

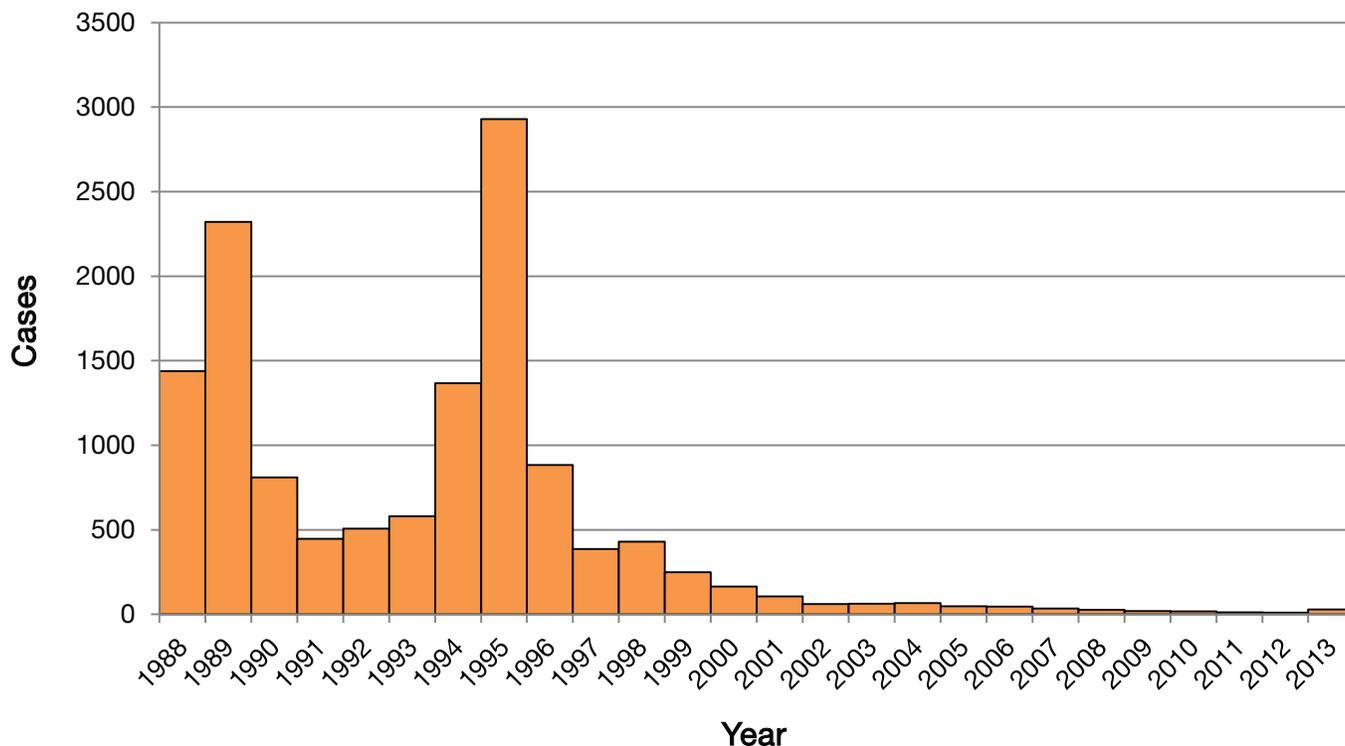
Acute hepatitis A

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 Oregon

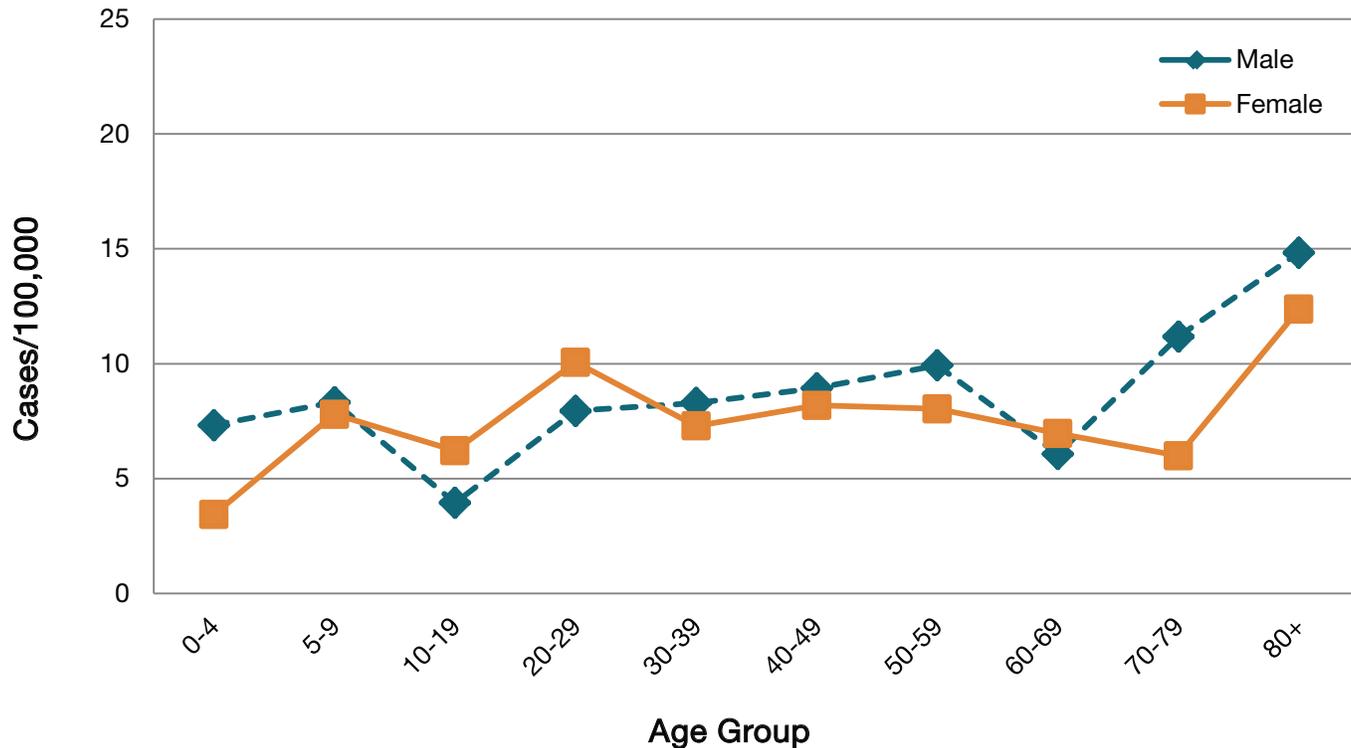
in 2013. The last outbreak of hepatitis A in Oregon occurred in 2006.

In 2013, Oregon logged 29 cases of acute hepatitis A — more than three times the number of cases reported in the previous year. Eight of the 29 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. Seven cases had no identifiable risk for factor hepatitis A. Seventy percent of cases were >40 years of age.

