HEPATITIS B AND C IN MISSOURI

2024 Review

CDC Hepatitis Overview

Key Points

- Many people infected with viral hepatitis, a liver disease, do not have symptoms and are unaware of their infection.
- Chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis C can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and even death.
- Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are vaccine-preventable, and hepatitis C can be cured with treatment.[i]

Hepatitis B (HBV)

Background

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that affects the liver as a short-term (acute) illness or a long-term (chronic) illness. People living with HBV may not have any symptoms (asymptomatic) or may experience fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, tiredness, (malaise), dark urine or clay-colored stools, joint pain, loss of appetite, or yellowing skin and eyes (jaundice). Many asymptomatic people do not know they are living with HBV and can pass it on to others. Chronic infections can lead to scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), liver cancer, liver failure, and death. People with chronic HBV can be treated with medications that cause viral suppression and reduce liver damage, but typically they will need to take the medication for life. Chronic HBV is one of the leading causes of liver cancer and a common reason for liver transplants. Treatment for liver cancer can cost over $65,000.[ii] Liver transplants cost over $1 million[iii], plus ongoing costs for lifelong anti-rejection medications.[iv] HBV can be prevented by completing the vaccine series, which can be started at birth.

People get HBV from contact with blood or bodily fluids from an infected person. This can occur through sexual contact; sharing drug equipment such as needles, syringes, straws; or sharing razors or medical equipment such as glucometers. HBV can also be passed to an infant during the birth process (perinatal transmission); or transmitted when health care infection control is not adequate.

Infants born to people with hepatitis B can be given prophylactic treatment at birth to prevent infection.

"Each year up to 1 million people die from hepatitis B despite the fact that it is preventable and treatable." [v]

- It is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV).
- Infection can result in acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term) illness.
- HBV can lead to liver damage, scarring, or cancer.
- Even if they don't have symptoms, people living with HBV can still spread HBV through contact with their blood and bodily fluids. The best way to prevent HBV is by getting vaccinated.
- CDC recommends all adults get tested for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime, using a triple panel test.
- CDC recommends all pregnant women be tested for HBV with each pregnancy.

Hepatitis B in Missouri vs U.S.

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

When reviewing newly reported HBV cases in 2023, including those diagnosed in correctional facilities, Missouri had a lower rate (0.3) for acute HBV compared with the U.S. rate (0.7).[vi] For chronic HBV, Missouri also had a lower rate of 6.0 compared with the U.S. rate of 6.1.[vii] Data for 2024 are not yet available.

"300 million people with chronic hepatitis B are waiting to re-start their lives. This my story of hope." [viii]

Hepatitis B in Missouri 5-year Count Trend

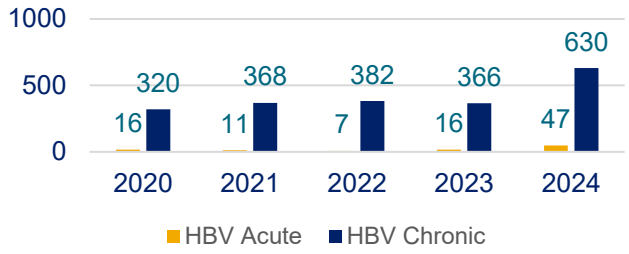
Acute and chronic newly reported cases, 2020-2024

Acute cases of HBV decreased from 2020 to 2022, then statewide case counts increased from 2023 to 2024. Reports of acute HBV increased nearly 3-fold from 16 cases in 2023 to 47 in 2024. Chronic cases have consistently increased since 2020. There was a 72% increase in chronic HBV from 2023-2024, which could be due to a change in the case definition and counting methodology in 2024.

"Hepatitis B is a 'silent epidemic' because most people do not have symptoms…Thus, they unknowingly spread the virus to others and continue the silent spread of hepatitis B." [ix]

Acute and Chronic HBV Case Counts by Year

Year	HBV Acute	HBV Chronic
2020	16	320
2021	11	368
2022	7	382
2023	16	366
2024	47	630



Hepatitis B in 2024, by Age Group

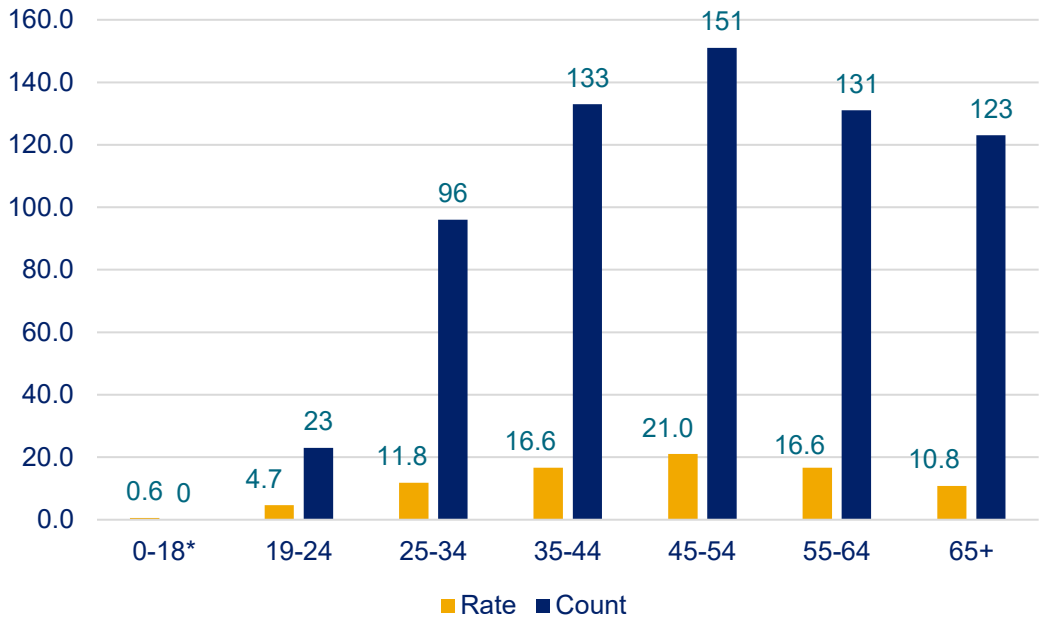
Rates and counts by age group at time of reporting

Age groups 35 to 44; 45 to 54; and 55 to 64 have the highest rates (16.6, 21.0, and 16.6), respectively, and together accounted for 54% of all newly reported cases.

Count and Rates per 100,000 population by Age Group

Age Group	Rate	Count
0-18*	0.6	<20
19-24	4.7	23
25-34	11.8	96
35-44	16.6	133
45-54	21.0	151
55-64	16.6	131
65+	10.8	123

*Rates based on case counts <20 should be considered unreliable.



Hepatitis B in 2024 by Race and Ethnicity

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

Race was categorized as White, Black, and Other. 'Other' race included Asian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native. These were grouped together as other because of small numbers. In 2024, race was reported for 68% of the HBV cases. Race includes all ethnicities. Ethnicity was reported in 196 (29%) of the 2024 cases. Of those, 95% were non-Hispanic.

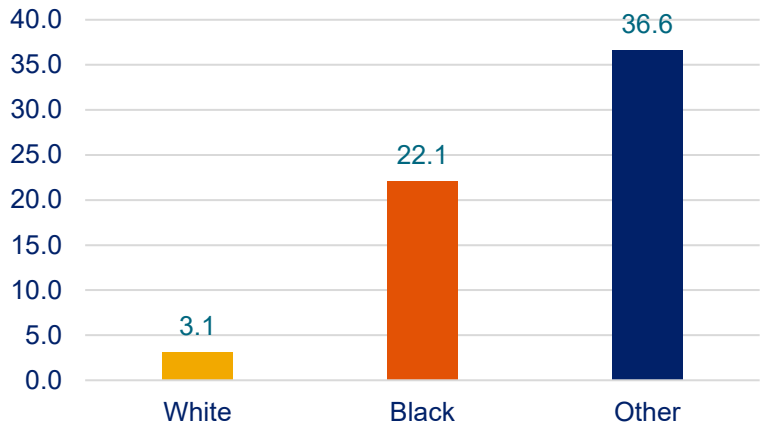
The case counts of HBV were nearly equal in the White population to the Black population; however, the rate of HBV is 7 times higher within the Black population. The rate for "Other" is nearly 12 times that of the White population. Of the 134 cases for which "Other" was reported for race, 77% were classified Asian race, and 7% were classified Pacific Islander. Hepatitis B is prevalent in many Asian countries.

"In 2022, China had the highest number of hepatitis B infections worldwide with 79.7 million cases, followed by India with 29.8 million cases." Hepatitis B is also prevalent in Indonesia (17.5 million), Nigeria (14.4 million), Ethiopia (7.7 million), Bangladesh (7.2 million), Vietnam (6.5 million), Philippines (5.7 million) and Pakistan (3.8 million). [x]

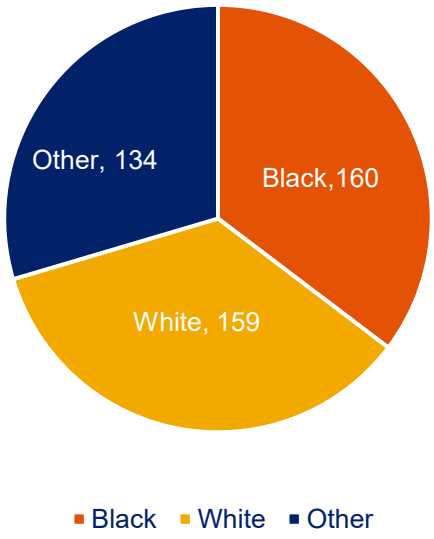
Count and Rates per 100,000 population by Race

Race	Rate	Count
White	3.1	159
Black	22.1	160
Other	36.6	134

Rates



Case Count



Hepatitis B in 2024 by Sex at Birth

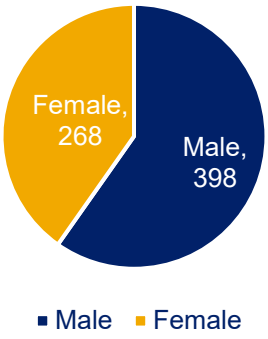
Comparing rates per 100,000 population

Males made up 60% of the newly reported HBV cases in Missouri in 2024.

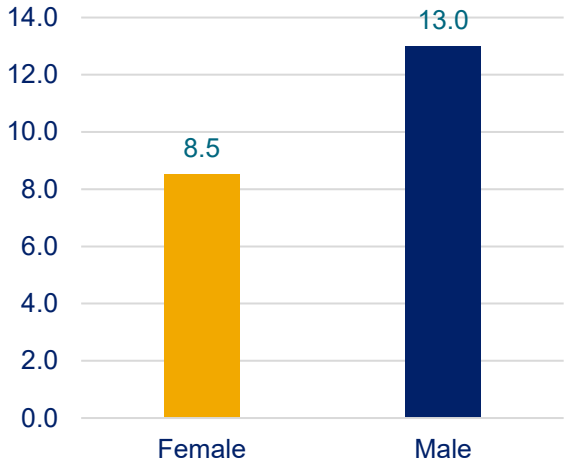
Count and Rates per 100,000 population by Sex

Sex	Rate	Count
Female	8.5	268
Male	13.0	398

Case Count



Rates



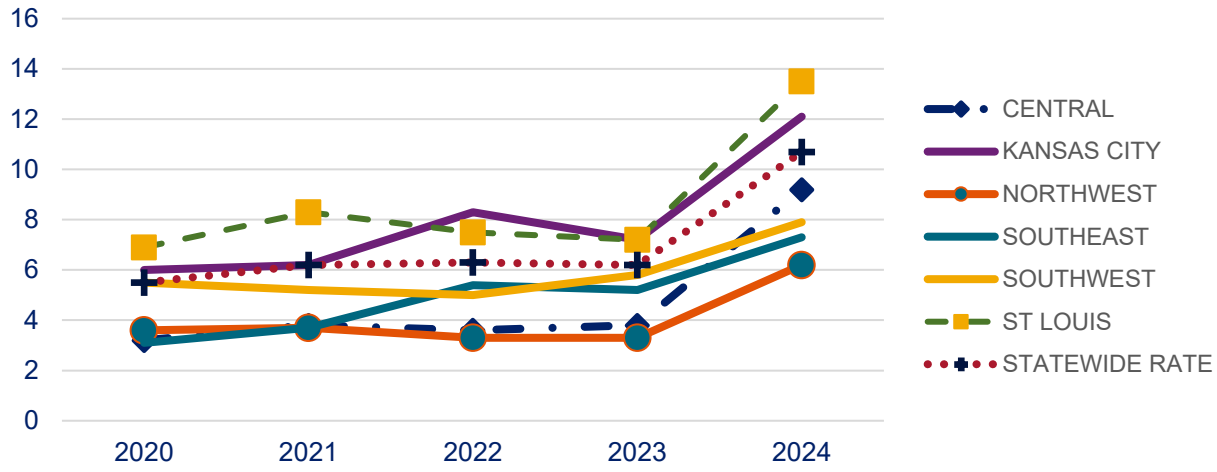
Hepatitis B in 2024 by Region

Comparing rates per 100,000 population by region, 2020-2024

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Hepatitis program uses the same regions and county grouping as the HIV program. From 2023 to 2024, the rates increased in all regions. The rate of increase for each region ranged from 1.3 to 2.4 times the previous year.

