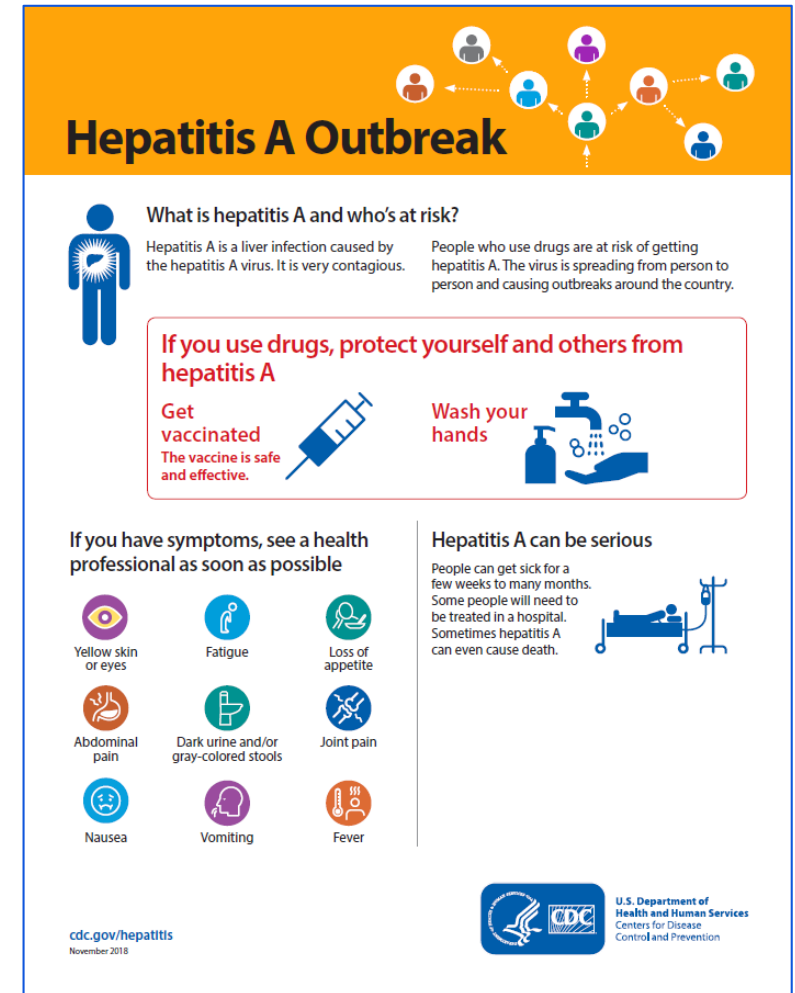


Hepatitis A Outbreak Response

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May 23, 2019



Hepatitis A Outbreak

What is hepatitis A and who's at risk?
Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. It is very contagious. People who use drugs are at risk of getting hepatitis A. The virus is spreading from person to person and causing outbreaks around the country.

If you use drugs, protect yourself and others from hepatitis A

- Get vaccinated
The vaccine is safe and effective.
- Wash your hands

If you have symptoms, see a health professional as soon as possible

- Yellow skin or eyes
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine and/or gray-colored stools
- Joint pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fever

Hepatitis A can be serious
People can get sick for a few weeks to many months. Some people will need to be treated in a hospital. Sometimes hepatitis A can even cause death.

