

2024

Hepatitis A Surveillance Report

Wisconsin

Epidemiologic Evaluation of Hepatitis A in Wisconsin

Hepatitis A Diagnoses

Hepatitis A is caused by infection with the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It is an acute, self-limiting condition affecting the liver, primarily transmitted via direct person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or water. Hepatitis A is vaccine preventable. This report provides an epidemiologic summary of hepatitis A in Wisconsin in 2024.

2024 Data Highlights

 29 people diagnosed	 7% of cases linked to another case	 White people 50 years and older most affected group	 All people diagnosed with hepatitis A were unvaccinated
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Diagnosis trends

FIGURE 1

There were 29 people diagnosed with hepatitis A in Wisconsin in 2024.

Number of people diagnosed with hepatitis A, Wisconsin, 2015–2024

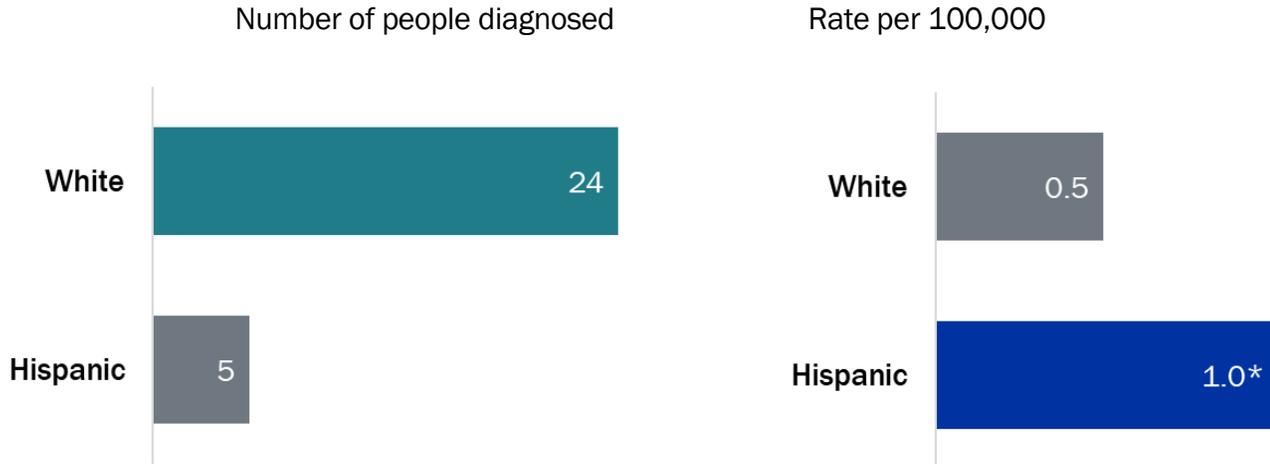


Demographics

FIGURE 2

Most people diagnosed with hepatitis A in Wisconsin in 2024 were white, but the highest diagnosis rate was among Hispanic people.

Number and rate of people diagnosed with hepatitis A by race and ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2024



*Rates based on counts less than 12 should be interpreted with caution.

FIGURE 3

In 2024, over half of people diagnosed with hepatitis A in Wisconsin were 50 years and older.

Percentage of people diagnosed with hepatitis A by age at diagnosis, Wisconsin, 2024

