Hepatitis B in Colorado
2008 Surveillance Report

Cases of Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B in Colorado

Note: This report is published by the Viral Hepatitis Program (VHP), Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver Colorado. Data are presented for acute and chronic hepatitis B cases newly reported to CDPHE in 2008

Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

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Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a disease that results from infection with the bloodborne hepatitis B virus. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness. Though the number of new infections is on the decline, data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey indicate that the prevalence of HBV infection has remained steady at around five percent over the past two decades.[1] In Colorado, as many as 240,000 residents have ever been infected with hepatitis B. HBV can be either "acute" or "chronic."

Viral hepatitis surveillance in Colorado is primarily based on laboratory reporting of serologic results. Laboratory-based reporting enables the identification of asymptomatic persons infected by the virus as well as those displaying symptoms. In Colorado, the Board of Health requires physicians and other health care providers to report suspected cases of hepatitis B within seven days, and it requires laboratories to report positive HBV serologic tests within seven days. Upon receipt of these reports, either electronically, by fax, or via another reporting system, the VHP uses established case definitions to assign the appropriate diagnosis and case status for each patient.

Acute Hepatitis B

Acute hepatitis B is a short-term illness that occurs within the first six months of infection with the hepatitis B virus. It is usually mildly symptomatic, with abdominal pain, jaundice and abnormal liver function tests being the most characteristic features. Older children and adults are more likely to develop symptoms than younger children. Approximately 5 percent of older children and adults, 25 to 50 percent of younger children, and up to 90 percent of infants will fail to resolve hepatitis B infection and will develop chronic hepatitis B.