cdc.gov/hepatitis
November 2018

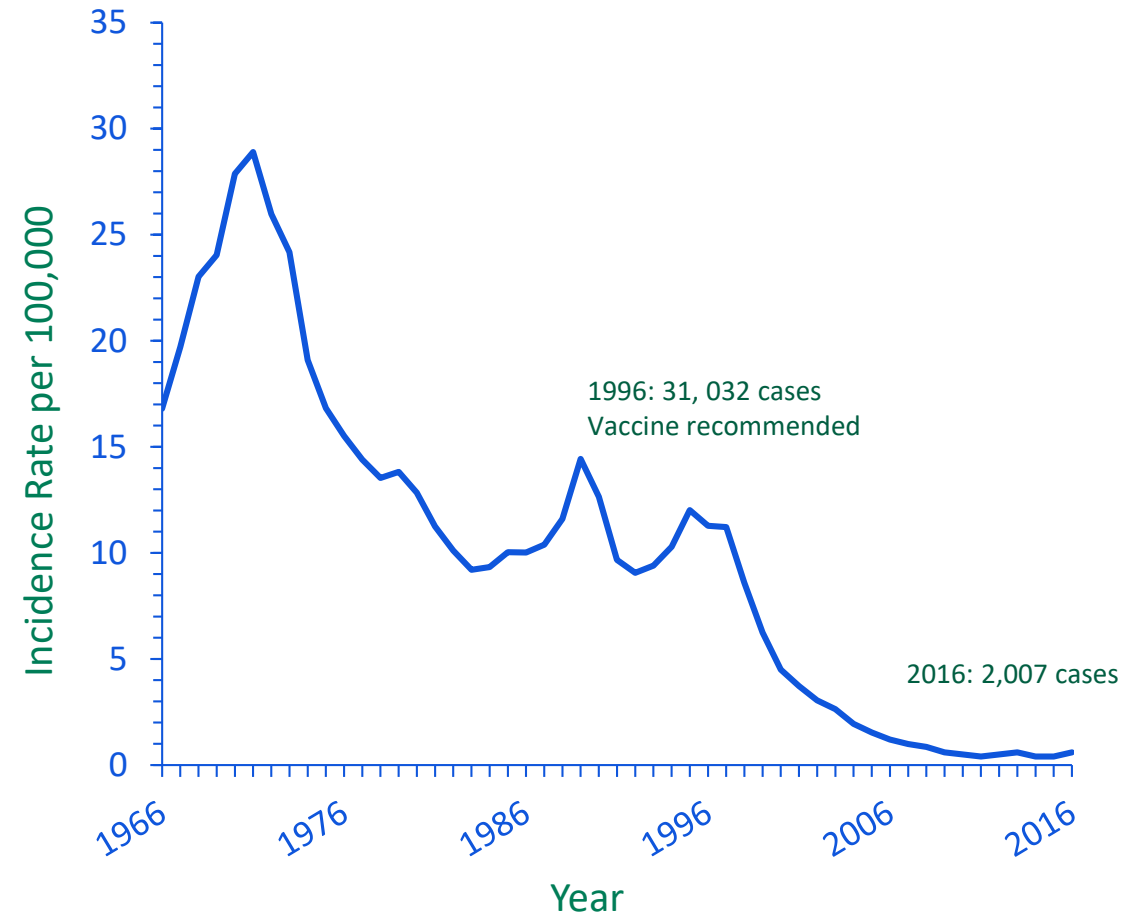
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Objectives

- Describe the epidemiology of hepatitis A virus infections in the United States
- Discuss best practices to prevent and respond to current outbreaks
- Describe CDC's role in the response and opportunities to engage with states

