

Non-Perinatal Hepatitis B Cases in Clark County

General Non-Perinatal Hepatitis B Information

Background

Hepatitis B is a disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong infection potentially resulting in scarring of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. There has been a decline in HBV infections of 82% since 1991 in the United States when a national strategy to eliminate HBV infections was implemented. Routine vaccination of children against HBV was first recommended in 1991.

Transmission & Risk

Anyone is at risk of getting infected with HBV. People who are at greater risk include those who:

- have sex with an infected person
- have multiple sex partners
- inject drugs or share needles
- are infants born to infected mothers
- are exposed to blood on the job
- and more

In 2012, there was an estimated 18,760 new hepatitis B virus infections in the United States. HBV infection is not spread through food, water, or casual contact. Direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person is necessary to become infected. It is possible to be a carrier of HBV when they are infected, never fully recover, and can infect others for the rest of their lives.

The average incubation period is 60 days (range: 40-90 days) to onset of abnormal serum levels and 90 days (range: 60-150 days) to onset of jaundice.

Symptoms & Complications

Someone can have HBV and not show symptoms. Possible symptoms include: yellowing of the eyes or skin (jaundice), loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, fever, stomach pain, extreme tiredness, clay-colored bowel movements.

Testing, Diagnosis, Treatment

There is no medication for an acute infection, but there is supportive treatment. There are several antiviral drugs for chronic infection. Those with chronic HBV required medical evaluation and regular monitoring to determine whether the disease is progressing and to identify liver damage or hepatocellular carcinoma.

Laboratory testing is necessary to distinguish hepatitis B from other forms of hepatitis. It is recommended that the vaccine be administered to infants, adolescents, and adults.

More information can be found here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/infectious-disease-control-manual/section3/section-3-hepatitis-b>

Clark County Related Discussion

The highest cases in Clark County was in 2018 (86 cases) and the lowest cases was in 2021 (43 cases). There is a 50% decrease in cases between 2018 and 2021 with an overall decreasing trend since 2017. Total cases include suspected, probable, and confirmed. A majority of cases are either suspected or probable. Table 1 shows the full case classification breakdown per year.

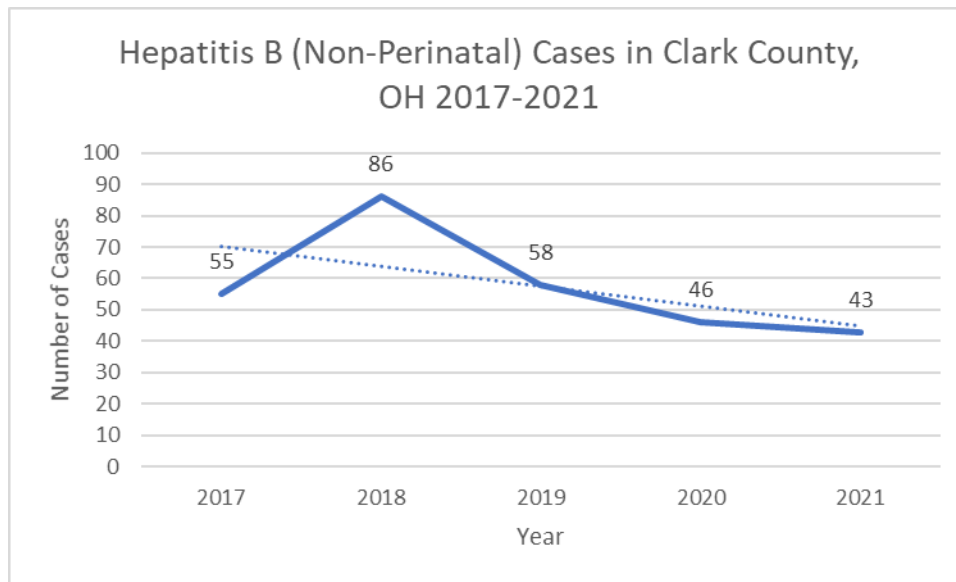


Figure 1 Hepatitis B Cases 2017-2021

	Suspected Total	Probable Total	Confirmed Total
2017	17	26	12
2018	49	28	9
2019	28	17	13
2020	16	26	4
2021	14	21	8

Table 2 Hepatitis B Case Classification