5-year Rate Trend of Reported HBV by Region, 2020-2024

Region	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Central	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.8	9.2
Kansas City	6.0	6.2	8.3	7.2	12.1
Northwest	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.3	6.2
Southeast	3.1	3.7	5.4	5.2	7.3
Southwest	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.8	7.9
St. Louis	6.9	8.3	7.5	7.2	13.5
Statewide Rate	5.5	6.2	6.3	6.2	10.7



Hepatitis B in 2024 by Region

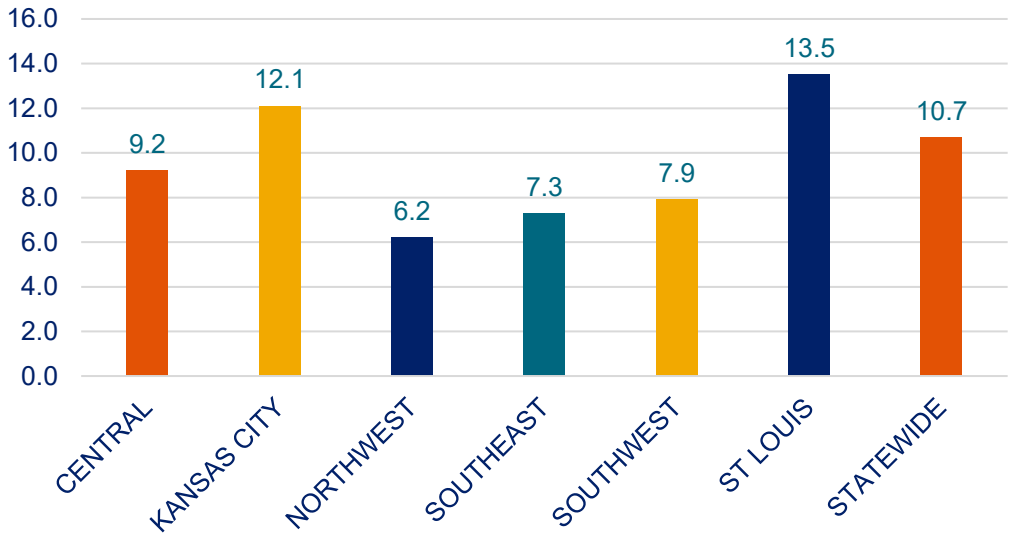
Comparing rates per 100,000 population by region

In 2024, the St. Louis Region had the highest number (286) of new HBV cases reported and the highest rate (13.5 per 100,000 population). This was followed by Kansas City with (155) new cases reported and a rate of 12.1 per 100,000 population.

Rate Trend (rate per 100,000 population)

of Reported HBV by Region, 2024

Region	Rate
Central	9.2
Kansas City	12.1
Northwest	6.2
Southeast	7.3
Southwest	7.9
St. Louis	13.5
Statewide Rate	10.7



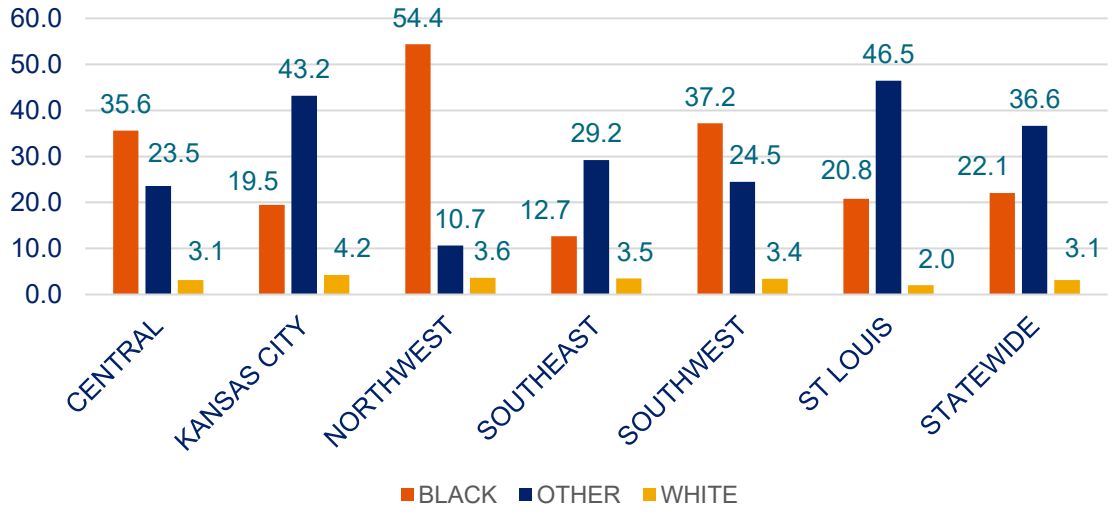
Hepatitis B in 2024 by Region and Race

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

In 2024, 68% of the reported HBV cases included race. The Black population had the highest rates in Central, Northwest and Southwest regions. “Other” race had the highest rates in Kansas City, Southeast, and St. Louis regions.

Rates per 100,000 population of HBV Cases by Region and Race, 2024

Region	Black	Other	White
Central	35.6	23.5	3.1
Kansas City	19.5	43.2	4.2
Northwest	54.4	10.7	3.6
Southeast	12.7	29.2	3.5
Southwest	37.2	24.5	3.4
St. Louis	20.8	46.5	2.0
Statewide Rate	22.1	36.6	3.1



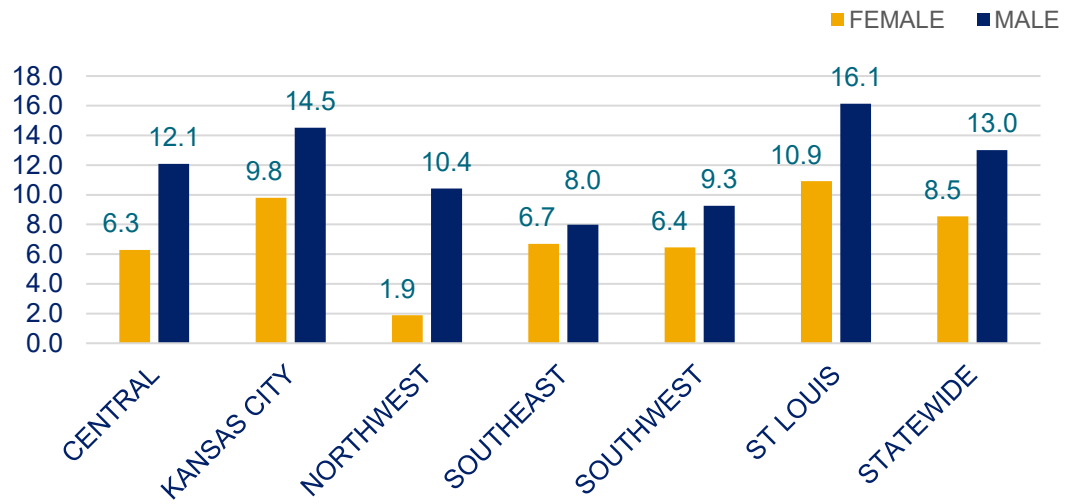
Hepatitis B in 2024 by Region and Sex at Birth

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

In 2024, the highest rates for males were in the St. Louis region (16.1), followed by the Kansas City region (14.5). The highest rates for females were in the St. Louis region (10.9), followed by the Kansas City region (9.8). The statewide rate for males was 13.0 and 8.5 for females.

Rates per 100,000 population of HBV Cases by Region and Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	6.3	12.1
Kansas City	9.8	14.5
Northwest	1.9	10.4
Southeast	6.7	8.0
Southwest	6.4	9.3
St. Louis	10.9	16.1
Statewide Rate	8.5	13.0



Perinatal Hepatitis B

Background

- Perinatal Hepatitis B virus is when HBV transmitted from mother to baby in utero.
- Infants born to people with hepatitis B can be given prophylactic treatment at birth to prevent infection.
- In 2024, there were 70 reported cases of Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive pregnant women in Missouri; 35 among women previously diagnosed with HBV and 35 with new diagnoses.
- No HBV exposures resulted in confirmed perinatal cases.

Regional Hepatitis B Rates, 2024

Central Region

In the Central Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. In 2024, the rates for both sexes were lower than the state's rate: The Central Region's female rate was 6.3 compared to the state's 8.5 whereas the Central Region's male rate was 12.1 compared to the state's 13.0 per 100,000 population Statewide, race was reported in 68% of the HBV cases; Black was the highest racial rate in the Central Region at 35.6, followed by 'Other' at 23.5, and White at 3.1 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were: Other: 36.6, Black: 22.1, and White: 3.1 per 100,000 population.

Central Region HBV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	0.0
19-24	2.3
25-34	7.4
35-44	18.8
45-54	18.2
55-64	14.1
65+	10.6

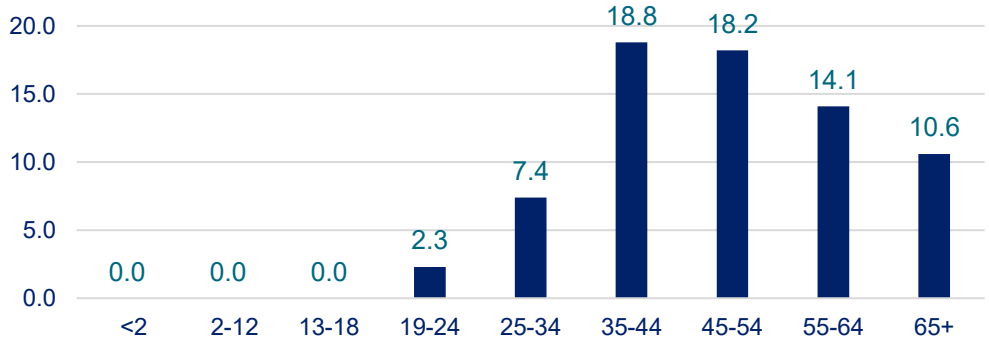
Central Region HBV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	6.3	12.1

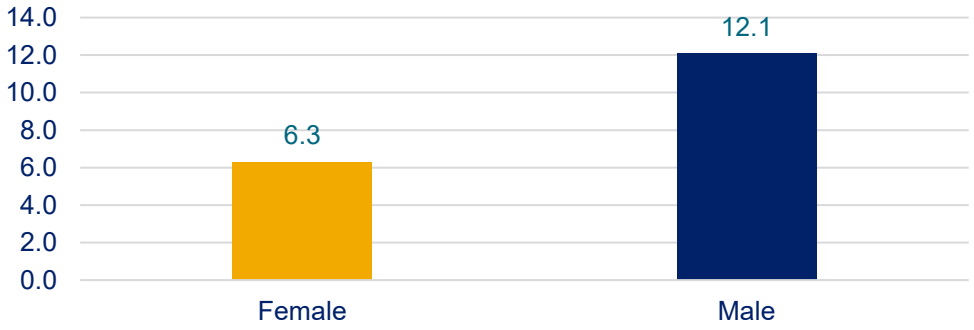
Central Region HBV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
35.6	23.5	3.1

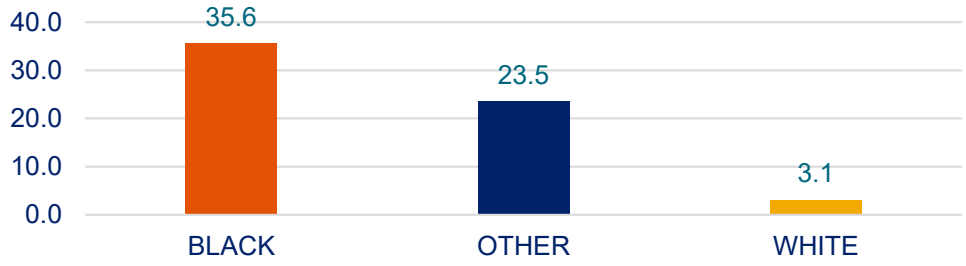
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis B Rates, 2024

Kansas City Region

In the Kansas City Region, the age group with the highest rates was 45 to 54-year-olds. In 2024, the rates for both sexes were higher than the state's rate: Kansas City Region's female rate was 9.8 compared to the state rate of 8.5, whereas the male rate was 14.5 compared to the state rate of 13.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 68% of the HBV cases. The race category for other had the highest rate in the Kansas City Region at 43.2, followed by Black at 19.5, and White at 4.2 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were Other: 36.6, Black: 22.1, and White: 3.1 per 100,000 population.

