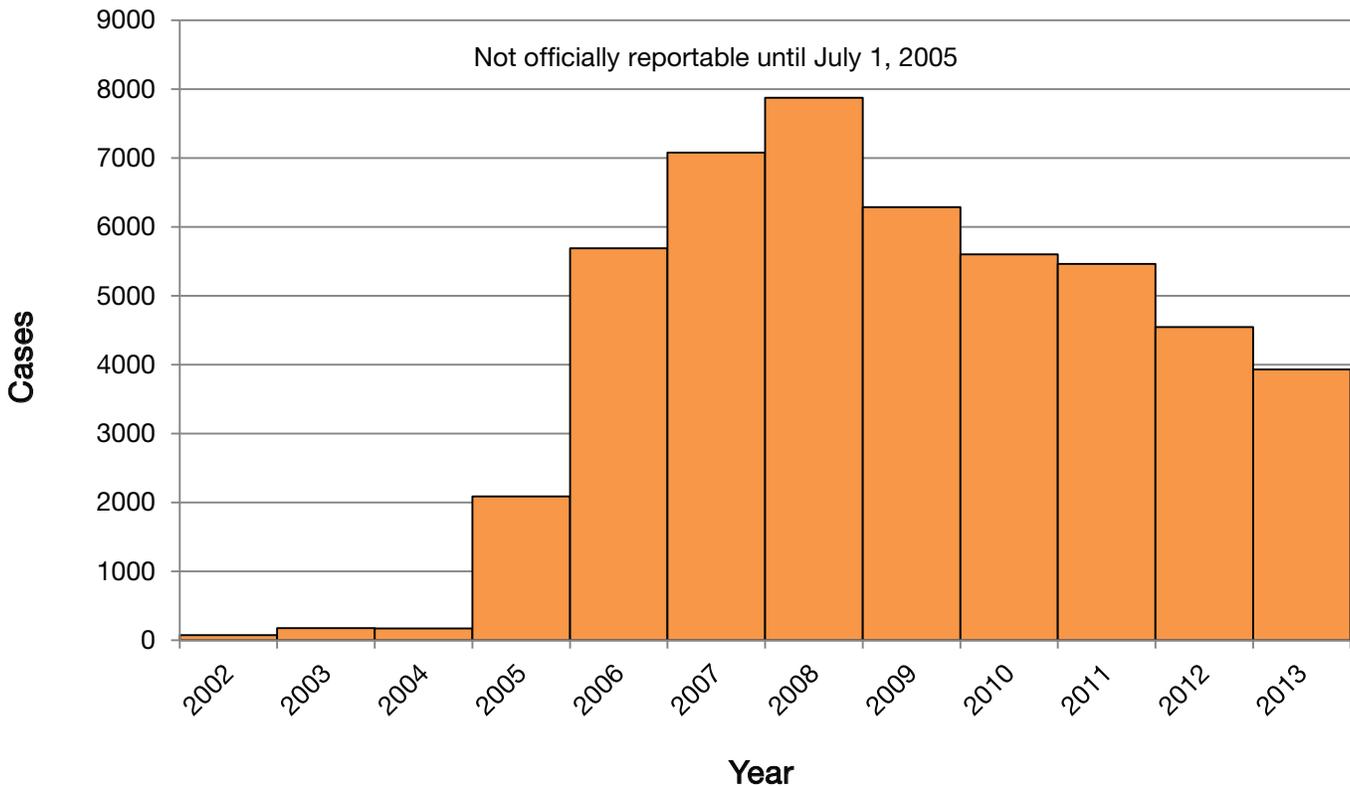


## Chronic hepatitis C

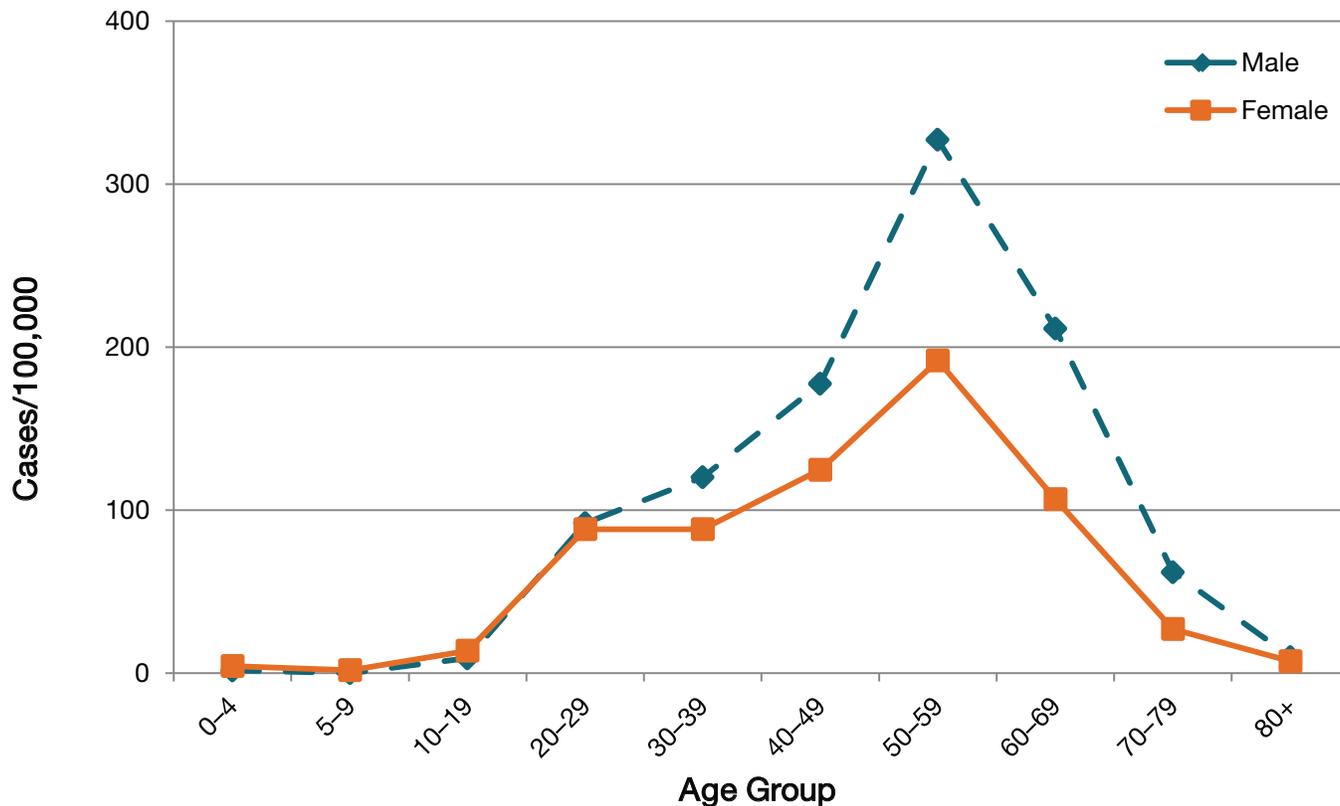
Chronic hepatitis C became reportable in Oregon as of July 1, 2005. In 2013, 4,083 new chronic hepatitis C cases were reported, down slightly from 4,574 reported in 2012. These numbers are likely an underestimate of the true incidence because most infections are asymptomatic and therefore not diagnosed

or reported to public health. Infection in males (127/100,000) is more common than in females (63/100,000). The highest prevalence of HCV infection is among persons born between 1945 and 1965. CDC estimates this age group comprises 75% of chronic hepatitis C cases in the U.S.; among 2013 Oregon cases, 57% belong to this age group.

