

2024 Hepatitis C Surveillance Report

Highlights

- There were 2,695 cases of hepatitis C (HCV) reported in New Jersey (NJ) in 2024, of which 98% were newly reported chronic infections. The number of acute and chronic HCV cases reported in NJ has declined since 2018, consistent with national trends.
- A total of 61 acute HCV cases were reported in 2024. The majority were male, between 30-49 years of age, and the largest number of cases was reported from Ocean, Passaic, Atlantic, Bergen, and Union Counties.
- There were 2,634 chronic HCV cases reported in 2024 with the highest case rates in southern NJ. The majority of newly reported chronic HCV cases were male and peaked at 37 and 63 years of age.
- A total of 463 (16%) HCV cases were among women of childbearing age (15- 44 years), 8 of which were acute infections.
- There were 3 perinatal and 21 pediatric HCV cases reported in 2024.

Hepatitis C Reporting and Case Definitions

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a reportable condition in NJ, per N.J.A.C. 8:57. NJDOH and local health departments investigate HCV reports and NJDOH classifies cases according to national surveillance [case definitions](#) for acute, chronic, and perinatal cases, which were updated in 2018 (perinatal) and 2020 (acute, chronic). Acute and chronic cases are older than 36 months of age unless known to have been exposed non-perinatally.

- An **acute** hepatitis C case is defined as a new infection in the absence of a more likely diagnosis.
- A **chronic** hepatitis C case is defined as a newly reported case in the absence of a more likely diagnosis and who lacks evidence of acute infection.
- A **perinatal** hepatitis C case is defined as an infection in a child less than 36 months of age who is epidemiologically linked to a mother infected with hepatitis C and who is not known to have an alternate source of exposure.

Acute Hepatitis C

There were 61 acute HCV cases reported in NJ in 2024 (Figure 1). The number of acute HCV cases has declined in the past seven years with increased cases reported in 2020 and 2023. Similar to national trends, acute HCV case rates increased in NJ from 2018-2020 before starting to decline in 2021 (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Acute Hepatitis C Cases, NJ, 2018-2024

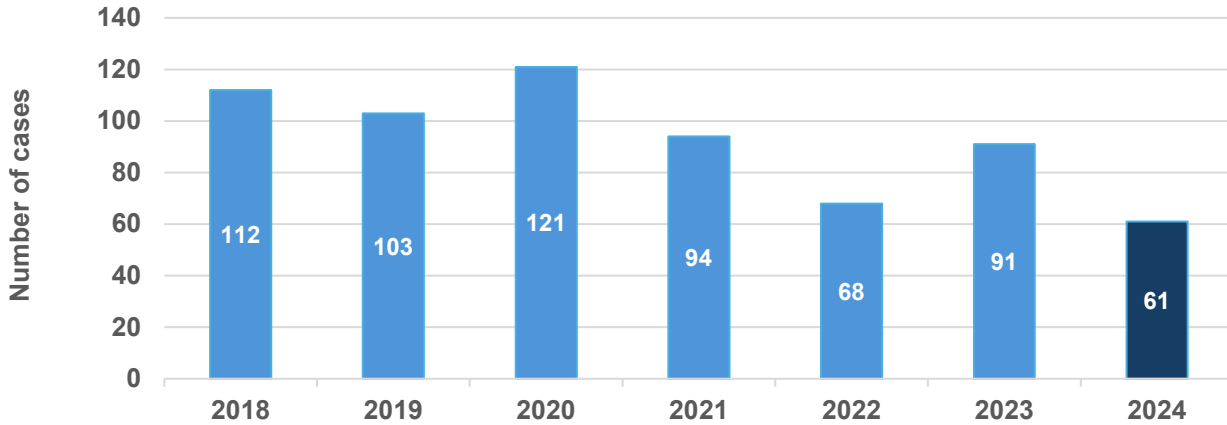
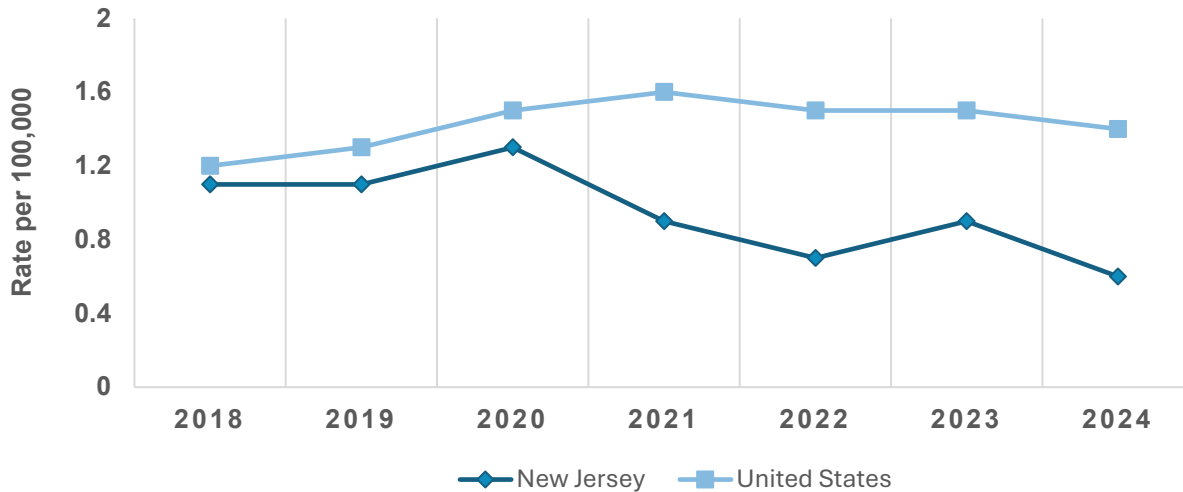