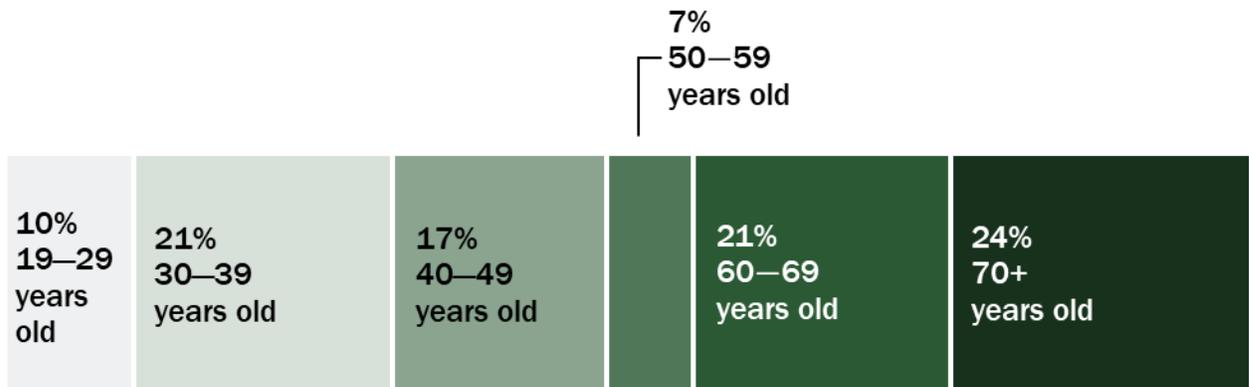


FIGURE 4

In recent years, hepatitis A diagnoses among people ages 70 years and older have increased more than any other age group.

Number of people diagnosed with hepatitis A by age (years) at diagnosis, Wisconsin, 2020–2024

