

## Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B infections are either acute or chronic in nature. Acute infections are new infections and often symptomatic in adults. Chronic infections are those where the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) is detectable for more than six months. When it is not known whether a reported case of hepatitis B is acute or chronic and no follow up is available, the case is usually chronic but may be classified as undetermined. Most hepatitis B infections reported in BC are chronic infections that occur in people who have immigrated from regions with high hepatitis B prevalence such as East Asia and South Asia.

Since many chronic infections are asymptomatic, often they're only detected in the course of testing for example for insurance medicals or for people in high risk groups such as people who use intravenous drugs. Pregnant women are also routinely tested as hepatitis B can pass from mother to child; the transmission risk is reduced by giving newborns born to mothers with hepatitis B infection both hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immuno-globulin soon after birth.

### Hepatitis B - Chronic and Undetermined

In 2016, 1,163 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in BC, a slight increase from 2015 but consistent with several years of generally stable numbers. However, the 2016 numbers represent a significant decline from historic highs of more than 3,000 cases reported in 1990. As in previous years, the vast majority of reported cases were identified in areas with high immigrant populations from endemic

areas i.e. 87% of cases occurred within Vancouver, Richmond, Fraser South, Fraser East, and Fraser North HSDAs. Most cases occur in adults with more males in all age groups except 15 – 19 and 25 – 39 years. The period of female predominance may be associated with routine prenatal testing. The lack of reported cases in young children and infants reflects the effectiveness of the public vaccination program in BC and elsewhere.

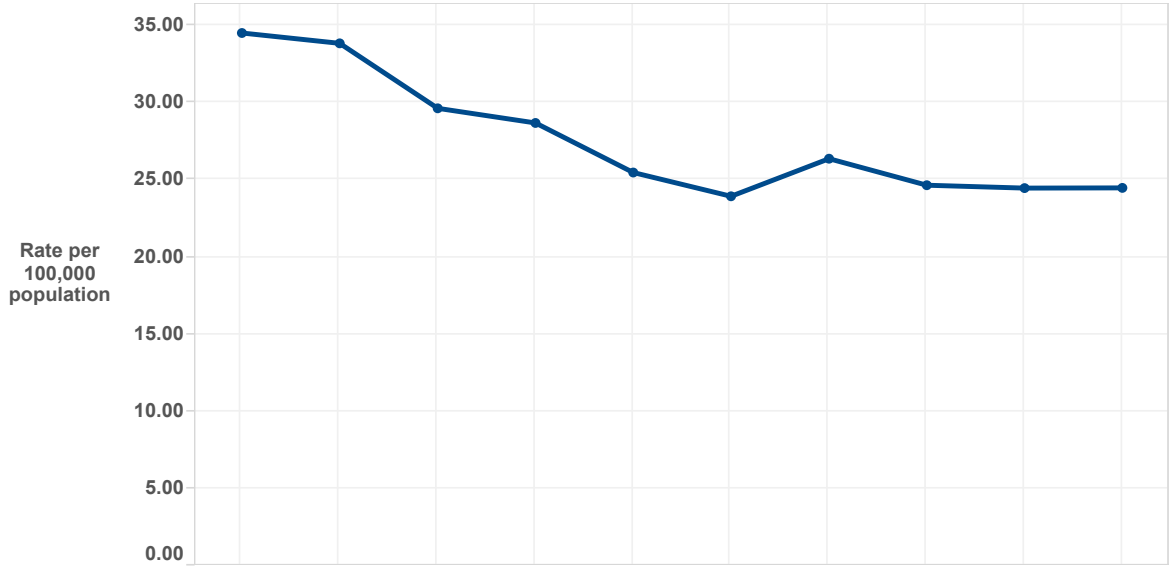
Please note as provincial standards for tracking hepatitis B vary, it is not possible to compare BC rates of infection to Canadian rates.

### Hepatitis B - Acute

In 2016, only five cases of acute hepatitis B were reported in BC. This is the fewest ever reported and represents a considerable decline from 39 cases reported in 2007. Four cases were male and one was female, all occurred in individuals over 30 years of age, and all but one occurred in Vancouver. The rate of reported infection was less than 1.0/100,000 in all HSDAs. This historically small number of cases reflects the success of hepatitis B immunization in BC, which was introduced in 1992 for grade 6 children and an infant program was introduced in 2001.