Kansas City Region HBV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Kansas City	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.6
13-18	0.0
19-24	10.0
25-34	12.5
35-44	16.6
45-54	23.6
55-64	19.8
65+	12.2

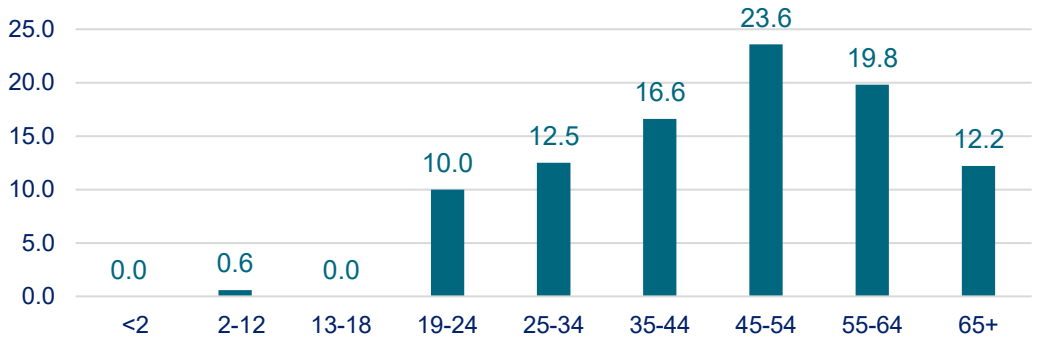
Kansas City Region HBV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Kansas City	9.8	14.5

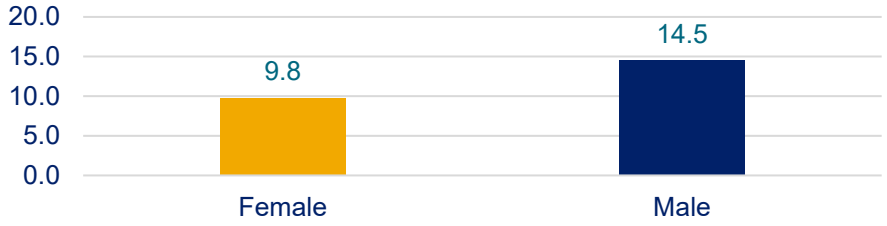
Kansas City Region HBV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
19.5	43.2	4.2

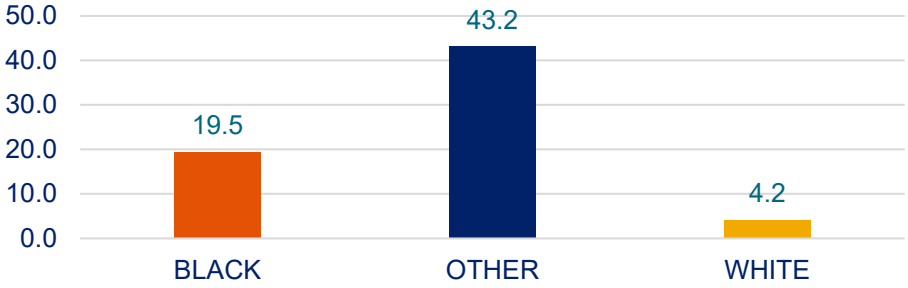
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis B Rates, 2024

Northwest Region

In the Northwest Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. In 2024, the rates for both sexes were lower than the state's rate. The Northwest Region's female rate was 1.9 compared to the state's 8.5, whereas the Northwest male rate was 10.4 compared to the state's 13.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 68% of the HBV cases; Black had the highest racial rate in the Northwest Region at 54.4, followed by Other at 10.7, and White at 3.6 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were Other: 36.6, Black: 22.1, and White: 3.1 per 100,000 population.

Northwest Region HBV Rates by Age Group, 2024

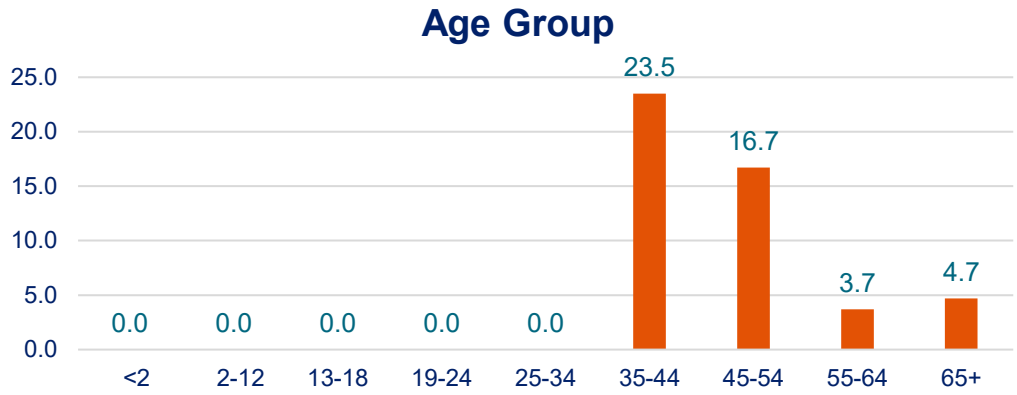
Northwest	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	0.0
19-24	0.0
25-34	0.0
35-44	23.5
45-54	16.7
55-64	3.7
65+	4.7

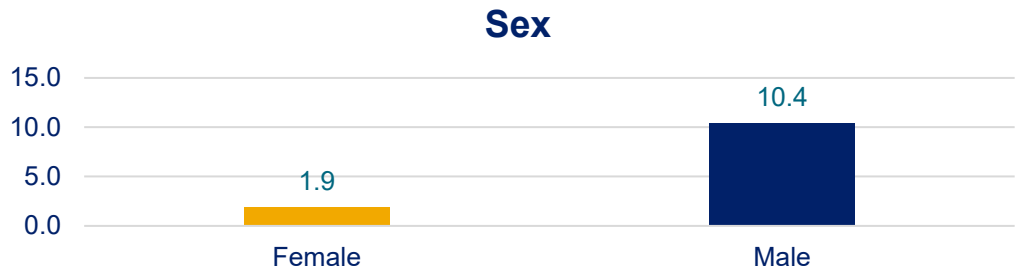
Northwest Region HBV Rates by Sex, 2024

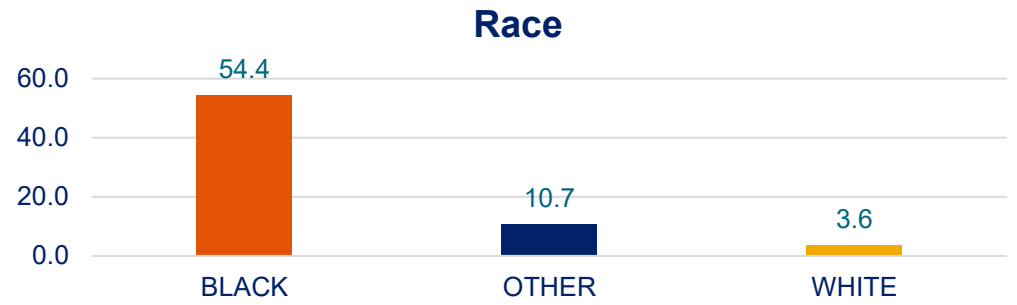
Region	Female	Male
Northwest	1.9	10.4

Northwest Region HBV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
54.4	10.7	3.6


Age Group
25.0
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
0.0
0.0
0.0
0.0
0.0
23.5
16.7
3.7
4.7
<2
2-12
13-18
19-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+


Sex
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
1.9
10.4
Female
Male


Race
60.0
40.0
20.0
0.0
54.4
10.7
3.6
BLACK
OTHER
WHITE

Regional Hepatitis B Rates, 2024

Southeast Region

In the Southeast Region, the age group with the highest rates were 45 to 54-year-olds. In 2024, the rates for both sexes in the Southeast were lower than the state's rate: the Southeast's female rate was 6.7 compared to the state's 8.5, whereas the Southeast's male rate was 8.0 compared to the state's 13.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 68% of the HBV cases; 'Other' race had the highest racial rate in the Southeast Region at 29.2, followed by Black at 12.7, and White at 3.5 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates are Other: 36.6, Black: 22.1, and White: 3.1 per 100,000 population.

Southeast Region HBV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Southeast	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	0.0
19-24	0.0
25-34	1.7
35-44	6.9
45-54	21.1
55-64	19.2
65+	6.4

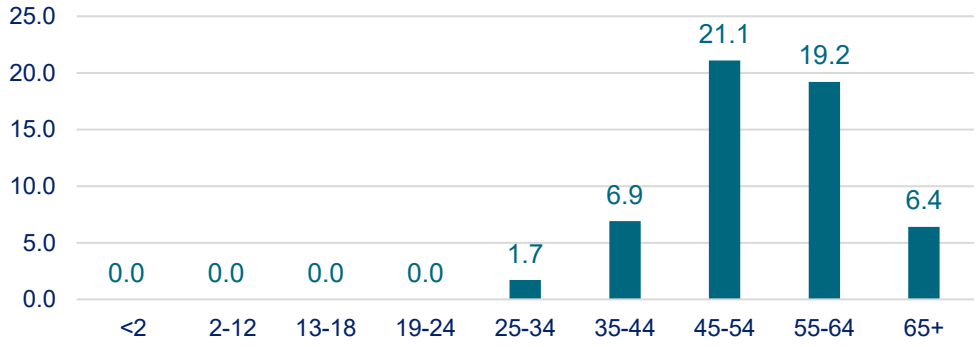
Southeast Region HBV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Southeast	6.7	8.0

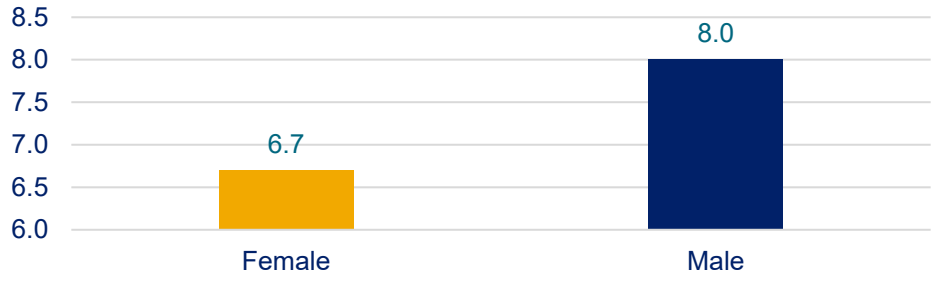
Southeast Region HBV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
12.7	29.2	3.5

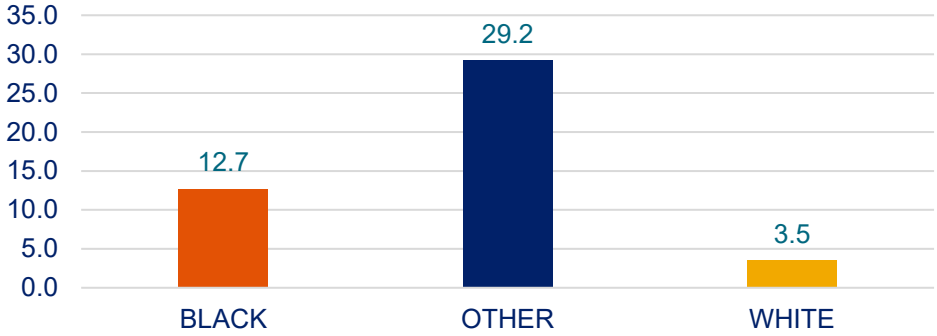
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis B Rates, 2024

Southwest Region

In the Southwest Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. In 2024, the rates for both sexes in the Southwest Region were lower than the state's rate: the Southwest female rate was 6.4 compared to the state's 8.5; whereas the male rate was 9.3 compared to the state's 13.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 68% of the HBV cases. Black was identified as the highest racial rate in the Southwest Region at 37.2, followed by 'Other' at 24.5, and White at 3.4 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates are Other: 36.6, Black: 22.1, and White: 3.1 per 100,000 population.

