



## Hepatitis A Outbreak Summary (As of November 2, 2019)

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has identified an increase in the number of hepatitis A (HAV) cases among persons reporting homelessness, drug use, Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and recent incarceration. This increase is not unique to New Jersey as several other states are also reporting similar increases. While these risk factors have been most commonly identified, increases in hepatitis A cases have also been observed in those without these risk factors. In an effort to collect standardized information from all states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created an outbreak case definition<sup>1</sup> which New Jersey is using to identify and count cases. The tables below describe total case counts and outbreak-associated cases.

*Note:* This is an ongoing investigation and case counts are subject to change. Case counts will be updated weekly and posted to this website.

**Table 1**

Number of confirmed HAV cases<sup>2</sup> reported during the outbreak time period (12/1/18 to 11/2/19) compared to the number of cases reported during this same time period last year. Of the 541 HAV cases reported, 512 cases meet the outbreak-associated case definition<sup>1</sup>.

Time Period	Confirmed HAV cases <sup>2</sup>	Outbreak-associated cases <sup>1</sup>
12/1/18 to 11/2/19	541	512
12/1/17 to 11/2/18	67	N/A

**Table 2**

### Outbreak-associated Hepatitis A Cases by County

County	Case Total	County	Case Total
Atlantic	17	Middlesex	5
Bergen	24	Monmouth	8
Burlington	39	Morris	29
Camden	140	Ocean	14
Cape May	5	Passaic	43
Cumberland	19	Salem	23
Essex	12	Somerset	4
Gloucester	62	Sussex	4
Hudson	8	Union	3
Hunterdon	2	Warren	2
Mercer	49	<b>Total</b>	<b>512</b>

Hospitalizations: 337 (84.7%) [Data available for 398 cases]

Deaths: 6

<sup>1</sup>Outbreak Case Definition - A case of hepatitis A in a New Jersey resident that meets the hepatitis A case definition with an illness onset after December 1, 2018 **AND**

- Indicates upon case interview or medical record review having one or more of the identified risk factors\* **OR**
- Does not indicate having a risk factor but is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case who does have a risk factor\* **OR**
- Does not indicate having a risk factor\* and there is no other explanation (i.e., travel to a country or U.S. territory with endemic hepatitis A within 2 to 6 weeks prior to onset, epidemiologically linked to a foodborne outbreak) for their illness.

\*Risk factors associated with this outbreak include: people who use street drugs (injected or non-injected), people experiencing homelessness or unstable housing, people who are currently or recently incarcerated and men who have sex with men (MSM).

<sup>2</sup>Hepatitis A Case Definition: [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/chapters/hepa\\_ch.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/chapters/hepa_ch.pdf)