

# Hepatitis C

## Number of Chronic Hepatitis C Cases in Kalamazoo County, 2016

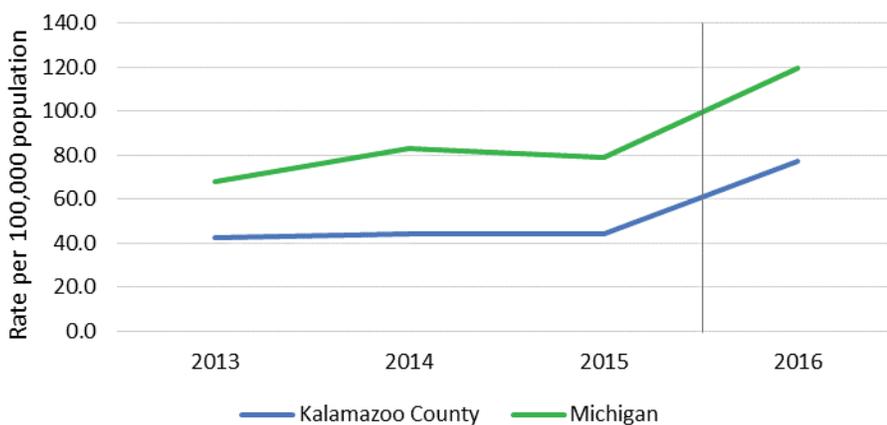
Total	Ages 18-29	Ages 50-70
<b>194</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>

### Importance

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV). HCV is a blood-borne virus. For some people, hepatitis C is a short-term illness, but for most, it becomes a long-term, chronic infection. The majority of infected persons might not be aware of their infection because they are not clinically ill. Today, most people become infected with HCV by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), an estimated 2.7-3.9 million people in the US have chronic hepatitis C.

In the United States, hepatitis C rates are high among those aged 50-70, ‘Baby Boomers’. According to the CDC, the reason for the high rates of hepatitis C is not fully understood; it is thought that most Baby Boomers became infected during the 1960s-1980s. Since Baby Boomers are five times more likely to have hepatitis C compared to other ages, the CDC recommends that everyone born during 1945-1965 be tested.

Rate of Chronic Hepatitis C by Year, Kalamazoo County and Michigan



### Data and Trends

In 2016, the number of newly reported chronic hepatitis C cases in both Kalamazoo County and Michigan increased from the previous year (110 to 193 in Kalamazoo County, 7,833 to 11,883 in Michigan). This increase is likely due, in part, to a change in the case definition of chronic hepatitis C in 2016.



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Health and Community Services Department

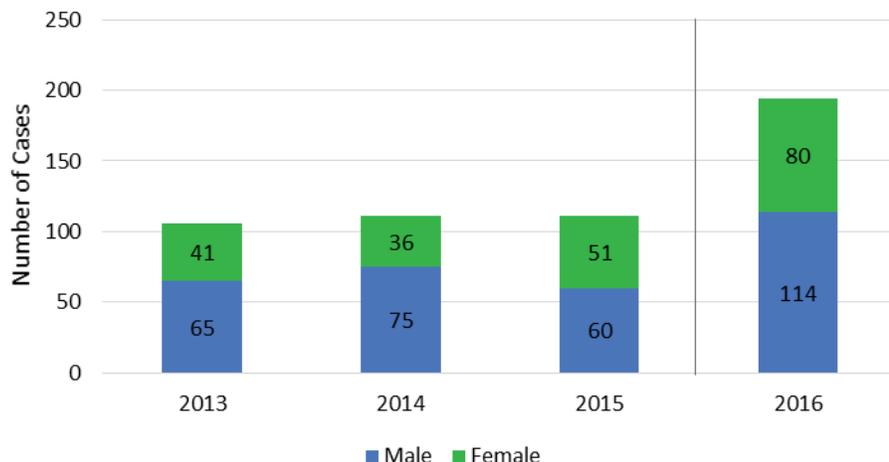
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Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