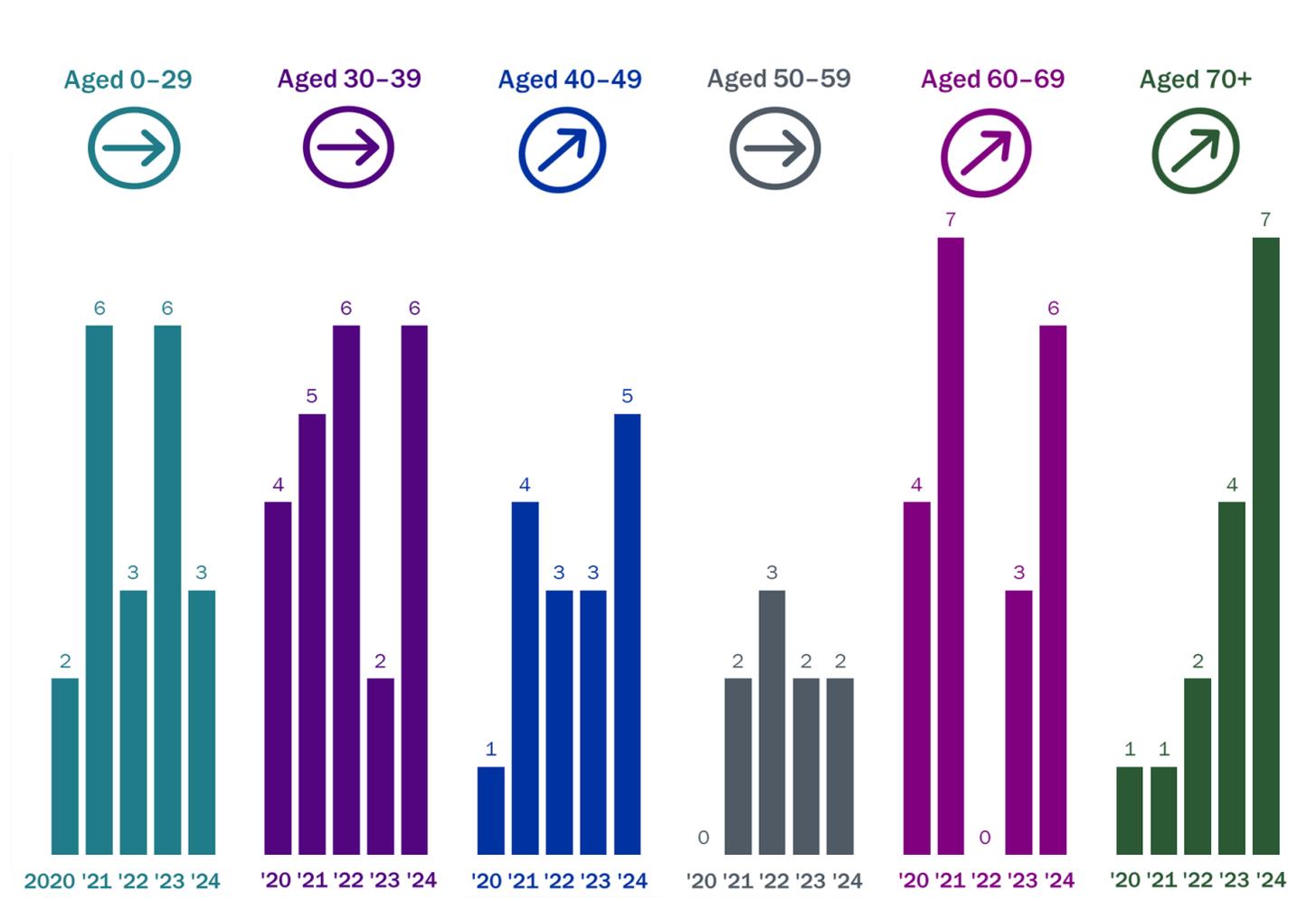


FIGURE 5

In 2024, over half of people diagnosed with hepatitis A in Wisconsin were male.

Percentage of people diagnosed with hepatitis A by sex at birth, Wisconsin, 2024

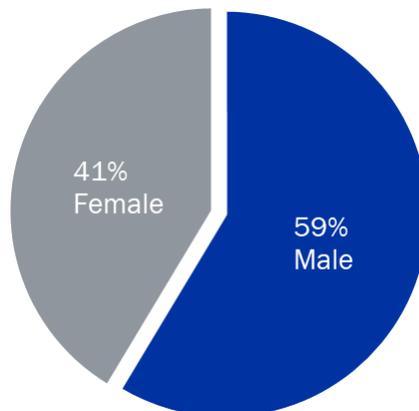
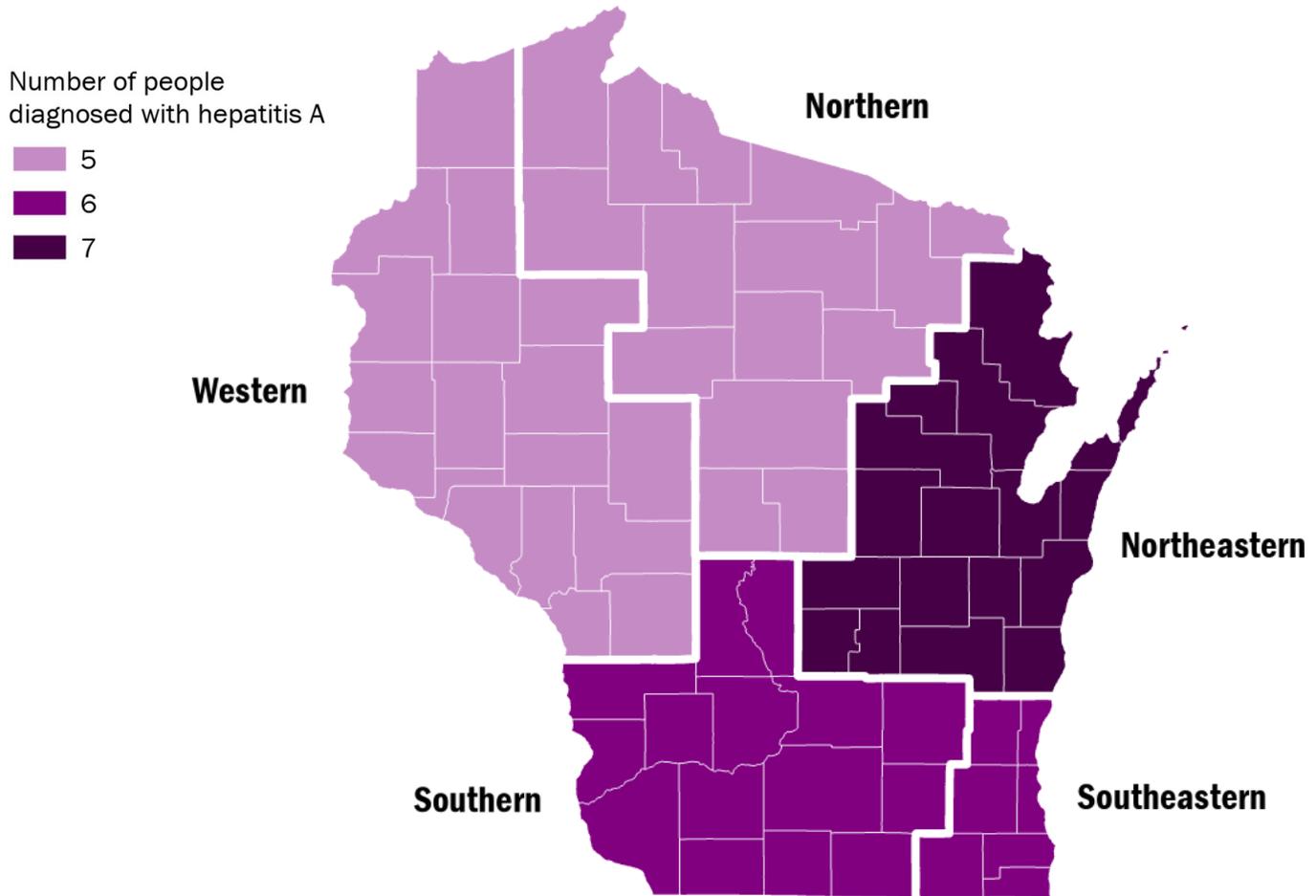


