

Hepatitis A

In 2016, 22 cases of hepatitis A were reported in BC. There were 10 cases among females and 12 among males. These numbers continue an extended trend of decreasing hepatitis A reports, down from a high of over 1000 cases in 1992. Less than 40 hepatitis A cases have been reported each year since 2007 with the exception of 2011, when an outbreak occurred in Central Vancouver Island (105 cases).¹ This decline relates to improvements in hygiene and increasing uptake of an effective hepatitis A vaccine which is publicly available for high-risk groups and post-exposure prophylaxis. Most hepatitis A cases now seen in BC occur in unimmunized travelers to endemic countries. The vaccine is recommended for this group but is not publicly funded.

Current technology allows hepatitis A specimens to have their genomes typed, which enables public health authorities to identify clusters of cases with identical genotypes and thus helps in detecting sources

of infection. For example, in 2012, a cluster of cases was connected with consumption of a frozen berry blend.² However, the number of reported hepatitis A cases likely underestimates the number of actual infections as many children and some adults have few to no symptoms and do not seek medical attention.

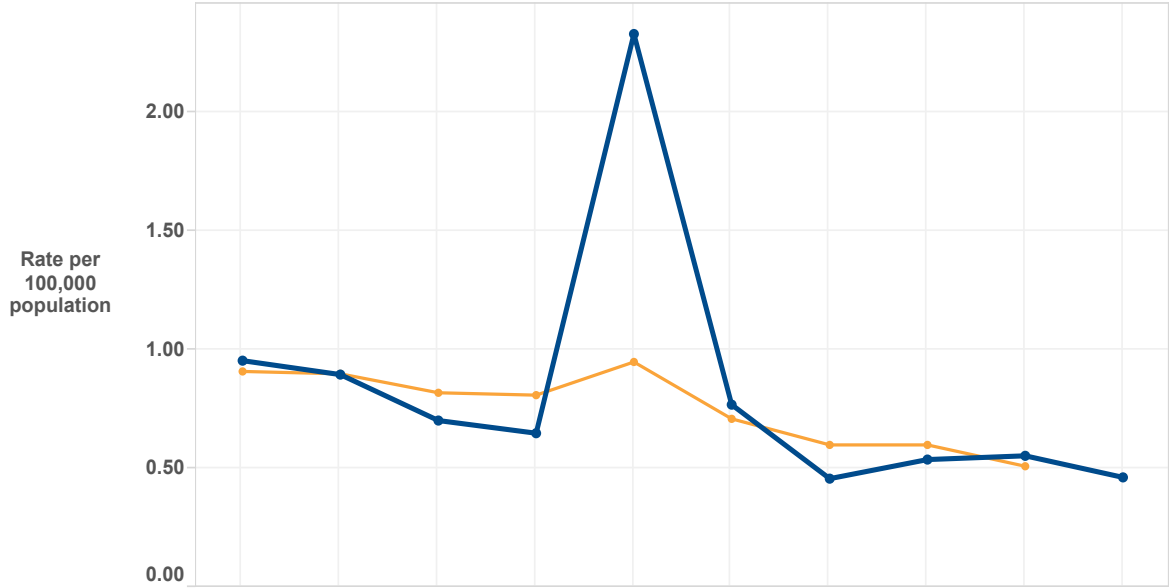
All Health Service Delivery Areas reported 4 or fewer cases in 2016, with Fraser South, Okanagan and Vancouver at 4 each. The highest rate of reported infection was in North East at 4.2/100,000, but the population of this HSDA is small, so the rate relates to only 3 reported cases.



