



Hepatitis C

2021 CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FACT SHEET

What is hepatitis C?

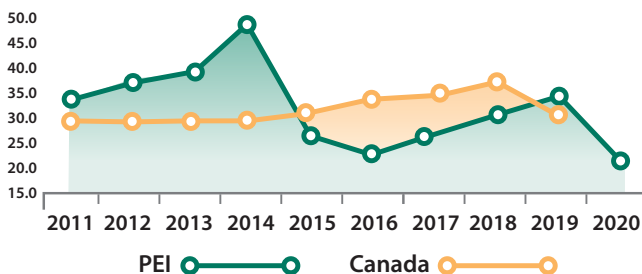
Hepatitis C (hep C) is a liver infection caused by hepatitis C virus, which is spread through contact with blood of an infected person. Infection can happen through unsafe injection practices, unsafe health care, unscreened blood transfusions, injection drug use, and sexual practices. Chronic hep C often has no symptoms but can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer over time.

PEI was the first province in Canada to fund treatments and move forward with a hep C elimination strategy

How does PEI's rate of hepatitis C compare to Canada?

The rate of new hep C diagnoses in PEI used to be higher than in Canada but had fallen below the Canadian rate in recent years. In PEI, the rate of new diagnoses was 34 cases per 100,000 persons in 2011 and had declined to 20 cases per 100,000 persons in 2020. (Fig 1)

Figure 1. Rate of New Hep C Cases per 100,000 Persons, PEI and Canada, 2011–2020



PEI is working towards a plan to reduce health harms from sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections, including eliminating hep C

Who is more likely to be diagnosed with hepatitis C?

Males were more likely than females to be diagnosed with hep C (Fig 2). Young adults were more likely to be diagnosed with hep C than older age groups, with 60.3% of new cases seen among Islanders aged 18-34. (Fig 3)

If you think you are at risk, or may be infected with hep C, it is important to talk to a health-care provider to get tested. There is treatment available that can cure people of the infection.

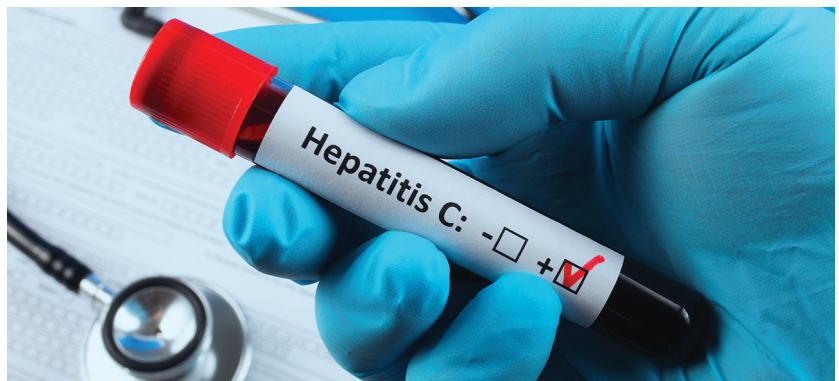


Figure 2. New Hep C Cases by Sex, PEI, 2011–2020

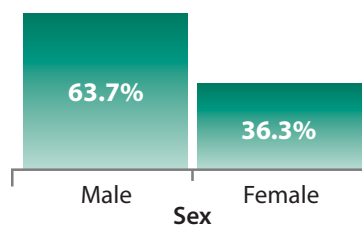
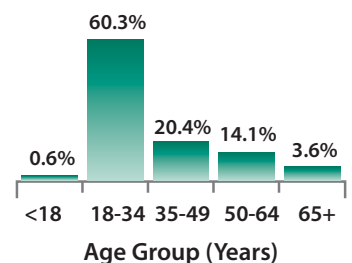


Figure 3. New Hep C Cases by Age Group, PEI, 2011–2020



LIVE WELL PEI
together we can

More Information:

[2021 CPHO Report](#)
[Progress towards viral hepatitis elimination in Canada 2021 Report](#)

[PEI Harm Reduction Supports & Services](#)
[CATIE](#)