Summary of reported hepatitis A cases linked to person-to-person outbreak, Massachusetts, April 1, 2018-May 29, 2020

Since April 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and local health departments have been investigating an outbreak of hepatitis A. The populations most affected by the outbreak were those with recent experiences of homelessness or unstable housing, and/or substance use disorder. As of May 2020, the outbreak is considered over. Weekly case counts have decreased to a pre-outbreak baseline, and that trend has been sustained for several months. MDPH acknowledges the tremendous work on the part of stakeholders statewide to control and end this outbreak, and encourages continued vaccination of vulnerable populations in accordance with recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. This report, which has been published bi-weekly throughout the outbreak, will no longer be updated. If you have questions about the report, the outbreak, or vaccination recommendations, please call the MDPH Division of Epidemiology at (617) 983-6800.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017****cases** | **2018-2020 outbreak cases** |
| **Number of cases** | 53(0 deaths) | 563 (9 deaths) |
| **Demographics** |  |  |
| Gender | 64% male | 64% male |
| Age: median (range) | 36 (5-85) | 35 (6-98) |
| Race |  |  |
| Asian | 6% | 1% |
| Black | 6% | 4% |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | -- | <1% |
| White | 49% | 71% |
| Other | 4% | 9% |
| Unknown | 36% | 14% |
| Ethnicity |  |  |
| Hispanic | 2% | 7% |
| Non-Hispanic | 47% | 68% |
| Unknown | 51% | 26% |
| **Coinfections** |  |  |
| Hepatitis B\* | 2% | 3% |
| Hepatitis C\* | 2% | 46% |
| HIV | 2% | 4% |

\*Includes confirmed and probable cases.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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|  | **2017 cases** | **2018-2020 outbreak cases** |
| **Complications** |  |  |
| Hospitalizations | 58% (31) | 79% (442) |
| Deaths | 0% | 2% (9) |
| **Risks** |  |  |
| Homelessness/ unstable housing | 0% | 35% |
| Known injection drug use | 2% | 55% |
| Known any illicit drug use | 4% | 68% |
| **Affected counties** |  |  |
| Barnstable | 0% | 2% |
| Berkshire | 2% | 1% |
| Bristol | 6% | 5% |
| Dukes | 2% | 0% |
| Essex | 9% | 13% |
| Franklin | 0% | 1% |
| Hampden | 4% | 8% |
| Hampshire | 0% | 2% |
| Middlesex | 30% | 15% |
| Norfolk | 8% | 7% |
| Plymouth | 9% | 7% |
| Suffolk | 19% | 20% |
| Worcester | 9% | 21% |
| No counties with outbreak cases reported within the last two weeks. |