

Hepatitis C

In 2016, 2,307 cases of hepatitis C were reported in BC. This is a slight increase from 2015 and continues the gradual increase since 2012. The increase in hepatitis C case identification is likely due to higher rates of testing. Testing rates have increased for several reasons, most notably: (i) the US Centres for Disease Control's 2012 recommendation to test "baby boomers", (ii) the BC Generation Hepatitis program, and (iii) the increasing availability and awareness of effective treatments for hepatitis C.^{1,2}

Vancouver had the most reported cases with 406, but the highest rate of reported infection was in Fraser East (74.2/100,000). All HSDA's except for Richmond had a rate greater than 25/100,000. The majority of reported cases

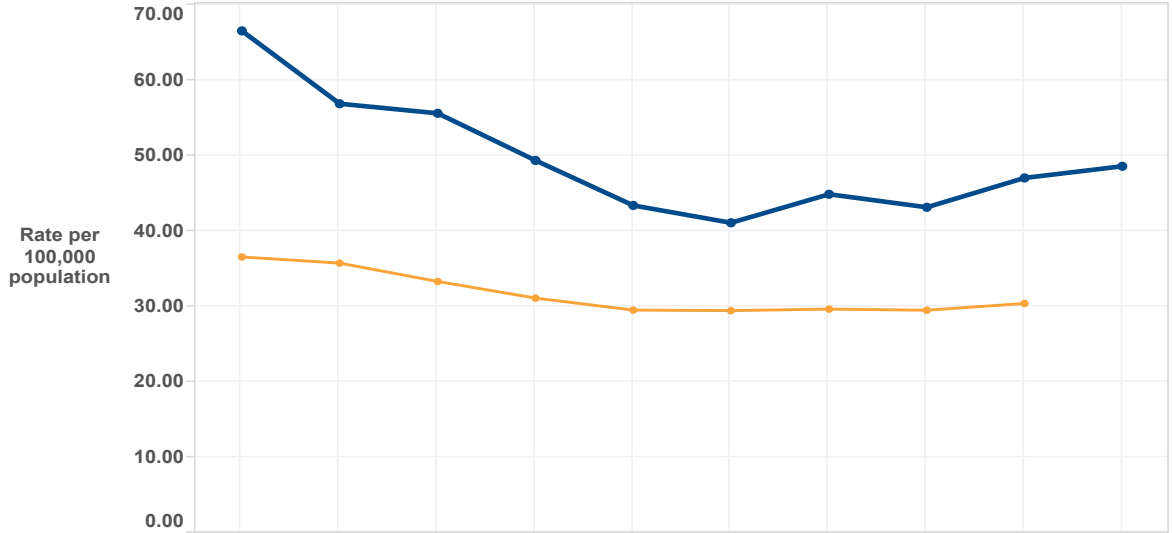
were adults, with slightly more females reported aged less than 25, and more males aged 25 and above. The occurrence of hepatitis C in infants and children reflects vertical transmission (mother to baby) and the lack of a hepatitis C vaccine.



1. Recommendations for the Identification of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among Persons Born During 1945–1965. MMWR (2012) 61(4)

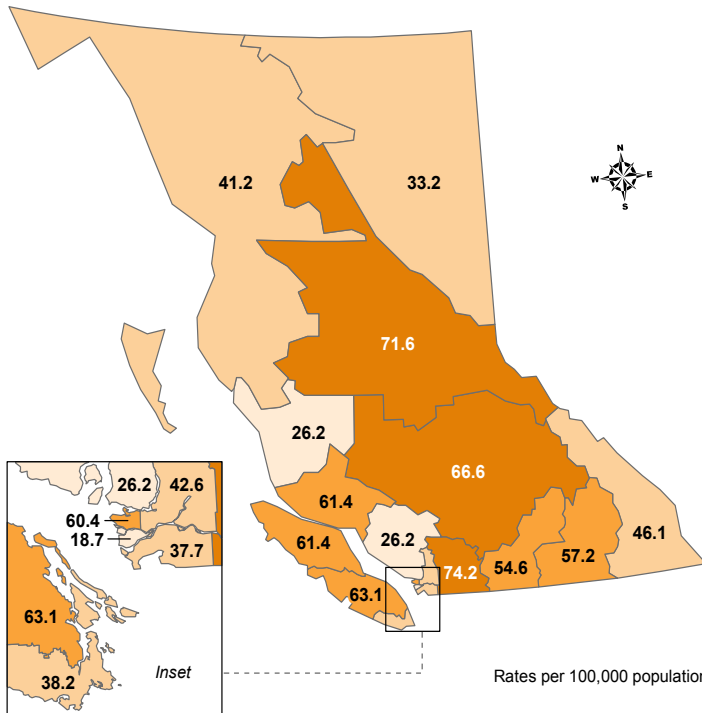
2. Generation Hep. Generation Hep.com.

