



HEPATITIS A UPDATE FOR
WASHINGTON STATE:
MITIGATING OUTBREAKS IN
INCARCERATED COMMUNITIES
Office of Immunization and Child Profile

Presenter



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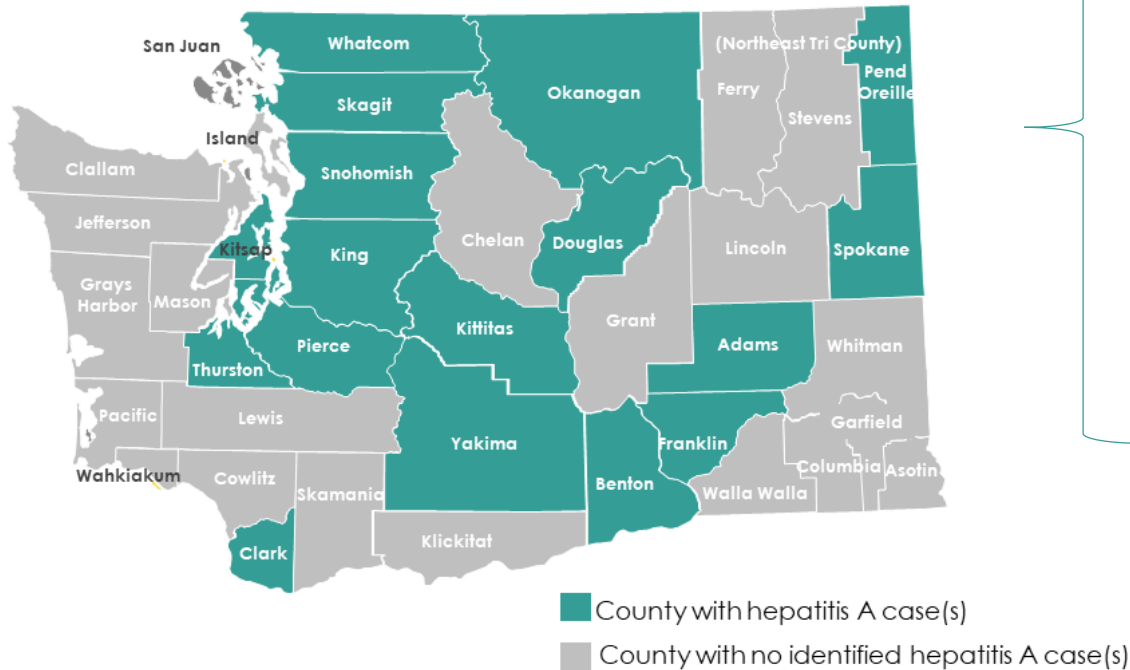
Washington State Department of Health

Background

- Hepatitis A is a contagious liver infection spread through infected stool
- Low vaccination rates in adults and poor access to hygiene opportunities have led to an increase in cases
- Statewide increase since April 2019
- Statewide hepatitis A outbreak declared in July 2019

