

# Chronic Hepatitis C

When interpreting New York City's chronic hepatitis C surveillance data, keep the following in mind:

- Health care providers and laboratories are required to report hepatitis C cases to the Health Department, including positive results for:
  - Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (EIA) antibody test with a high signal-to-cutoff value.
  - Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (RIBA), an accurate test for antibodies to hepatitis C virus.
  - Nucleic Acid Test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test).
- Many chronic hepatitis C patients are asymptomatic. As a result, many people with chronic hepatitis C have not been diagnosed and are not reported. Therefore, these data may not represent the true level of chronic hepatitis C in New York City.
- In addition, some people included in the data may no longer have hepatitis C. They may have a positive antibody test but no longer have the virus. Based on published literature, less than 15% are in this category.
- DOHMH often receives more than 1 laboratory report for each person with chronic hepatitis C and therefore uses automatic deduplication methods to identify repeat reports, based on name, date of birth and other information. Only the first report is counted in the data presented here.
- DOHMH's deduplication methods may be imperfect. As a result, some people inadvertently may be counted more than once (e.g., if there is a discrepancy in the person's name or date of birth). This would result in overestimating the number of people with chronic hepatitis C.
- The rates presented are not prevalence rates.
- The data include positive hepatitis C results reported to DOHMH for the first time with a hepatitis C diagnosis date (or specimen collection date) in 2008 or 2009.
- DOHMH does not routinely investigate Hepatitis C reports because of the large volume. Therefore:
  - Data on race or ethnicity are not available.
  - It is difficult to determine when people with chronic hepatitis C were first infected. Most were probably infected a while ago.
  - Risk factor information is not available. Most people with hepatitis C were probably infected through injection drug use or a blood transfusion before 1992 (when an accurate blood test became available and blood donor screening started).
- The Health Department's educational booklet, Hepatitis C: The Facts, is sent to people newly reported with hepatitis C. The booklet:
  - Was designed to help people with chronic hepatitis C learn more so they can stay healthy.
  - Is available at [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cd/cd-hepc-bro.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cd/cd-hepc-bro.pdf)
  - Can be ordered free of charge, in bulk, in English, Russian, Spanish Arabic and Urdu; please call 311 or visit <http://callcenter/ccl/litindex.html>

**Table 1:**  
**People Newly Reported with Chronic Hepatitis C in New York City, 2010 - 2011**

Group	2010			2011		
	Number	Percentage (%) in each group	Rate per 100,000 people	Number	Percentage (%) in each group	Rate per 100,000 people
Overall	9992	n/a	122.2	8716	n/a	106.6
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	6506	65.1	151.6	5563	63.8	129.6
Female	3475	34.8	89.5	3148	36.1	81.1
Unknown	11	0.1	n/a	5	0.1	n/a
<b>Age (in years)</b>						
0 -19	110	1.1	5.5	97	1.1	4.9
20-29	719	7.2	52.4	661	7.6	48.2
30-39	1308	13.1	104.7	1189	13.6	95.2
40-49	2189	21.9	193.2	1804	20.7	159.2
50-59	3261	32.6	320.6	2687	30.8	264.2
60-69	1634	16.4	229.6	1587	18.2	223.0
70-79	521	5.2	126.4	469	5.4	113.8
80+	250	2.5	88.1	222	2.5	78.3
Unknown	0	0.0	n/a	0	0.0	n/a
<b>Borough of Residence</b>						
Bronx	2658	26.6	191.9	2102	24.1	151.8
Brooklyn	2699	27.0	107.8	2267	26.0	90.5
Manhattan	2069	20.7	130.5	1773	20.3	111.8
Queens	1665	16.7	74.6	1569	18.0	70.3
Staten Island	414	4.1	88.3	393	4.5	83.8
Unknown	487	4.9	n/a	612	7.0	n/a
<b>Poverty - to be added</b>						

**Table 2:**  
**People Newly Reported with Chronic Hepatitis C in NYC, by United Hospital Fund**  
**(UHF) Neighborhood, 2010 - 2011\***

Borough	UHF Neighborhood	2010		2011	
		Number	Rate per 100,000 people	Number	Rate per 100,000 people
All	total	9992	122.2	8716	106.6
Unknown		550	0.0	665	0.0
Bronx	Kingsbridge-Riverdale	83	91.3	67	73.7
Bronx	Northeast Bronx	201	105.4	154	80.8
Bronx	Fordham-Bronx Pk	346	137.0	280	110.8
Bronx	Pelham-Throgs neck	413	138.6	321	107.7
Bronx	Crotona-Tremont	375	181.9	313	151.9
Bronx	Highbridge-Morrisania	426	205.2	321	154.6
Bronx	Hunts Point-Mott Haven	312	228.4	305	223.3
Brooklyn	Greenpoint	110	86.6	99	77.9
Brooklyn	Downtown-Heights-Slope	210	93.7	179	79.8
Brooklyn	Bed Stuy-Crown heights	441	138.3	369	115.7
Brooklyn	East New York	259	137.9	206	109.7
Brooklyn	Sunset Park	105	82.1	112	87.6
Brooklyn	Borough Park	295	88.9	228	68.7
Brooklyn	East Flatbush-Flatbush	228	76.9	209	70.5
Brooklyn	Canarise-Flatlands	123	63.1	125	64.1
Brooklyn	Bensonhurst	189	94.9	146	73.3
Brooklyn	Coney Island	418	146.4	338	118.4
Brooklyn	Williamsburg-Bushwick	307	145.9	235	111.7
Manhattan	Washington Heights	280	112.7	232	93.4
Manhattan	Central Harlem	308	189.4	250	153.7
Manhattan	East Harlem	332	301.9	273	248.3
Manhattan	Upper West Side	136	61.8	149	67.7
Manhattan	Upper East Side	115	52.1	127	57.5
Manhattan	Chelsea-Clinton	271	186.9	224	154.5
Manhattan	Gramercy Park	153	113.7	111	82.5
Manhattan	Greenwich Village	103	123.0	87	103.9
Manhattan	Union Square	318	160.0	271	136.3
Manhattan	Lower Manhattan	42	79.0	40	75.3
Queens	Long Island City-Astoria	173	84.5	156	76.2
Queens	West Queens	774	161.1	603	125.5
Queens	Flushing	150	57.7	159	61.2
Queens	Bayside-Little Neck	24	27.3	43	48.9
Queens	Ridgewood	188	76.5	199	81.0
Queens	Fresh Meadows	66	68.2	54	55.8

Borough	UHF Neighborhood	2010		2011	
		Number	Rate per 100,000 people	Number	Rate per 100,000 people
Queens	Southwest Queens	192	72.1	191	71.7
Queens	Jamaica	330	114.1	246	85.0
Queens	Southeast Queens	127	64.9	96	49.1
Queens	Rockaway	109	94.8	141	122.6
Staten	Port Richmond	64	90.9	44	62.5
Staten	Stapleton-St. George	147	118.9	151	122.1
Staten	Willowbrook	46	53.8	46	53.8
Staten	South Beach	153	80.9	151	79.8