



Hepatitis C Related Deaths

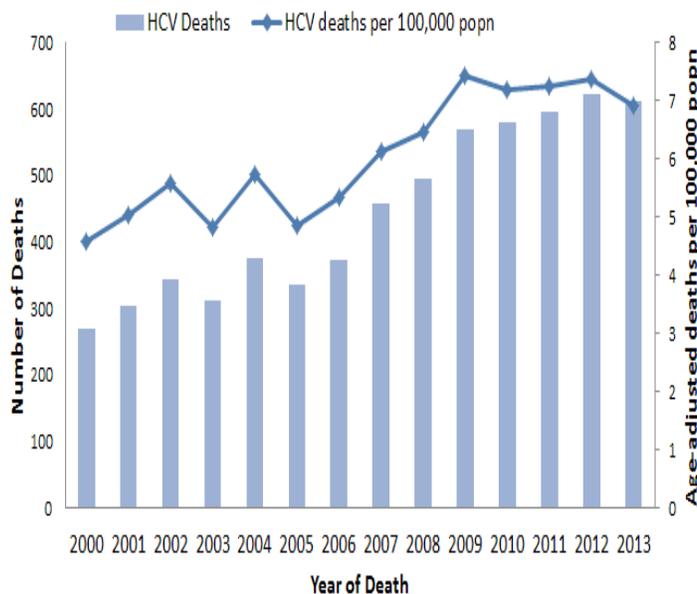
Hepatitis C Mortality*

Hepatitis C is a virus that infects the liver. It is the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer in US. Approximately 12,000 people die each year from hepatitis C related liver disease. It has been shown that those with as a reported cause of death hepatitis C virus die 22-23 years earlier than others not infected with hepatitis C.¹

Time Trend

The age-adjusted mortality rate for hepatitis C in Washington State had a sharp increase in magnitude from 2000 to 2011. This statistically significant increase started at 4.6 HCV deaths per 100,000 population in 2000 and peaked at 7.23 HCV deaths per 100,000 population in 2011. There was not a discernable change in magnitude from 2011 to 2013.

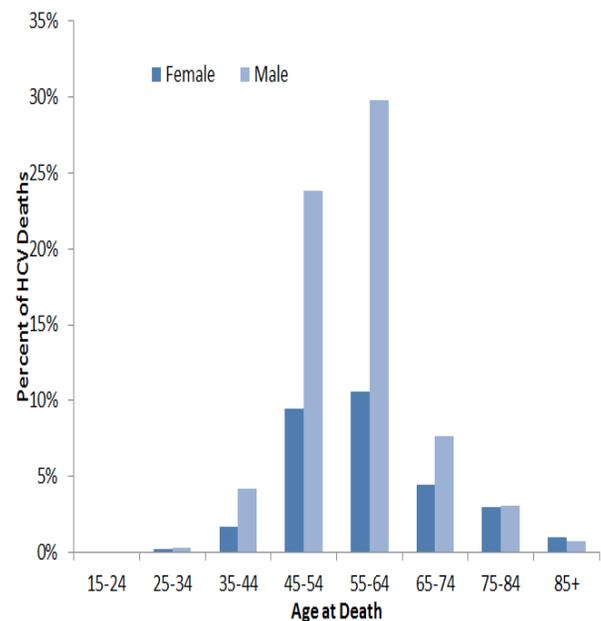
Reported Hepatitis C Deaths and Rates by Year of Death, Washington State, 2000-2013



Gender and Age

In Washington, about 70% of hepatitis C deaths were among males. The majority of deaths (74%) were among persons aged 45-64 years old. Over 77% of male deaths and over 65% of female deaths were in this age group. This is similar to the national hepatitis C mortality trend. The proportion of deaths among males was greater than females in all age categories except for those aged 85+. However, in the general state population during the same time period, 19% of all deaths occurred between those aged 45-64 years old.

Reported Hepatitis C Deaths by Gender and Age at Death, Washington State, 2000-2013



