

# Hepatitis C in Indiana, 2021

## Executive Summary Report



### National and State Rates

September 2023

According to the [2021 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report](#) from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national incidence rate of **acute hepatitis C has increased by 129% since 2014** (more than double).<sup>1</sup> After accounting for underreporting and other factors, the CDC estimated 69,800 total acute HCV infections nationally even though there were 5,023 newly reported cases of acute hepatitis C nationally in 2021.<sup>1</sup> Indiana **ranked 9th** in the nation for the highest rates of reported acute hepatitis C infection (state rate is 2.6 cases per 100,000 population, national rate is 1.6 cases per 100,000 population).<sup>1</sup>

A total of **5,000 confirmed and probable cases** of acute, perinatal and chronic hepatitis C were newly reported to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) in 2021 (**73.5 per 100,000 population**).

[Zero is Possible—Indiana \(ZIP-IN\)](#) regions 5 and 10, on the eastern and southeastern side of the state, had the highest rates of HCV in Indiana for 2021 (107.3 and 95.6 per 100,000 population).

### Map of HCV in Indiana

The map on the right shows newly reported cases\* of hepatitis C as rates per 100,000 population. Counties that are blank are suppressed due to unstable rates.

\*Cases include perinatal, acute and chronic with classifications of confirmed and probable. Rates do not include cases identified through IDOC or FCI.

### Risk Exposures

The 2021 top risk factors\* included:

- Having ever used intravenous drugs (**74%**)
- Using street drugs without injecting (**72%**)
- Ever experiencing incarceration (**69%**)
- Having contact with someone living with hepatitis (**48%**)

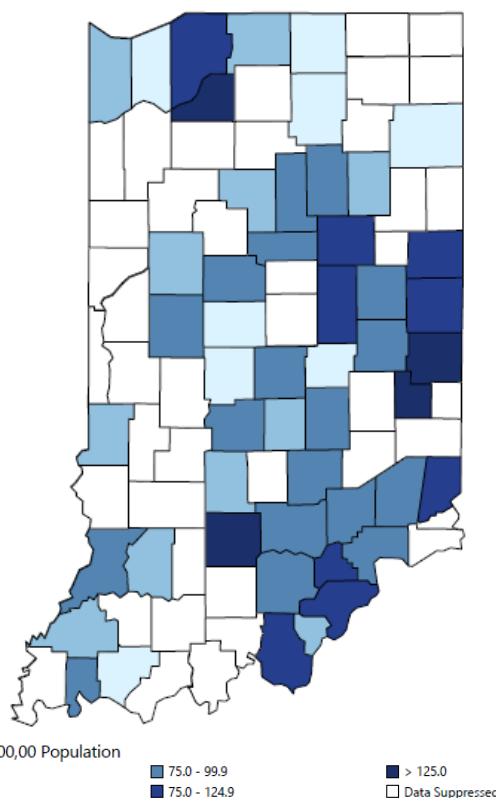
Ever using intravenous drugs was also the highest reported risk factor\* in 2020 (78%) and has remained one of the top two risk factors\* reported since 2013.

\*Removed 'Unknown' or missing responses

### Perinatal HCV

The number of perinatal cases of HCV reported in 2021 (n=199) has **increased 21% nationally** compared to 2020 (n=165).<sup>1</sup> During 2021, Indiana was tied for the **second highest** reported number of perinatal hepatitis C cases (n=15) nationally; however, Indiana's number of reported cases has **decreased since 2018** (n=20).<sup>1</sup>

The CDC [recommends testing for HCV during each pregnancy](#).<sup>2</sup> Treatment before pregnancy is the best means of prevention since treatment during pregnancy is not recommended.