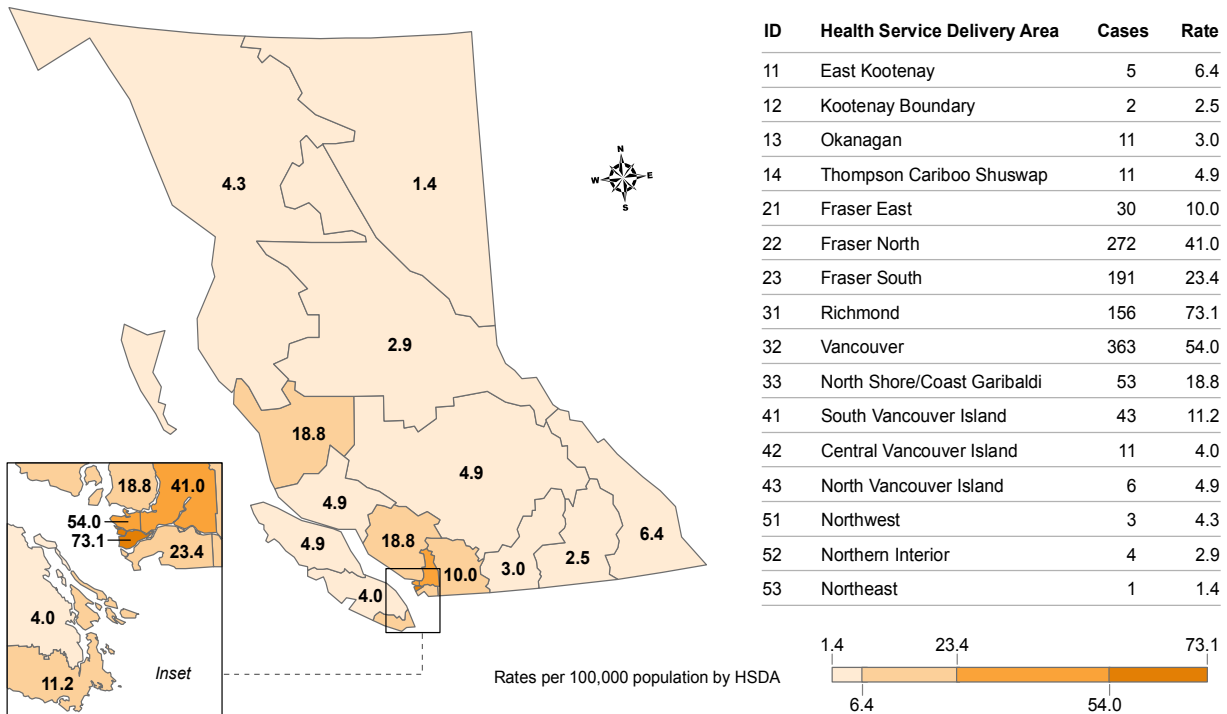


**20.1 Chronic and Undetermined Hepatitis B Rates by Year, 2007-2016**



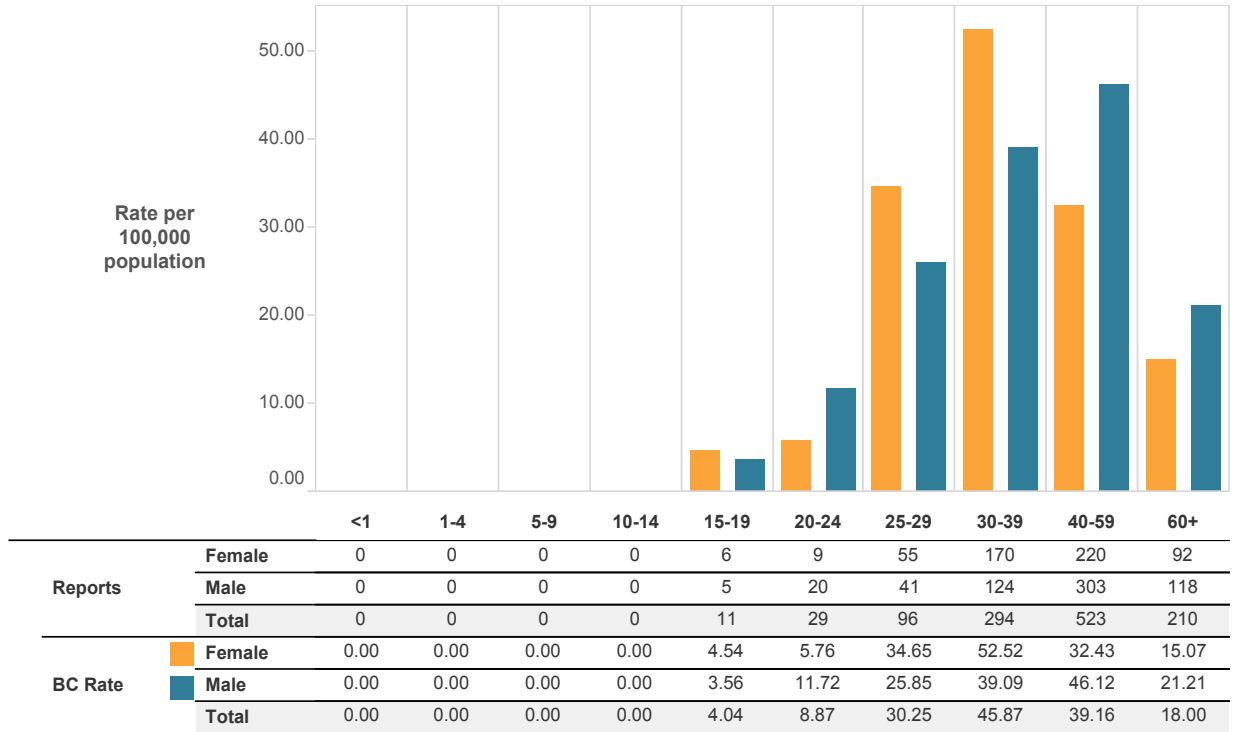
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Reports</b>	1,481	1,472	1,307	1,281	1,146	1,088	1,210	1,145	1,148	1,163
<b>BC Rate</b>	34.51	33.84	29.63	28.68	25.47	23.93	26.37	24.65	24.46	24.48

