

Hepatitis B in Indiana, 2021

Executive Summary Report



September 2023

National and State Rates

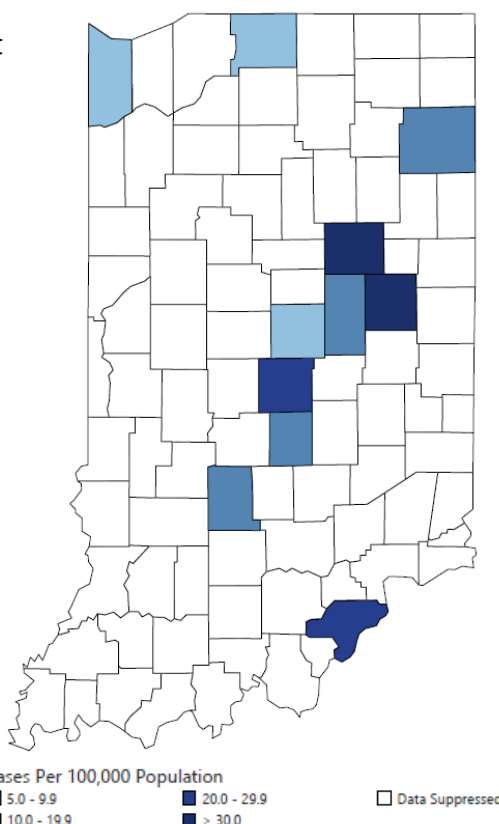
According to the [2021 Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report](#) from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national incidence rate of **acute hepatitis B has decreased by 14% since 2020**.¹ After accounting for underreporting and other factors, the CDC estimated 13,300 total acute HBV infections nationally even though there were 2,045 newly reported cases of acute hepatitis B nationally in 2021.¹ Indiana **ranked 8th** in the nation for the highest rates of reported acute hepatitis B infection (state rate is 1.2 cases per 100,000 population, national rate is 0.6 cases per 100,000 population).¹

A total of **889 confirmed and probable cases** of acute, perinatal and chronic hepatitis B were newly reported to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) in 2021 (**13.1 per 100,000 population**). [Zero Is Possible—Indiana \(ZIP-IN\)](#) regions 5 and 7, on the central and eastern side of the state, had the highest rates of HBV in Indiana in 2021 (17.4 and 21.8 per 100,000 population).

Map of HBV in Indiana

The map on the right shows newly reported cases* of hepatitis B as rates per 100,000 population. Counties that are blank have been suppressed due to unstable rates.

*Cases include perinatal, acute and chronic with classifications of confirmed and probable. Rates do not include cases identified through IDOC or FCI.



Risk Exposures

The 2021 top risk factors* included:

- Having contact with someone living with hepatitis (**68%**)
- Ever using intravenous drugs (**66%**)
- Using street drugs without injecting (**60%**)
- Ever experiencing incarceration (**54%**)

Having contact with someone living with hepatitis has been one of the top two reported risk factors since 2011; however, ever using street drugs without injecting was the top risk factor in 2020 (64%).

*Removed 'Unknown' or missing responses

Perinatal HBV

While the number of perinatal cases of HBV reported nationally in 2021 (n=17) **increased slightly from 2020** (n=10),¹ Indiana had <5 cases of perinatal HBV reported in 2020 and 0 cases reported in 2021.

The CDC [recommends universal screening of pregnant patients](#) for HBV during **each pregnancy**.² This is to ensure that any infants born to a pregnant patient living with HBV can receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B vaccine **within 12 hours of birth** to help prevent transmission.²

2021 Fast Facts

- 83 newly reported confirmed acute cases of HBV in 2021
↓ **13% decrease since 2020**
 - 319 newly reported confirmed chronic cases of HBV in 2021
↑ **29% increase since 2020**
 - 3% of all newly reported HBV cases were identified in Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC)
 - 62% of cases were male individuals
 - 50% of cases were individuals age 30-49 years
- Rate per 100,000 population:**
- Ages 30-39: **26.4**
 - Ages 40-49: **25.9**

Case Disparities

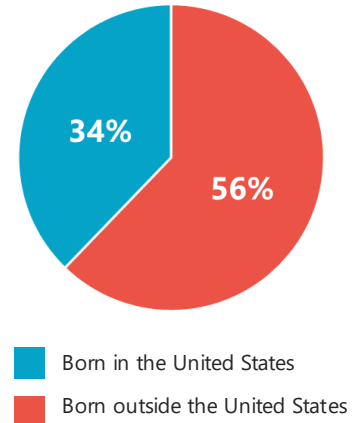
Despite making up **10%** of the Indiana population, **Black Hoosiers** accounted for **18%** of hepatitis B infections in Indiana in 2021. Between 2020–2021, there was a **four-year gap** in the average age between **Hispanic Hoosiers** (48) and **non-Hispanic Hoosiers** (44) at the time of their first reported HBV infection. Delayed HBV testing can result in worse health outcomes. For additional information on disparities and hepatitis B, view the [hepatitis B infographic](#).

Hepatitis B Worldwide

In Indiana, **56%** of newly reported cases* of HBV in 2021 reported a birth country outside of the United States. The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) estimates there were **296 million** people living with chronic hepatitis B across the world in 2019.³ Hepatitis B infections have the highest rates in the WHO Western Pacific Region, WHO African Region, and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regions.³

WHO also estimates that hepatitis B resulted in **820,000 deaths worldwide**, mainly due to cirrhosis and liver cancer.³

*Removed 'Unknown' or missing responses



HBV and HDV

Hepatitis D is a liver disease that can only infect people who are also living with HBV.⁴ The infection can either be acquired simultaneously with HBV, known as a coinfection, or in people who are already living with HBV, known as a superinfection.⁴ Chronic HDV generally causes a more aggressive and rapid progression of liver disease than chronic HBV alone.⁴

While HDV is not nationally notifiable, it is reportable in Indiana. In 2021, there were **12 suspected cases of HDV** reported to IDOH.

HDV superinfection accelerates progression of chronic HBV in

70-90%

of people living with HBV, regardless of age.⁴

Testing and Vaccines Save Lives

In 2023, the CDC released new screening and [testing recommendations for HBV](#). All adults aged 18 and older should be **tested at least once in their lifetime** using a triple HBV panel test and any person who requests testing should be tested regardless of disclosure of risk factors.⁵

While there is no cure, hepatitis B is vaccine-preventable. The [CDC recommends](#) everyone **aged 0-59** get vaccinated for hepatitis B regardless of reported risk factors.⁶

Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report – United States, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2021surveillance/index.htm>. Published August 2023. Accessed August 2023.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Perinatal Transmission. <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/perinatalexmtn.htm>. Published February 2022. Accessed August 2023.
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For more information on hepatitis B:
[Surveillance](#) | [Prevention](#) | [Services](#)

