Hepatitis B in Canada: 2020 surveillance data update

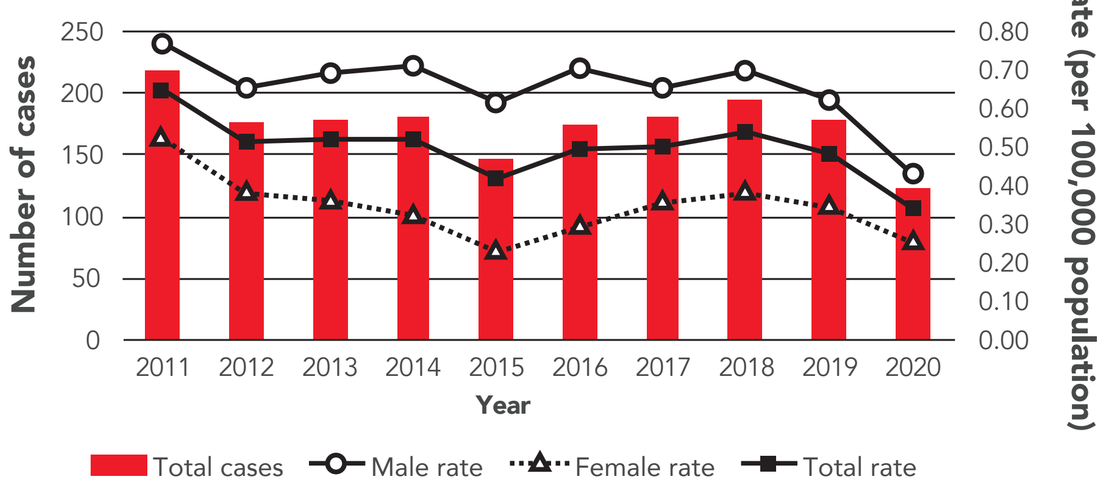
In 2020, 3,004 cases[1] of hepatitis B (acute, chronic, and unspecified combined) were reported across Canada for a rate[2] of 8.2 per 100,000 people.

The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the demand for and access to services related to sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, including testing. This likely impacted new hepatitis B diagnosis rates in 2020, by artificially reducing them.

Acute hepatitis B
(infections lasting up to six months)

National reported acute hepatitis B rates were stable from 2012 to 2019. In 2020, 123 acute cases of hepatitis B[3] were reported for a rate of 0.34 cases per 100,000 people.

Reported acute hepatitis B rates, 2011 to 2020[4]



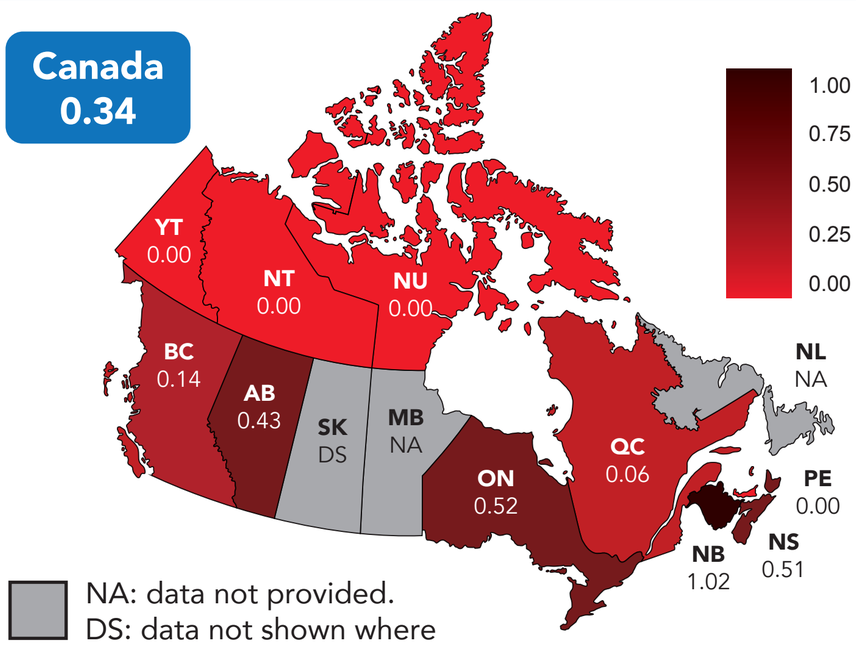
Reported acute hepatitis B by sex and age, 2020

63% of reported acute hepatitis B cases were **male**.

Among **males**, those aged **40 to 59 years** old had the **highest reported acute hepatitis B rate**.

Among **females**, those aged **20 to 24 years** old had the **highest reported acute hepatitis B rate** in 2020.

