Hepatitis B in Canada: 2020 surveillance data update

In 2020, 3,004 cases¹ of hepatitis B (acute, chronic, and unspecified combined) were reported across Canada for a rate² of 8.2 per 100,000 people.

The COVID-19 pandemic reduced the demand for and access to services related to sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, including testing. This likely impacted new hepatitis B diagnosis rates in 2020, by artificially reducing them.

Acute hepatitis B

(infections lasting up to six months)

National reported acute hepatitis B rates were stable from 2012 to 2019. In 2020, 123 acute cases of hepatitis B³ were reported for a rate of 0.34 cases per 100,000 people.

Reported acute hepatitis B rates, 2011 to 2020⁴ 250 200 150 150 100 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 Total cases Male rate Total rate

Reported acute hepatitis B by sex and age, 2020

63% of reported acute hepatitis B cases were **male**.

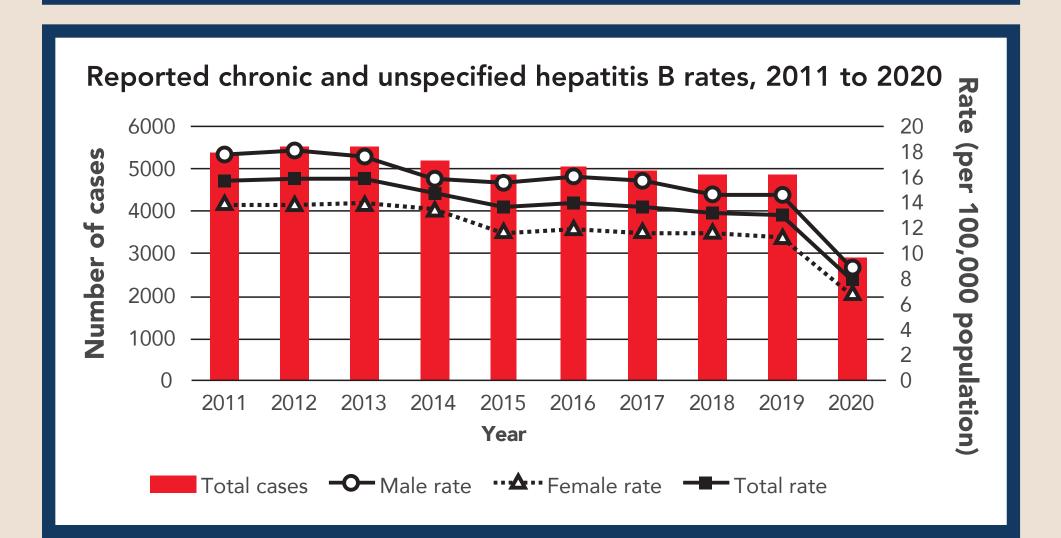
Among males, those aged 40 to 59 years old had the highest reported acute hepatitis B rate.

Among females, those aged 20 to 24 years old had the highest reported acute hepatitis B rate in 2020.

Chronic and unspecified hepatitis B

(infections lasting longer than six months)

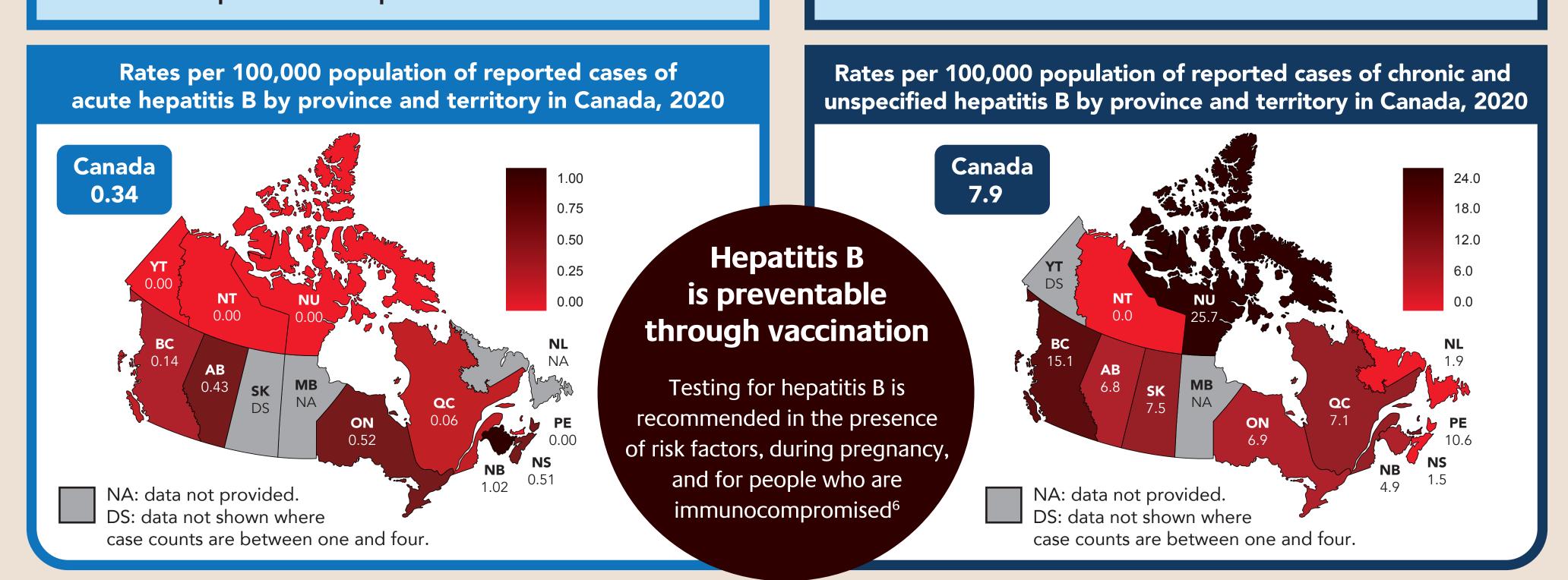
National reported chronic and unspecified infection rates were stable from 2015 to 2019. In 2020, 2,881 cases of chronic and unspecified hepatitis B were reported for a rate of 7.9 cases per 100,000 people⁵.



Reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B by sex and age, 2020

56% of reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B cases were **male**.

Among males and females, reported chronic and unspecified hepatitis B rates were highest among 30 to 39-year-olds.



1. Data source: Canadian Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (https://diseases.canada.ca/notifiable/). 2. Population denominator data is from Statistics Canada April 2022 yearly population estimates.

3. All provinces and territories except for Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador provided acute hepatitis B 2020 data. 4. Acute hepatitis B reporting by provinces and territories vary from 2011 to 2020. For reporting patterns please see https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/primary-care-management-hepatitis-b-quick-reference.html).

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Health, 2023. Cat.: HP40-335/1-2020E-PDF | ISBN: 978-0-660-47719-0 | Pub.: 220779