**20.2 Chronic and Undetermined Hepatitis B Rates by HSDA, 2016\*\***

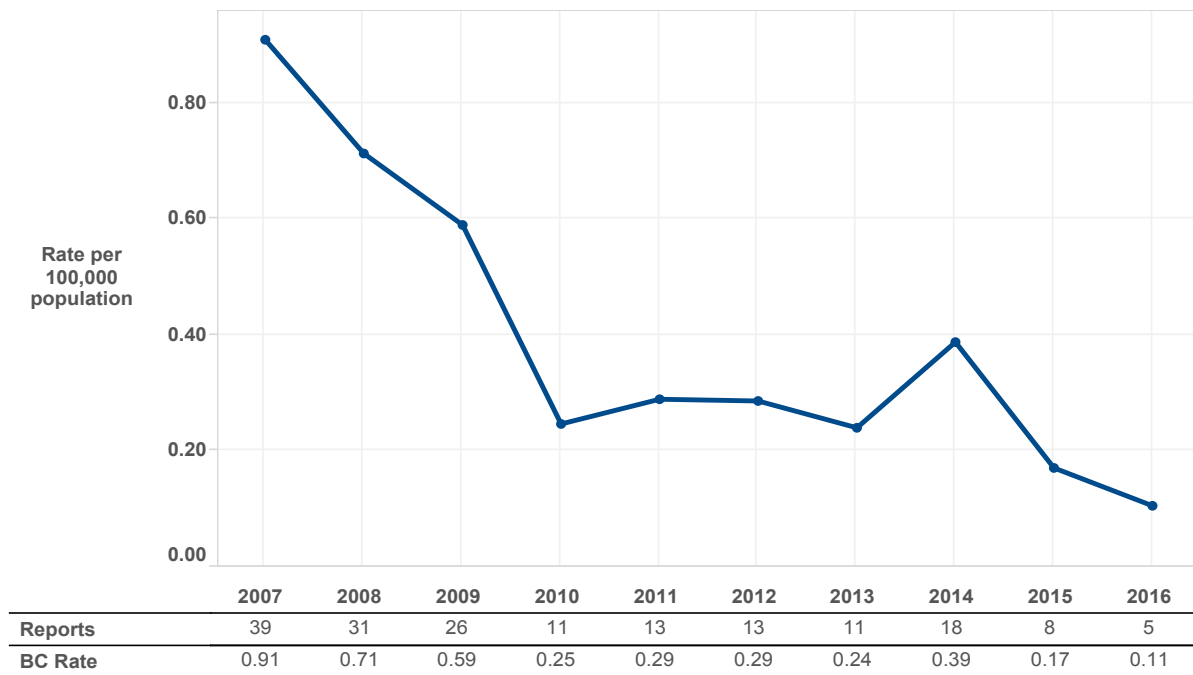


\*\* Note that 1 Hepatitis B chronic case is missing HSDA information and is not reported in the map.

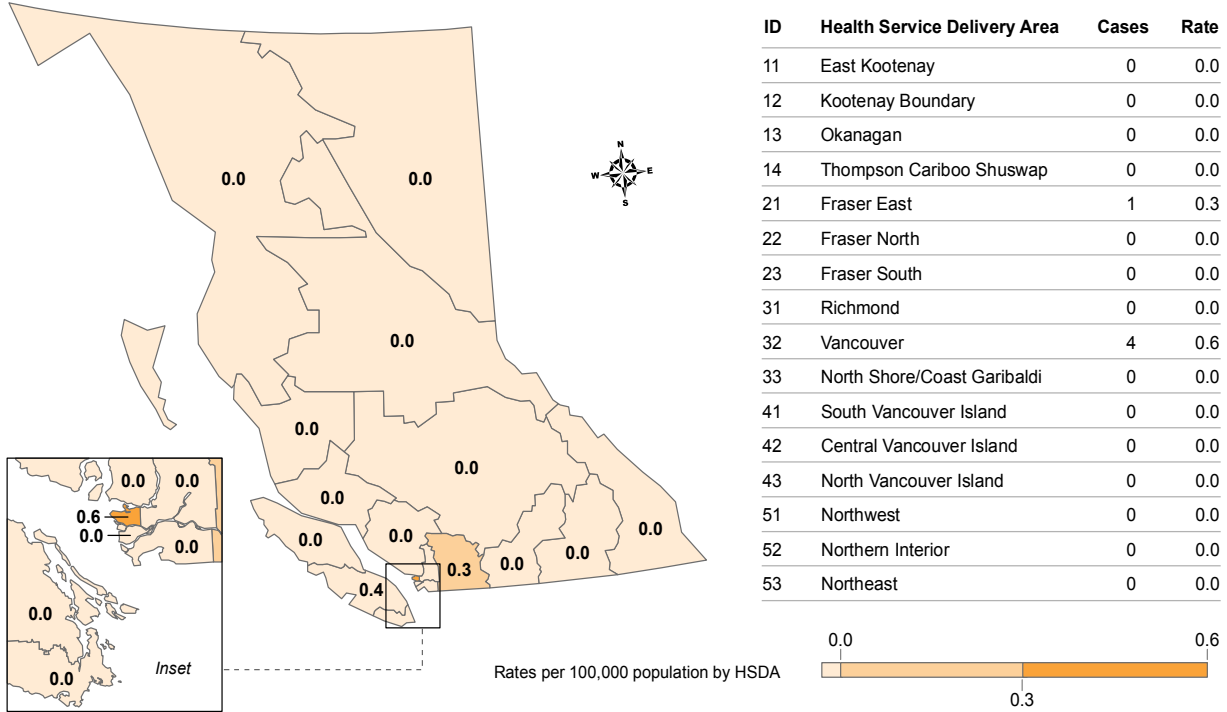
**20.3 Chronic and Undetermined Hepatitis B Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2016**



**20.4 Acute Hepatitis B Rates by Year, 2007-2016**



20.5 Acute Hepatitis B Rates by HSDA, 2016



20.6 Acute Hepatitis B Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2016

