

## Hepatitis A

Agent: Hepatitis A virus (HAV), a member of the Picornavirus family

Mode of Transmission: Ingestion of food or water contaminated by fecal matter or through close contact with an infected household member or sex partner.

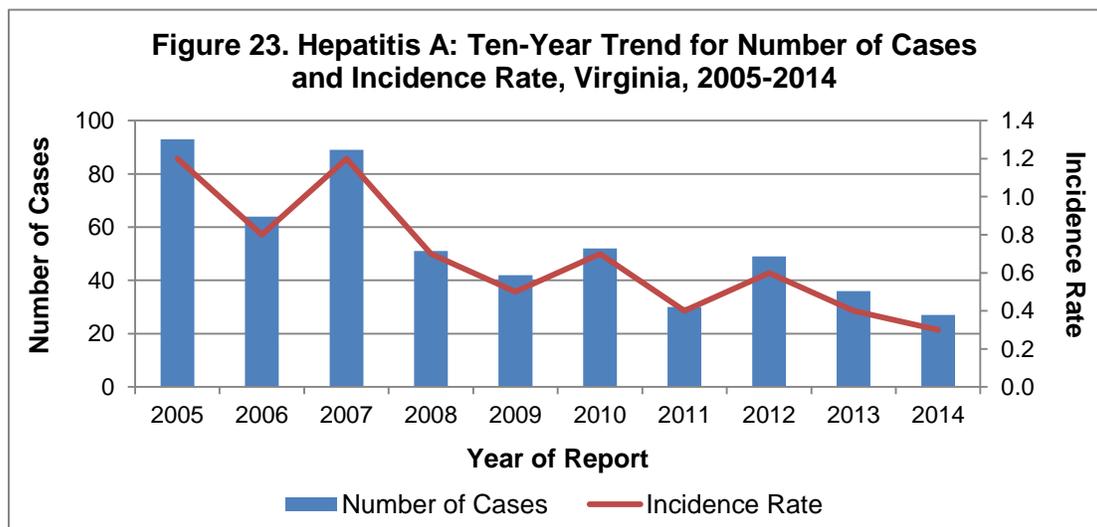
Signs/Symptoms: Fever, malaise, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice. In older children and adults, symptoms usually occur for several weeks, though prolonged or relapsing liver disease can last up to six months. Younger children often exhibit no symptoms.

Prevention: Preventive measures include immunization, safe food preparation, and good personal hygiene (e.g., washing hands with soap after using the bathroom, after changing diapers, and before preparing and eating food). Administration of immune globulin (IG) after exposure to hepatitis A can protect against symptomatic infection.

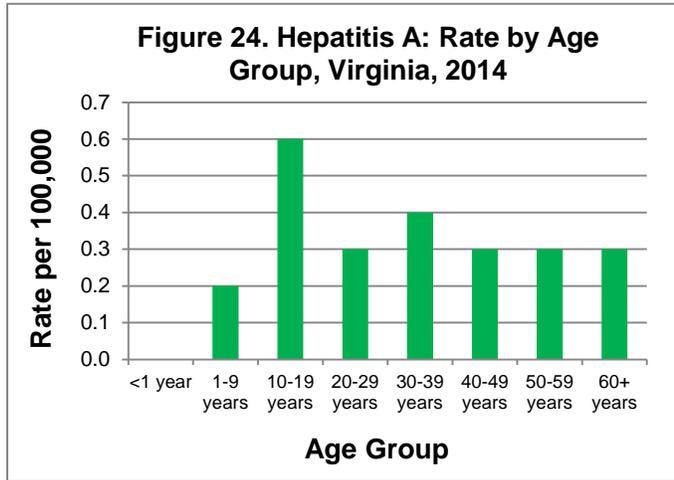
Other Important Information: This is an acute illness only; chronic infection does not occur. A vaccine was first introduced in 1995 and is currently recommended for all children at the age of one year, persons who are at increased risk of infection (i.e., international travelers), and persons who are at increased risk for developing complications from hepatitis A.

<b>Hepatitis A: 2014 Data Summary</b>	
Number of Cases:	27
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	41.8
% Change from 5-Year Average:	-35%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.3

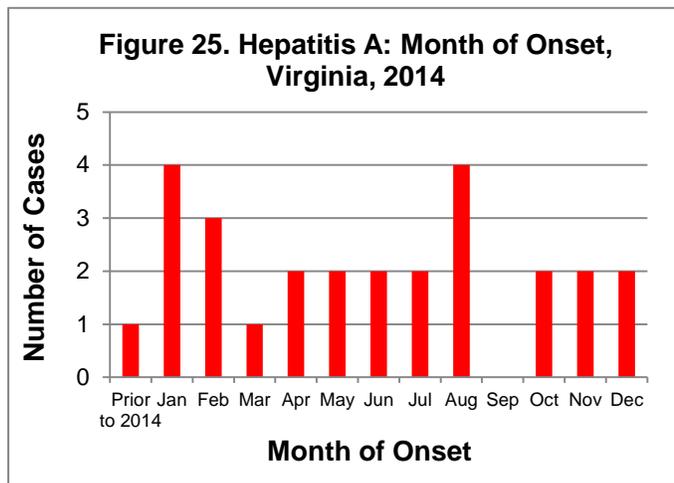
In 2014, 27 cases of hepatitis A were reported in Virginia. This represents a 25% decrease from the 36 cases reported in 2013, and is 35% lower than the five-year average of 41.8 cases per year (Figure 23).



Cases ranged in age from five to 76 years. The incidence rate was highest in the 10-19 year age group (0.6 per 100,000). Rates among the other age groups ranged from 0.2 to 0.4 per 100,000 (Figure 24). Race information was provided for 67% of cases. Among cases with a known race, the incidence rate seen in the “other” race population was slightly higher (0.5 per 100,000) than the rates observed in the white and black race populations (0.2 and 0.1 per 100,000, respectively). Incidence among females (0.4 per 100,000) was comparable to the incidence observed in males (0.3 per 100,000).



By region, incidence was highest in the northern region (0.5 per 100,000) and lowest in the eastern region (0.1 per 100,000). Incidence by locality can be seen in the map below. Cases occurred throughout the year with four cases each having onset in January and August (Figure 25). Risk factors were identified for 33% of cases, all of whom reported travelling outside of the country prior to illness onset.



## Hepatitis A Incidence Rate by Locality Virginia, 2014