FIGURE 6

The Northeastern region had the highest number of hepatitis A diagnoses in 2024.

Number of people diagnosed with hepatitis A by public health region, Wisconsin, 2024



Case Investigations

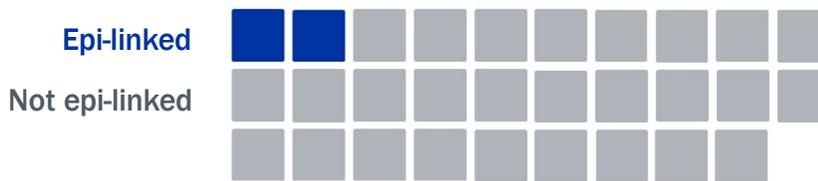
Hepatitis A is a highly contagious disease that can spread easily between unvaccinated individuals in close personal contact or through contaminated food or drink. In response to a confirmed case, local and Tribal health department staff attempt to quickly contact cases to understand how they may have acquired their HAV infection, identify potential contacts, and provide education on how to prevent further disease transmission.

Primary risk factors may include: close contact to someone with hepatitis A, recent international travel, consuming contaminated food or water, drug use, and being unhoused. Most people have symptoms around four weeks after exposure, and children under 5 years of age may have no symptoms at all. This long period of time can make it difficult for many individuals to recall details of potential HAV exposures and risk factors. As a result, a portion of people diagnosed with hepatitis A do not have a specific exposure or risk identified.

FIGURE 7

In 2024, only **two people** with hepatitis A in Wisconsin reported contact with another confirmed or probable case of hepatitis A.