*All hepatitis C death data from Washington State death certificates, 2000-2013

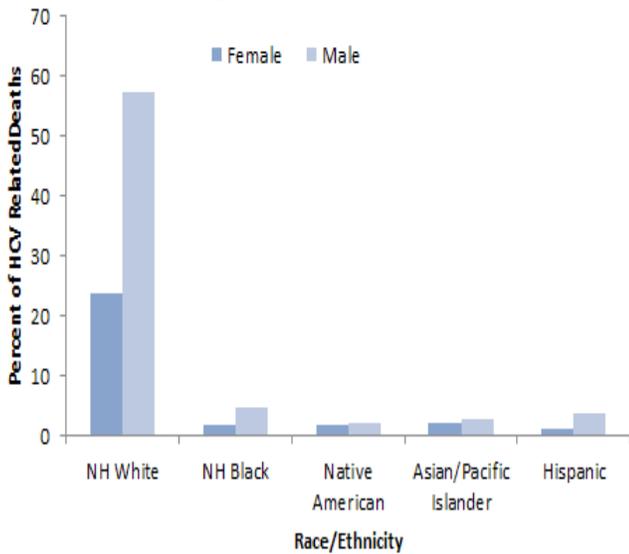
1. Ly, et al. Clinical Infectious Disease, 2014;58(1):40-9

Washington State Hepatitis C Mortality

Race and Ethnicity

White non-Hispanic (NH) males had the largest percentage of hepatitis C related deaths (57%). Across the racial groups, NH whites have the largest mortality burden with over 81% of deaths. This is unsurprising as it is similar to the distribution of NH whites in the state population. However, approximately 7% of the reported hepatitis C deaths are black, but NH blacks only compose an estimated 4% of the Washington population.

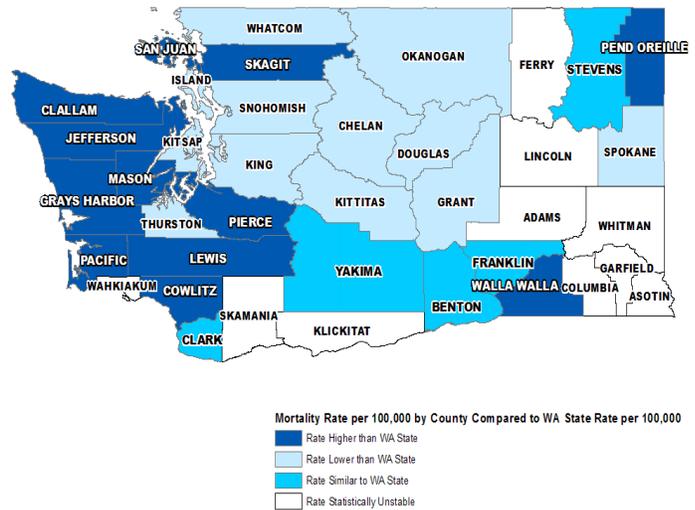
Reported Hepatitis C Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Washington State, 2000-2013



County of Death

While the majority of reported hepatitis C deaths were in King (26%) and Pierce (13%) counties, the 2000-2013 mortality rates of these counties were significantly lower than the state rate of 105 deaths per 100,000 population. Pend Oreille county had the highest hepatitis C mortality rate with 230 deaths per 100,000 population. This is 119% greater than the state rate. Approximately 1% of deaths were reported in correctional facilities and are not represented in the map. However, it is difficult to identify correctional deaths on the death certificate and is most likely a gross underestimation of hepatitis C correctional deaths.

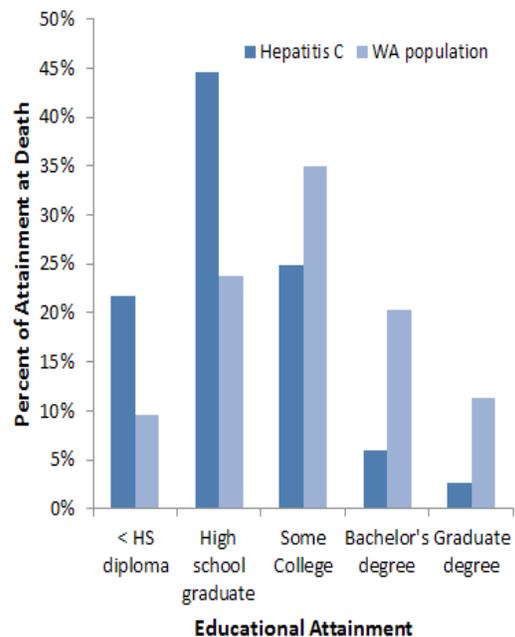
Hepatitis C Mortality Rates per 100,000 by County Compared to Washington State Rate, 2000-2013



Educational Attainment

Of reported hepatitis C deaths, 21% had an educational status of less than a high school diploma. This is much higher than general Washington population of 10%. Six percent of the persons who died from hepatitis C had a bachelor's degree as compared to 20% of the general state population.

Reported Hepatitis C Deaths by Education at Death Compared to Washington State, 2000-2013



For More Information...

Washington State Department of Health
 PO Box 47838 Olympia, WA 98504-7838
 (360) 236-3455