Background

Hepatitis A Outbreak in Washington State
3/20/20

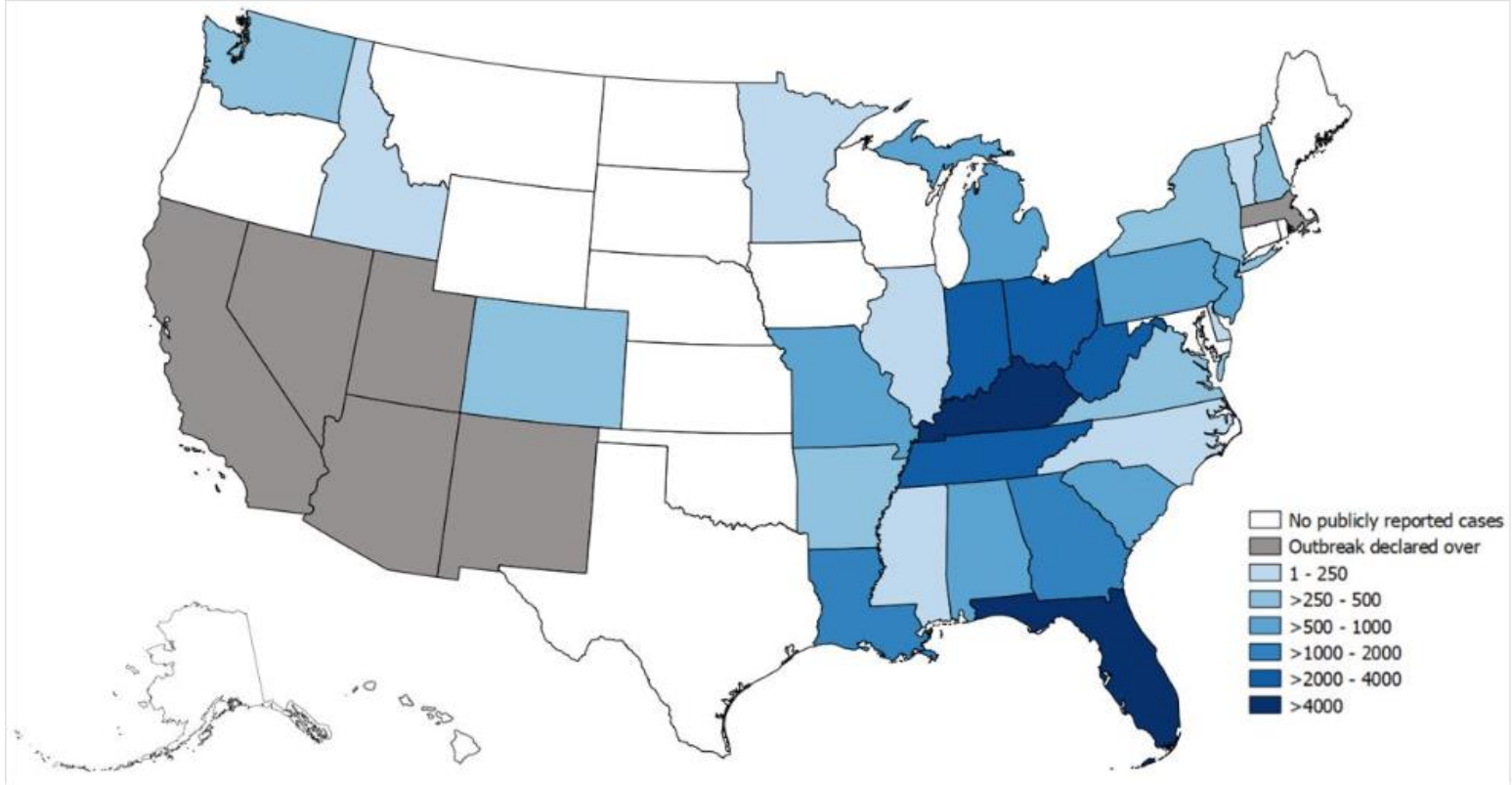


Since April 2019:

- 17 counties impacted
- 370 cases
- 214 hospitalizations
- 6 deaths

Nationwide outbreaks

State-Reported Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases as of July 18, 2020