Contact tracing among people diagnosed with hepatitis A, Wisconsin, 2024

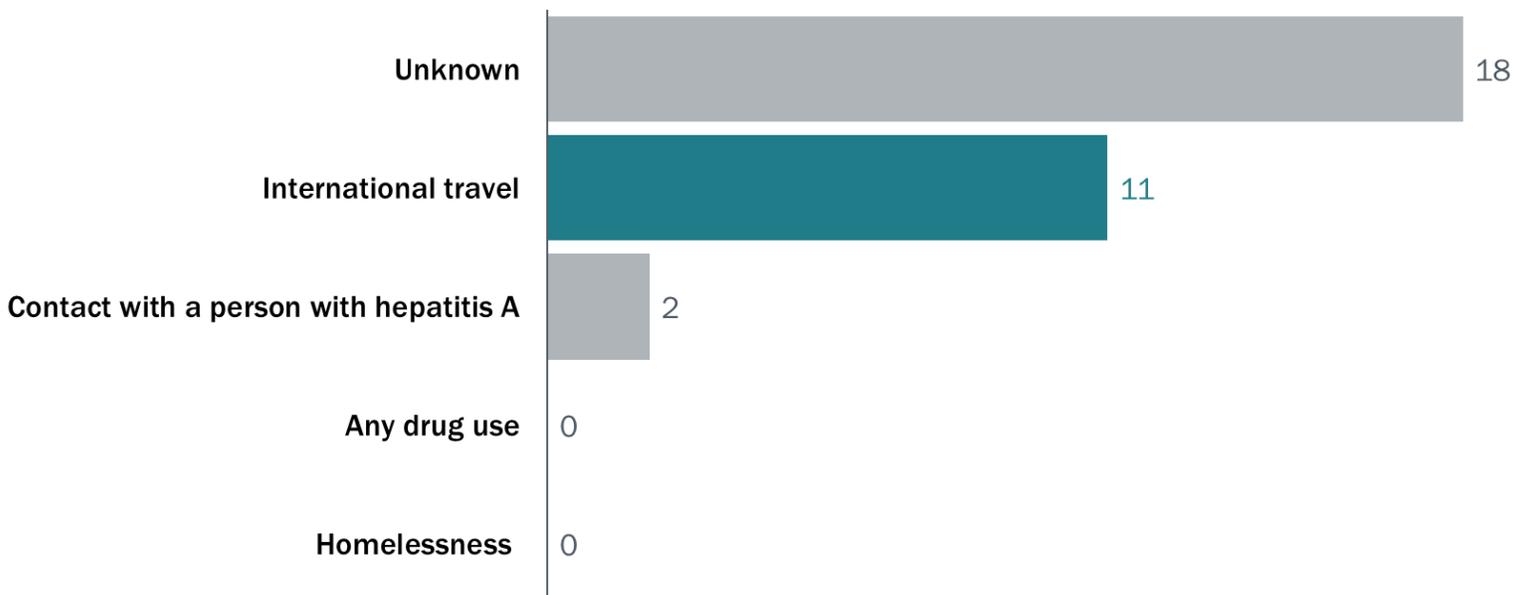


Note: Epidemiologically linked or ‘epi-linked’ means a person had contact with another confirmed or probable case of hepatitis A.

FIGURE 8

The most commonly reported risk factor among people diagnosed with hepatitis A in Wisconsin in 2024 was **international travel**.

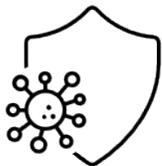
Reported risk factors* among people diagnosed with hepatitis A, Wisconsin, 2024



*More than one risk behavior or exposure can be reported per person.

Hepatitis A Vaccine

Vaccine Recommendations



Hepatitis A is preventable.

None of the 29 people diagnosed with hepatitis A in Wisconsin in 2024 were vaccinated against hepatitis A.

Hepatitis A vaccines were first licensed for use in the United States in 1995. Despite being vaccine-preventable, Wisconsin continues to manage and investigate multiple cases of HAV infection each year. Below are HAV vaccination recommendations by age group. Refer to the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services website](#) for more details.



Children aged 12–23 months

Routine hepatitis A vaccination recommended for all.



Children and adolescents aged 2–18 years

Catch-up vaccination recommended for children and adolescents who are unvaccinated or who have not completed a hepatitis A vaccine series.



Adults aged 18 and older

Adults may be vaccinated if they are at risk for hepatitis A, at risk for severe disease from HAV, or are not fully vaccinated and request vaccination. People at increased risk for HAV infection or severe disease include:

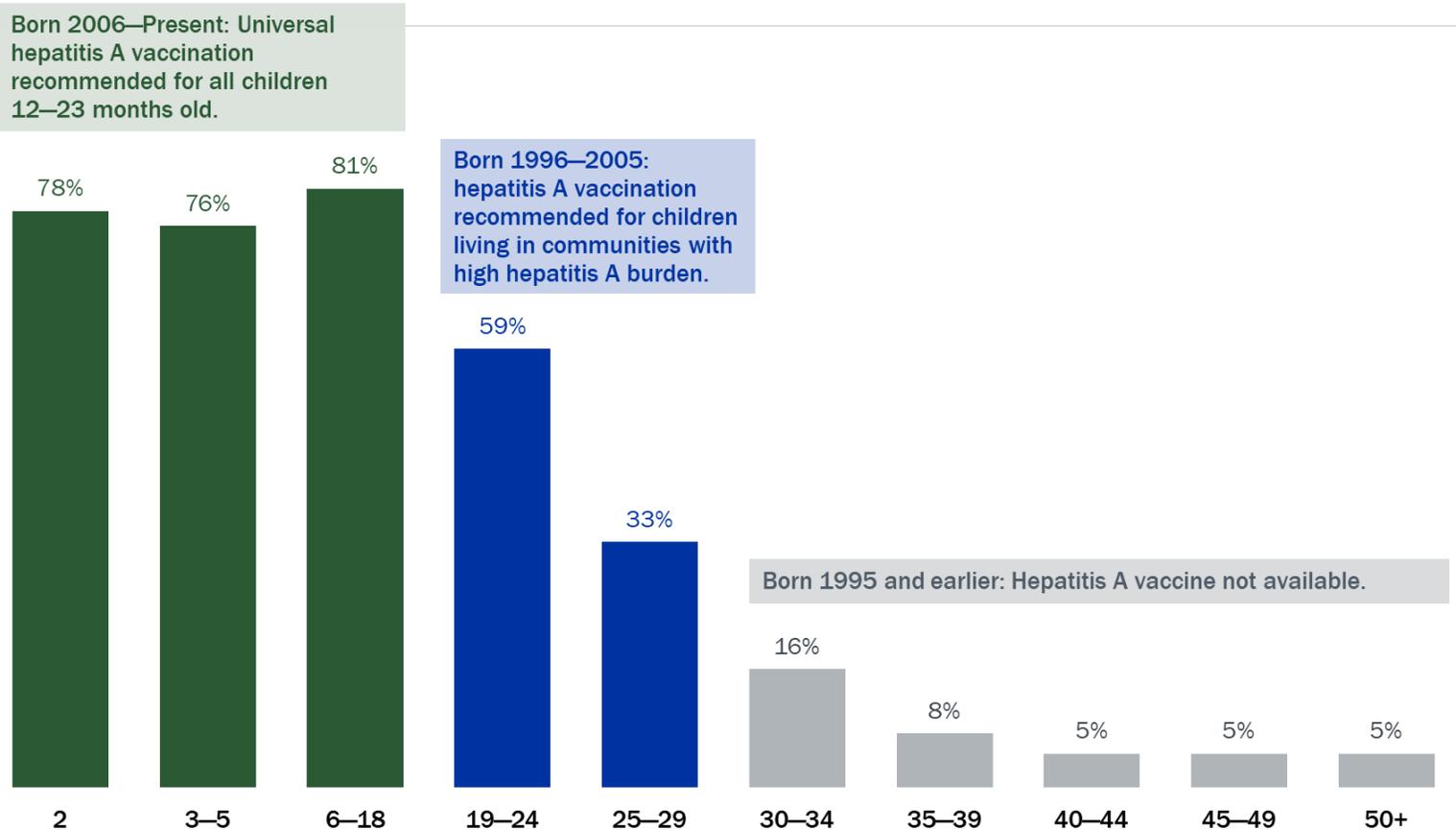
- International travelers.
- People who use recreational drugs (injection and non-injection).
- People experiencing homelessness.
- Men who have sex with men.
- People living with HIV.
- People with chronic liver disease.

Vaccine Uptake

FIGURE 9

Hepatitis A vaccination rates are highest among people ages 18 and under due to universal childhood hepatitis A vaccine recommendations.

Percentage of children, adolescents, and adults vaccinated for hepatitis A by current age (years), Wisconsin, 2024



Due to the timing of when a child is recommended to receive a second hepatitis A vaccine dose, data for 2-year-olds measures the percentage of children born in 2022 who received at least one dose of the hepatitis A vaccine before their second birthday. All other age groups measure the percentage of people who received at least two doses. Catch-up vaccination is recommended for children and adolescents not vaccinated by 2-years-old.

Vaccines received out of state and vaccines received prior to the implementation of the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) in 2000, may not be in the registry. As a result, immunization histories for adults in WIR may be less complete than children and adolescents for vaccines that could have been received in childhood, such as hepatitis A.

Appendices

Questions regarding hepatitis A in Wisconsin may be directed to:

DHSDPHBCD@dhs.wisconsin.gov

State and national information on hepatitis A:

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)