### 2021 Fast Facts

- 179 confirmed acute cases of HCV (2,488 estimated acute cases)  
↓ **26% decrease since 2020**
- 3,605 confirmed chronic cases of HCV  
↑ **9% increase since 2020**
- 7% of newly reported HCV cases in 2021 were identified in Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC)
- 61% of cases were male individuals
- 50% of cases were individuals age 18-39 years  
**Rate per 100,000 population:**
  - Ages 30-39: **170.4**
  - Ages 40-49: **106.0**

## Case Disparities

Despite similar or lower rates of hepatitis C infection, from 2016 to 2021 there was a **12-year gap** reported in average age between **White Hoosiers** (38.8) and **Black Hoosiers** (50.7) at the time of their first reported hepatitis C infection. From 2016 to 2021, the average age of **non-Hispanic** (38) and **Hispanic females** (38.3) at their first reported hepatitis C test was lower compared to **non-Hispanic** (40.8) and **Hispanic males** (41.6). Delayed HCV screening can result in liver disease progression and worse health outcomes. For additional information on health disparities and hepatitis C, view the [hepatitis C infographic](#).

## Age-Adjusted HCV Mortality Rates

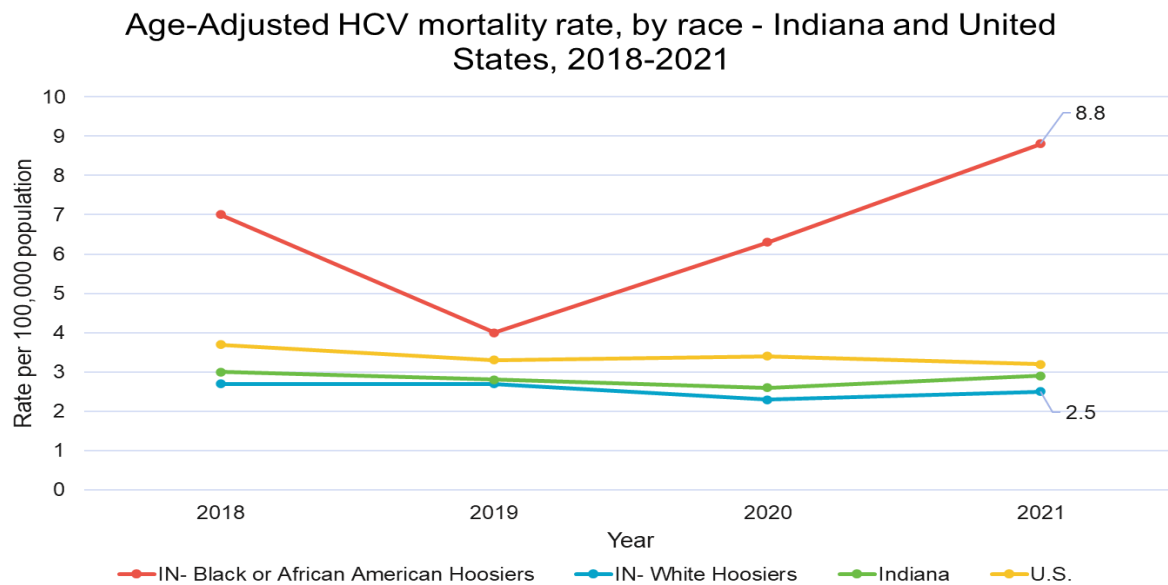
The overall age-adjusted HCV mortality rates in Indiana have consistently remained below the national HCV mortality rates between 2018-2021. This is shown in the graph below.

The age-adjusted HCV mortality rate per 100,000 among **Black Hoosiers** was 8.8. This rate is higher than that of **White Hoosiers** (2.6), and is almost **3 times higher than the national rate**.

Data Source: CDC Wonder

The age-adjusted HCV mortality rate among Black Hoosiers is

**3x** higher than the national mortality rate.



## Get Connected to Cure



The [Connect to Cure Program](#) was launched to support care coordination for Hoosiers living with hepatitis C seeking curative treatment at 19 regional sites across the state. Individuals can visit one of the locations or utilize telehealth services to get prevention and care services, including case management, testing, assistance with insurance enrollment, and linkage to care.

Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report – United States, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2021surveillance/index.htm>. Published August 2023. Accessed August 2023.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Test for Hepatitis C During Every Pregnancy. <https://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis/hcp/Test-For-HepC-During-Pregnancy.htm>. Published May 2021. Accessed August 2023.

For more information on hepatitis C:  
[Surveillance](#) | [Prevention](#) | [Services](#)