Rates per 100,000 population of reported cases of acute hepatitis B by province and territory in Canada, 2020

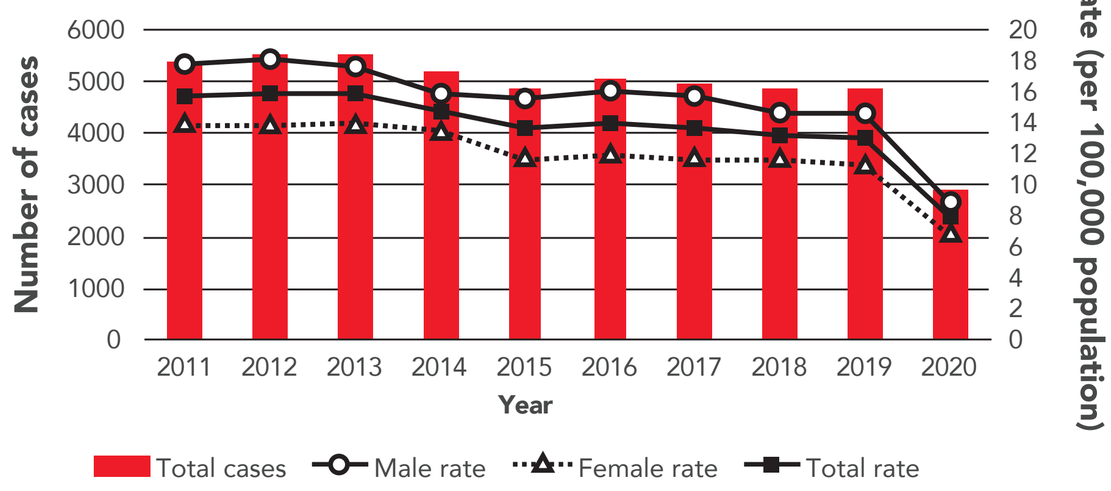


NA: data not provided.
DS: data not shown where case counts are between one and four.

Chronic and unspecified hepatitis B
(infections lasting longer than six months)

National reported chronic and unspecified infection rates were stable from 2015 to 2019. In 2020, 2,881 cases of chronic and unspecified hepatitis B were reported for a rate of 7.9 cases per 100,000 people[5].

Reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B rates, 2011 to 2020

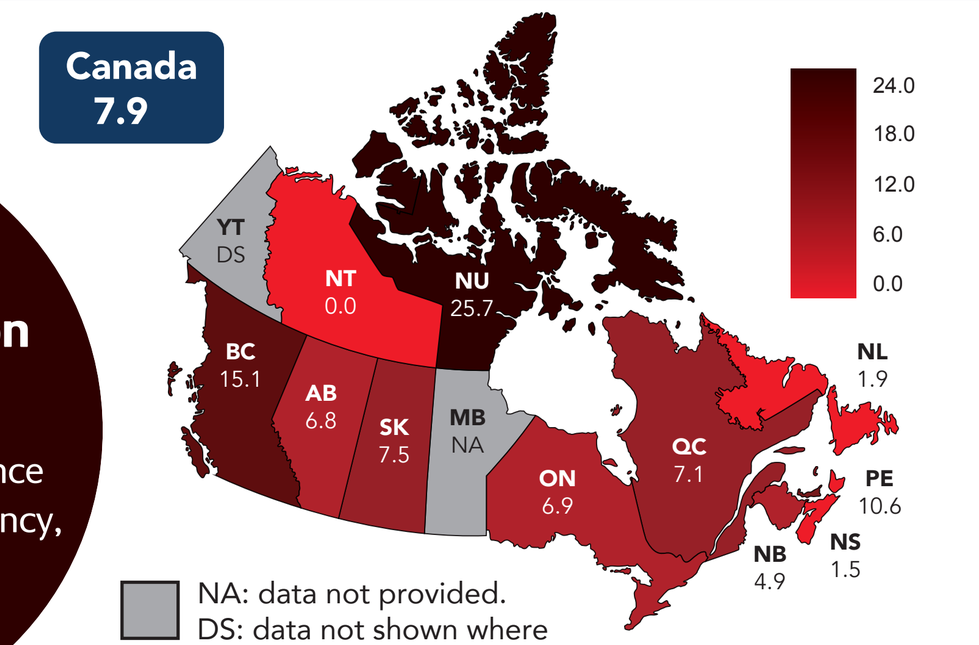


Reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B by sex and age, 2020

56% of reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B cases were **male**.

Among **males and females**, reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B rates were **highest among 30 to 39-year-olds.**

Rates per 100,000 population of reported cases of chronic and unspecified hepatitis B by province and territory in Canada, 2020



NA: data not provided.
DS: data not shown where case counts are between one and four.

Hepatitis B is preventable through vaccination

Testing for hepatitis B is recommended in the presence of risk factors, during pregnancy, and for people who are immunocompromised[6]

1. Data source: Canadian Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (https://diseases.canada.ca/notifiable/). 2. Population denominator data is from Statistics Canada April 2022 yearly population estimates. 3. All provinces and territories except for Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador provided acute hepatitis B 2020 data. 4. Acute hepatitis B reporting by provinces and territories vary from 2011 to 2020. For reporting patterns please see https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/surveillance/sexually-transmitted-blood-borne-infections.html. 5. All provinces and territories except for Manitoba provided chronic and unspecified hepatitis B 2020 data. 6. Primary Care Management of Hepatitis B – Quick Reference (HBV-QR) (https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/primary-care-management-hepatitis-b-quick-reference.html).

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