Southwest Region HBV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Southwest	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	1.0
19-24	4.7
25-34	13.9
35-44	15.6
45-54	13.2
55-64	8.0
65+	6.6

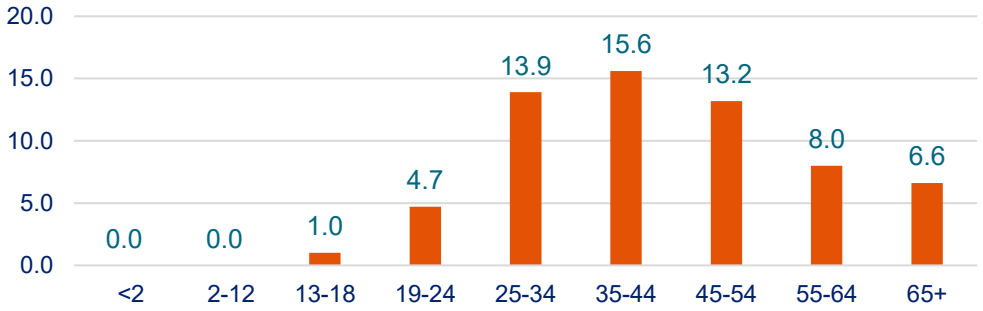
Southwest Region HBV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Southwest	6.4	9.3

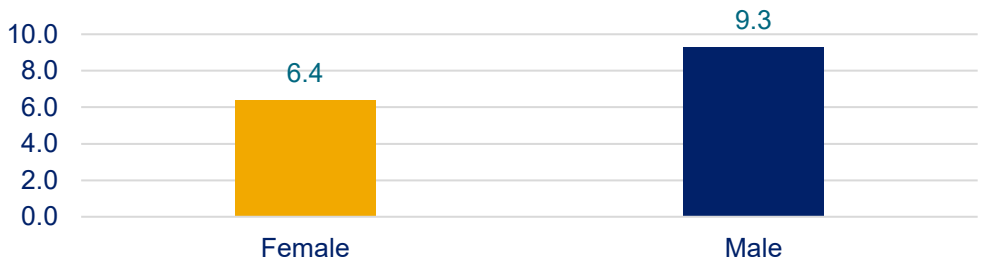
Southwest Region HBV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
37.2	24.5	3.4

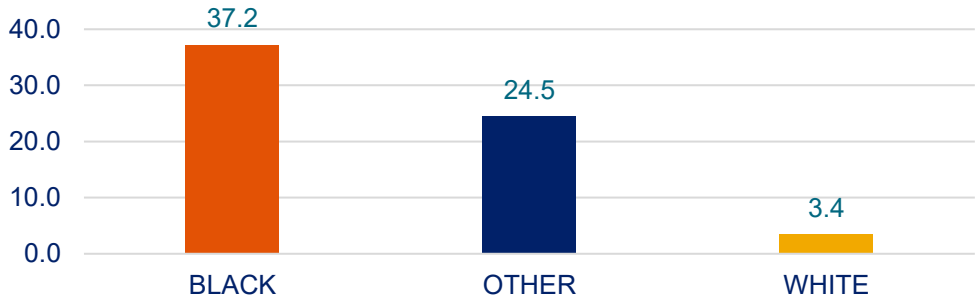
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis B Rates, 2024

St. Louis Region

In the St. Louis Region, the age group with the highest rates was 45-54-year-olds. In 2024, the rates for both sexes were higher than the state's rate: The St. Louis female rate was 10.9 compared to the state's 8.5, whereas the male rate was 16.1 compared to the state's 13.0 per 100,000. Statewide, race was reported in 68% of the HBV cases; 'Other' had the highest racial rate in the St. Louis Region at 46.5, followed by Black at 20.8, and White at 2.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates are Other: 36.6, Black: 22.1, and White: 3.1 per 100,000 population.

St. Louis Region HBV Rates by Age Group, 2024

St. Louis	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	1.1
13-18	2.5
19-24	4.7
25-34	15.0
35-44	17.8
45-54	25.1
55-64	21.1
65+	14.3

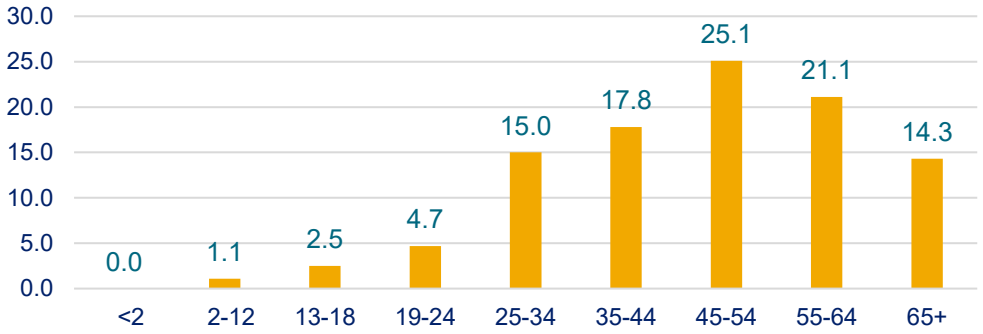
St. Louis Region HBV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
St. Louis	10.9	16.1

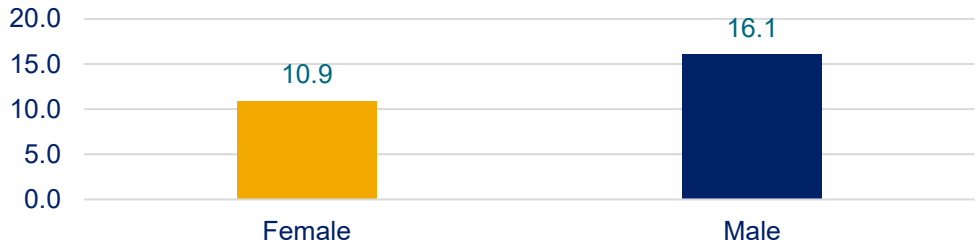
St. Louis Region HBV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
20.8	46.5	2.0

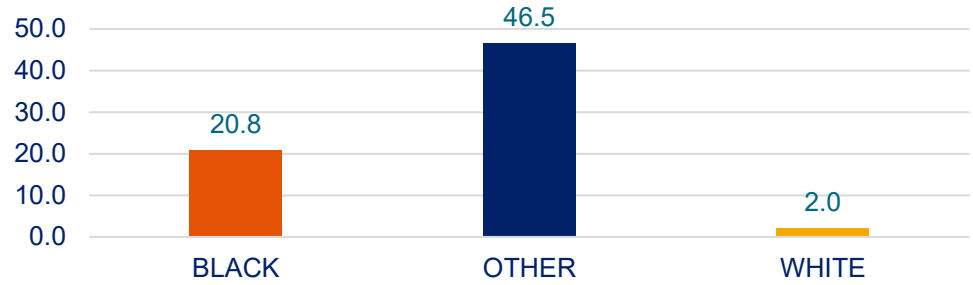
Age Group



Sex



Race



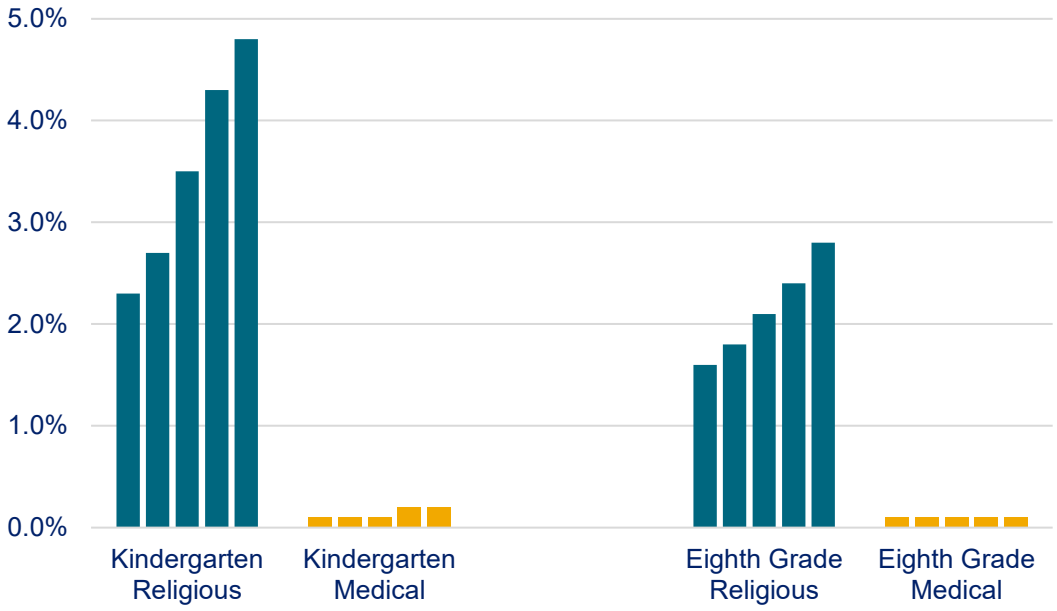
Immunization Exemptions in Missouri Schools

5-year Trend for 2020-2024

Missouri schools require a three-dose HBV vaccine series. From 2020 to 2024, there has been an increase in immunization exemption rates for kindergarten and eighth-grade students. Exemptions were granted for medical and religious reasons, with religious exemptions being the most common among both cohorts.

5-year Trend for Missouri Schools Reported Immunization Exemptions, 2020-2024[xi]

School Years	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Kindergarten Religious	2.3%	2.7%	3.5%	4.3%	4.8%
Kindergarten Medical	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Eighth Grade Religious	1.6%	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%	2.8%
Eighth Grade Medical	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%



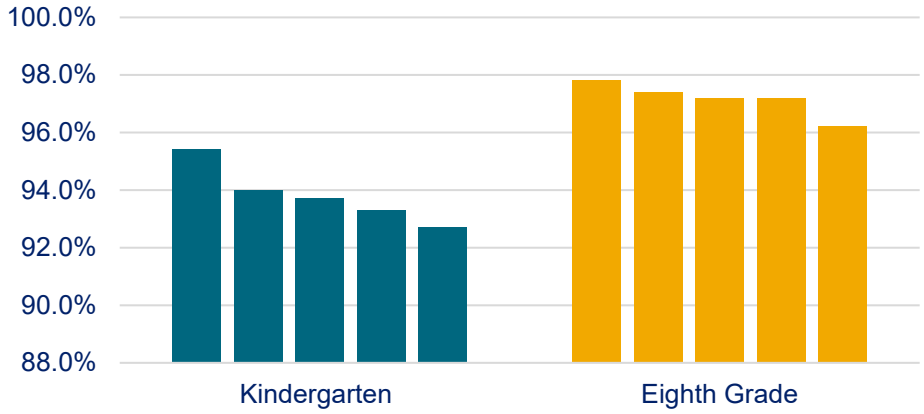
Immunization Rates in Missouri Schools

For Reported Hep B Immunization, 2020-2024

From 2020 to 2024, the number of HBV vaccinations decreased amongst kindergarteners and eighth graders. Missouri requires students to complete a 3-dose HBV series.

5-year Trend for Missouri Schools for Reported Hep B Immunization, 2020-2024[xii]

School Years	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Kindergarten	95.4%	94.0%	93.7%	93.3%	92.7%
Eighth Grade	97.8%	97.4%	97.2%	97.2%	96.2%



Hepatitis B Summary

- In 2024, there were 666 newly reported HBV cases (excluding 11 persons reported while in state or federal correctional facilities). Males accounted for 60% of cases. Age groups 35 to 64 have the highest rates.
- Rates of HBV of the “Other” race is nearly 12 times higher than the White race, with 77% of “Other” being classified as Asian. The rate of the Black population was 7 times higher than for White.
- There was a 9.5% decrease from year 2023 (n=84) to year 2024 (n=76) in reported cases of HBsAg-positive pregnant women.
- There were no confirmed cases of perinatal transmission reported in 2024.
- In 2023-2024 school year in Missouri, 93.6% of students in public schools and 90.7% of students in private schools were fully immunized for hepatitis B. Immunization percentage rates are trending downward since 2020.

Hepatitis C (HCV)

Background

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that affects the liver, as a short-term (acute) or long-term (chronic) illness. People living with HCV may not have any symptoms (asymptomatic) or may experience fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, tiredness (malaise), dark urine or clay-colored stools, joint pain, loss of appetite, or yellow skin (jaundice). Many asymptomatic people do not know they are living with HCV, and don't know they can pass it on to others. Chronic infection can lead to scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), liver cancer, liver failure, and death. Chronic HCV is one of the leading causes of liver cancer and the leading cause of liver transplants. Treatment for liver cancer can cost over $65,000. Liver transplants cost over $1 million, plus ongoing costs for lifelong anti-rejection medications.

People get HCV primarily through direct blood-to-blood contact. It is commonly transmitted by sharing needles or other drug injection equipment; sharing razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers or medical equipment such as glucometers; non-sterile tattoo/piercing equipment; accidental needlestick injuries or exposure to blood in medical settings; receiving tainted blood products or organ transplants prior to 1992; unprotected sex; or passed to an infant during the birth process (perinatal transmission).