21.1 Hepatitis C Rates by Year, 2007-2016

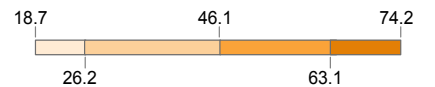


	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Reports	2,853	2,472	2,451	2,203	1,951	1,867	2,058	2,003	2,206	2,307
BC Rate	66.49	56.84	55.57	49.33	43.36	41.07	44.85	43.12	47.01	48.55
Canada Rate	36.54	35.72	33.29	31.09	29.50	29.43	29.63	29.48	30.38	30.38

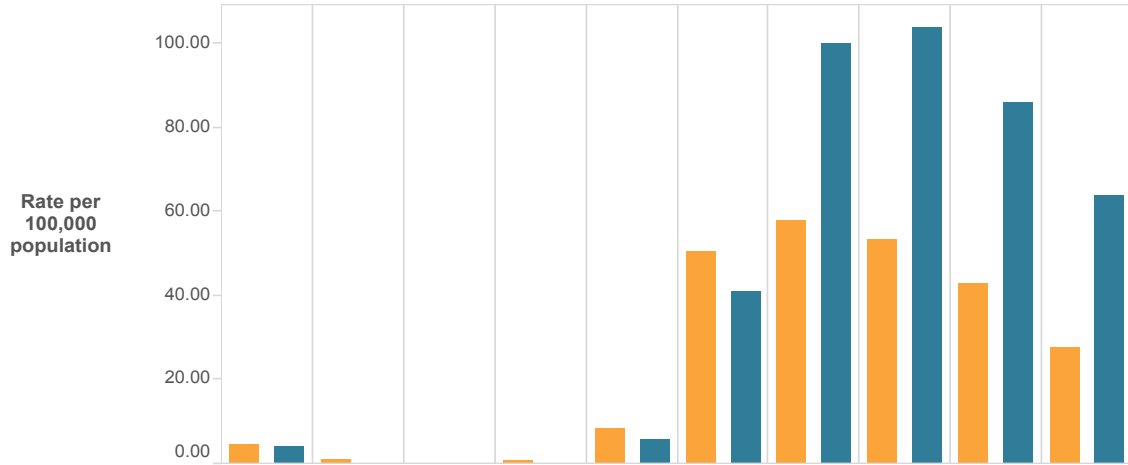
21.2 Hepatitis C Rates by HSDA, 2016



ID	Health Service Delivery Area	Cases	Rate
11	East Kootenay	36	46.1
12	Kootenay Boundary	45	57.2
13	Okanagan	198	54.6
14	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	149	66.6
21	Fraser East	223	74.2
22	Fraser North	283	42.6
23	Fraser South	308	37.7
31	Richmond	40	18.7
32	Vancouver	406	60.4
33	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	74	26.2
41	South Vancouver Island	146	38.2
42	Central Vancouver Island	172	63.1
43	North Vancouver Island	75	61.4
51	Northwest	29	41.2
52	Northern Interior	99	71.6
53	Northeast	24	33.2



21.3 Hepatitis C 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	1	1	0	1	11	79	92	173	291	170
	Male	1	0	0	0	8	70	159	330	564	356
	Total	2	1	0	1	19	149	251	503	855	526
BC Rate	Female	4.61	1.14	0.00	0.89	8.32	50.58	57.95	53.44	42.89	27.85
	Male	4.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.70	41.01	100.26	104.03	85.86	63.97
	Total	4.48	0.55	0.00	0.43	6.97	45.58	79.09	78.48	64.03	45.07