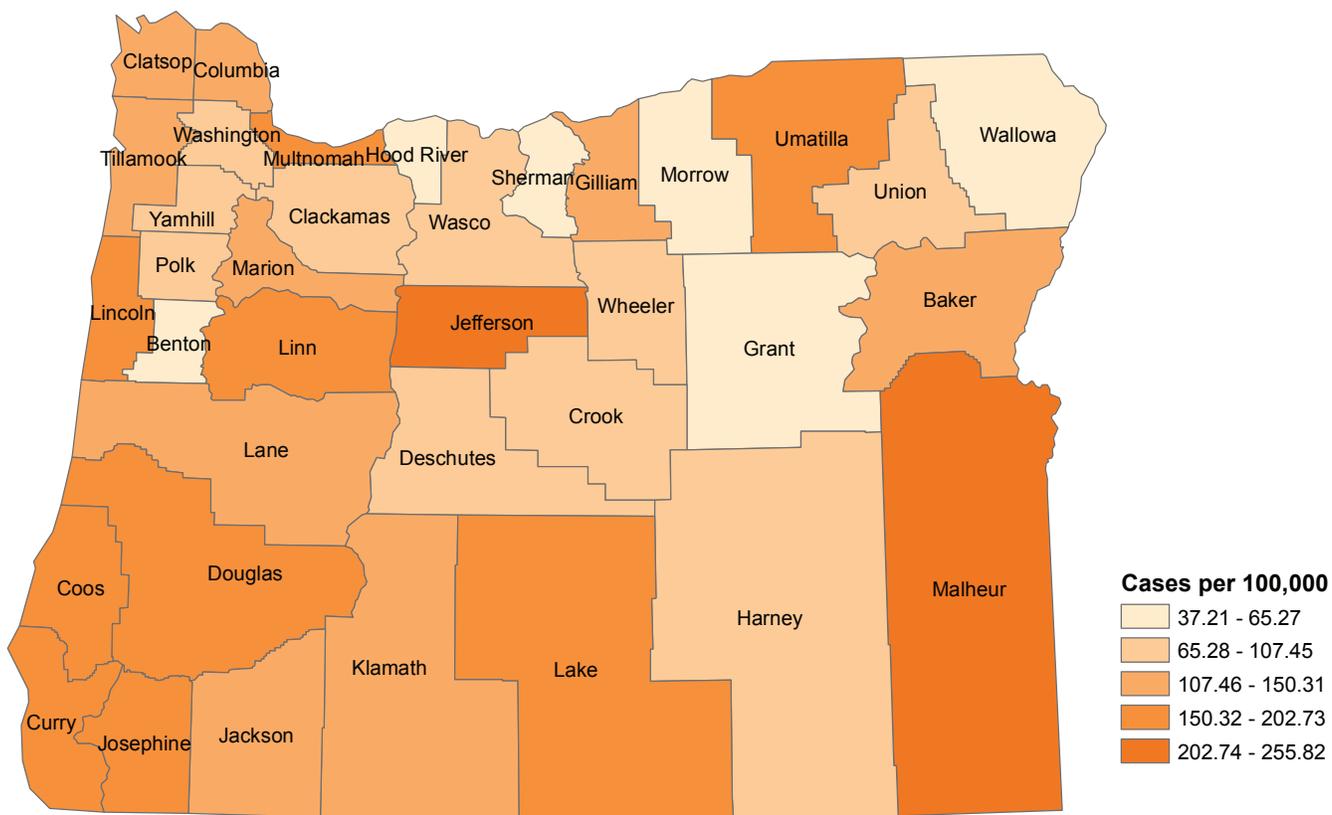
Newly reported chronic hepatitis C by year: Oregon, 2002–2013



### Chronic hepatitis C by age and sex: Oregon, 2013



### Incidence of chronic hepatitis C by county of residence: Oregon, 2009–2013



## Prevention

- Health care workers: use universal precautions and best practices to prevent needle stick injuries.
- Persons who inject drugs can:
  - Avoid sharing needles or works with others.
  - Use only clean needles and works.
  - Purchase new sterile needles from pharmacies.