

Hepatitis A

Twenty six cases of hepatitis A were reported in BC in 2015, with an equal number (13) in males and females (see [figure 8.1](#)). This follows a trend of decreasing numbers over time from over 1000 cases reported in 1992. Less than 40 cases per year have been reported since 2008 with the exception of 2011 when an outbreak occurred in Central Vancouver Island¹. The decline is related to the general improvement in hand hygiene and an effective hepatitis A vaccine which is publicly available for high risk groups and post exposure. The majority of hepatitis A cases seen in BC are related to unimmunized travelers to endemic countries, despite hepatitis A vaccine being recommended to this group.

Typing of hepatitis A specimens allows clusters of cases with identical genotypes to be identified and investigated. In 2012, a cluster was associated with consumption of a frozen berry blend². No clusters were identified in 2015. However, the number of

hepatitis A cases reported is likely a considerable underestimate of actual infections as many children and some adults may have mild or no symptoms and may not seek medical attention and diagnosis.

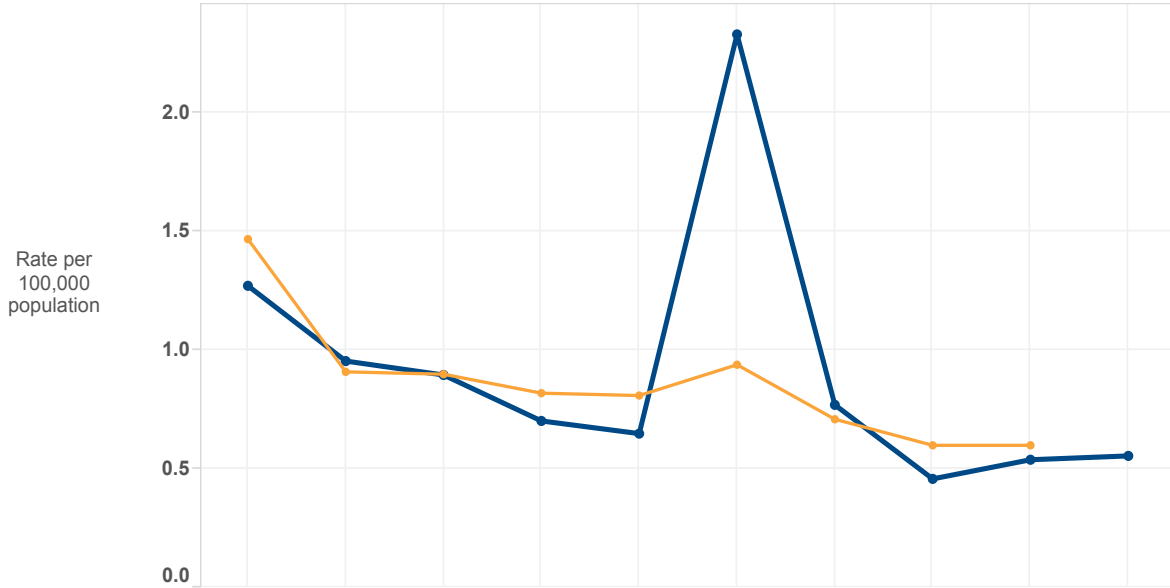
As shown in [Figure 8.2](#) Fraser Health reported 10 cases and Vancouver reported 3. The highest rate was in North East with 4 cases, but with a small population this rate is unstable. As in previous years cases were reported across all age groups ([figure 8.3](#)) and fewer cases were identified in the summer months ([figure 8.4](#)).



1. Kuo M, Buxton J. Hepatitis A in British Columbia, 2010-2011. <http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Educational%20Materials/Epid/Other/HepatitisAUpdateBC2010-2011.pdf>

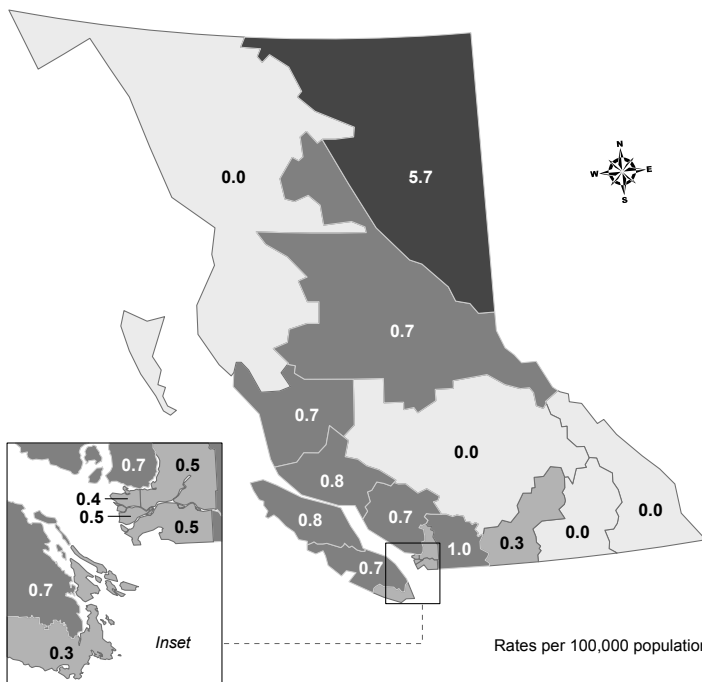
2. Swinkels H, Kuo M, Embree G, Stone J, Trerise S, Brisdon S, Louie K, Asplin R, Stiller A, Abraham T, Gill I, Rice G, Andonov A, Henry B, Buxton JA. Established surveillance, loyalty cards and collaboration allow early identification of a hepatitis A outbreak in British Columbia, Canada 2012. *Eurosurveillance* (2014) 19(18) <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20792>

