



Alabama Hepatitis A Virus Outbreak



Updated September 1, 2022

Key Points:



1681 outbreak cases



41 years average age



61% male

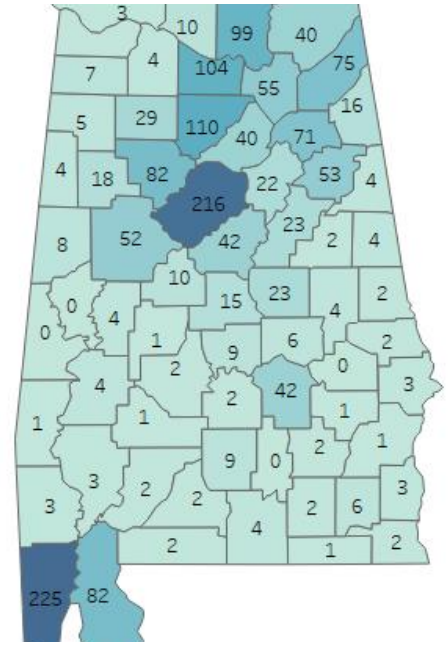


70% hospitalized

The number of Hepatitis A virus (HAV) outbreak cases increased from the beginning of the outbreak in September 2018 and peaked in September 2020. The incidence of cases has shown a decrease from October 2020. The Hepatitis A virus outbreak in Alabama officially ended on August 31, 2022.

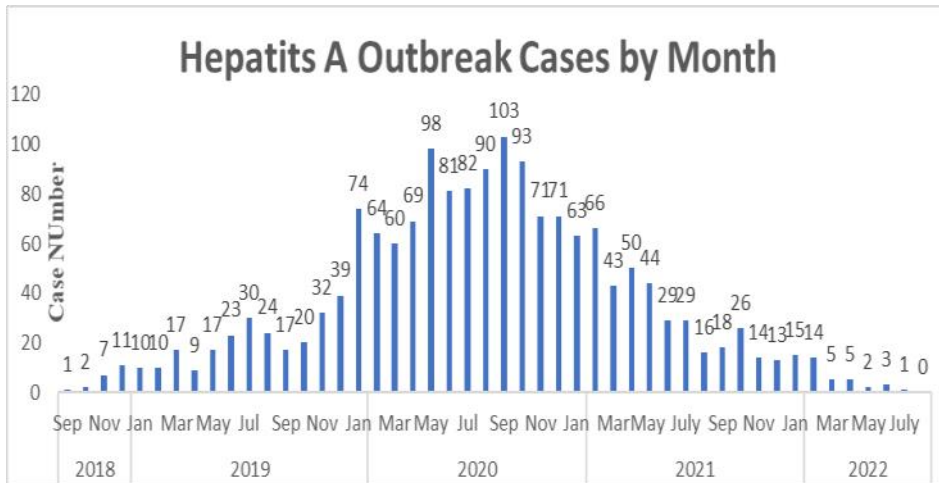
Alabama was part of a national outbreak of HAV. The outbreak began the Northeastern part of the state and spread throughout by December 2019. HAV is spread by person-to-person transmission via feces to mouth contact among unvaccinated persons.

Total cases map



Two HAV cases were reported in August 2022.

To prevent the spread of HAV, individuals who are among the high risk groups should receive the HAV vaccine. Since September 2018, 29,245 adults within the state have received the HAV vaccine which is 0.6% ages 19 and older.



Case Characteristics: Those at highest risk for HAV infection include people who use street drugs (injection or non-injection), who are currently or previously incarcerated, who are experiencing unstable housing or homelessness, or who engage in oral or anal sex. The following describes the outbreak associated HAV cases in Alabama, which includes a small percentage of food handlers and persons who travelled internationally that are not considered high risk categories by themselves.

63%



Used street drugs (Injection or non-injection)

34%



Reported previous incarceration

24%



Reported oral or anal sex

12%



Have experienced homelessness

3%



Food handler

0.06%



International Travel

Protect yourself against HAV, get vaccinated today. One dose of HAV vaccine provides long-lasting protection in up to 95% of those who receive it. To find a provider, pharmacy or health department with the vaccine near you, check out the following website <https://tinyurl.com/yveh4cav>.