Figure 2: Acute Hepatitis C Case Rates, NJ and US, 2018 – 2024
(US 2024 data is preliminary)



Acute cases by demographics and location

Of the 61 acute cases reported in 2024, two-thirds (69%) were male (Figure 3) and more than over half were between 15 and 49 years of age (Figure 4). Over half (55.7%) of acute cases were reported in five counties: Ocean (14.8%), Passaic (11.5%), Atlantic (9.8%), Bergen (9.8%), and Union Counties (9.8%). 72% of acute cases were asymptomatic, but had laboratory evidence of infection.

Figure 3: Acute Hepatitis C Cases, by Sex Assigned at Birth, NJ, 2024

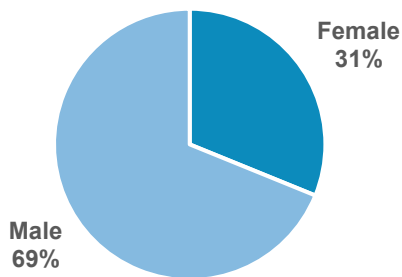
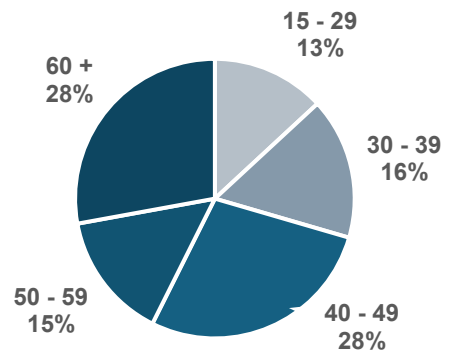


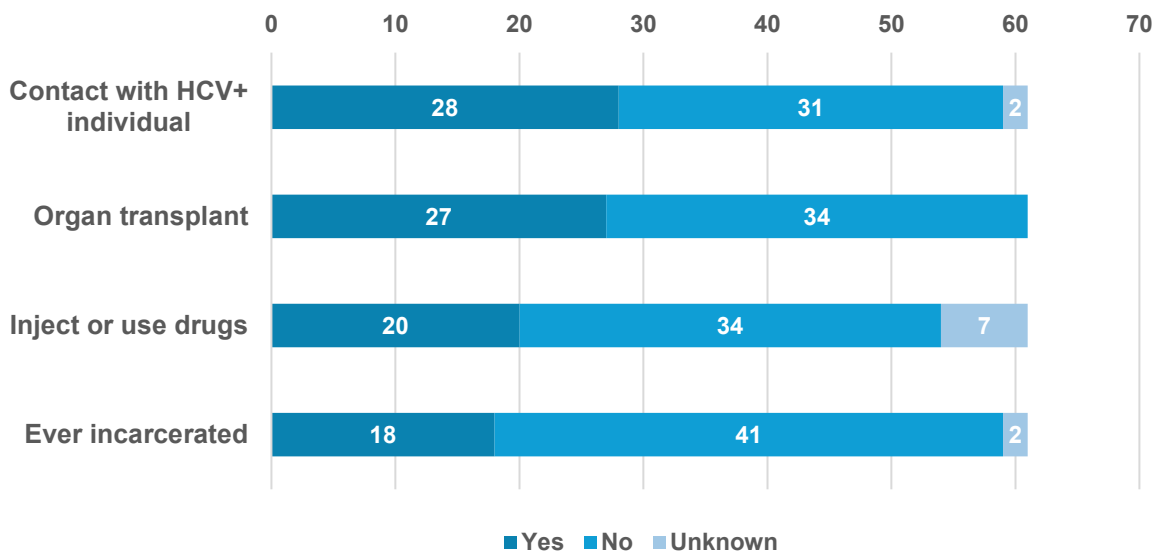
Figure 4: Acute Hepatitis C Cases, by Age group in years, NJ, 2024



