

Hepatitis C, Acute

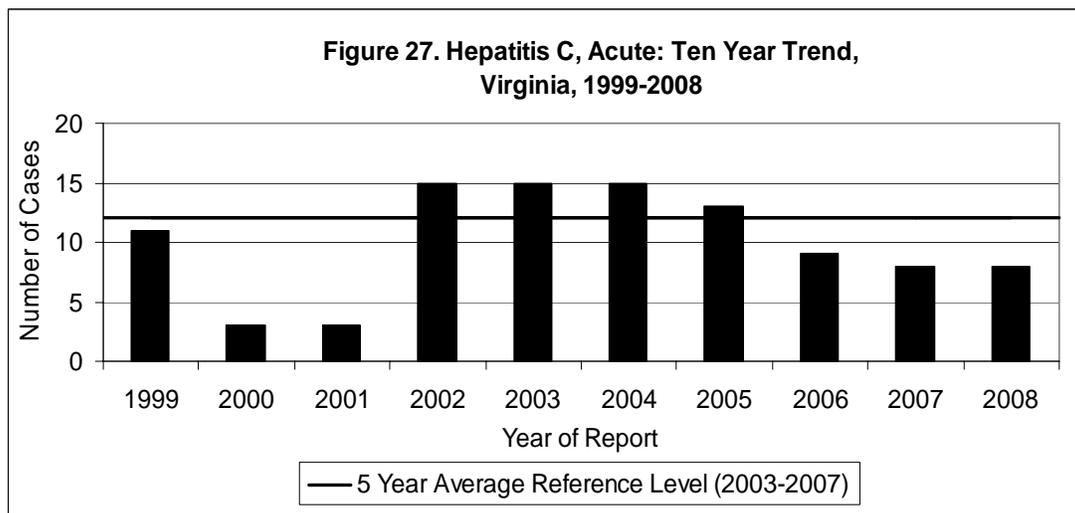
Agent: Hepatitis C virus (HCV) (Flaviviridae family)

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

Signs/Symptoms: Loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal discomfort, or jaundice.

Prevention: 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.



Eight cases of acute hepatitis C infection were reported in Virginia during 2008 (Figure 27). This is 33% less than the five year average of 12 cases per year. The incidence rate was highest in the 30-39 year age group (0.3 per 100,000), followed closely by the 20-29 year age group (0.2 per 100,000). No cases were reported among individuals less than twenty years of age (Figure 28). Information on race was missing for almost 40% of the cases. Where race was reported, rates were the same among the black and white populations (0.1 per 100,000, for each). Females and males had the same rate (0.1 per 100,000). The highest number of cases and the highest incidence rate occurred in the southwest and central regions (3 cases, 0.2 per 100,000). Although 50% of reported cases had onset during the second quarter, no seasonality is expected for this condition. Among the cases reported in 2008, one death was attributed to acute hepatitis C infection in an adult male.

