

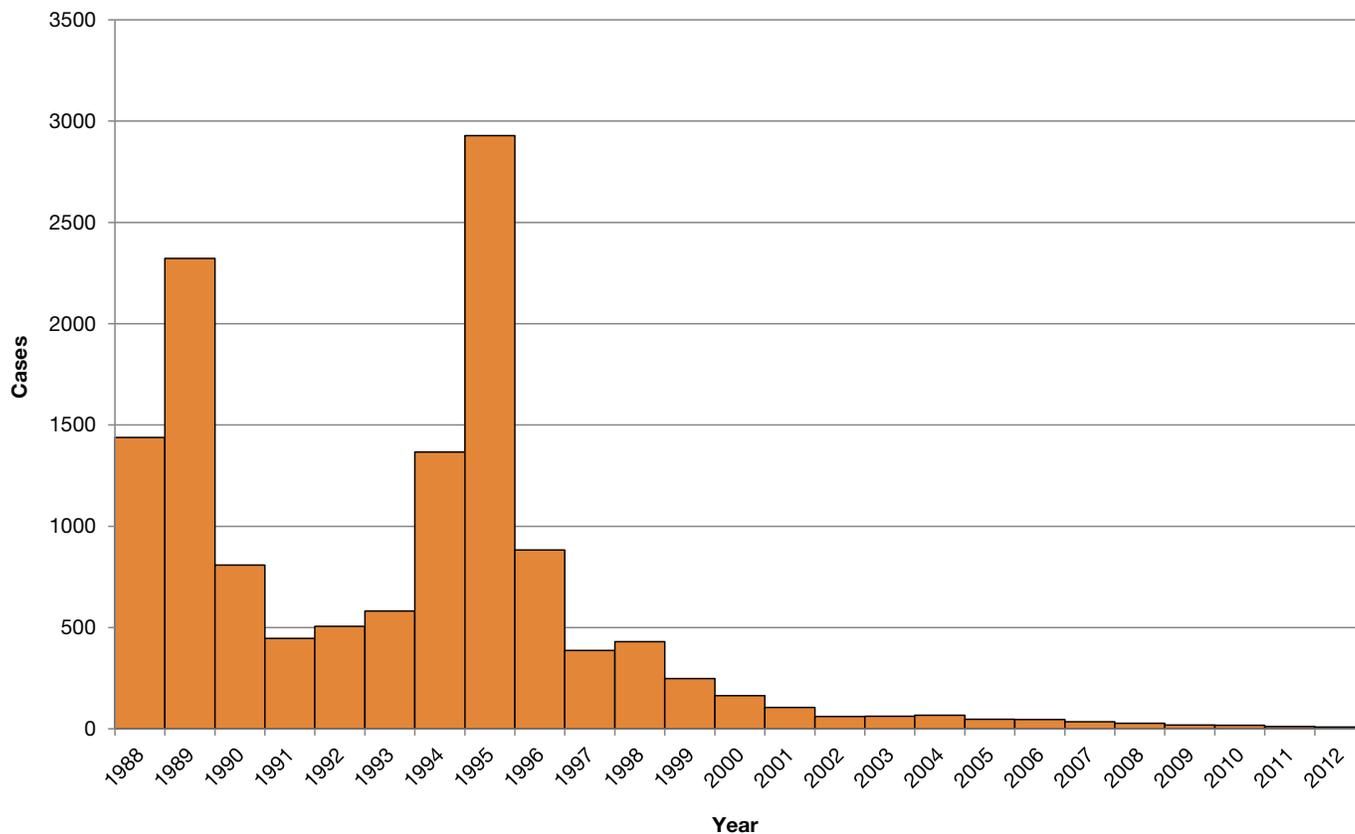
Acute hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus, which infects humans via fecal-oral transmission. Hepatitis A can occur in situations ranging from isolated cases of disease to statewide outbreaks. However, since the licensure of the hepatitis A vaccine in 1995–1996, rates of infection have declined nationally as well as in Oregon, which had been one of the higher-incidence states. Most cases in Oregon are “sporadic” and occur mainly in persons who travel outside the United States. Oregon has seen small clusters of hepatitis A infections among injection drug users and jail inmates. There were no outbreaks of hepatitis A in 2012. The last outbreak of hepatitis A in Oregon occurred in 2006.

