

# EPIDEMIOLOGY BULLETIN

James B. Kenley, M.D., Commissioner  
Grayson B. Miller, Jr., M.D., Epidemiologist

Editors: Tom A. Sayvetz, M.D.  
Harry C. Nottebart, Jr., M.D.

## HEPATITIS PROFILE IN VIRGINIA

Over the last 12 years an average of 984 cases of hepatitis per year have been reported in Virginia. Of particular interest is the increasing proportion of cases due to hepatitis B at the expense of hepatitis A. (Table I) This could, of course, represent actual changes in the incidences of the two diseases. Another possibility would be that more accurate classification of hepatitis B is occurring. Before testing for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) was widely available, cases of hepatitis not associated with blood transfusions or parenteral injections of some sort might understandably have been called hepatitis A by default. It is likely that in recent years a greater proportion of hepatitis B has been spread via nonparenteral routes, particularly since HBsAg testing by blood banks has virtually eliminated the risk associated with donor blood products.

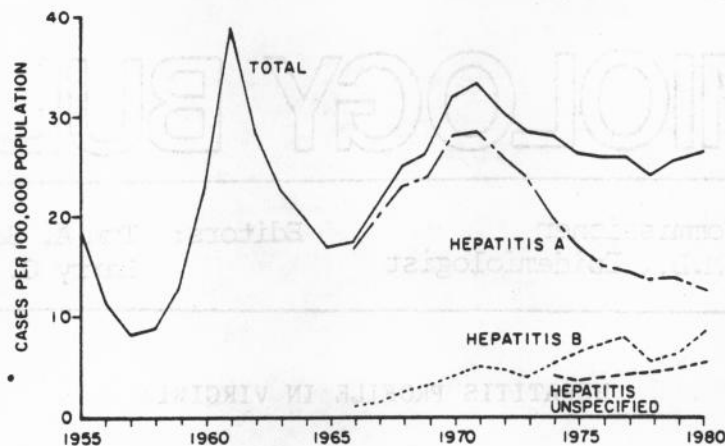
Figure I<sup>1</sup> (see page 2) represents changes in nationally reported hepatitis case rates expressed per 100,000 population. The total U.S. rate dropped slightly from 32.0 to 26.5 between 1970 and 1980. In contrast, the corresponding total Virginia reported hepatitis rate fell markedly from 30.2 in 1970 to 18.7 in 1980. Of particular interest is Virginia's low reported rate of hepatitis A in 1980 which was 5.8, compared to 12.8 for the entire U.S. The reported rate of hepatitis B in Virginia in 1980, 9.7 per 100,000, was slightly higher than the U.S. rate of 8.4.

TABLE 1: HEPATITIS REPORTED IN VIRGINIA, 1970-1981

YEAR	TOTAL CASES	HEPATITIS A (%)	HEPATITIS B (%)	NON-A, NON-B OR UNSPECIFIED (%)
1970	1410	1410 (100)	-	-
1971	1639	1492 (91)	147 (9)	-
1972	1185	1005 (85)	180 (15)	-
1973	736	632 (86)	104 (14)	-
1974	823	510 (62)	152 (18)	161 (20)
1975	845	420 (50)	215 (25)	210 (25)
1976	743	336 (45)	226 (30)	181 (24)
1977	803	345 (43)	285 (35)	173 (22)
1978	769	272 (35)	331 (43)	166 (22)
1979	938	271 (29)	449 (48)	218 (23)
1980	999	310 (31)	520 (52)	169 (17)
1981	914	200 (22)	537 (59)	177 (19)

Figure I

HEPATITIS - Reported case rates by year, United States, 1955-1980



Reference:

<sup>1</sup>MMWR Annual Summary 1980, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

INFLUENZA (?)

No extensive outbreaks of influenza have been reported so far this year in Virginia, nor in the country as a whole. In contrast to recent years, our "sentinel physician" surveillance system<sup>1</sup> has not revealed the well-defined peak in numbers of patient visits for respiratory illness usually seen during the winter months. This does not mean that the viruses are not present this year-- types B and A (H1N1) are being isolated from ill persons across the country<sup>2</sup>-- this suggests that there are too few susceptibles to support wide-spread disease transmission.

References:

<sup>1</sup>Epidemiology Bulletin, January, 1981

<sup>2</sup>MMWR-March 5, 1982/Vol. 31/No. 8

MARKETING OF HUMAN DIPLOID CELL STRAIN RABIES VACCINE

Recently completed negotiations between Wistar Institute, Wyeth Laboratories, and Merieux Institute have resulted in an agreement whereby Merieux Institute is now able to market its vaccine directly to the private medical sector. Therefore, the Virginia State Health Department will be relinquishing its current role as sole distributor of HDCV. Merieux will be offering the vaccine for sale to hospital pharmacies, who will be able to supply it to private physicians for their patients. Local health departments have been encouraged to contact the hospitals in their areas and to urge that a supply of vaccine be ordered. Merieux will also soon be joining Cutter Laboratories as a second supplier of human rabies immune globulin (RIG).

Reference:

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MONTH: February, 1982

DISEASE	STATE					REGIONS				
	THIS MONTH	LAST MONTH	TOTAL TO DATE		MEAN 5 YEAR TO DATE	THIS MONTH				
			1982	1981		N.W.	N.	S.W.	C.	E.
CHICKENPOX	114	67	181	265	190.0	8	42	11	30	23
MEASLES	1	7	8	3	117.4	-	-	1	-	-
MUMPS	6	4	10	35	29.2	-	2	-	-	4
PERTUSSIS	-	-	-	2	2.4	-	-	-	-	-
RUBELLA	1	6	7	-	14.2	-	-	-	1	-
MENINGITIS - ASEPTIC	13	4	17	21	15.6	4	2	3	3	1
BACTERIAL	20	9	29	46	32.6	6	5	1	1	7
ENCEPHALITIS - INFECTIOUS	3	1	4	9	4.0	-	1	1	-	1
POST-INFECTIOUS	-	-	-	2	0.8	-	-	-	-	-
HEPATITIS A (INFECTIOUS)	16	14	30	35	43.8	3	3	1	2	7
B (SERUM)	32	31	63	64	65.6	4	8	2	6	12
SALMONELLOSIS	50	78	128	160	102.4	4	13	10	12	11
SHIGELLOSIS	16	21	37	52	34.0	2	1	1	11	1
TUBERCULOSIS - PULMONARY	34	34	68	76	-	-	-	-	-	-
EXTRA-PULMONARY	8	2	10	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
SYPHILIS (PRIMARY & SECONDARY)	43	61	93	122	100.8	5	8	3	7	20
GONORRHEA	1475	1599	3074	3527	3377.8	-	-	-	-	-
ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
RABIES IN ANIMALS	37	16	53	9	2.0	11	25	1	-	-
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	5	4	9	20	13.2	1	-	-	1	3
INFLUENZA	25	9	34	4392	1925.4	-	-	9	-	16
MALARIA	5	1	6	6	4.2	-	3	-	-	2
OTHER: <i>Hepatitis Unspec.</i>	6	6	12	47	33.2	-	2	-	1	3

COUNTIES REPORTING ANIMAL RABIES: Fairfax 2 rac.; Fauquier 10 rac., 1 skunk; Loudoun 15 rac., 1 skunk; Prince William 7 rac.; Scott 1 skunk  
 OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESSES: Occupational pneumoconioses 1; Occupational dermatoses 1; Occupational hearing loss 1; Asbestosis 5; Mesothelioma 1

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