

Hep C screening recommended for adults, pregnant women

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(HealthDay)—Hepatitis C screening is recommended for all adults and

for all pregnant women, except where the prevalence is below 0.1 percent; meanwhile, the annual rate of reported acute hepatitis C cases increased to 1.2 per 100,000 population in 2018, according to recommendations and a report published in the April 10 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Sarah Schillie, M.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues updated and summarized previously published recommendations regarding testing for hepatitis C infection in the United States. The researchers issued two new recommendations for hepatitis C screening, which are applicable in all settings except where the prevalence is less than 0.1 percent: screening at least once in a lifetime for all adults aged ≥ 18 years and hepatitis C screening for all pregnant women in each pregnancy.

A. Blythe Ryerson, Ph.D., also from the CDC, and colleagues determined the rate of acute hepatitis C cases reported to the CDC by age group and year during 2009 to 2018. The researchers found that 3,621 cases of acute hepatitis C were reported during 2018, representing an estimated 50,300 cases. There was an increase in the [annual rate](#) of reported acute hepatitis C cases per 100,000 population from 0.3 in 2009 to 1.2 in 2018. In 2018, there was a bimodal distribution of newly reported chronic hepatitis C cases, with the highest proportions seen among those aged 20 to 39 and 50 to 69 years.

"These findings highlight the need for immediate implementation of the new CDC universal hepatitis C screening recommendations for all adults and [pregnant women](#)," Ryerson and colleagues write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text - Recommendations](#)
[Abstract/Full Text - Vital Signs Report](#)

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