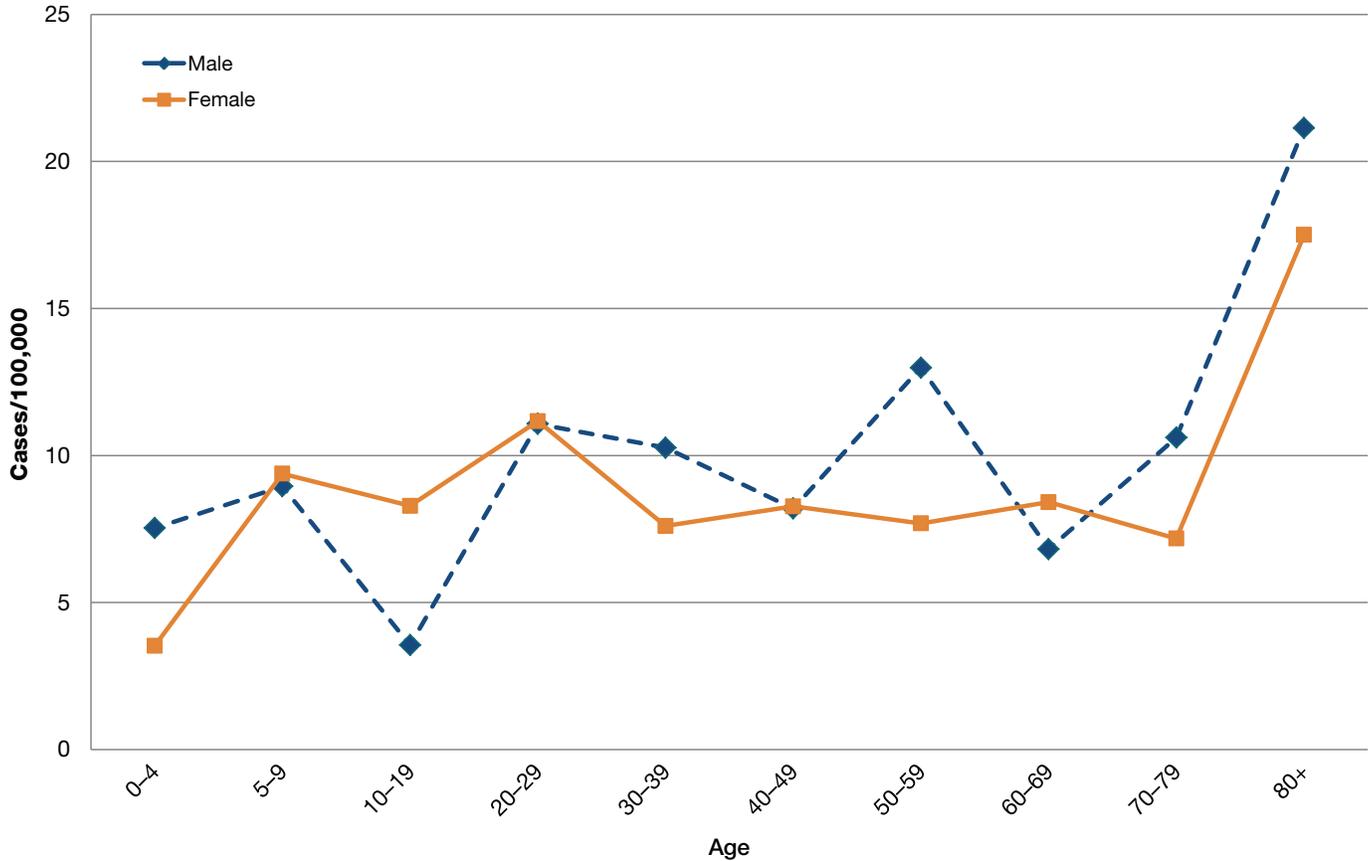
Recent changes to recommendations for post-exposure prophylaxis include use of vaccination instead of immunoglobulin for immune-competent contacts 1–40 years of age. For those <1 year or >40 years of age, or those with immune-compromising conditions, immune globulin is still recommended.