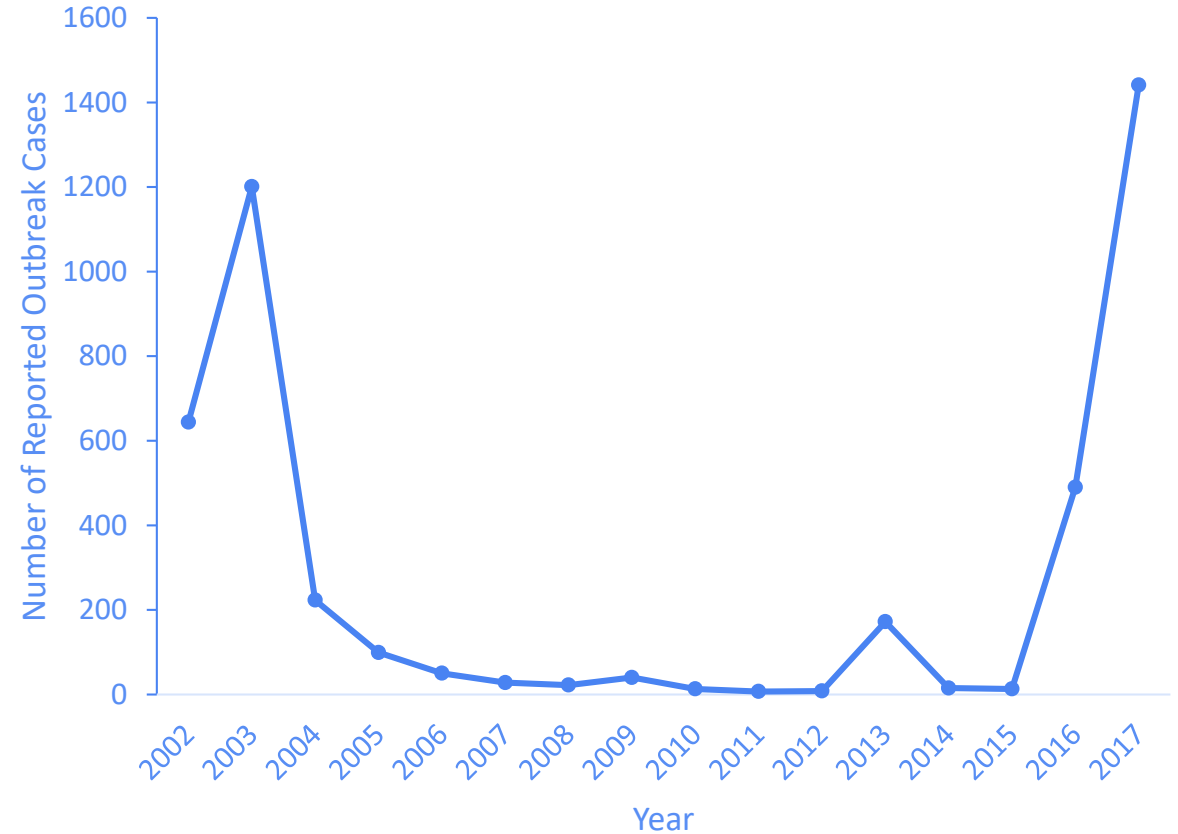
Hepatitis A Virus Endemicity in the United States

- The United States is a low endemicity country
- The number of reported cases in the pre-vaccine era was $\geq 21,000$ infections annually
- In the pre-vaccine era, cyclical increases occurred every 10–15 years



