

## Hepatitis C, Acute

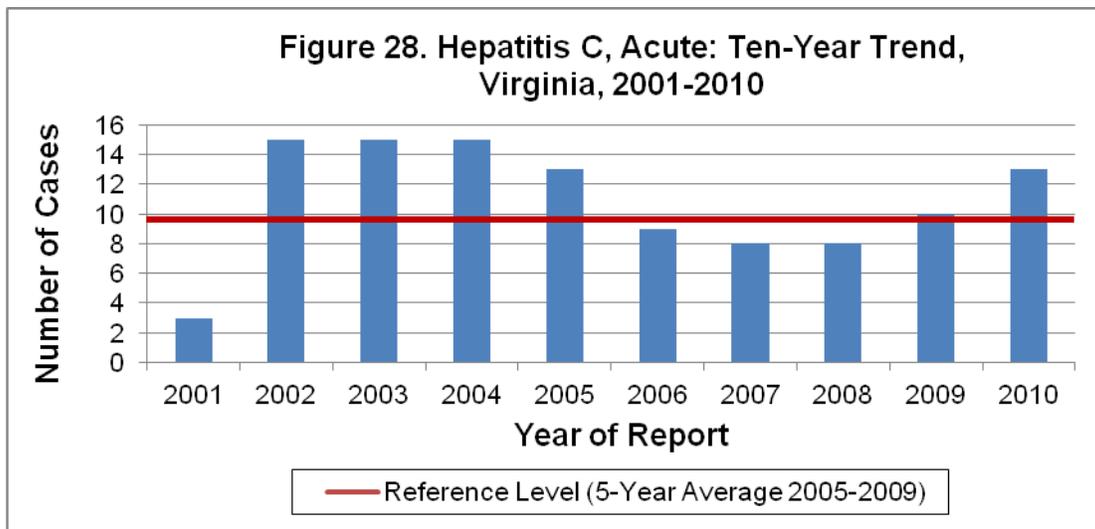
Agent: Hepatitis C virus (HCV) (Flaviviridae family)

Mode of Transmission: Person-to-person transmission through the skin, such as during injection drug use, or blood, such as transfusion of blood from untested donors; less commonly through perinatal exposure or sexual exposure to blood or body fluids.

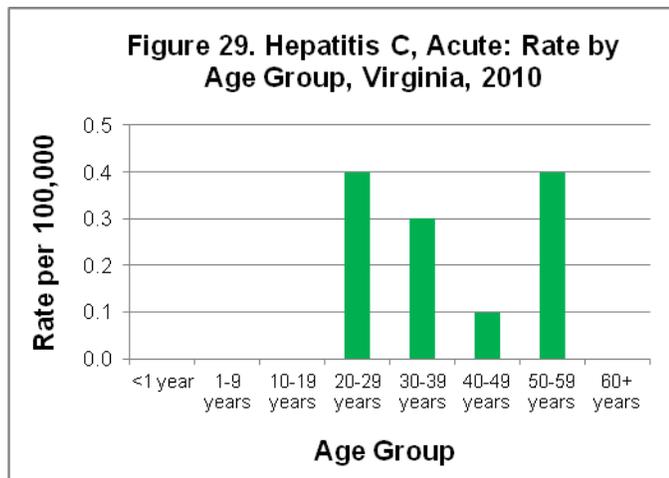
Signs/Symptoms: Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal discomfort, or jaundice.

Prevention: Preventive measures include screening of donated blood and organs and avoidance of injection drug use.

Other Important Information: Only 10% of new infections cause symptoms, but 80% of new infections become chronic, resulting in carriers capable of spreading infection. As people with chronic HCV infection age, they are at higher risk for developing chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. A vaccine to prevent HCV is not available.



Thirteen cases of acute hepatitis C were reported in 2010 (Figure 28), which is 35% higher than the five-year average of 9.6 cases per year. Cases ranged in age from 20 to 58 years and the incidence rate was highest in the 20-29 and 59-59 year age groups (0.4 per 100,000 for both groups) (Figure 29). Of the eleven cases for which race information was available, all were reported from the white population, which resulted in an incidence of 0.2 per 100,000 among whites. Males had a higher incidence than females (0.3 and 0.1 per 100,000, respectively).



The highest number of cases and the highest incidence rate occurred in the southwest region (6 cases, 0.4 per 100,000). Rates in the other regions were 0.2 per 100,000 or lower. Disease onset occurred throughout the year. Risk factor data were available for five (38%) cases, three of whom reported injecting street drugs.