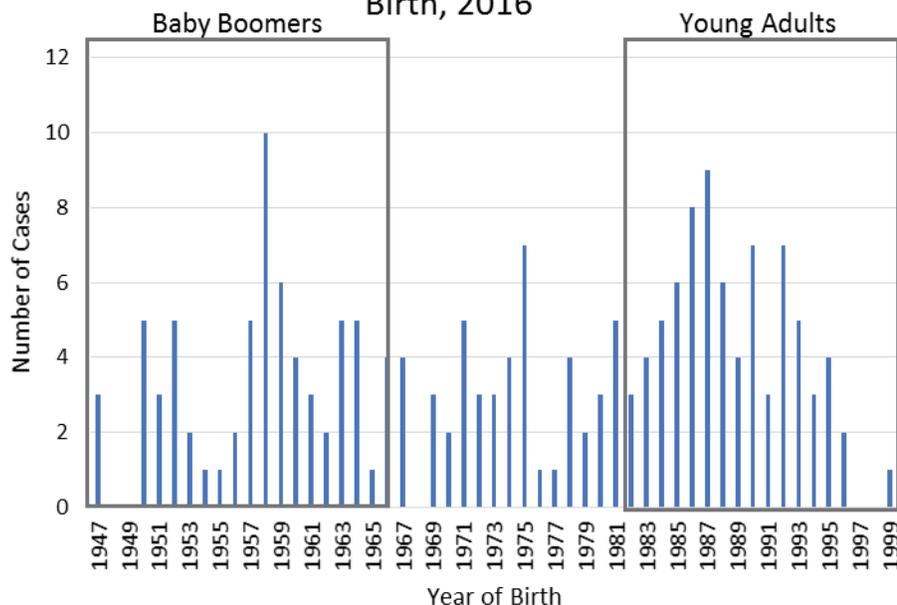
## Demographics

Number of Chronic Hepatitis C Cases by Sex



Males have 1.6 times as many cases of hepatitis C than females. In 2016, the average age of a male diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C was 43.9 years, compared to 36.7 years for females. This is consistent with previous years' data; while the average age changes, males are generally older than the females. Male cases were 67% white, 16% black, 4% other race, and 14% unknown race. For females, cases were 75% white, 12.5% black, 3% other race, and 10% unknown race.

Number of Chronic Hepatitis C Cases by Year of Birth, 2016



The highest rate of new case reports was in the 25-29 year age group (195 cases per 100,000) followed by the 55-59 year age group (169 per 100,000).