Acute cases by risk factors/exposures

Of cases with known risk factors, close contact with someone infected with HCV, organ transplant, injection drug use, and incarceration were most reported (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Acute Hepatitis C Cases, Risk Exposures, NJ, 2024



Chronic Hepatitis C

There were 2,634 chronic HCV cases reported in NJ in 2024 (Figure 6). The number of chronic HCV cases has declined in the past seven years from over 7,000 cases reported in 2018. Consistent with national trends, chronic confirmed HCV case rates have continued to gradually decrease (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Chronic Hepatitis C Cases, NJ, 2018-2024

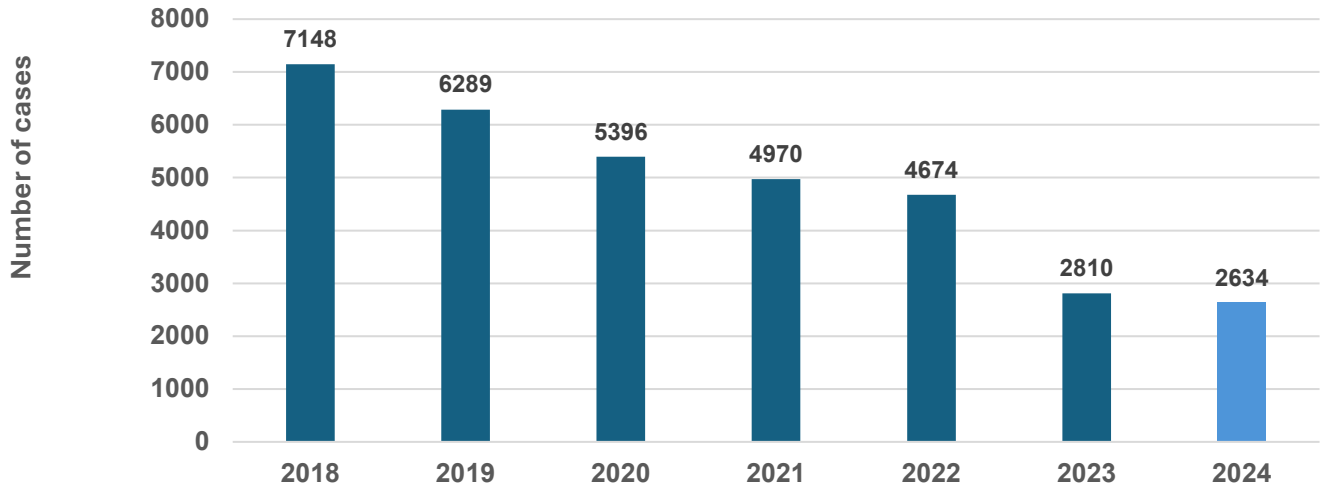
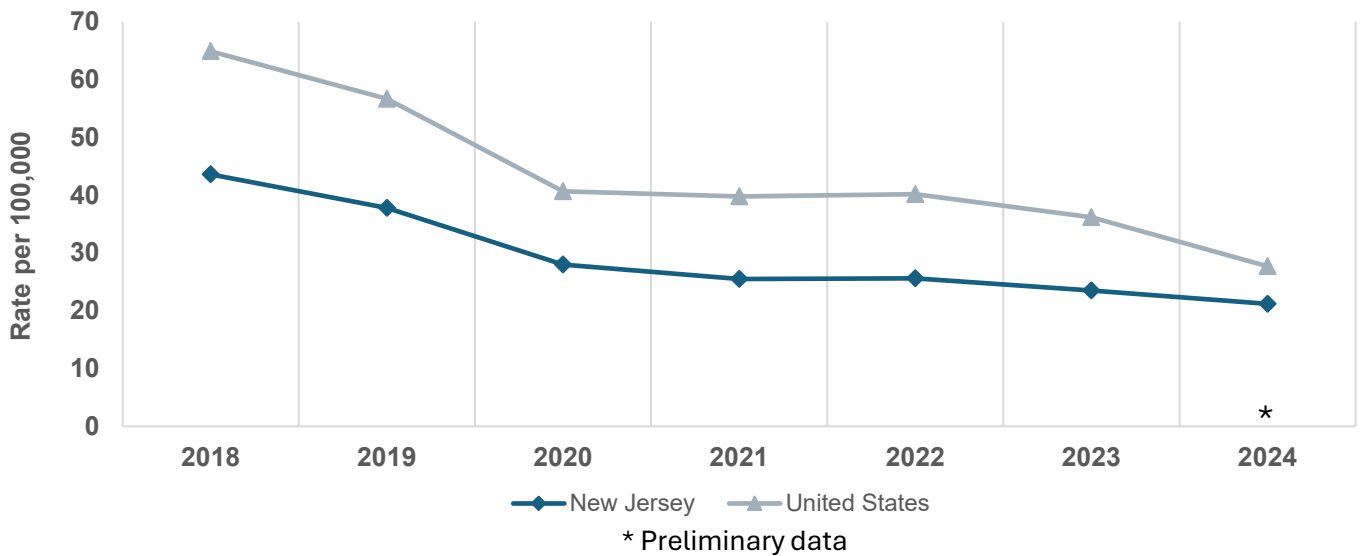