There is no vaccine for hepatitis C, however it is curable. Most treatments are 8 to 12 weeks of oral medication, known as direct-acting antiretrovirals (DAAs). Children born to people with hepatitis C should be tested between 2 to 6 months. Infants with detectable hepatitis C virus RNA should be managed in coordination with a health care provider with expertise in pediatric hepatitis C.

In 2023, there were 11,194 reported hepatitis C-related deaths in the United States[xiii]. In 2022, the World Health Organization estimated 242,000 people died from hepatitis C,[xiv] despite the fact that it is treatable.

- Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent HCV.
- Even without symptoms, people living with HCV can still spread HCV through contact with their blood.
- HCV can be cured with oral medication.
- Early treatment can prevent serious complications like liver scarring, liver cancer, or death.
- CDC recommends that all adults be tested for HCV at least once in their lifetime.
- CDC recommends that all pregnant women be tested with each pregnancy.

Hepatitis C in Missouri vs U.S.

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

Including those diagnosed in a correctional facility, Missouri had a lower rate of acute HCV (0.2) than the U.S. (1.5) in 2023. For chronic HCV, Missouri had a higher rate of 55.6 compared to the U.S. rate of 36.2. Data for 2024 is not yet available.

"Hepatitis C was a devastating disease, but because fundamental research was done in hepatitis C, it is now…absolutely curable with new medications." – Laurie Glimcher, Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine [xv]

Hepatitis C in Missouri 5-year Count Trend

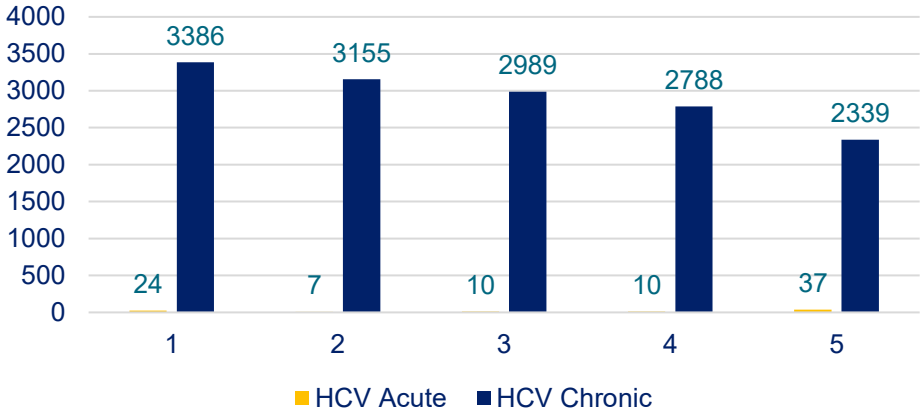
Acute and chronic newly reported cases, 2020-2024

Excluding reports from the state correctional facilities, the statewide case counts for chronic HCV trending downward from 2020 to 2024. New reports of chronic HCV had the highest decrease (16%) from 2023 to 2024. Although chronic HCV reports, acute HCV reports increased nearly 2.7 times from 10 cases in 2023 to 37 in 2024.

"When you think of the costs of cancer care…treatments for hepatitis C, while expensive, overall save money by preventing… hepatocarcinoma in patients." – Laurie Glimcher [xvi]

Acute and Chronic HCV Case Counts by Year

Year	HCV Acute	HCV Chronic
2020	24	3386
2021	7	3155
2022	10	2989
2023	10	2788
2024	37	2339



Hepatitis C in 2024 by Age Group

Rates and counts by age group at time of reporting

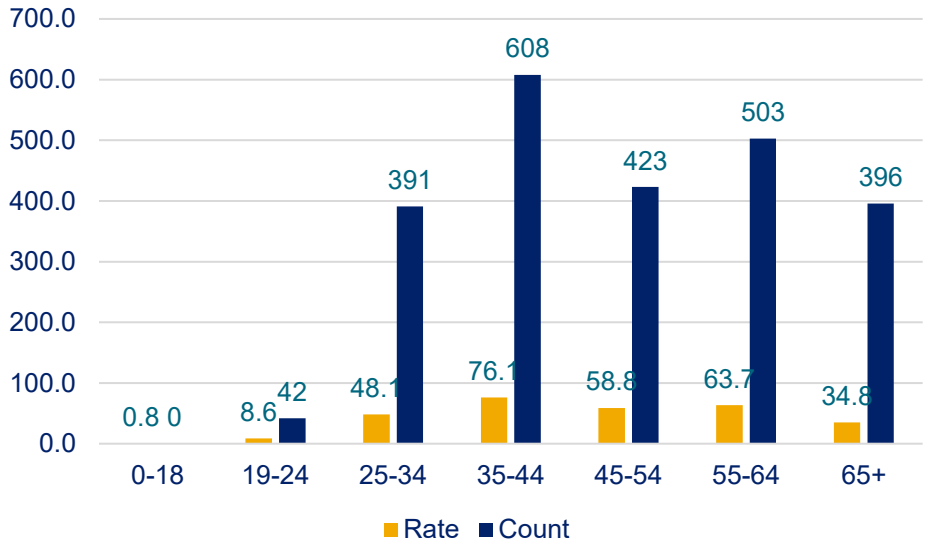
The 35 to 44 age group had the highest rate of 76.1 per 100,000 population and the largest count number (n=608), comprising of 26% of the newly reported cases; followed by the 55-64 group at 63.7 per 100,000 population and count number (n=503) comprising of 21% of newly reported cases.

"In the United States, it is estimated that more than 3.2 million Americans are infected with chronic hepatitis C compared to about 1.2 million who are estimated to be infected with HIV." [xvii]

Count and Rates per 100,000 population by Age Group

Age Group	Rate	Count
0-18*	0.8	<20
19-24	8.6	42
25-34	48.1	391
35-44	76.1	608
45-54	58.8	423
55-64	63.7	503
65+	34.8	396

*Rates based on case counts <20 should be considered unreliable.



Hepatitis C in2024, by Race and Ethnicity

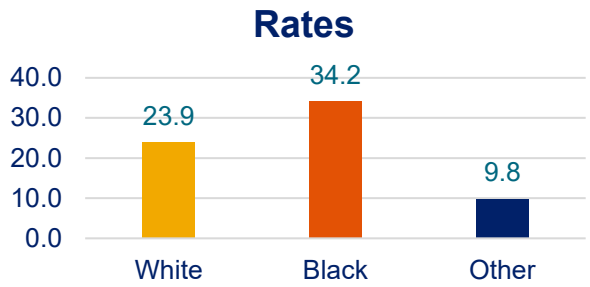
Comparing rates per 100,000 population

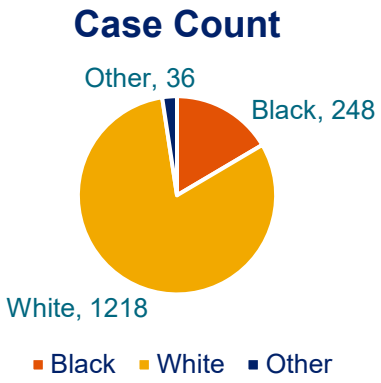
Race was categorized by White, Black, and 'Other', with 'Other' being defined as multi-racial, Asian, Indian Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native. These were grouped together as other because of small numbers. Race was reported for 1502 (63%) of the HCV cases in 2024 and includes all ethnicities. In 2024, ethnicity was known for 506 (24%) of the cases. Of those, 96% were non-Hispanic.

While the case counts of HCV were 4.9 times higher in the White population (1218) compared to the Black population (248), the rate of HCV is 1.4 times higher within the Black population. Other, 17% were identified as multi-race, 25% were Asian, 19% were classified Asian Indian, and 39% fell into "other race".

Count and Rates per 100,000 population by Race

Race	Rate	Count
White	23.9	1218
Black	34.2	248
Other	9.8	36





Hepatitis C in Missouri by Sex at Birth

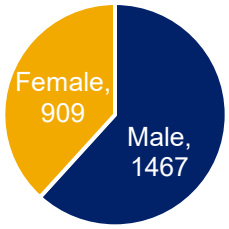
Comparing rates per 100,000 population

Males made up 62% of the newly reported HCV cases in Missouri in 2024.

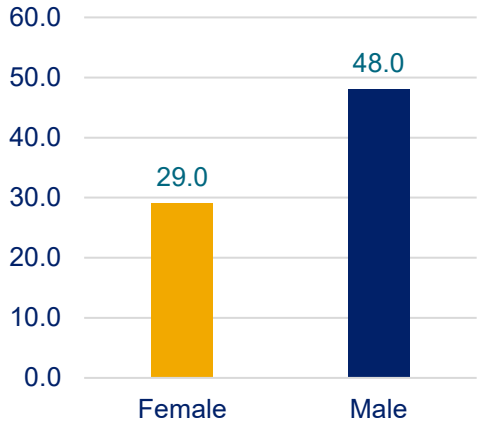
Count and Rates per 100,000 population by Sex

Sex	Rate	Count
Female	29.0	909
Male	48.0	1467

Case Count



Rates



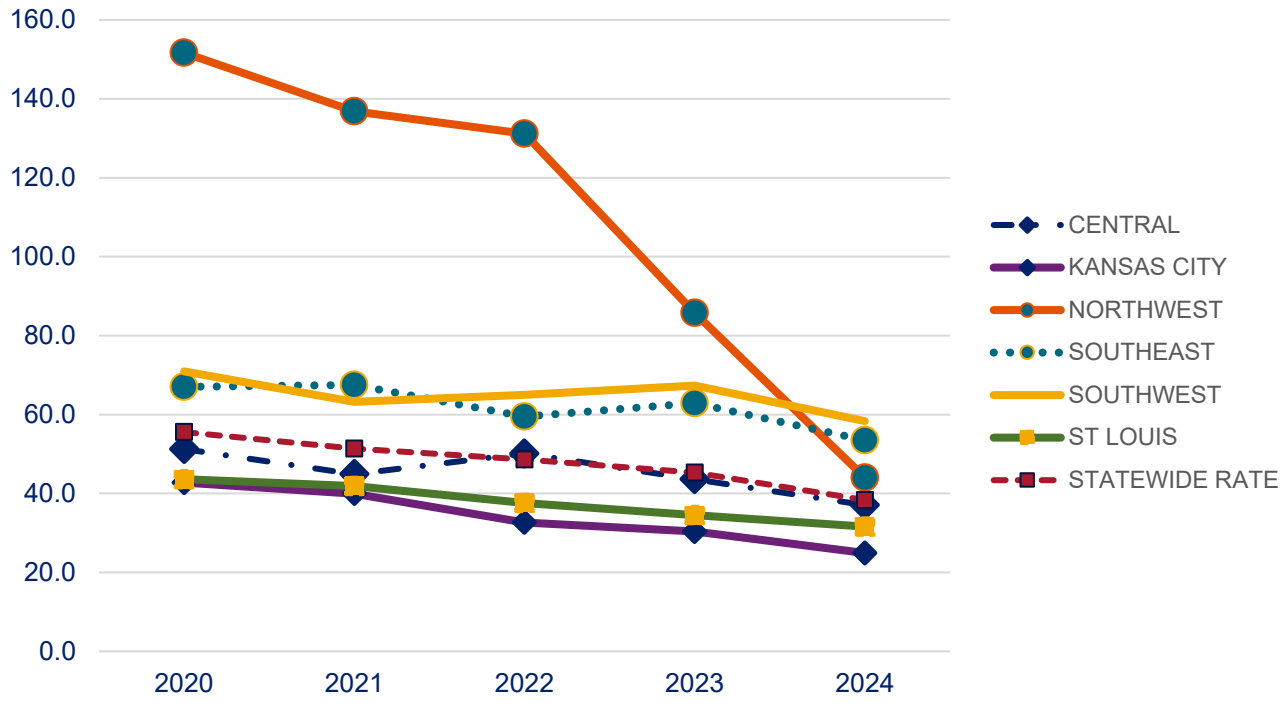
Hepatitis C in Missouri by Region

Comparing rates per 100,000 population by region, 2020-2024

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Hepatitis program uses the same regions and county grouping as the HIV program. Since 2020, hepatitis C rates of newly reported cases have declined for all regions.

