

Information on Viral Hepatitis

In the US, about 4.4 million people have viral hepatitis, but many people are unaware of it. Ethnic minorities experience higher mortality rates than whites. For example, in black adults ages 45-64, hepatitis C is the leading cause of death.

Facts

- Hepatitis, which literally means liver inflammation, is an infectious disease that can cause severe liver damage.
- Two forms of hepatitis include acute and chronic. Chronic hepatitis can lead to liver cancer and liver disease.

- Data released in the National Vital Statistics Report lists chronic liver disease and cirrhosis as the 12th leading cause of death in 2009.
- Although hepatitis has 5 strains, A, B, and C are the strains usually found in the US.
- Hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more easily transmitted than HIV.
- Hepatitis C and HIV infection commonly occur together (coinfection) among injection drug users (IDU).

Hepatitis			
	At Risk Populations	Transmission	Solutions
A	People who travel to foreign countries, men who have sex with men (MSM)	Fecal-oral; Consuming contaminated food and water	Vaccine
B	Asians, Pacific Islanders, Blacks, MSM, HIV infected persons, Drug users	Exchange of bodily fluids	Vaccine
C	Hispanics, Blacks, Native Americans, Substance users,	Exchange of bodily fluids	Reduce exposure to virus

- Adults born between 1945-1965 have an increased risk of becoming infected with Hepatitis C.
- Over 50% of Americans with hepatitis B are Asian/Pacific Islander.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

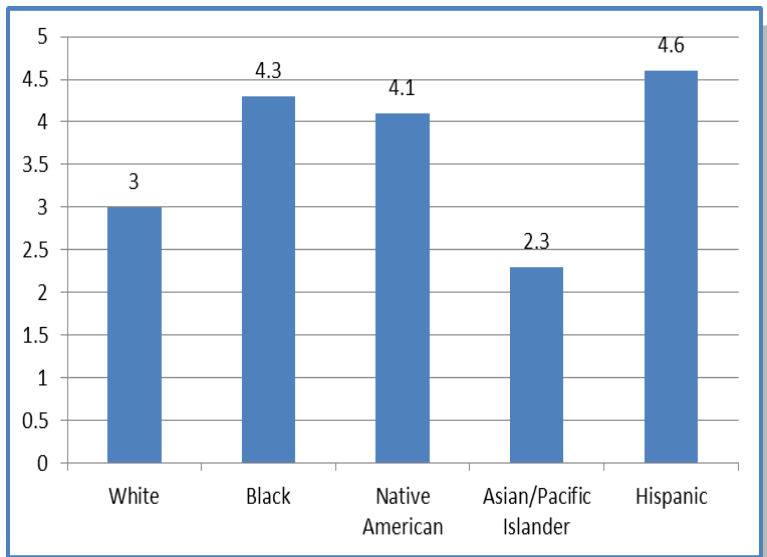
Medicare provides coverage for screenings and other health services for hepatitis B, as well as screenings for HIV and STDS, and alcohol misuse.

States may provide coverage for hepatitis B and C vaccinations.

For more information on Medicare and Medicaid coverage for heart-related diseases, visit medicaid.gov or medicare.gov.