In 2012, Oregon logged 9 cases of acute hepatitis A (another historic low). Three of the 9 cases were acquired by venturing outside of Oregon or from household members with foreign travel, often to countries with high rates of hepatitis A, such as Mexico. Six cases had no identifiable risk factor hepatitis A. Six cases were >20 years of age.

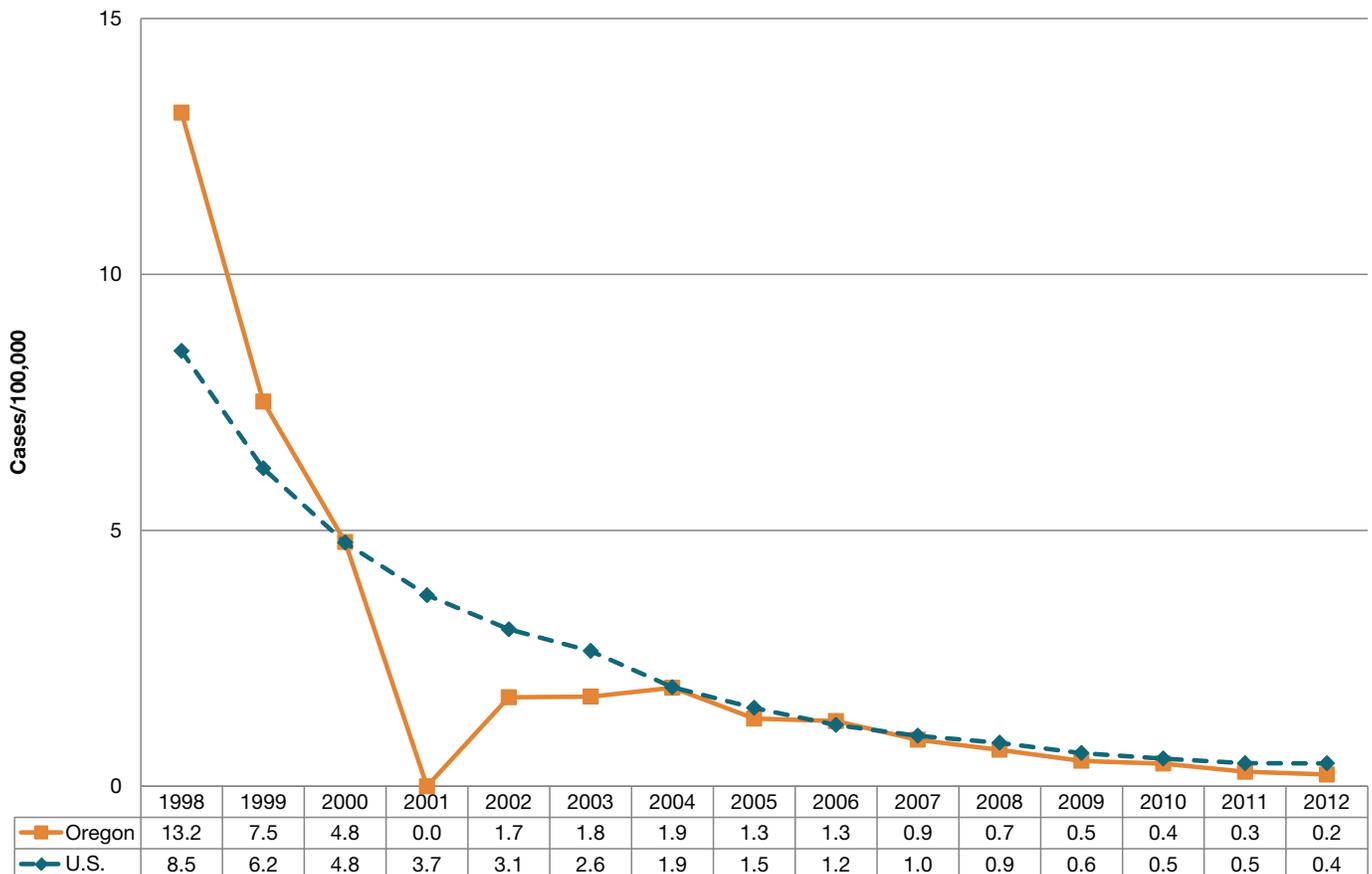
Hepatitis A by year: Oregon, 1988–2012



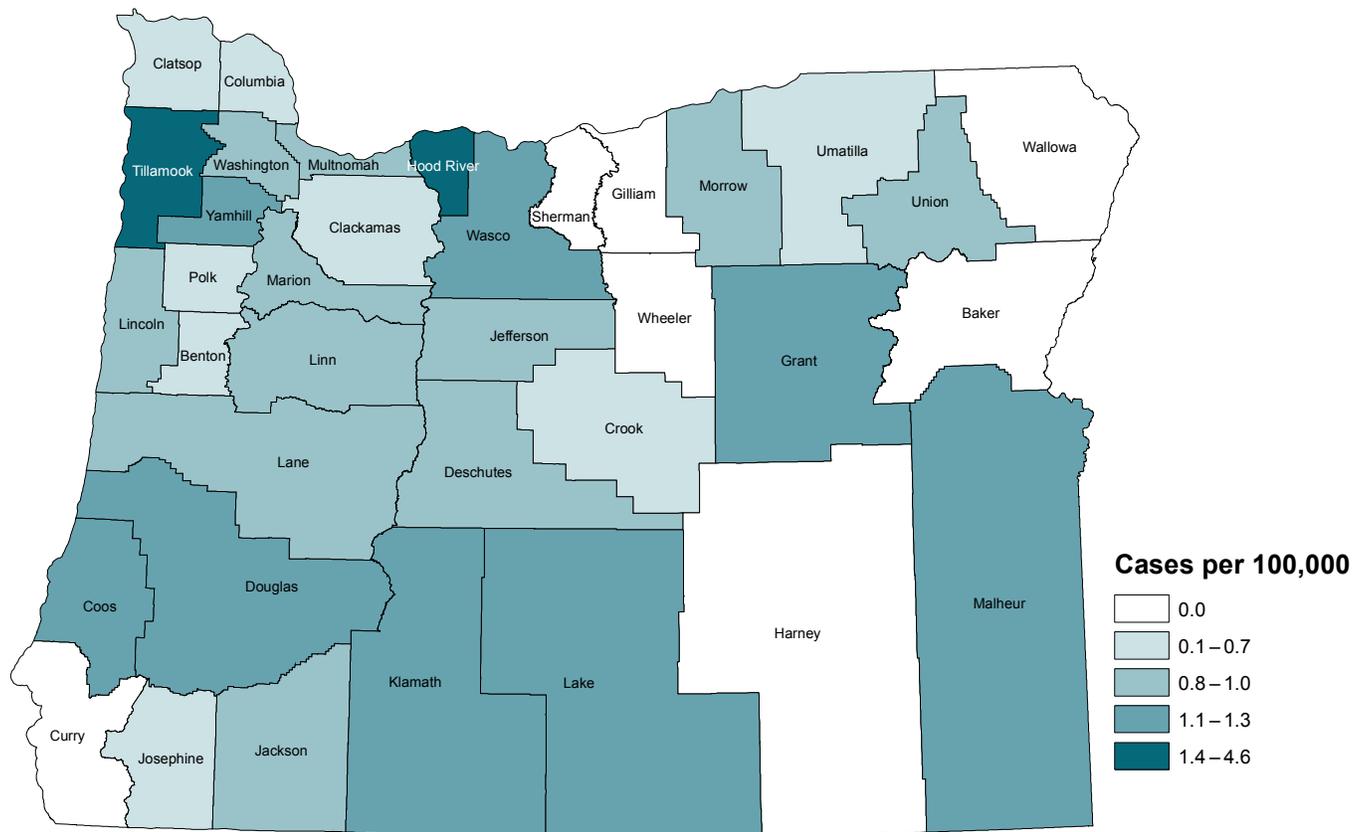
Incidence of hepatitis A by age and sex: Oregon, 2003–2012



Incidence of hepatitis A: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1998–2012



Incidence of hepatitis A by county of residence: Oregon, 2003–2012



Prevention

- Vaccinate children >1 year of age against hepatitis A.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water carefully and frequently, especially after going to the bathroom, after changing diapers, and before preparing food or beverages.
- Supervise hand washing of toddlers and small children after they use the toilet.
- Do not work or attend daycare, serve or prepare food, or work in healthcare while ill with diarrhea.