

Hep A Situational Awareness Report

July 01 2019

Figure 1: Number of Hepatitis A Cases by County

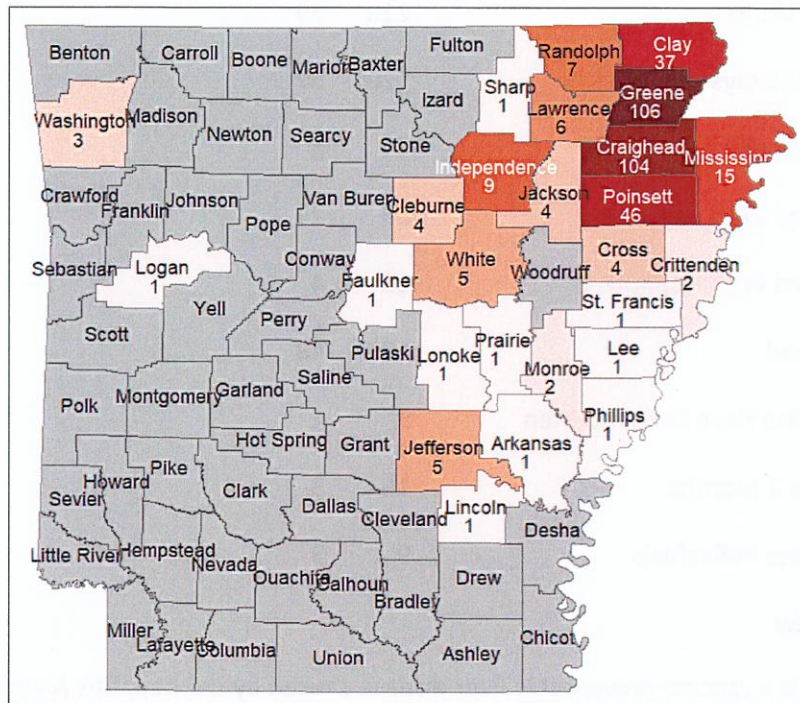


Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Hepatitis A Cases

Characteristic	n	Percent
Men	236	64
Women	129	35
Black or African American	8	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<5	N/A
White	340	92
TOTAL CASES	369	100

*Percents may not add to 100% due to missing data

Characteristic	Median	Min	Max
Age	38.8	12.2	80

Table 2: Risk Factors and Clinical Characteristics Among Cases of Hepatitis A

Characteristic	n	Percent
Number Who Use Drugs	216	59
Number who Inject Drugs	120	57
Number of Food Handlers	19	5
Number Co-infected With Hepatitis C	88	24
Number Co-infected With Hepatitis B	16	4
Number Hospitalized	176	48
Number of Men Who Have Sex With Men	5	2
Number Jailed Past 2 Months	16	5
Number of Homeless Individuals	9	3

Hepatitis A Overview

- Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV).
- HAV is transmitted person-to-person when a person ingests tiny amounts of fecal matter from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by the feces of an infected person.
- It can also spread from close personal contact with an infected individual.
- Foodborne transmission of HAV is possible.

Arkansas Department of Health Outbreak Activities

- The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) identified an outbreak of HAV primarily among people who use drugs in February 2018, and continues to respond.
- ADH has held multiple vaccination clinics in the affected counties, and has given more than 30,000 vaccinations since the beginning of the outbreak.
- Of the 30,000 HAV vaccinations administered, nearly 15,000 resulted from a food handler exposure (19 cases). To date, 515 food handlers have been vaccinated against HAV.

Conclusions

- The outbreak of HAV in Arkansas began more than 18 months ago, and continues to impact the northeastern and eastern counties, primarily.
- The majority of HAV cases in Arkansas have been tied to drug use.
- Injection drug use has also been a commonly reported risk factor, and is particularly consequential for the spread of infectious diseases like HAV, such as hepatitis C and HIV.