5-year Rate Trend of Reported HCV by Region, 2020-2024

Region	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Central	51.2	44.9	50.1	43.6	37.1
Kansas City	42.8	39.9	32.7	30.3	24.9
Northwest	151.7	136.8	131.1	85.8	44.0
Southeast	67.0	67.5	59.5	62.9	53.5
Southwest	70.9	63.2	65.0	67.4	58.4
St. Louis	43.6	41.9	37.6	34.5	31.6
Statewide Rate	55.6	51.4	48.6	45.3	38.3



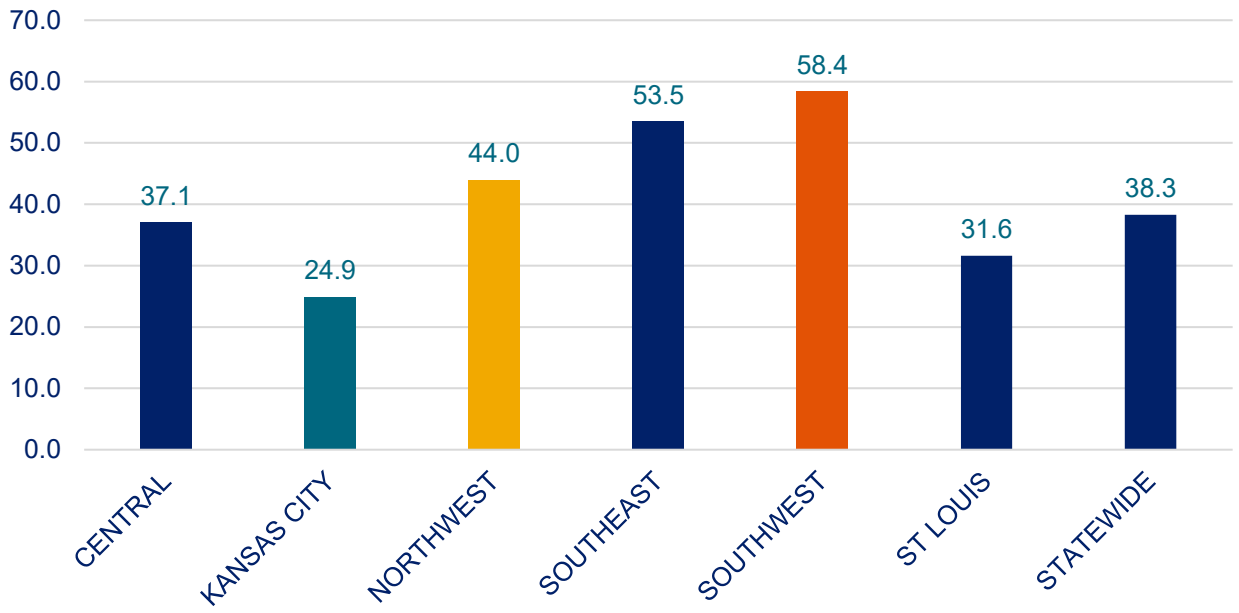
Hepatitis C in 2024 by Region

Comparing rates per 100,000 population by region

St. Louis and Southwest regions had the highest number of new HCV cases reported in 2024, at 672 and 706, respectively. However, the rate of the Southwest region, 58.4 per 100,000 population, is nearly 2 times higher than that of St. Louis, 31.6 per 100,000. The Southwest region has the highest rate amongst the state's regions. Note: The region is based on an individual's residence at the time of reporting. These rates do not include cases diagnosed in correctional facilities.

Reported HCV Rate by Region, 2024

Region	Rate
Central	37.1
Kansas City	24.9
Northwest	44.0
Southeast	53.5
Southwest	58.4
St. Louis	31.6
Statewide Rate	38.3



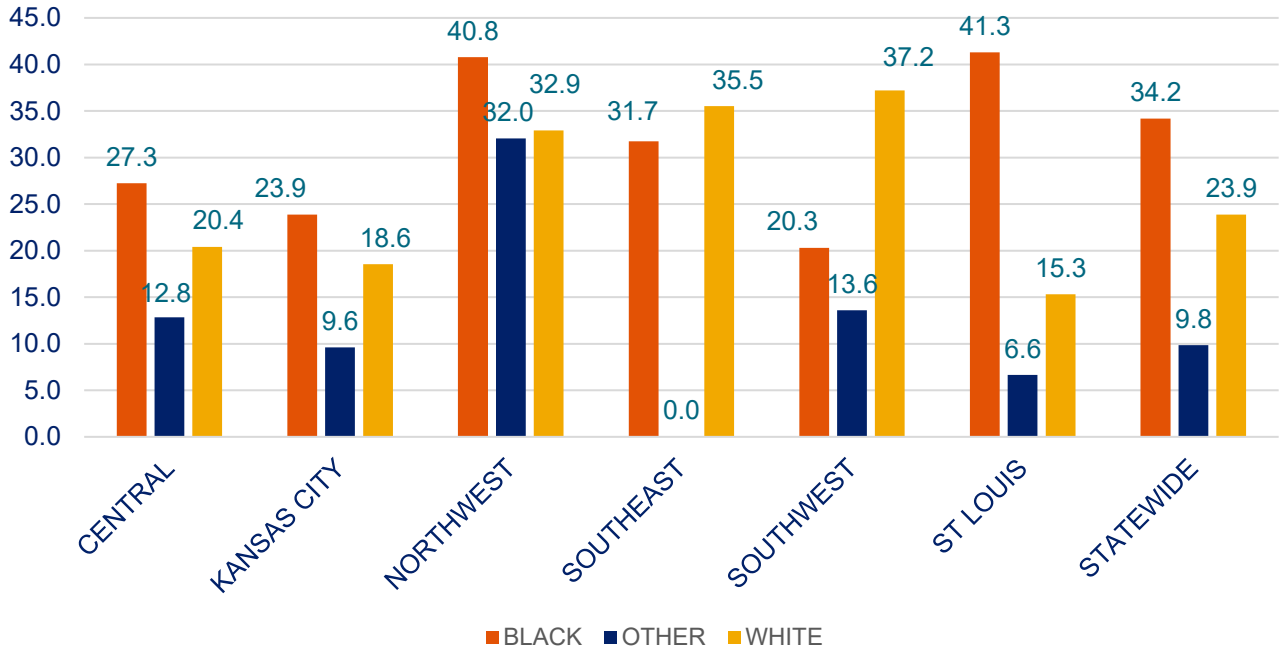
Hepatitis C in 2024 by Region

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

In 2024, 63% of the reported HCV cases included race. Of those identified, 81% (1218 out of 1502) cases were White. The HCV rate in the Black population was highest in most regions, except in the Southeast and Southwest regions where the White racial rates were the highest. In the Northwest, rates of HCV were higher in all races compared to the State's rate.

Rates of Newly Reported HCV Cases by Region & Race, 2024

Region	Black	Other	White
Central	27.3	12.8	20.4
Kansas City	23.9	9.6	18.6
Northwest	40.8	32.0	32.9
Southeast	31.7	0.0	35.5
Southwest	20.3	13.6	37.2
St. Louis	41.3	6.6	15.3
Statewide Rate	34.2	9.8	23.9



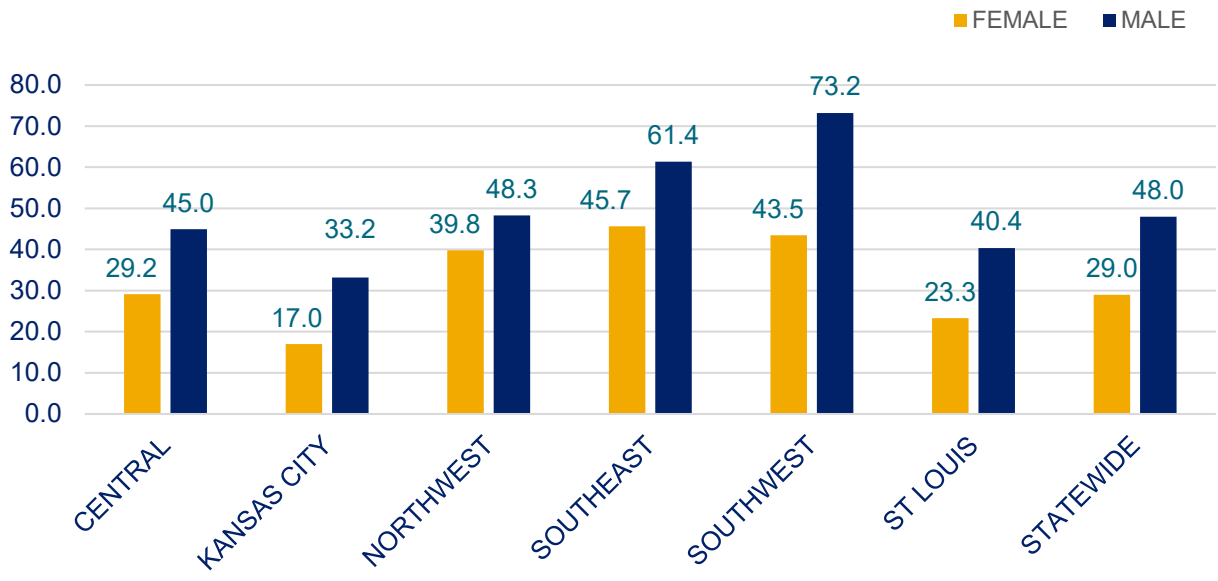
Hepatitis C in 2024 by Region and Sex at Birth

Comparing rates per 100,000 population

In 2024, the highest rate of HCV in males was in the Southwest region (73.2), followed by the Southeast region (61.4). The highest rates of females were in the Southeast region (45.7), followed by the Southwest region (43.5). The statewide rates in males were 48.0 and 29.0 for females.

Rates of Newly Reported HCV Cases by Region & Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	29.2	45.0
Kansas City	17.0	33.2
Northwest	39.8	48.3
Southeast	45.7	61.4
Southwest	43.5	73.2
St. Louis	23.3	40.4
Statewide Rate	29.0	48.0



Regional Hepatitis C Rates, 2024

Central Region

In the Central Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. In the Central Region by sex, the female rate was 29.2, slightly higher than the state rate of 29.0. The male rate was 45.0, which was lower than the state rate of 48.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 63% of the HCV cases. Black was identified as having the highest racial rate in the Central Region at 27.3, followed by White at 20.4, and Other at 12.8 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were Black: 34.2, White: 23.9, and Other: 9.8 per 100,000 population.

Central Region HCV Rates by Age Group, 2024

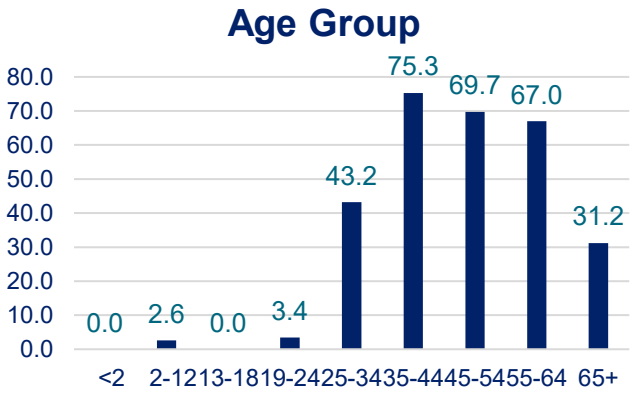
Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	2.6
13-18	0.0
19-24	3.4
25-34	43.2
35-44	75.3
45-54	69.7
55-64	67.0
65+	31.2

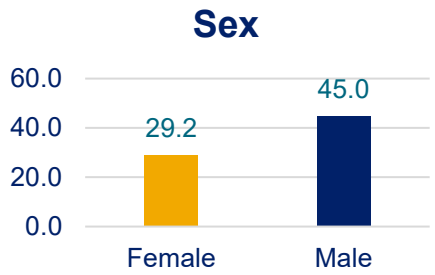
Central Region HCV Rates by Sex, 2024

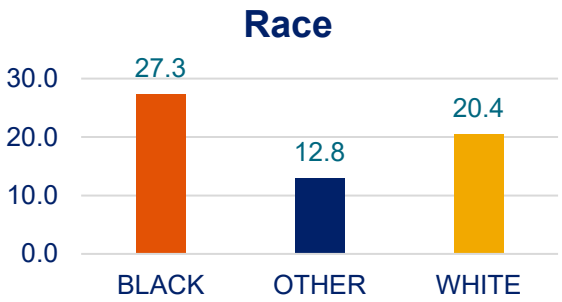
Region	Female	Male
Central	29.2	45.0

Central Region HCV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
27.3	12.8	20.4


Age Group
80.0
70.0
60.0
50.0
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
0.0
2.6
0.0
3.4
43.2
75.3
69.7
67.0
31.2
<2
2-12
13-18
19-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+


Sex
60.0
40.0
20.0
0.0
29.2
45.0
Female
Male


Race
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
27.3
12.8
20.4
BLACK
OTHER
WHITE

Regional Hepatitis C Rates, 2024

Kansas City Region

In the Kansas City Region, the age group with the highest rates was 55 to 64-year-olds. In the Kansas City Region, the female and male rates were both lower than the state's rate. The female rate was 17.0 compared to the state's rate of 29.0 per 100,000, whereas the male rate was 33.2 to the state's rate of 48.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 63% of the HCV cases. Black was identified as the highest racial rate in the Kansas City Region at 23.9, followed by White at 18.6, and Other at 18.6 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were Black: 34.2, White: 23.9, and Other: 9.8 per 100,000 population.