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>

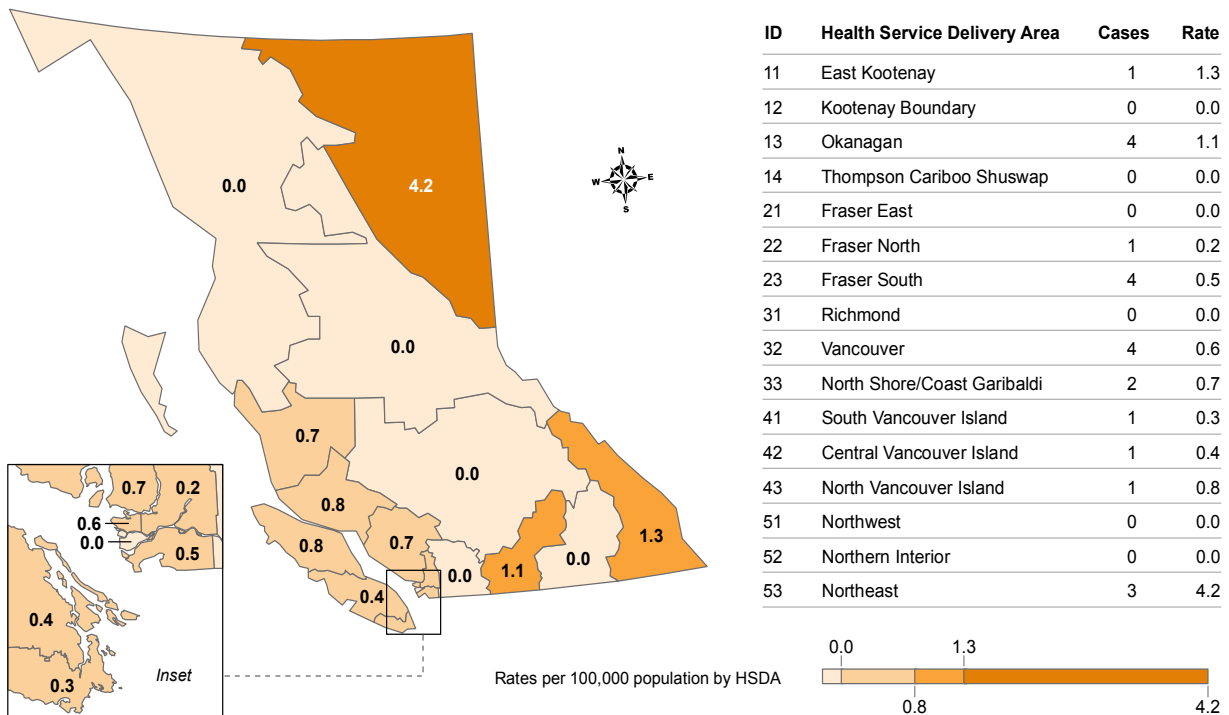
2. Swinkels H, Kuo M, Embree G, Stone J, Trerise S, Brisdon S, Louie K, Asplin R, Stiller A, Abraham T, Gill I, Rice G, Andonov A, Henry B, Buxton JA. Established surveillance, loyalty cards and collaboration allow early identification of a hepatitis A outbreak in British Columbia, Canada 2012. *Eurosurveillance*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

9.1 Hepatitis A Rates by Year, 2007-2016

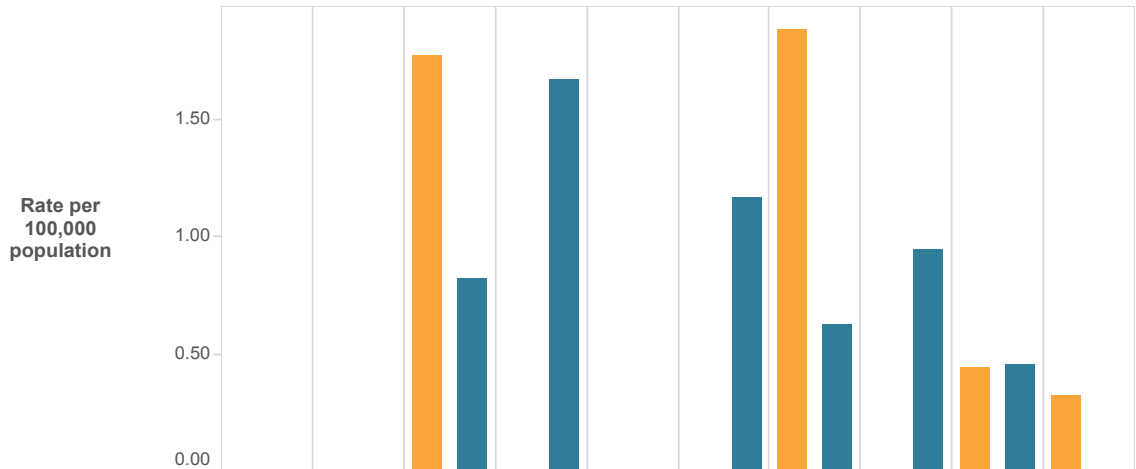


	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Reports	41	39	31	29	105	35	21	25	26	22
BC Rate	0.96	0.90	0.70	0.65	2.33	0.77	0.46	0.54	0.55	0.46
Canada Rate	0.91	0.90	0.82	0.81	0.95	0.71	0.60	0.60	0.51	0.51

9.2 Hepatitis A Rates by HSDA, 2016



9.3 Hepatitis A Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2016



		<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-59	60+
Reports	Female	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	3	2
	Male	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	3	3	0
	Total	0	0	3	2	0	2	4	3	6	2
BC Rate	Female	0.00	0.00	1.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.89	0.00	0.44	0.33
	Male	0.00	0.00	0.83	1.67	0.00	1.17	0.63	0.95	0.46	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.86	0.00	0.61	1.26	0.47	0.45	0.17