Figure 7: Chronic Confirmed Hepatitis C Case Rates, NJ and US, 2018 – 2024



Chronic cases by demographics and location

Of the 2,634 chronic cases reported in 2024, nearly two-thirds (61%) were male (Figure 8). In terms of age the highest proportions were in persons over 60 years, followed by persons 30 to 39 years (Figure 9). Nearly half (45.2%) of chronic cases were reported in five counties: Essex (10.8%), Camden (10.1%), Burlington (8.7%), Hudson (8.3%), and Atlantic Counties (7.3%). Chronic HCV case rates in 2024 were highest in southern New Jersey, particularly in Atlantic and Cape May counties (Figure 10).

Figure 8: Chronic Hepatitis C Cases by Sex Assigned at Birth, NJ, 2024

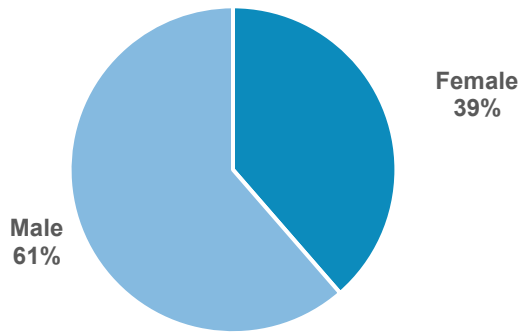


Figure 9: Chronic Hepatitis C Cases by Age Group in Years, NJ, 2024

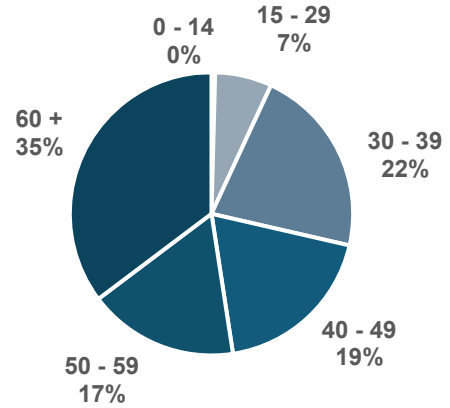
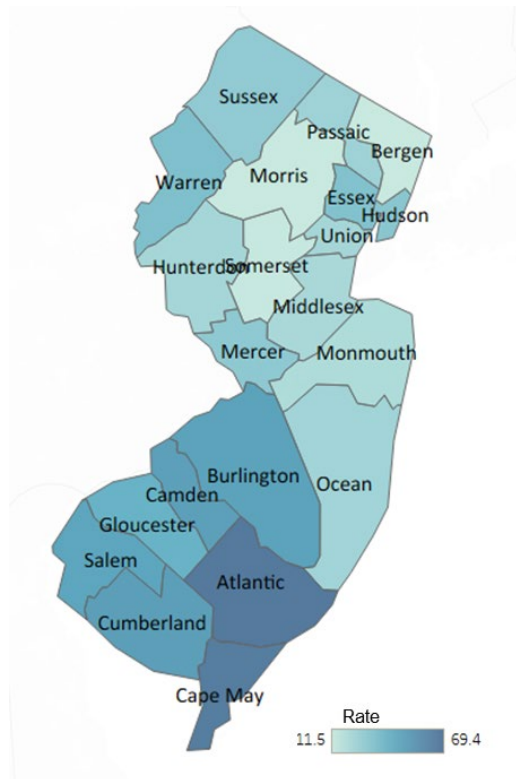