Hepatitis A Virus Outbreaks, United States, 2016-2018

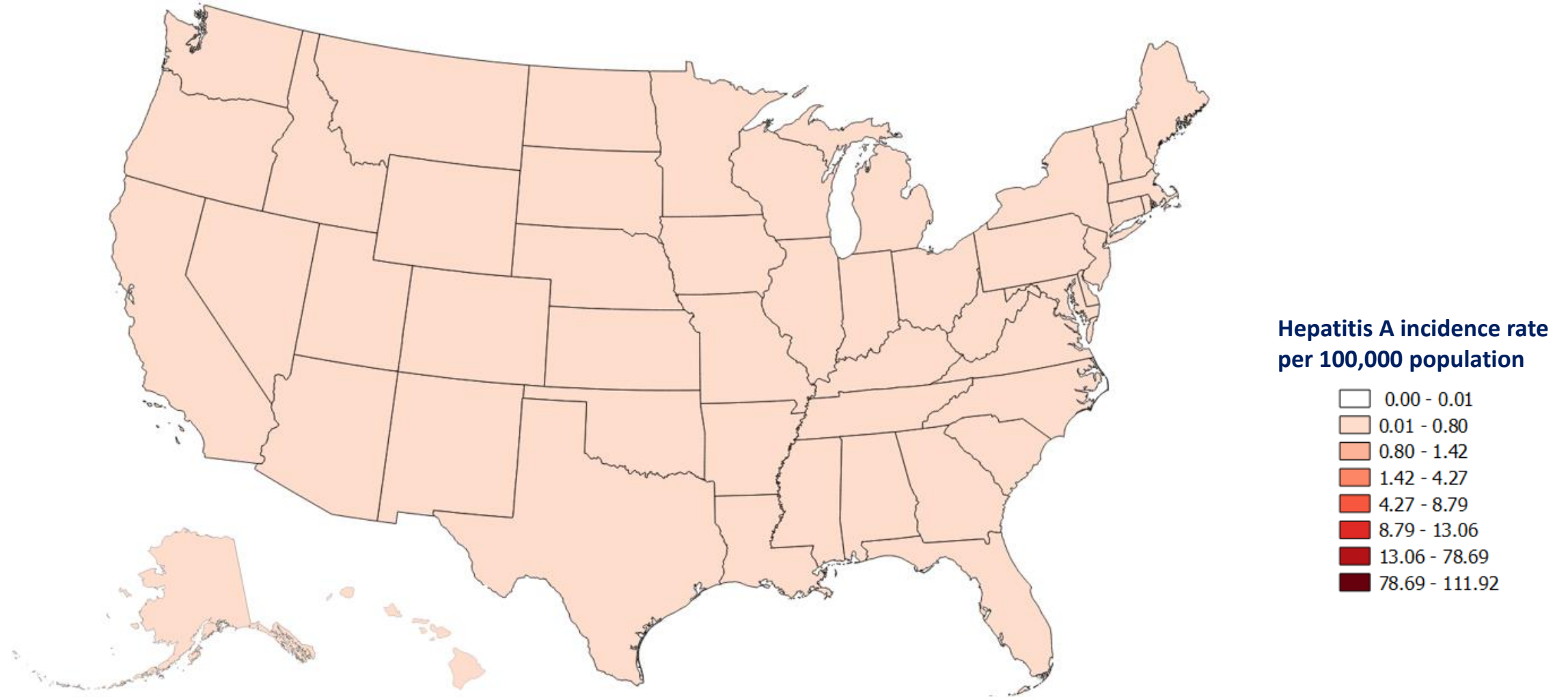
- CDC has assisted in multiple HAV outbreaks since July 1, 2016
- **>17,500** outbreak-associated cases reported since July 1, 2016