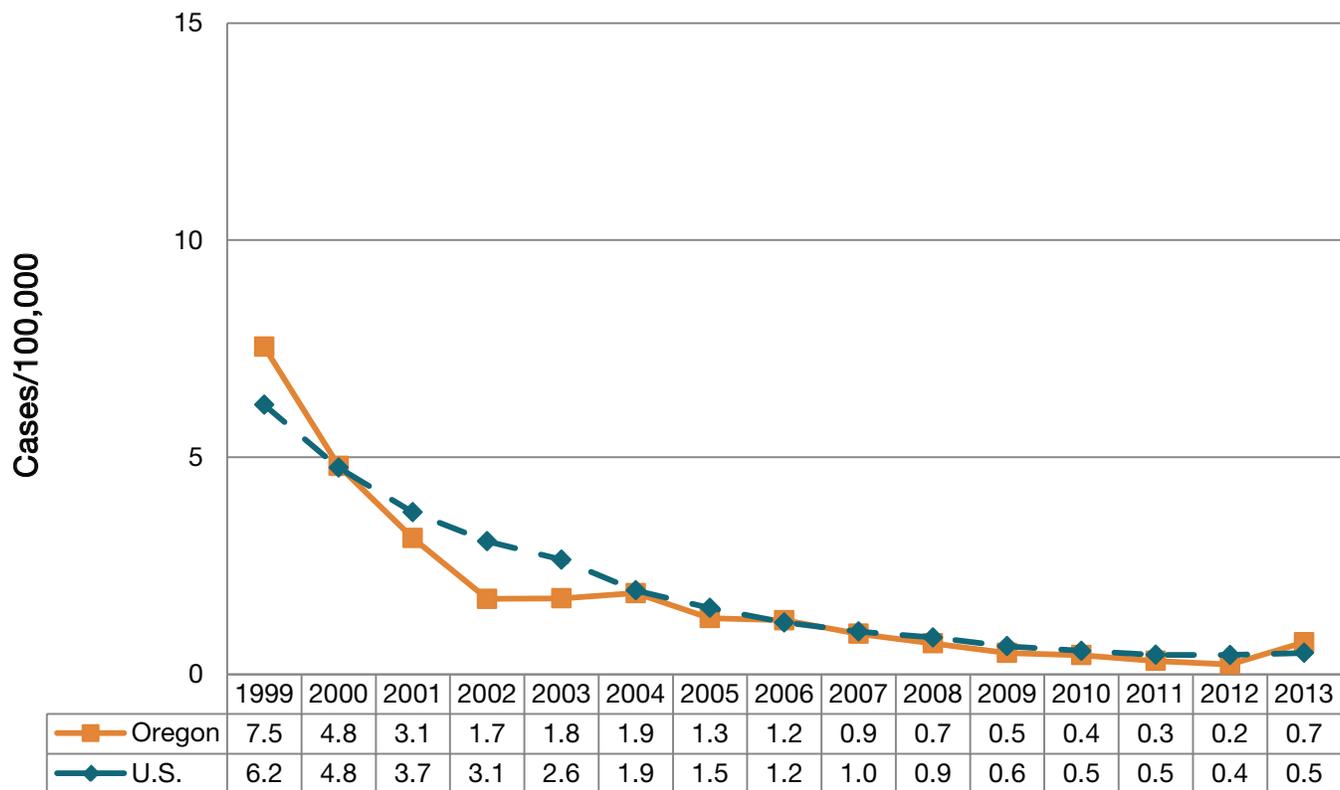
Hepatitis A by year: Oregon, 1988–2013



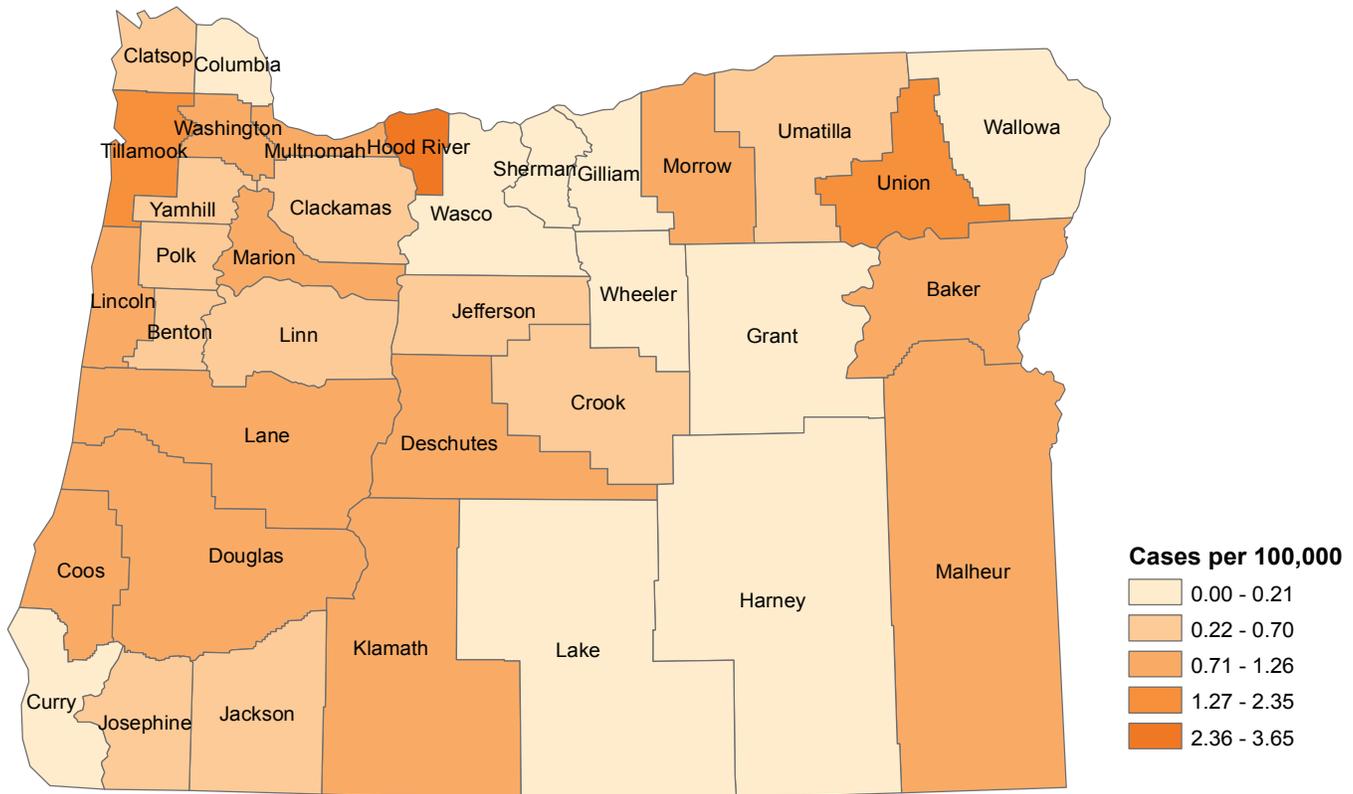
Incidence of hepatitis A by age and sex: Oregon, 2004–2013



Incidence of hepatitis A: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1999–2013



Incidence of hepatitis A by county of residence: Oregon, 2004–2013



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.
- Provide post exposure prophylaxis to close contacts of acute hepatitis cases.