

Encouraging Hepatitis A Vaccination for Residents and Staff in Group Homes for the Developmentally Disabled



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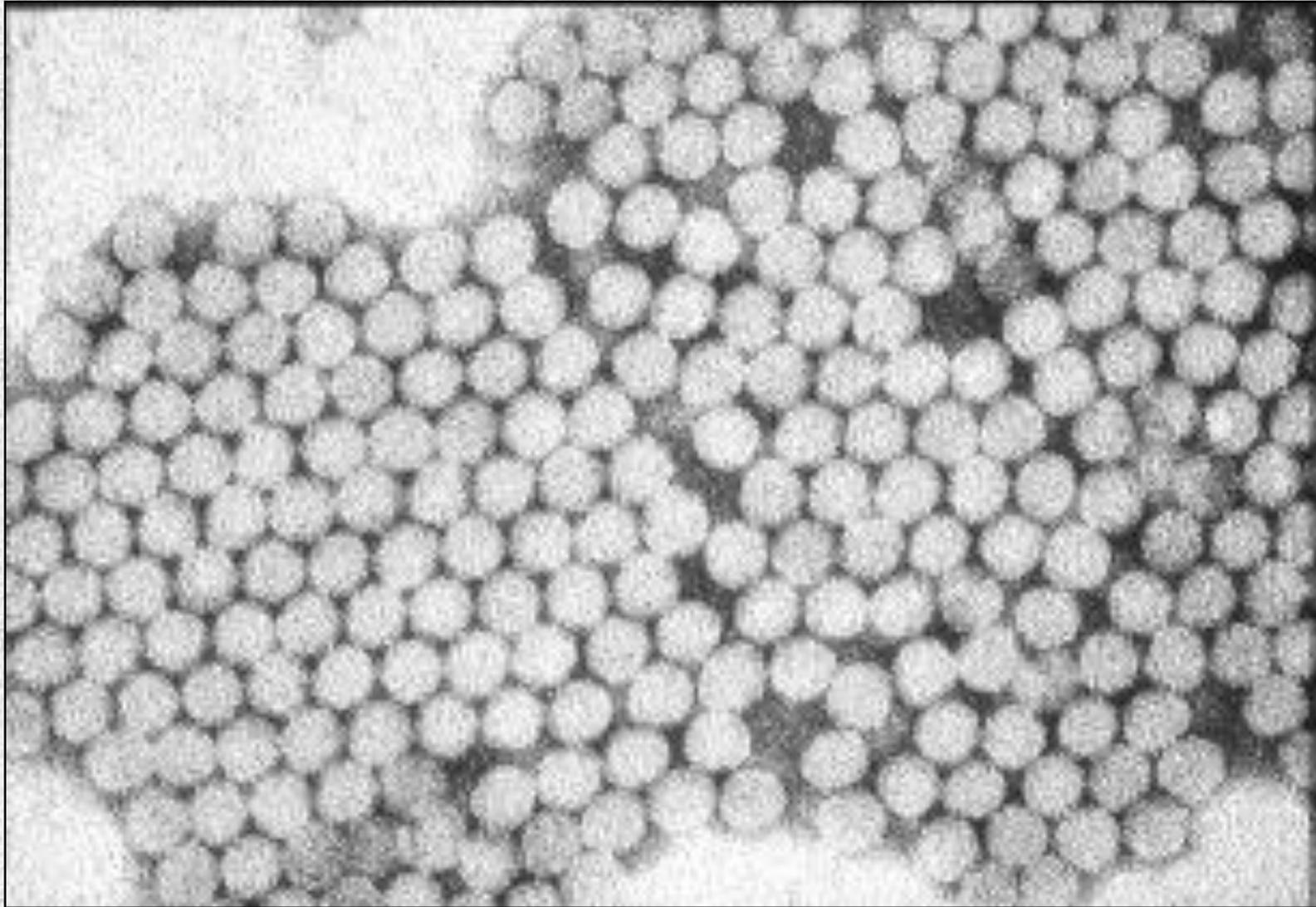


Viral Hepatitis - Overview

Type of Hepatitis

	A	B	C	D	E
Source of virus	feces	blood/ blood-derived body fluids	blood/ blood-derived body fluids	blood/ blood-derived body fluids	feces
Route of transmission	fecal-oral	percutaneous permucosal	percutaneous permucosal	percutaneous permucosal	fecal-oral
Chronic infection	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Prevention	pre/post- exposure immunization	pre/post- exposure immunization	blood donor screening; risk behavior modification	pre/post- exposure immunization; risk behavior modification	ensure safe drinking water