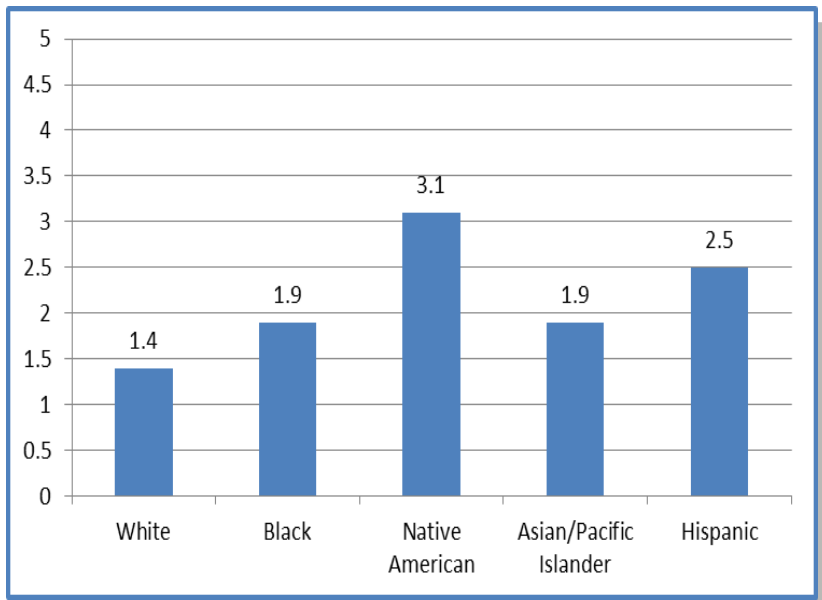
Figures

Viral Hepatitis Death Rates per 100,000 population by Male Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2009



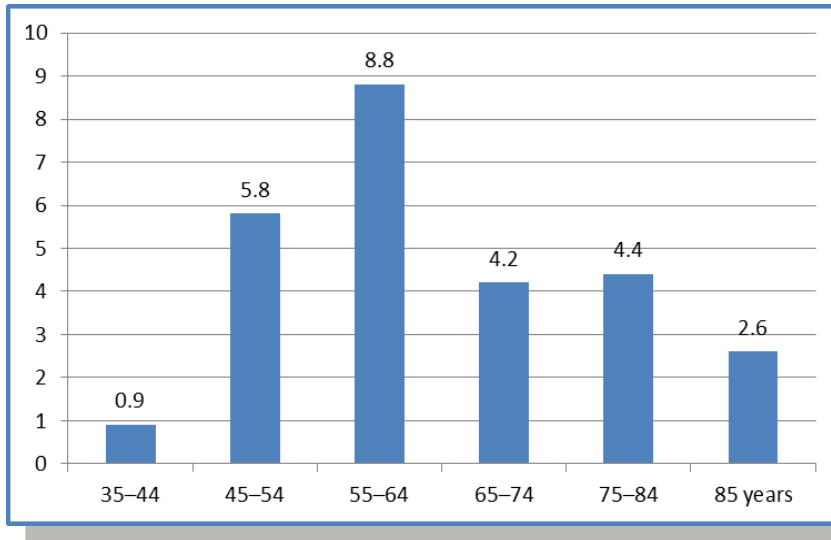
Source: National Vital Statistics Report, 2011

Viral Hepatitis Death Rates per 100,000 population by Female Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2009



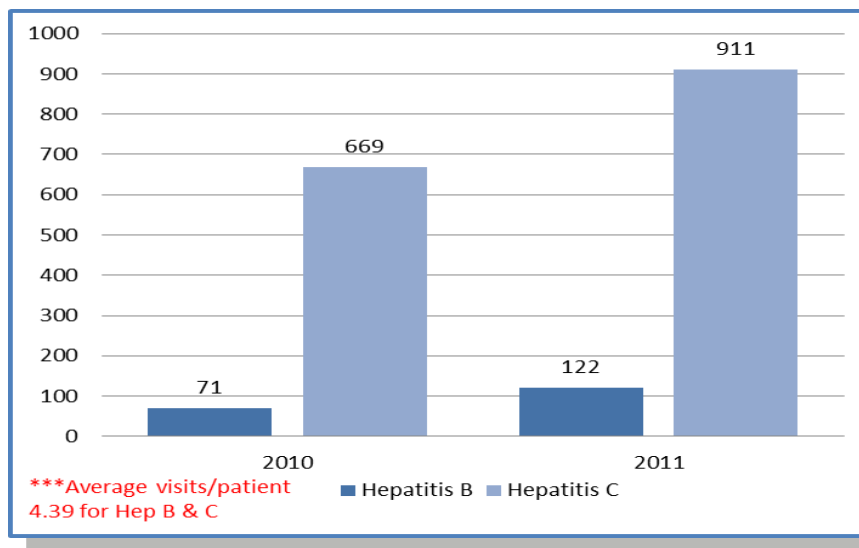
Source: National Vital Statistics Report, 2011

Age-Adjusted Viral Hepatitis Death Rates per 100,000 Population, 2009



Source: National Vital Statistics Report, 2011

Patients Diagnosed with Hepatitis B or C at Health Center Programs, 2010 and 2011***



Source: Health Resources and Services Administration, 2012