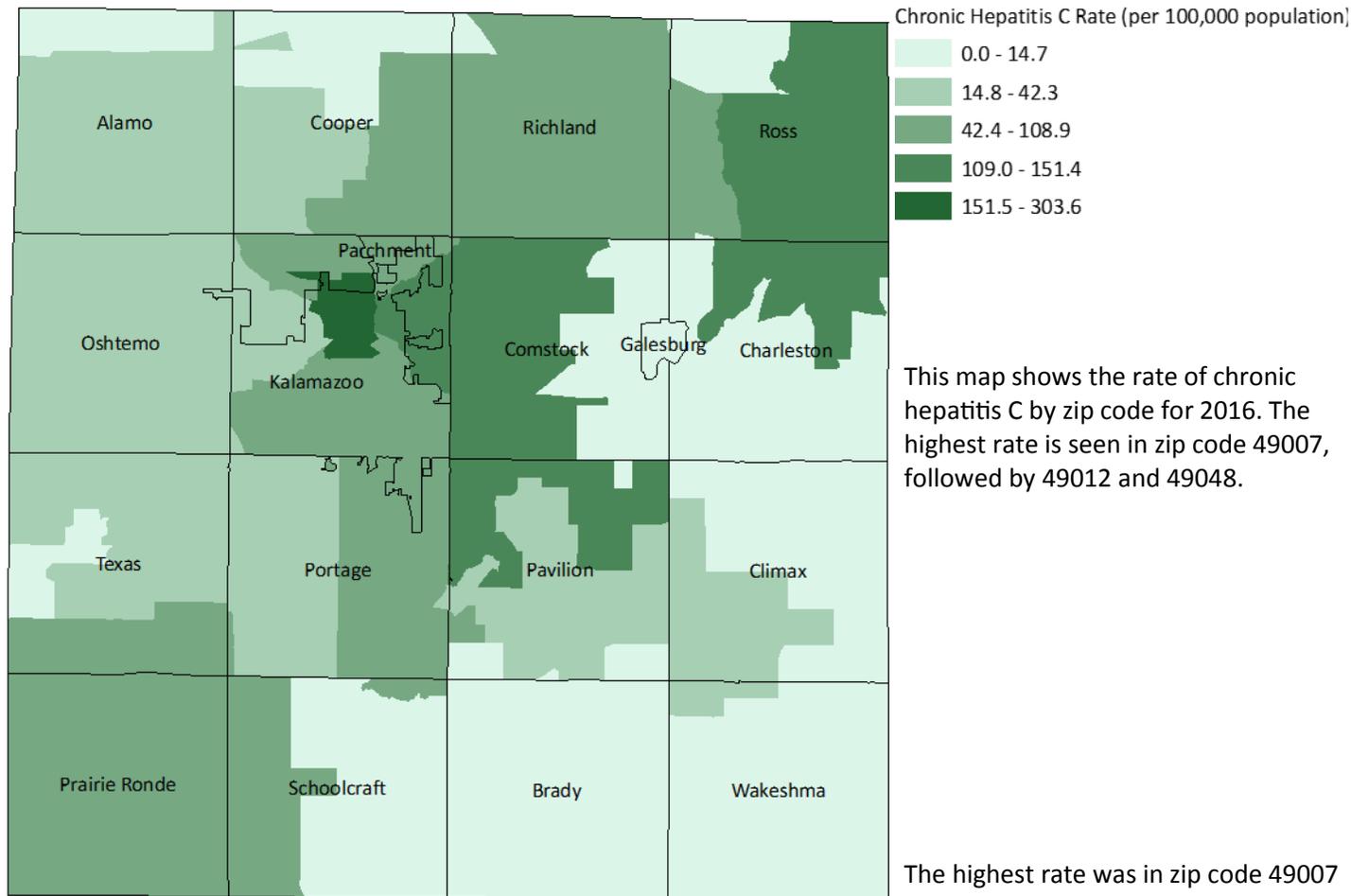
The figure shows the number of chronic hepatitis C cases reported in 2016 by year of birth. Similar to both Michigan and United States data, the majority of reported infections in Kalamazoo County occurred in the 'Baby Boomer' and 'Young Adult' age groups.

Injection Drug Use, 2013-2016

Age Group	No	Yes
18-29	5%	95%
30-49	10%	90%
50-70	38%	62%

According to studies conducted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, injection drug use was the primary risk factor for HCV transmission in the 'Young Adult' age group in Michigan. This is consistent with the data in Kalamazoo; of the cases in this age group with completed drug use information, 95% reported 'ever injecting drugs', as opposed to 62% of the 'Baby Boomer' age group.

## Chronic Hepatitis C Cases, 2016



	49007	49012	49048	County
<b>Number of Cases</b>	32	5	39	194
<b>Rate (per 100,000)</b>	303.6	151.4	147.0	75.6
<b>Average Age</b>	45.5	31.2	39.4	41.3
<b>Sex</b>				
<b>Male</b>	68.8%	-	43.6%	58.8%
<b>Female</b>	31.3%	-	59.0%	41.2%
<b>Race</b>				
<b>White</b>	65.6%	-	66.7%	70.1%
<b>Black</b>	21.9%	-	20.5%	14.4%
<b>Other</b>	0.0%	-	2.6%	3.1%
<b>Unknown</b>	12.5%	-	12.8%	12.4%

The highest rate was in zip code 49007 at 303.6 cases per 100,000. The average age of cases was 45.5, compared to 41.3 for the county as a whole. Cases who live in 49007 are 68.8% male and 65.6% white.

The case rate in 49012 is 151.4 per 100,000, with an average age of 31.2. Further demographic breakdown is not available due to the small number of cases.

The rate in 49048 is 147.0 per 100,000, similar to that in 49012. The average age is 39.4 years, slightly lower than the county (41.3). Males make up 43.6% of these cases, markedly lower than the 58.8% for the county. Sixty seven percent of the cases in this zip code are white.

Sources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)  
[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#)  
 Michigan Disease Surveillance System