Hepatitis A Virus



Hepatitis A – Clinical Features

- Incubation period: average 30 days (range 15-50 d)
- Signs/Symptoms: profound fatigue, poor appetite, jaundice, fever and vomiting
- Jaundice is common in adults, rare in children
- Complications: fulminant hepatitis, relapsing hepatitis
- Chronic sequelae: None
- **Patients are infectious for ~ 10 days prior to onset of illness**

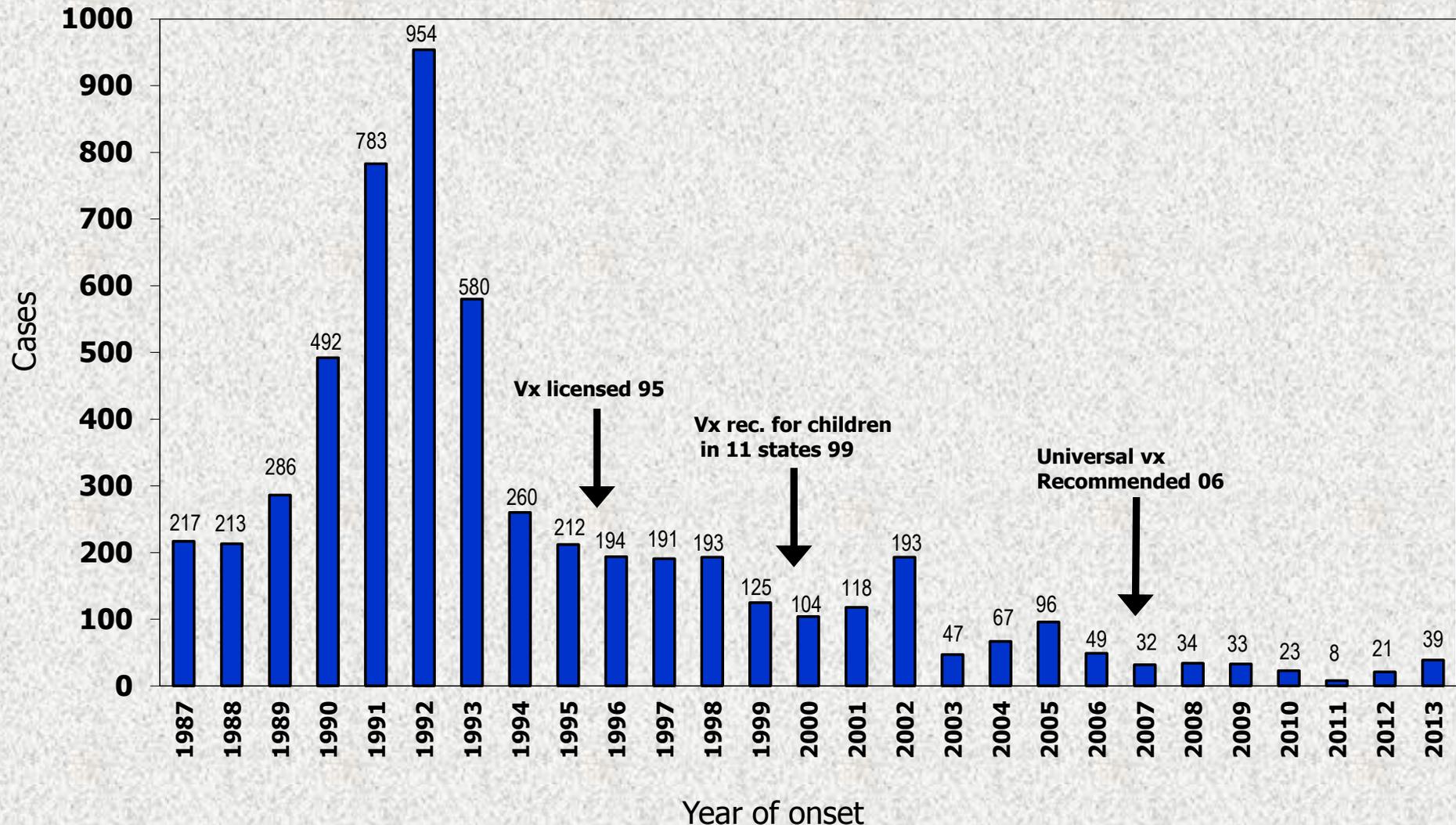


Hepatitis A Virus Transmission

- Direct personal contact – especially likely if personal hygiene is inadequate (e.g., household contact, sexual contact, child day care centers)
- Contaminated inanimate objects
- Contaminated food, water (e.g., infected food handlers, raw shellfish)
- Blood exposure (rare) (e.g., injecting drug use, transfusion)