Kansas City Region HCV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	1.0
19-24	5.5
25-34	24.5
35-44	33.1
45-54	32.7
55-64	53.6
65+	35.8

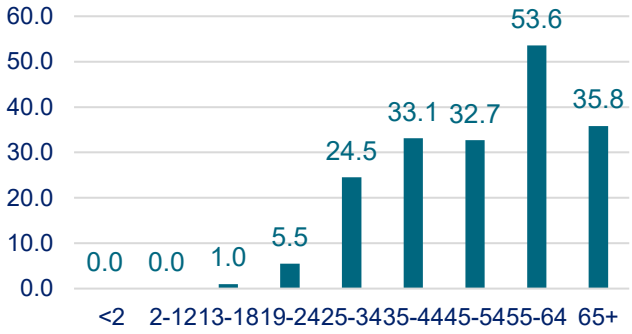
Kansas City Region HCV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	17.0	33.2

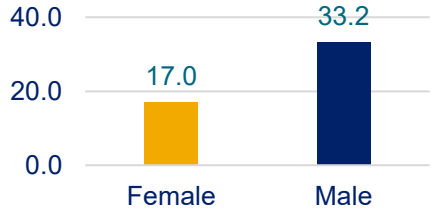
Kansas City Region HCV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
23.9	9.6	18.6

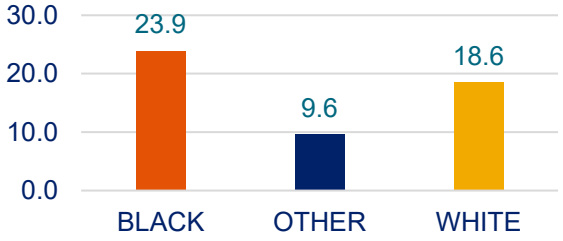
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis C Rates, 2024

Northwest Region

In the Northwest Region, the age group with the highest rates was the 35 to 44-year-olds. In the Northwest, both the female and male sex had higher rates of HCV compared to the state's rate by sex. The rate in females in the Northwest was 39.8 compared to the state rate of 29.0 per 100,000; whereas the male rate was 48.3, which is slightly higher than the state rate of 48.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 63% of the HCV cases; Black was identified as the highest racial rate in the Northwest Region at 40.8, followed by White at 32.9, and Other at 32.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were Black: 34.2, White: 23.9, and Other: 9.8 per 100,000 population.

Northwest Region HCV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	6.0
19-24	11.3
25-34	83.2
35-44	94.1
45-54	75.2
55-64	55.1
65+	28.4

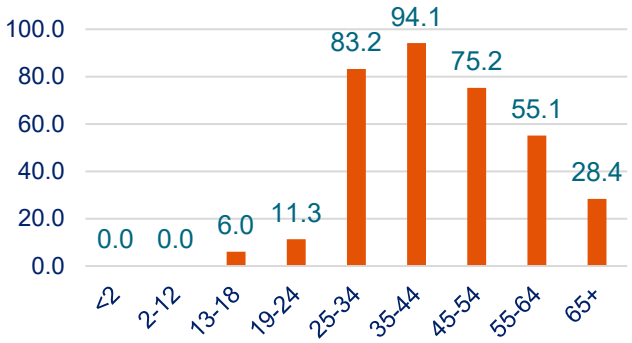
Northwest Region HCV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	39.8	48.3

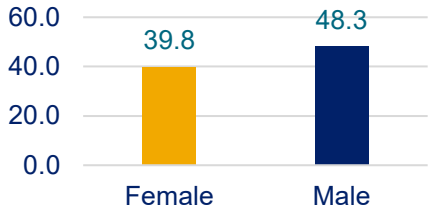
Northwest Region HCV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
40.8	32.0	32.9

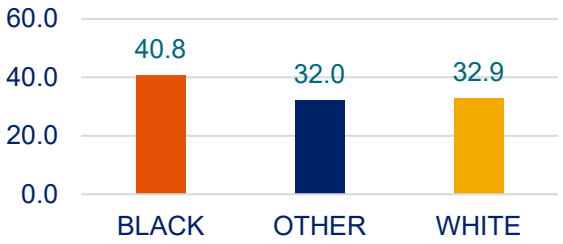
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis C Rates, 2024

Southeast Region

In the Southeast Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. The rate of HCV in the Southeast was higher in both sexes, compared to the state's rate per sex. The female rate was 45.7 compared to the state rate of 29.0; and the male rate was 61.4 compared to the state rate of 48.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 63% of the HCV cases. White was identified as having the highest racial rate in the Southeast Region at 35.5, followed by Black at 31.7 per 100,000 population. The rate of HCV in the 'Other' race was 0.0. Statewide rates are Black: 34.2, White: 23.9, and Other: 9.8 per 100,000 population.

Southeast Region HCV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	3.1
13-18	0.0
19-24	11.2
25-34	62.2
35-44	120.8
45-54	82.7
55-64	108.6
65+	30.1

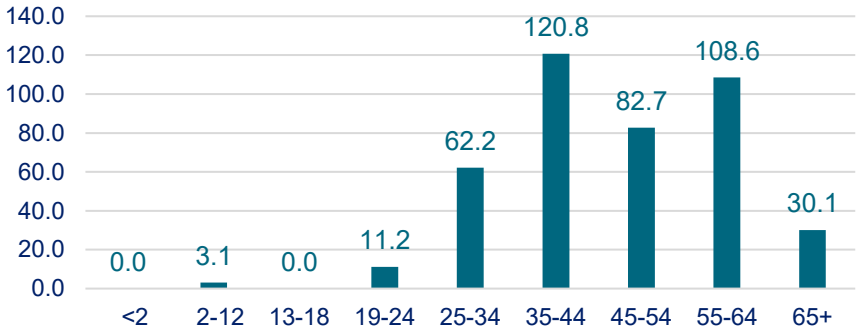
Southeast Region HCV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	45.7	61.4

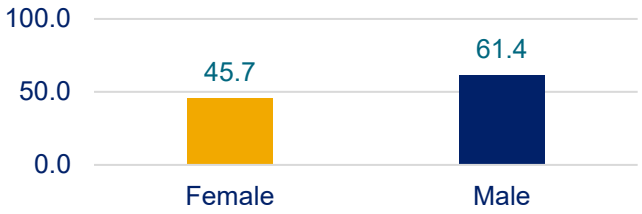
Southeast Region HCV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
31.7	0.0	35.5

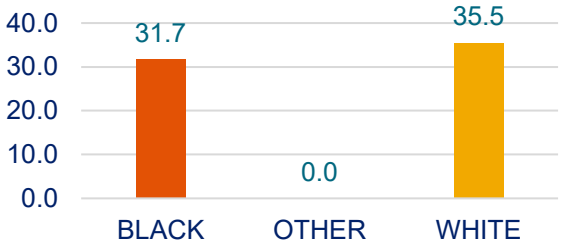
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis C (HCV) Rates, 2024

Southwest Region

In the Southwest Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. In the southwest the case rate of HCV was higher in both female and male sexes compared to the state's rate by sex. The HCV rate in females in the Southwest was 43.5 compared to the state rate of 29.0; whereas the rate of males was 73.2 to the state's 48.0 per 100,000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 63% of the HCV cases. White was identified as the highest racial rate in the Southwest Region at 37.2, followed by Black at 20.3, and Other at 13.6 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates were Black: 34.2, White: 23.9, and Other: 9.8 per 100,000 population.

Southwest Region HCV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.0
13-18	2.0
19-24	12.3
25-34	86.0
35-44	135.3
45-54	92.9
55-64	95.9
65+	39.5

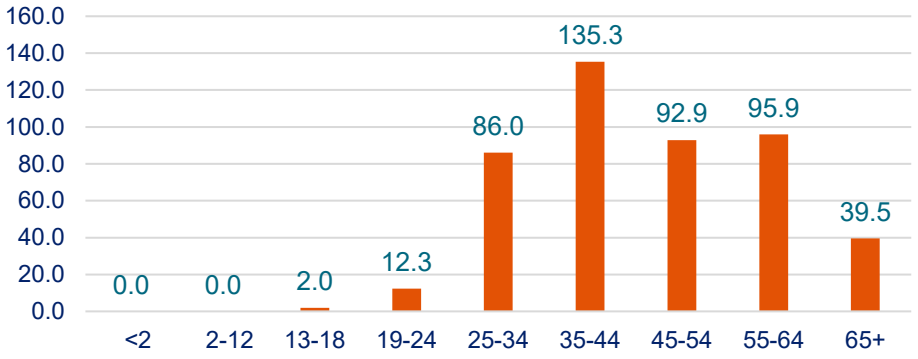
Southwest Region HCV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	43.5	73.2

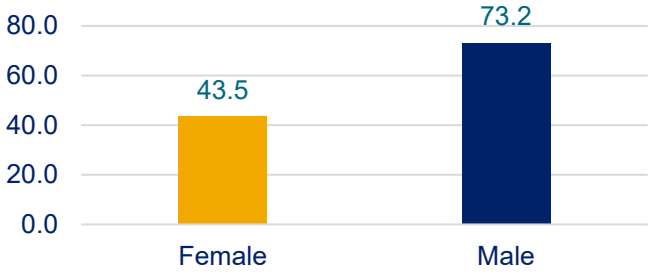
Southwest Region HCV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
20.3	13.6	37.2

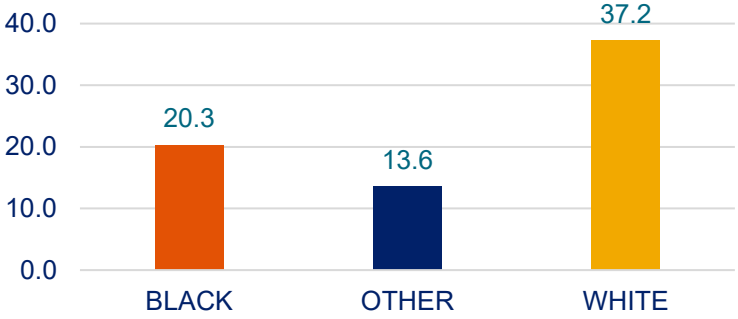
Age Group



Sex



Race



Regional Hepatitis C (HCV) Rates, 2024

St. Louis Region

In the St. Louis Region, the age group with the highest rates was 35 to 44-year-olds. In St. Louis the female and male rates of HCV by sex were lower than the state's rate. The female rate was 23.3; compared to the state rate of 29.0 per 100,000 population, whereas the male rate was 40.4 to the state's 48.0 per 100,0000 population. Statewide, race was reported in 63% of the HCV cases. In St. Louis, Black was identified as the highest racial rate of HCV by race at 41.3, followed by White at 15.3, and Other at 6.6 per 100,000 population. Statewide rates are Black: 34.2, White: 23.9, and Other: 9.8 per 100,000 population.