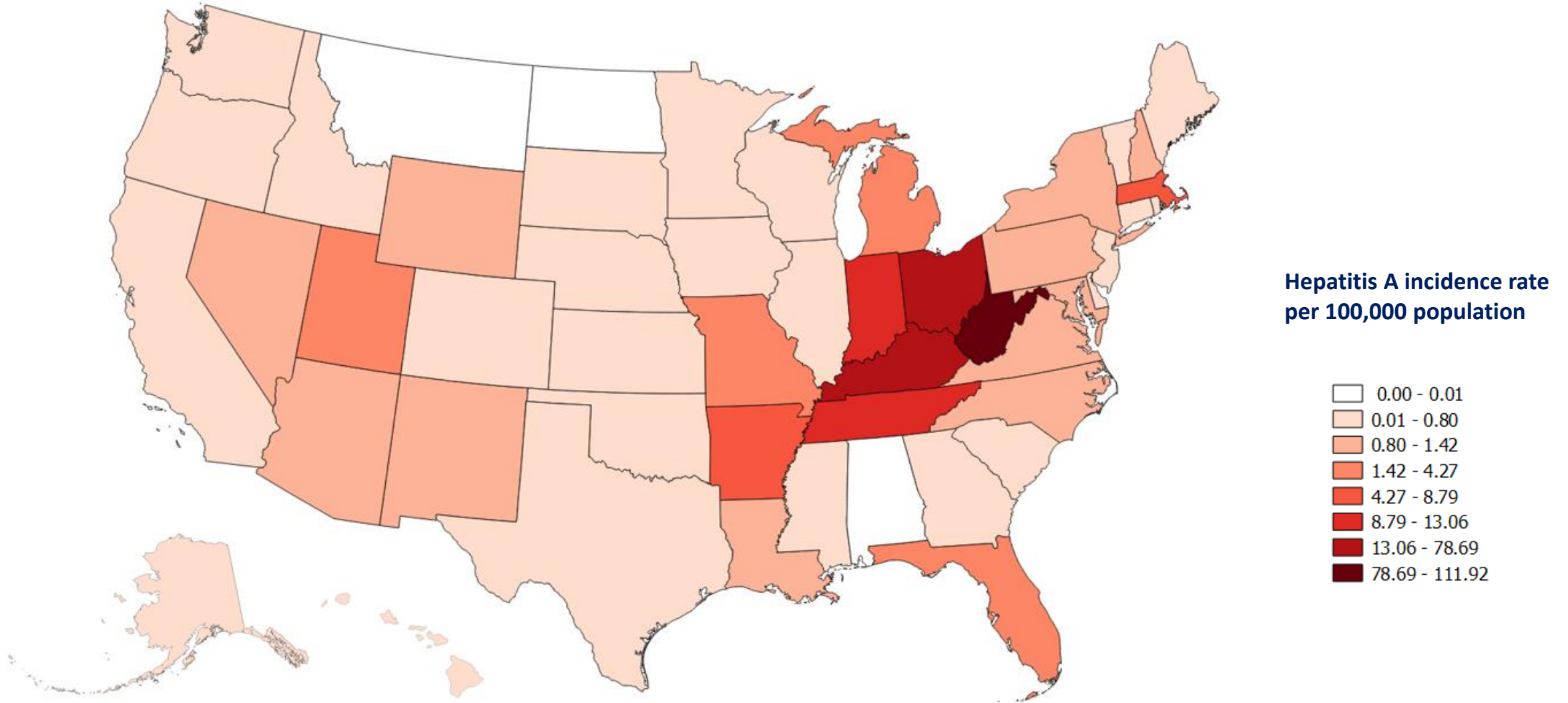
Epidemiology of Hepatitis A Infections

- **Shifting epidemiology**
 - Past outbreaks associated with asymptomatic children
 - Recent outbreaks primarily affecting adults, causing severe disease
 - Coinfection with hepatitis B, hepatitis C
 - **9,900 (57%)** hospitalizations; **175** deaths
 - Estimated millions of dollars in healthcare costs
- **Many cases among persons who use drugs or experiencing homelessness**
 - Person-to-person contact
 - Crowding, poor hygiene

Hepatitis A Incidence – United States, 2015



Hepatitis A Incidence – United States, 2018*



*Data are preliminary

Hepatitis A Vaccination for Outbreak Control

- Vaccination is the cornerstone for control of community outbreaks
- Post-exposure prophylaxis alone may not effectively control outbreaks
- Targeted vaccination to the groups at highest risk are the best way to control disease spread



Vaccination of Persons At-Risk

- **Syringe Service Programs, Homeless Shelters, and Substance Abuse Treatment Centers**
 - Important for engaging individuals at-risk
 - Providing prevention efforts early
 - Vaccination on site increases initiation and completion
- **Jails**
 - Many report drug use
 - Can vaccinate a large number of individuals
 - Vaccinations can be tracked

Vaccination of Persons At-Risk

■ Peer Mentors

- Helps overcome mistrust
- Successful in approaching peers
- Usually recognized as leaders
- Effective communicators/educators

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

CDC Hepatitis A Outbreak Response Objectives

- Maintain national situational awareness through epidemiologic, programmatic, and laboratory surveillance
- Establish guidance to assist state and local health departments contain outbreaks
- Cultivate communication and coordination between internal and external partners
- Facilitate sharing of best practices among health departments
- Supplement state/local resources to maintain robust outbreak response activities