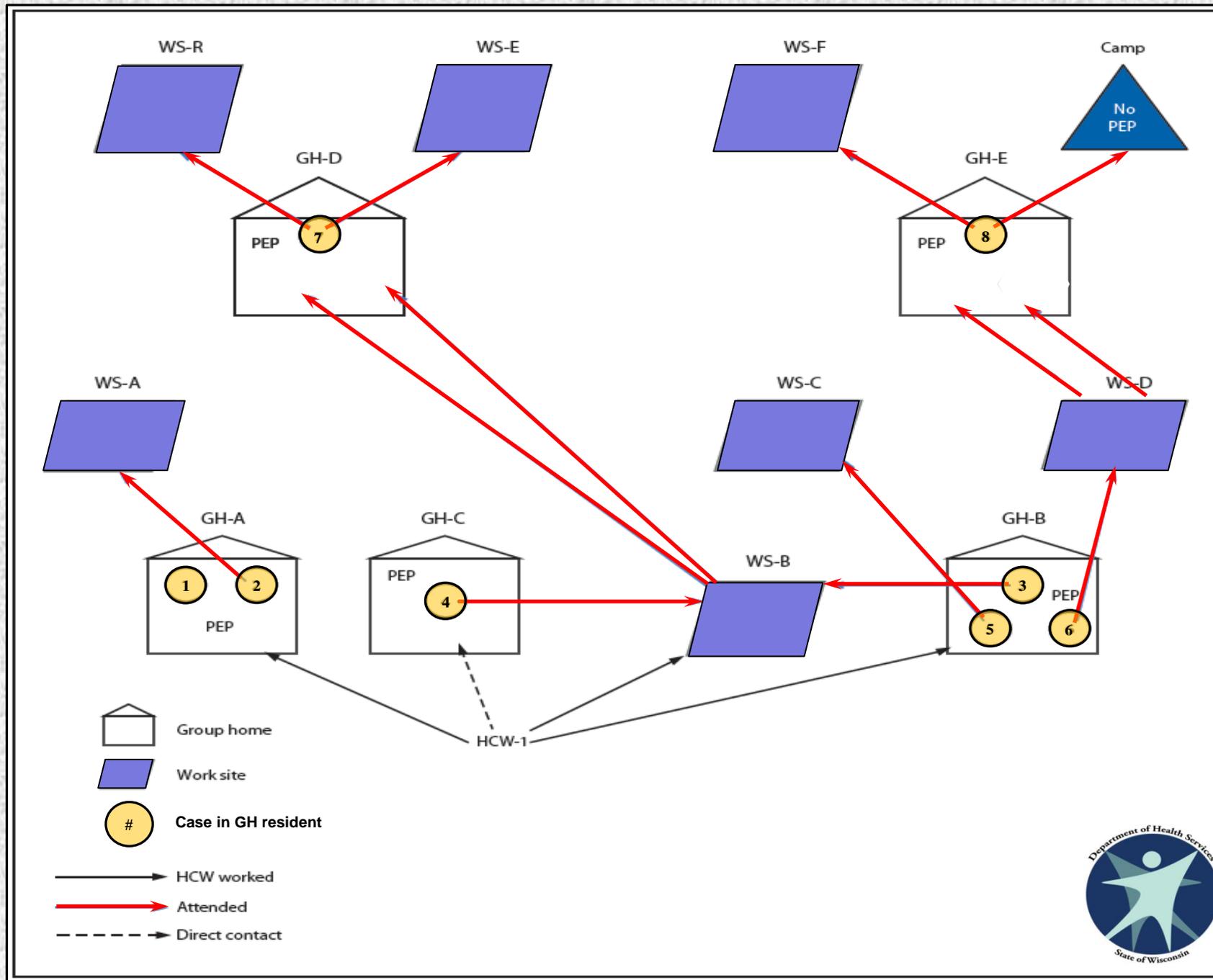
Reported hepatitis A by year, Wisconsin, 1987 – 2013



Hepatitis A Outbreak Among Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Group Homes – Michigan, 2013

Control of hepatitis A outbreaks in these settings is extremely difficult.

Estimated that only ~6% of GH residents are vaccinated against hepatitis A



National Recommendations – Hepatitis A Vaccine

Pre-exposure Vaccination

- Persons at increased risk for infection
 - travelers to countries with high rates of hepatitis A
 - homosexual and bisexual men
 - drug users
 - persons with chronic liver disease or clotting factor disorders
- Routine childhood vaccination for kids > 1 y.o.
- Although not specifically in the national recommendations, DPH advises that staff and residents in facilities for the developmentally disabled be vaccinated.