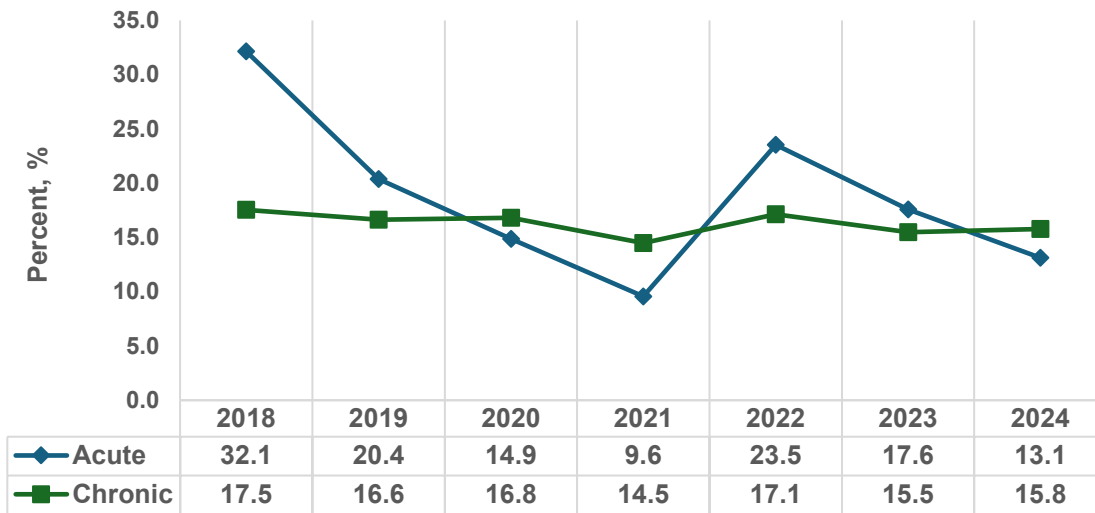
Figure 10: Chronic Hepatitis C Case Rates (per 100,000), by County, NJ, 2024



Women of Childbearing Age

Pregnant women can transmit HCV to their infants, and testing is recommended during every pregnancy. The proportion of acute HCV cases among women of childbearing age (15-44 years) increased in 2022 but declined in the past two years. The proportion of chronic cases remained relatively stable (Figure 11.) In 2024, there were 423 (16%) reported HCV cases in this demographic group (8 acute, 415 chronic), with the majority between 35-44 years of age.

Figure 11. Proportion of HCV Cases Among Women of Childbearing Age by Type and Year, 2018 - 2024



Perinatal and Pediatric Cases

The number of perinatal HCV cases continued to decrease (Table 1) with 3 cases reported in 2024. Pediatric cases include chronic and acute HCV infections between the ages of 3 and 19 years. One pediatric acute case was reported in 2018, 2021, and 2023. Pediatric cases may have an epidemiologic link to a mother infected with HCV but are outside the age limit for perinatal case classification.

Table 1. Perinatal and pediatric cases by year.

Year	Perinatal	Pediatric
2018	10	22
2019	11	16
2020	8	12
2021	7	14
2022	5	28
2023	5	18
2024	3	21

Additional information:

- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/>
- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hepatitisc.shtml>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/>
- https://www.nj.gov/health/populationhealth/opioid/viral_hep.shtml
- <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/php/statistics-surveillance/index.html>