State Engagement

- **Bi-weekly regional calls with impacted states**
 - Review state-level epidemiology
 - Provide guidance about hepatitis A virus and laboratory testing
 - Discuss best practices for vaccine ordering, storage, and administration issues
- **Outreach to state health leaders/ policy makers**
- **Technical assistance**
 - Epidemiologic assistance
 - Support vaccination outreach efforts

Vaccination of Persons At-Risk

- **Support vaccine supply and distribution**
 - Working closely with Immunization Services Division at CDC
 - Coordinating requests for additional vaccine supply
 - Addressing challenges in vaccine administration (e.g., 317 vaccine)
- **Provide technical support in vaccinating “hard-to-reach” populations:**
 - Non-traditional approaches to *bring vaccine to persons at-risk*:
 - Mobile teams, syringe service programs, homeless shelters, substance abuse centers, jails, emergency departments

Educational Materials to Support the Response

Public education materials

- Pocket cards
- Fact sheets
- Posters





Professional education materials

- Poster for EDs
- Vaccine guidance
- FAQs

HEPATITIS A OUTBREAKS

Outbreaks of hepatitis A are occurring nationwide. Hospitalizations and deaths have been higher than usual, especially among older people and those with comorbid conditions. People at higher risk for infection include people who use drugs and those experiencing homelessness. These populations may be more likely to seek care in emergency departments than in primary care settings. Please screen for these risk factors and administer hepatitis A vaccine.

What Emergency Departments Can Do


 FOLLOW appropriate infection control practices, including proper hand hygiene	 ADVISE post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for close contacts of infected people within 2 weeks of exposure
 REPORT all confirmed or suspected hepatitis A cases to your health department in a timely manner	 VACCINATE patients at risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serologic testing is NOT required or recommended in order to vaccinate • A single dose of hepatitis A vaccine is about 95% seroprotective in healthy individuals

Assess and Vaccinate Patients at Risk

- People who use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- People experiencing homelessness or transient living

THERE IS AN OUTBREAK OF HEPATITIS A. IF YOU ARE SICK, GET MEDICAL CARE.

Name of Organization
Street
City, State, Zip code
Phone number
Additional information as needed




See a doctor if you have any symptoms of hepatitis A.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|  Yellow skin or eyes |  Fatigue |  Loss of appetite |  Abdominal pain |  Joint pain |
|  Dark urine or gray-colored stools |  Fever |  Vomiting |  Nausea |  Diarrhea |

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAOutbreak

Hepatitis A Outbreak




What is hepatitis A and who's at risk?

Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. It is very contagious.

People who use drugs are at risk of getting hepatitis A. The virus is spreading from person to person and causing outbreaks around the country.

If you use drugs, protect yourself and others from hepatitis A

Get vaccinated

Wash your hands

Hepatitis A Outbreak




Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus is spreading from person to person and causing outbreaks around the country. It is very contagious among people who are not vaccinated.



Protect yourself and get vaccinated against hepatitis A

Who should get vaccinated?

- People who use drugs
- People who have unstable housing or are homeless
- People with hepatitis C and other serious liver problems
- People who are or were in jail or prison
- Men who have sex with men



Can hepatitis A be serious?

Hepatitis A can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Although uncommon, hepatitis A can cause death. People who are older or have health conditions, including hepatitis C, are at higher risk of dying from hepatitis A.

How can hepatitis A be prevented?

Hepatitis A vaccine is safe and effective in preventing a person from getting hepatitis A. People who are at risk for hepatitis A should get vaccinated when possible.

Good hand hygiene. Thoroughly washing hands with soap and warm water plays an important role in preventing the spread of many illnesses, including hepatitis A.

How does hepatitis A spread?

Hepatitis A virus is found in the blood and stool of an infected person and is easily spread from person to person. In this outbreak, the hepatitis A virus is spreading from person to person, especially among people using drugs, having sex, and living close together.



Department of Human Services
Hepatitis A Prevention



THANK YOU!!