

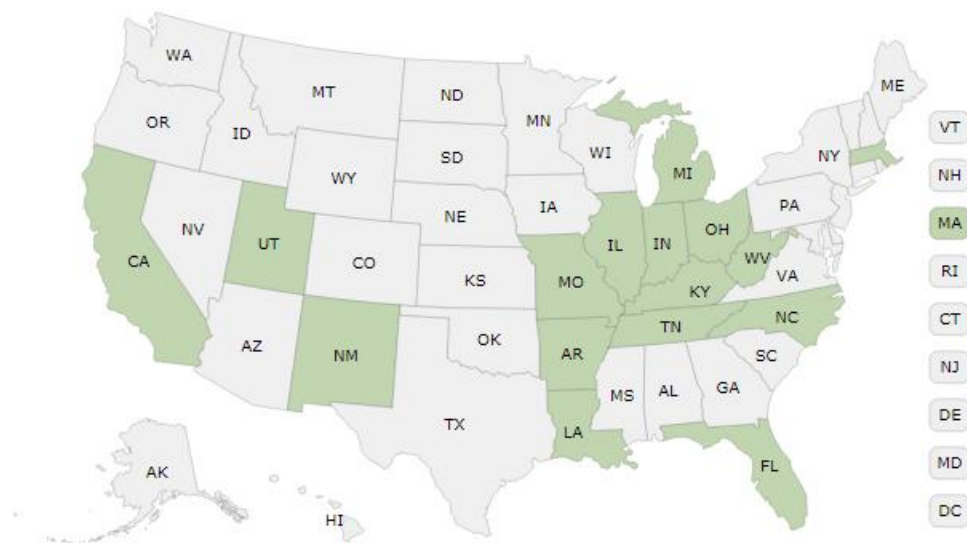
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences

Update on Hepatitis A Outbreak In Persons Experiencing Homelessness and Substance Use Disorder

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Epidemiologist
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Recent outbreaks

- Since 2017, CDC has been tracking multiple outbreaks of HAV infection across the US
 - Affecting people who use drugs and/or people who are homeless
 - Person-to-person spread
 - Certain states with case counts >3000