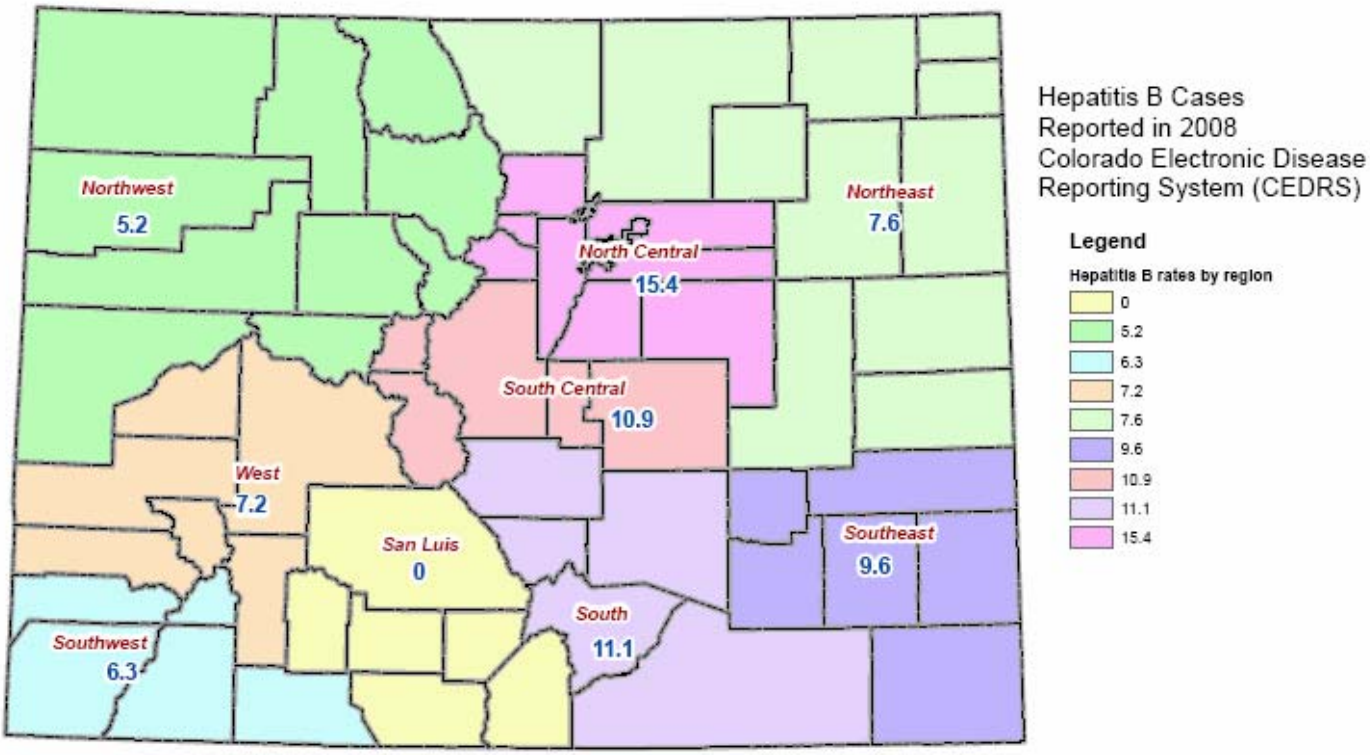
Chronic Hepatitis B

Chronic hepatitis B results when the hepatitis B virus remains in the body after the acute phase of illness. Over time, chronic hepatitis B can produce liver disease, cirrhosis, or cancer. Each year approximately 2,000 to 4,000 people die from diseases related to hepatitis B in the U.S.

[1] National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: Viral Hepatitis Databrief. National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from http://ww.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/databriefs/viralhep.pdf

Hepatitis B Cases Reported in 2008 Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS)					
	Acute HBV Cases		Chronic HBV Cases		Total
Category	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Total	34*	100%	588	100%	622
Case Status					
Confirmed	33	97.1%	134	22.8%	167
Probable	0	0.00%	454	77.2%	454
Suspect	1	2.90%	0	0.00%	1
Sex					
Male	25	73.5%	321	54.6%	346
Female	9	26.5%	263	44.7%	272
Unknown	0	0.00%	4	0.70%	4
Age					
0-4	0	0.00%	7	1.20%	7
5-9	0	0.00%	9	1.50%	9
10-19	1	2.90%	21	3.60%	22
20-29	1	2.90%	137	23.3%	138
30-39	8	23.6%	156	26.5%	164
40-49	16	47.1%	102	17.4%	118
50-59	5	14.7%	96	16.3%	101
60+	3	8.80%	60	10.2%	63
Race/Ethnicity					
Hispanic	8	23.6%	21	3.60%	29
White non-Hispanic	21	61.8%	58	9.90%	79
Black non-Hispanic	3	8.80%	42	7.10%	45
American Indian	1	2.90%	1	0.20%	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	2.90%	129	21.9%	130
Other/Multiple/Unknown	0	0.00%	337	57.3%	337
Region of Residence					
South Central	3	8.80%	69	11.7%	72
North Central	18	53.1%	404	68.7%	422
Northeast	2	5.90%	44	7.50%	46
Northwest	3	8.80%	15	2.60%	18
San Luis	0	0.00%	2	0.30%	2
South	3	8.80%	24	4.10%	27
Southeast	1	2.90%	4	0.70%	5
Southwest	3	8.80%	3	0.50%	6
West	1	2.90%	6	1.00%	7
Unspecified**	0	0.00%	17	2.90%	17
**Unspecified – For chronic Hepatitis B, unspecified includes federal and state inmates housed in a Colorado facility and cases for which no residential address could be obtained					
Total	--		17	100%	17
CDOC	--		12	70.6%	12
FCI	--		1	5.90%	1
Unknown	--		4	23.5%	4

* Due to an unreported acute HBV case, Colorado's 2008 acute HBV have increased from 33 to 34; case was identified in 2010. Case counts for all 2008 HBV and HCV cases were finalized and sent to CDC in May 2009, therefore CDC numbers will not change. Colorado's numbers remain provisional.



Rates were calculated per 100,000 population using 2008 population figures from the 2008-based population projections provided by the Colorado Division of Local Government, Demography Section. Rates were not calculated for regions with fewer than 3 reported cases.