St. Louis Region HCV Rates by Age Group, 2024

Central	Rate
<2	0.0
2-12	0.7
13-18	0.6
19-24	10.1
25-34	39.2
35-44	61.6
45-54	44.7
55-64	41.6
65+	35.0

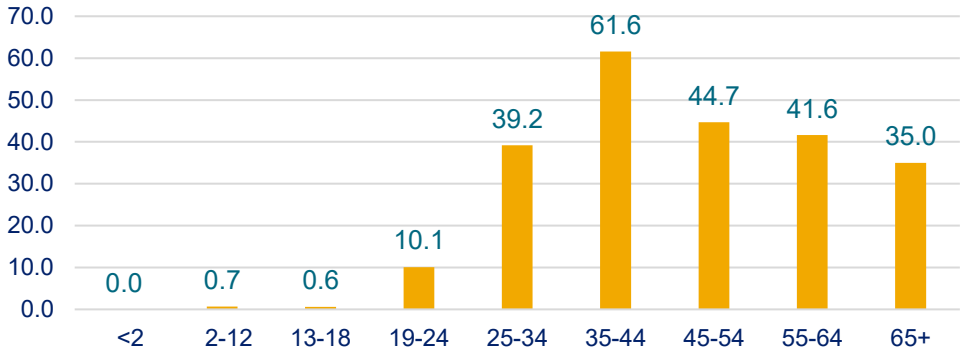
St. Louis Region HCV Rates by Sex, 2024

Region	Female	Male
Central	23.3	40.4

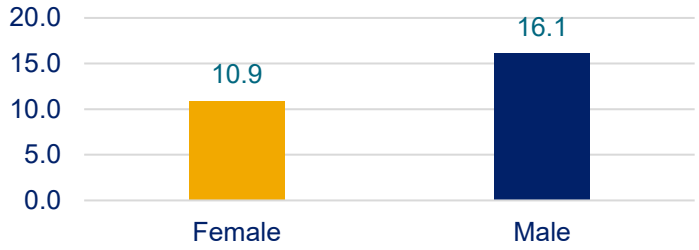
St. Louis Region HCV Rates by Race, 2024

Black	Other	White
41.3	6.6	15.3

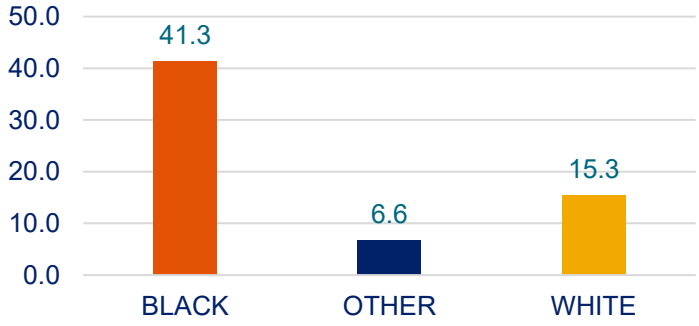
Age Group



Sex



Race



Statewide Correctional Data*, 2024

Acute and Chronic HCV case counts

Only counts, not rates, can be determined for the correctional population, because the total number is constantly changing. In 2024, there were 516 cases of acute and chronic hepatitis C diagnosed in correctional facilities located in Missouri. This accounted for 18% of the total number (n=2892) of newly reported HCV cases in Missouri in 2024. The age group with the highest count was 35 to 44-year-olds (n=183), followed by 25 to 34-year-olds (n=165). There were 105 females and 411 males newly diagnosed in 2024. Race was reported for 80% of this population with White being the highest reported race count at 360, followed by Black at 44, and Other at 11.

Correctional Data Counts by Sex, 2024

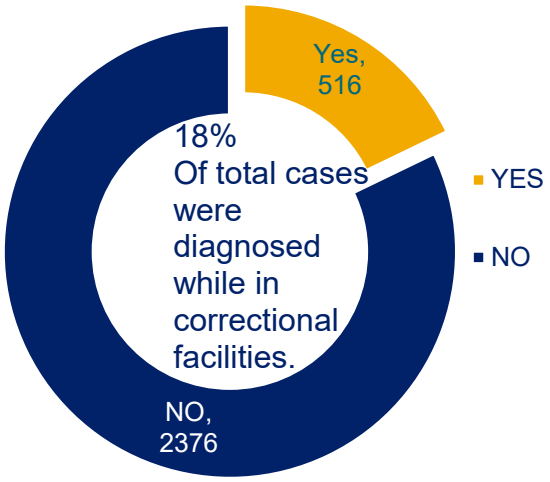
Region	Female	Male
Central	105	411

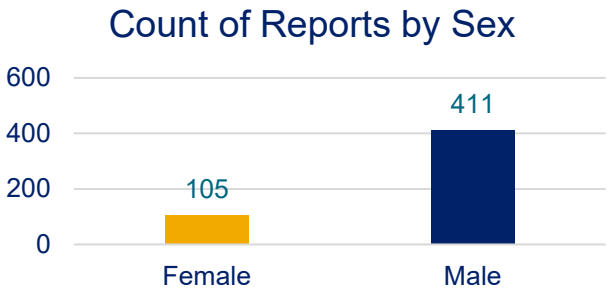
Correctional Data Counts by Race, 2024

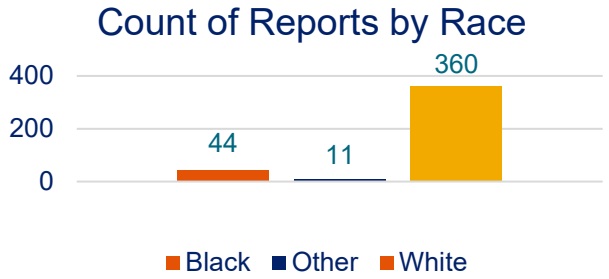
Black	Other	White
44	11	360

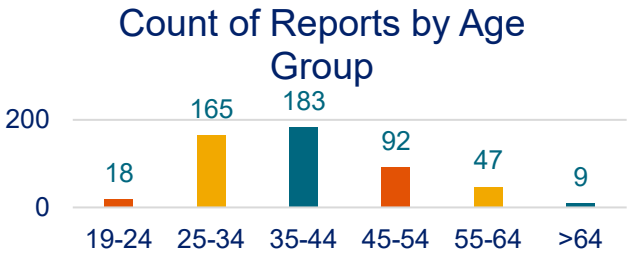
Correctional Data Counts by Age Group, 2024

Central	Counts
<19	<5
19-24	18
25-34	165
35-44	183
45-54	92
55-64	47
65+	9


Yes, 516
NO, 2376
18% Of total cases were diagnosed while in correctional facilities.
YES
NO


Count of Reports by Sex
600
400
200
0
105
411
Female
Male


Count of Reports by Race
400
200
0
44
11
360
Black
Other
White


Count of Reports by Age Group
200
0
18
165
183
92
47
9
19-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
>64

Hepatitis C Summary

- In 2024, there were 2,868 newly reported HCV cases. 2,376 (82%) were Missouri residents, and 516 (18%) cases were diagnosed while in correctional facilities.
- Males accounted for 62% of cases.
- Age group 35 to 44 have the highest count (n=608) and rate (76.1 per 100,000 population).
- Race was reported for 63% of cases. Case counts for the White population were 4.9 times higher than the Black population; however, the rate of the Black population was 1.4 times higher than the White population (34.2 per 100,000 and 23.9 per 100,000, respectively).
- Rates for "Other" race was nearly 12 times higher than the White population, with 77% of "Other" classified as Asian.
- Ethnicity was reported in 24% of cases (n=560), 96% identified as non-Hispanic.
- For region by race, the Black population had the highest rates, except in the Southeast and Southwest regions, where the White population had the highest rate.
- The Southwest Region had the highest number of new reports (n=706) and the highest rate of 58.4 per 100,000 population.
- According to the latest data available from CDC for year 2023, the United States acute HCV rate (1.5 per 100,000 population) was 7.5 times greater than the Missouri rate of 0.2 per 100,000 population, making Missouri the second-lowest rate of acute HCV in the nation. However, Missouri ranked 12th highest in rates for newly reported chronic HCV (55.6 per 100,000 population). This was 1.5 times greater than the U.S. chronic HCV rate (36.2 per 100,000 population).
- There were no cases of perinatal Hepatitis C identified in 2024.

Technical Notes

- In many instances, the first report of HBV or HCV infection does not occur until several years after the initial infection, so, at best, the trends in reported cases can only approximate actual trends in new infections.
- The data presented in this report are current as of publication. However, the data may differ from previous reports as new information is received. Limitations to data collection do exist, such as incomplete race, ethnicity, and risk information and underreporting. Missouri currently lacks the capacity to conduct investigations into all viral hepatitis conditions, which affects the collection of risk factors and associated data.
- Rates have been calculated per 100,000 population. Unless otherwise noted, the denominator for calculating rates is based on the population data extracted from the Missouri Information for Community Assessment (MICA) for the period reported. The numerator is the number of cases reported during the period. This number is divided by the population estimate and multiplied by 100,000. Rates where the numerator is less than 20 cases should be interpreted with caution due to unreliability.
- Case counts and rates exclude persons reported while in state or federal correctional facilities, unless otherwise noted.
- Age categories are based upon age at the time of reporting.
- Race data excludes those with unknown or missing racial categories.
- Sex is based on gender assigned at birth.
- Region is based on an individual's residence at the time of reporting and aligns with HIV Care Regions. State and county of diagnosis do not change even if a person moves to a different county or out-of-state.

Resources

- Missouri Viral Hepatitis Epidemiological Profile, 2017 – 2021.

Data Sources

- *Hepatitis Case Data Source*: WebSurv pulled 8/27/2025 for confirmed acute and chronic hepatitis cases.
- Population Data Source: MICA. Population pulled 11/04/2025, updated 11/04/2025. Missouri's population was estimated at 6,196,156 in 2023.

Hepatitis B (HBV)

- Hepatitis B, acute (historical version) 2012 Case Definition | CDC
- Hepatitis B, chronic (historical version) 2012 Case Definition | CDC
- Hepatitis B, Perinatal Infection 2017 Case Definition | CDC
- Figure 2.2 – Acute Hepatitis B: Case Rates by Jurisdiction | 2023 Hepatitis Surveillance | CDC
- Table 2.5 – Chronic Hepatitis B: Case Rates by Jurisdiction | 2023 Hepatitis Surveillance | CDC

Hepatitis C (HCV)

- Hepatitis C, Acute 2020 Case Definition | CDC
- Hepatitis C, Chronic 2020 Case Definition | CDC
- Figure 3.2 – Acute Hepatitis C: Case Rates by Jurisdiction | 2023 Hepatitis Surveillance | CDC
- Table 3.5 – Chronic Hepatitis C: Case Rates by Jurisdiction | 2023 Hepatitis Surveillance | CDC

Latest Revision 2/24/2026

Endnotes

[i] Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "Viral Hepatitis Basics – Key Points", accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/about/index.html#:~:text=Key%20points&text=Untreated%2C%20viral%20hepatitis%20can%20lead,medications%20can%20cure%20hepatitis%20C.

[ii] UT Southwestern Medical Center, "Liver cancer treatment costly for Medicare patients", accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/newsroom/articles/year-2023/january-liver-cancer-treatment.html

[iii] Statista, "Average amount charged for select organ transplantations in the U.S. as of 2025", accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.statista.com/statistics/808471/organ-transplantation-costs-us/

[iv] NIH, National Library of Medicine, James and Mannon, "The Cost of Transplant Immunosuppressant Therapy: Is This Sustainable?", accessed February 25, 2026, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4520417/#:~:text=The%20average%20reported%20cost%20of,$14%2C000%20per%20patient%20(3).

[v] Hepatitis B Foundation, "What is Hepatitis B?", accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.hepb.org/what-is-hepatitis-b/what-is-hepb/

[vi] CDC, 2023 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report, "Figure 2.2 – Acute Hepatitis B: Case Rates by Jurisdiction", accessed February 25, 2026, Figure 2.2 – Acute Hepatitis B: Case Rates by Jurisdiction | 2023 Hepatitis Surveillance | CDC

[vii] CDC, 2023 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report, “Table 2.5 – Chronic Hepatitis B: Case Rates by Jurisdiction”, accessed February 25, 2026, Table 2.5 – Chronic Hepatitis B: Case Rates by Jurisdiction | 2023 Hepatitis Surveillance | CDC

[viii] GSK, Behind the Science magazine, Kamischke, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.gsk.com/en-gb/behind-the-science-magazine/hepatitis-b-patient-quote-story-functional-cure/

[ix] Hepatitis B Foundation, “What is Hepatitis B?”, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.hepb.org/what-is-hepatitis-b/what-is-hepb/

[x] Statista, “Countries with the highest number of hepatitis B infections worldwide in 2022”, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.statista.com/statistics/1485253/countries-with-highest-number-of-hepb-cases-worldwide/#:~:text=Countries%20with%20the%20most%20hepatitis,%E2%9C%95most%20hepatitis/

[xi] Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, School Immunizations Dashboard, “State Level Exemptions” (table), accessed February 25, 2026, https://health.mo.gov/living/families/schoolhealth/dashboard.php

[xii] Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, School Immunizations Dashboard, “State Fully Immunized Rates – Kindergarten and Eighth Grade – Hep B”, accessed February 25, 2026, https://health.mo.gov/living/families/schoolhealth/dashboard.php

[xiii] CDC, 2023 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report, “Key Findings – Hepatitis C”, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-surveillance-2023/about/index.html

[xiv] World Health Organization (WHO), Health Topics – Hepatitis C, “Key facts”, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-c

[xv] The Open Mind, podcast hosted by Alexander Heffner, “Moonshot to Cure Cancer”, air date: January 16, 2016, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.thirteen.org/openmind/aging/moonshot-to-cure-cancer/5338/?hootPostID=c03b1a6a6ac883bef0c1fd24c88fe506

[xvi] The Open Mind, podcast hosted by Alexander Heffner, “Moonshot to Cure Cancer”, air date: January 16, 2016, accessed February 25, 2026, https://www.thirteen.org/openmind/aging/moonshot-to-cure-cancer/5338/?hootPostID=c03b1a6a6ac883bef0c1fd24c88fe506

[xvii] Indiana Health Department, HIV/HCV Coinfection Fact Sheet, “Similarities and Differences between HIV and HCV”, accessed February 25, 2026, chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://secure.in.gov/health/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/files/Coinfection_Similarities_and_Differences.pdf/