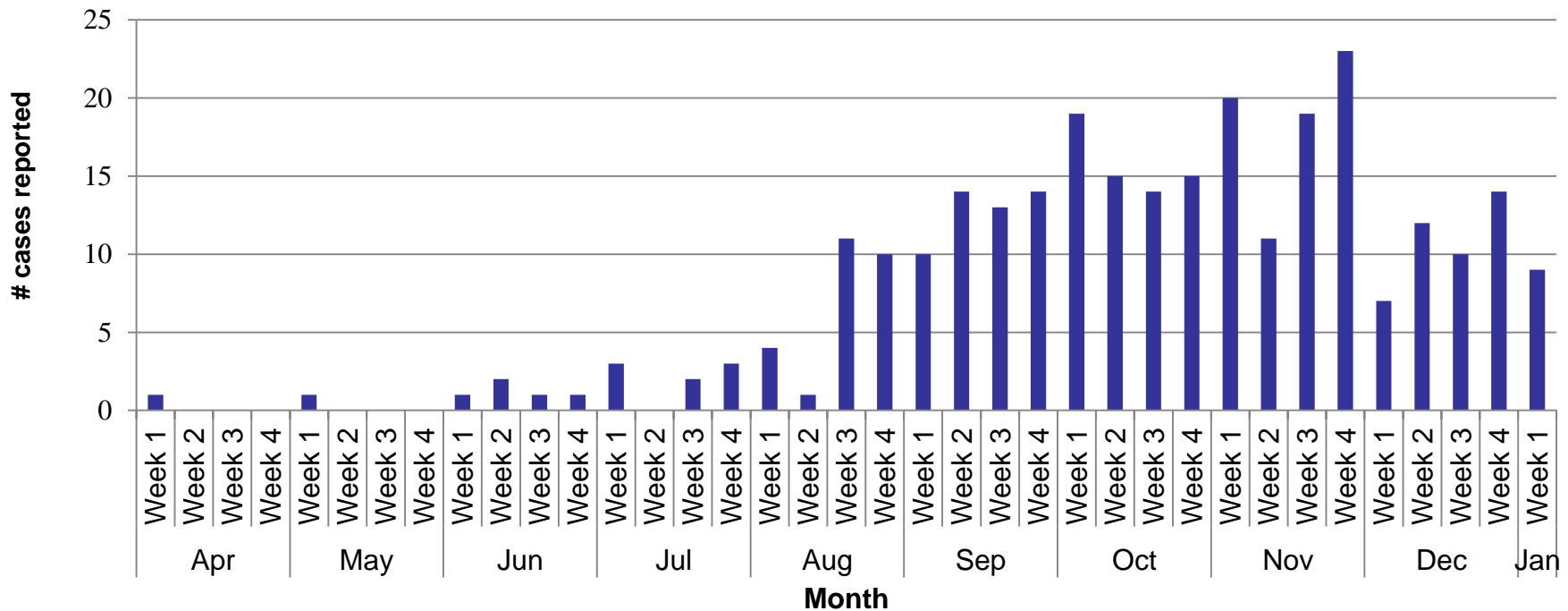


<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm>

Outbreak in Massachusetts

- 285 outbreak associated cases since April 2018

Outbreak-associated hepatitis A cases, by event date, Massachusetts, 2018-2019



Cases occurring after Week 1 in January excluded. Data for more recent weeks may be incomplete due to diagnosis and reporting delays. Data source: MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. Data as of 1/18/2019 and subject to change.

Outbreak cases (N= 285)

- Complications
 - Hospitalization rate: 83%
 - Mortality rate: 1% (4 deaths total)
- Demographics
 - Gender: 60% male
 - Age: Range 21-78, Median 34
 - Race/ethnicity: predominantly white non-Hispanic

Outbreak cases (N= 285)

- Risks:
 - Homelessness/unstable housing: 52%
 - Injection drug use: 74%
 - Any illicit drug use: 88%
 - Current or recent incarceration: 9%

Outbreak cases (N= 285)

- Affected counties
 - Barnstable: 1%
 - Bristol: 6%
 - Essex: 12%
 - Hampden: 3%
 - Hampshire: <1%
 - Middlesex: 12%
 - Norfolk: 5%
 - Plymouth: 10%
 - Suffolk: 26%
 - Worcester: 25%

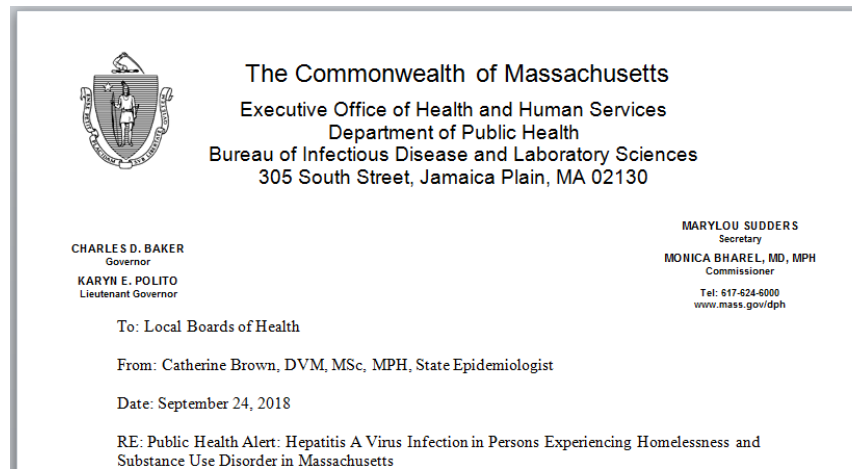
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Outbreak cases (N= 285)

- Coinfections
 - Confirmed chronic hepatitis C infection: 54%
 - HIV infection: 4%
- Genotyping/sequencing analysis (CDC) to date
 - Predominantly genotype IIIA

Outbreak response

- Communications recommending vaccination of at-risk population and other prevention measures:
 - Clinical advisory August 2 (with Boston Public Health Commission)
 - Clinical advisory August 22
 - Public health alert September 24



Outbreak response

- Outreach to LBOHs, homeless shelters, syringe services programs, community health centers, jails, emergency departments, detox facilities, and other agencies serving at-risk populations
- Provision of state & CDC supplied HAV vaccine
- Development of communications materials

Hepatitis A is going around.

Hepatitis A is a virus that can cause liver disease.

**Protect yourself:
Get your
Hepatitis A vaccination**

Updated vaccination guidelines

- Guidelines were updated in November 2018:
 - [Update: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for Use of Hepatitis A Vaccine for Postexposure Prophylaxis and for Preexposure Prophylaxis for International Travel](#)
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Questions?

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- MDPH Epidemiology Program: 617-983-6800
- Outbreak web page: www.mass.gov/info-details/hepatitis-a-outbreak-2018