In 2018, the hepatitis C virus epidemic in Wisconsin continued, with 2,744 newly reported cases, including 2 perinatal, 142 acute, and 2,600 chronic cases. An estimated 70,000–95,000 people are living with hepatitis C in Wisconsin, but only half (39,516) have been identified and reported. For more information, visit the full hepatitis C annual review for 2018.

**Hepatitis C Trends**

The number of acute hepatitis C cases has increased over the past 10 years with 142 cases reported in 2018. Most people with acute hepatitis C reported injecting drugs.

Over the past 10 years, the number of newly reported hepatitis C cases among young people ages 15–29 has nearly tripled, and more Wisconsin counties are reporting cases.
In 2018, newl reported hepatitis C cases were commonly reported among two groups: young adults who were likely recently infected and older adults who were likely infected many years ago.

### Young adults

Percent of hepatitis C cases by race/ethnicity among people age 15-29, 2018

- White: 75%
- American Indian: 7%
- Black: 6%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Unknown: 3%
- Other: 2%
- Asian: 1%

People who inject drugs are at high risk for hepatitis C, and injection drug use is the most commonly reported risk factor among this age group. Nearly half of cases ages 15–29 were female.

### Baby boomers

Percent of hepatitis C cases by race/ethnicity among people born 1945-1965, 2018

- White: 63%
- Black: 19%
- Unknown: 12%
- Hispanic: 3%
- Other: 1%
- American Indian: 1%
- Asian: 1%

Most hepatitis C cases in the U.S. are among baby boomers and likely represent infections that occurred many years ago. Two out of three cases in this cohort were male.