccination, and therefore required post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). The county health departments provide PEP to those identified as close contacts to confirmed hepatitis A cases. In 2007, PEP guidelines were revised by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), limiting the use of immunoglobulin (IG) and expanding the use of the hepatitis A vaccine. For persons from 12 months to 40 years of age, the hepatitis A vaccine is now the preferred method of PEP. IG remains the recommended PEP for persons less than 12 months of age, greater than 40 years of age, and for those who are immunocompromised or who have chronic disease such as liver disease or other chronic medical conditions.ⁱ

Incidence Rate of Reported Hepatitis A Cases by Year, Oklahoma and US, 1980-2010*



Hepatitis A should be considered in unvaccinated persons with hallmark symptoms of jaundice, very dark urine and/or clay-colored stools (refer to table for symptoms reported by cases), particularly those with recent exposure to high-risk regions through travel or residence. One case (17%) reported international travel during their exposure period.

A positive hepatitis A IgM titer indicates current infection, although false positive tests are common.ⁱⁱ Healthcare providers should restrict testing for hepatitis A to those clients with clinical evidence of acute hepatitis A infection. Liver function tests are usually markedly elevated in confirmed cases. Of the five cases with known liver function test results, the median alanine transaminase (ALT) was 589 (range: 135 – 1331), median aspartate aminotransferase (AST) of 435 (range: 202 – 1158), and median total bilirubin was 3.0 (range: 0.3 – 7.4).

The hepatitis A vaccine is routinely recommended for individuals 2 years of age or older, and the two-dose regimen is required for entry into childcare or grade school in Oklahoma. The CDC Travelers' Health website has recommendations regarding hepatitis A prevention for those traveling out of the US, and can be accessed at the website www.cdc.gov/travel.

Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Hepatitis A Cases, Oklahoma, 2010 (N = 6)

	Number (%)	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Gender		
Female	5 (83%)	0.29
Male	1 (17%)	0.55
Age	Median = 34 years (range: 13 - 74 years)	
Race		
White	4 (67%)	0.14
Two or more races	1 (17%)	0.66
Unknown	1 (17%)	
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	2 (33%)	0.66
Not Hispanic or Latino	3 (50%)	-
Unknown	1 (17%)	-
Hospitalized for this disease	1 (17%)	-
Died due to this disease	0	-
Hallmark symptoms (not exclusive)		
Jaundice	4 (67%)	-
Dark Urine	3 (50%)	-
Clay-colored stool	2 (33%)	-
Recent travel out of country	1* (17%)	-

*Mexico

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Update: Prevention of Hepatitis A After Exposure to Hepatitis A Virus and in International Travelers. Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2007;56:[1080-1084], available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5641.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Positive Test Results for Acute Hepatitis A Virus Infection Among Persons with No Recent History of Acute Hepatitis – United States, 2002-2004. MMWR 2005;54; (453-456), available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5418.pdf>