



Acute and Chronic Hepatitis C in Canada, 2001

Enhanced Hepatitis Strain Surveillance System (EHSSS)

Enhanced surveillance of acute hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) was initiated in 1998 to obtain a more accurate assessment of current infection levels as well as support the development of evidence-based prevention and control programs for hepatitis B and C. As of June 2002, the enhanced surveillance has been successfully integrated with the Viral Hepatitis Strain Surveillance System of the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, National Microbiology Lab. This integration of epidemiologic and laboratory sciences allows for

the comprehensive surveillance of newly acquired cases of viral hepatitis B and C in Canada. The EHSSS was developed to enhance local public health surveillance needs for hepatitis B and C and to complement reportable data captured through the National Reporting System. Data were initially derived from four sites, and are currently derived from eight sites representing approximately 27% of the total population of Canada. These sites contribute data on acute and chronic hepatitis B and C infections, risk factors associated with infection and viral hepatitis genotype information.

Recommended Citation

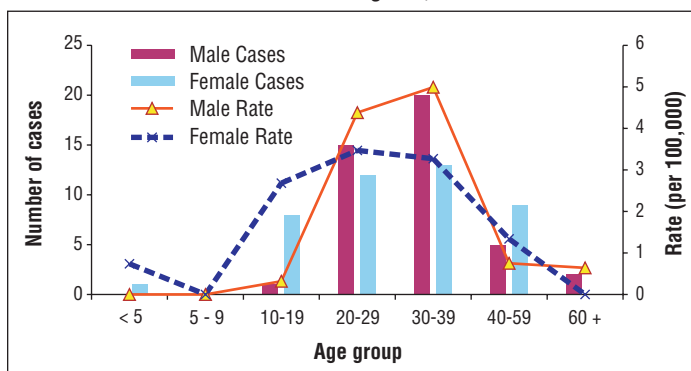
Acute and Chronic Hepatitis C in Canada, 2001, Enhanced Hepatitis Strain Surveillance System, Bloodborne Pathogens Section, Health Care Acquired Infections Division, Health Canada.

Six Health regions include: Capital Health, Edmonton AB, Calgary Regional Health Authority, Calgary AB, Manitoba Health, Winnipeg MN, Ottawa-Carlton Health Department, Ottawa ON, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Vancouver BC, and Department of Health, NB.

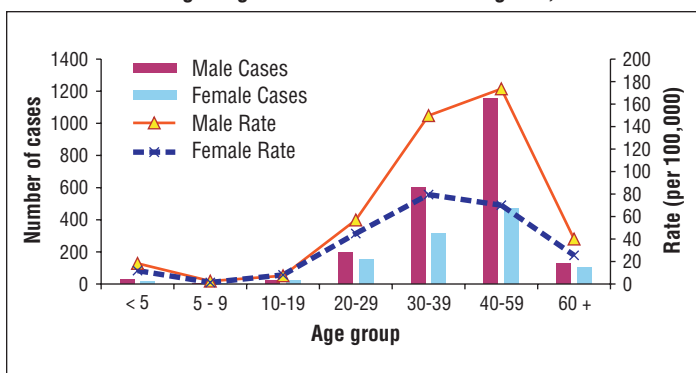
Enhanced surveillance for newly identified hepatitis C virus infections in six health regions, 2001

Characteristic	Acute		Chronic	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Age Group (year)				
< 5	1	1.2	42	1.3
5-9	0	0.0	6	0.2
10-19	9	10.5	47	1.5
20-29	27	31.4	349	10.9
30-39	33	38.4	916	28.5
40-59	14	16.3	1,626	50.6
60+	2	2.3	227	7.1
Sex				
Male	42	48.8	2,127	66.2
Female	44	51.2	1,086	33.8

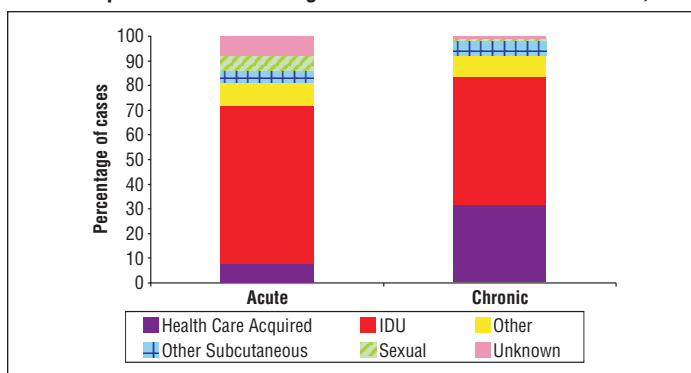
Incidence of acute hepatitis C according to age and sex in six health regions, 2001



Identification of chronic or like chronic hepatitis C according to age and sex in six health regions, 2001



Distribution of mutually exclusive risk factor groups for acute and chronic hepatitis C cases among those who have been interviewed, 2001



Health Care Acquired includes Blood Transfusion, receipt of blood product, hemodialysis, hospitalization, history of surgery, organ transplant, history of dental visit; **Other Subcutaneous** includes tattooing, body piercing, acupuncture; **Sexual** includes sex with hepatitis C carrier; **Other** includes drug snorting, blood contact, hepatitis C carrier in family, institution associated, incarceration.

Acute HCV Case Definition

1. Discrete onset of clinical symptoms; and
2. Serum aminotransferase levels 2.5 times the upper limit of normal; and
3. IgM anti-HAV negative (if done); and
4. IgM anti-HBc negative (if done) or HBsAg negative; and
5. anti-HCV positive (confirmed by a supplemental test); or
6. Seroconversion within 12 months.