8.1 Hepatitis A Rates by Year, 2006-2015



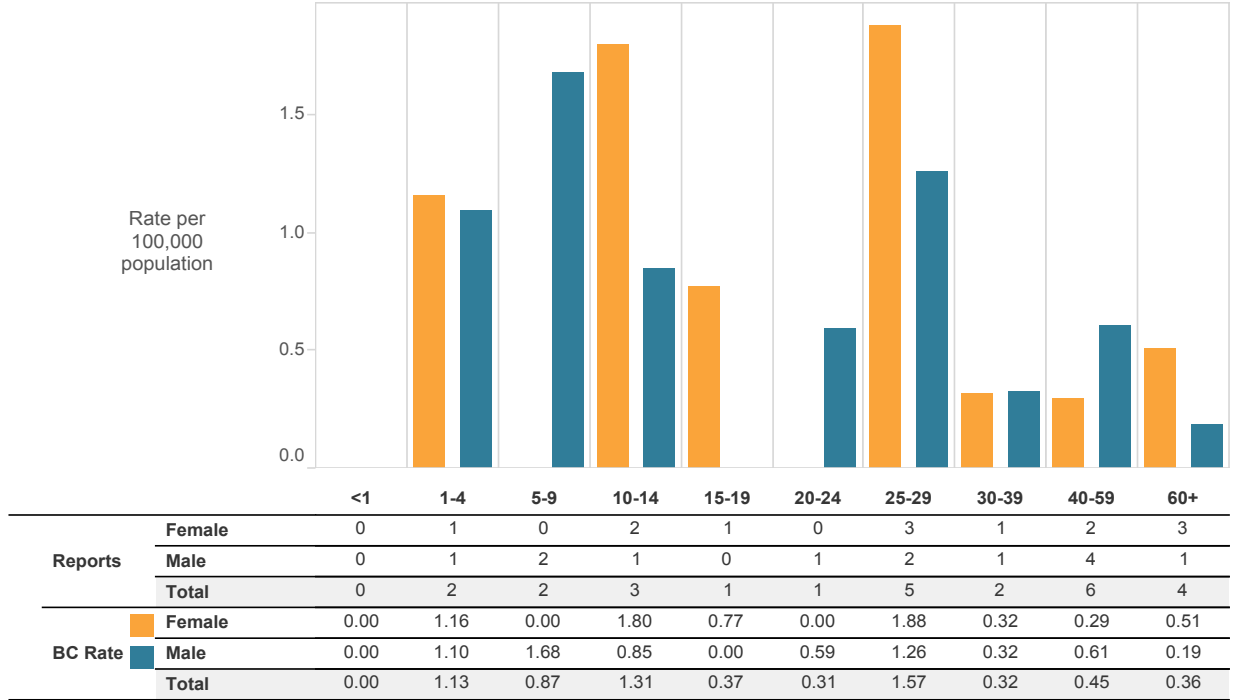
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reports	54	41	39	31	29	105	35	21	25	26
BC Rate	1.27	0.96	0.90	0.70	0.65	2.33	0.77	0.46	0.54	0.56
Canadian Rate	1.47	0.91	0.90	0.82	0.81	0.94	0.71	0.60	0.60	

8.2 Hepatitis A Rates by HSDA, 2015



ID	Health Service Delivery Area	Cases	Rate
11	East Kootenay	0	0.0
12	Kootenay Boundary	0	0.0
13	Okanagan	1	0.3
14	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	0	0.0
21	Fraser East	3	1.0
22	Fraser North	3	0.5
23	Fraser South	4	0.5
31	Richmond	1	0.5
32	Vancouver	3	0.4
33	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	2	0.7
41	South Vancouver Island	1	0.3
42	Central Vancouver Island	2	0.7
43	North Vancouver Island	1	0.8
51	Northwest	0	0.0
52	Northern Interior	1	0.7
53	Northeast	4	5.7

8.3 Hepatitis A Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2015



8.4 2015 Hepatitis A Reports Compared to Historical Median and the 10th and 90th Percentiles Around the Median (2006 to 2014)