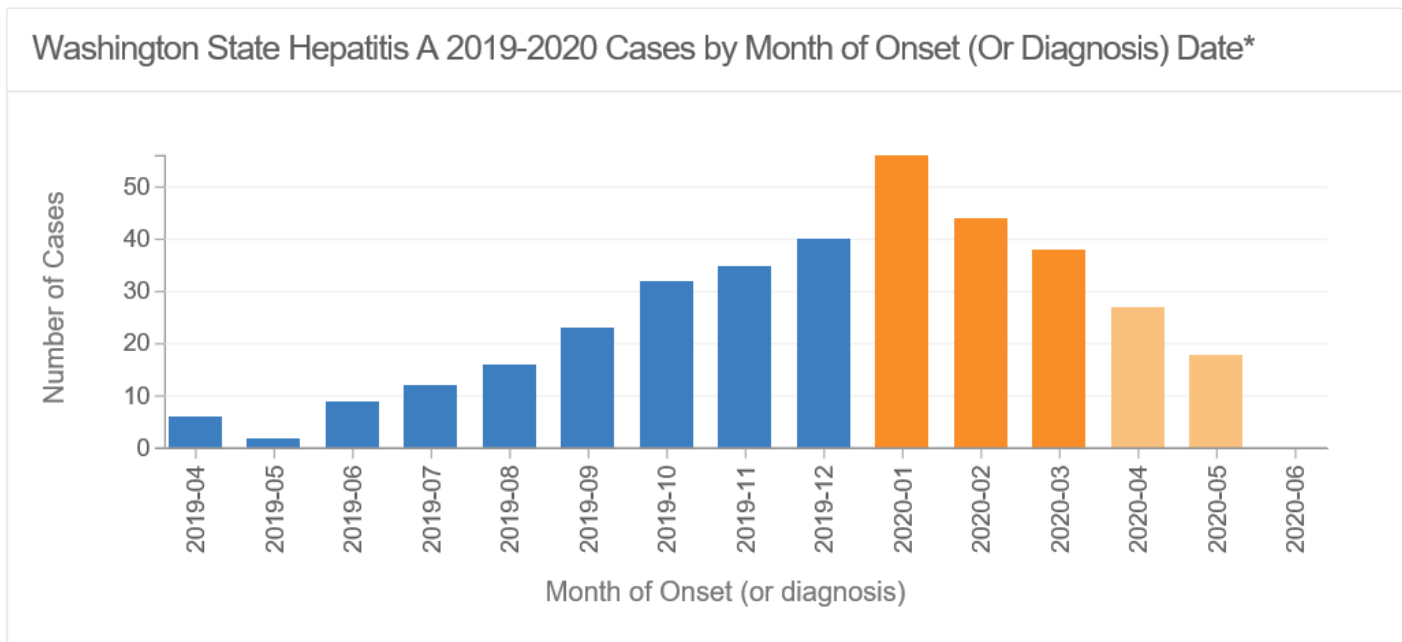
Hepatitis A Vaccine

- Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A
- Quick action by public health has helped to control the outbreak. As of January 2020:
 - ◆ **10,440** vaccine doses ordered by local health jurisdictions
 - ◆ **8,000** doses administered
 - ◆ **500** vaccination events held statewide
- 2020 orders:
 - ◆ **3,130** vaccine doses

New recommendations
from CDC/ACIP

Case Reporting during COVID-19

- Case reporting times may be longer than usual
- Reduction in cases since February 2020 may be due to fewer people seeking testing/treatment for hepatitis A



Hepatitis A in Correctional Settings

- Cases identified in correctional facilities in Washington state
- Hepatitis A infection can be serious, particularly in patients with underlying health conditions, and/or:
 - Drug use (injection or non-injection)
 - Liver disease (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, etc.)
 - Homelessness or unstable housing
 - Any of the above and have HIV infection

Vaccination Outreach Models

Spokane Regional Health District

- Conducts weekly outreach and hepatitis A vaccinations
 - Strong partnership with county jail and designated corrections officer
 - Public health nurse and immunizations program coordinator
 - Cell-to-cell outreach & vaccination (with consent)
 - Vaccination of food service workers

Yakima Health District

- Prioritizes vaccination for inmates who report homelessness/unstable housing at intake

Resources for Correctional Settings

- Federal Bureau of Prisons [Hepatitis A Clinical Guidance](#) (2019). Includes guidance for:
 - ◆ Prevention
 - ◆ Diagnosis
 - ◆ Treatment
 - ◆ Infection control
- Hepatitis A Vaccination Guidance for Outbreak Prevention and Response (*in-progress*). Will include guidance for:
 - ◆ Correctional settings
 - ◆ Field teams
 - ◆ Hospital/Emergency Department settings
 - ◆ Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

Contact

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