

2017 Algoma Community Bulletin: Hepatitis C in Algoma



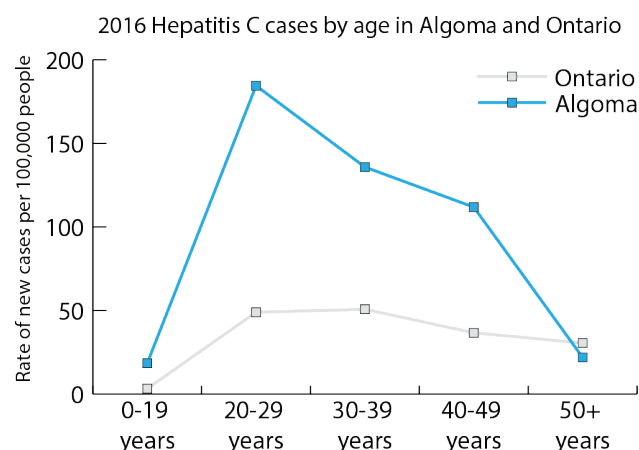
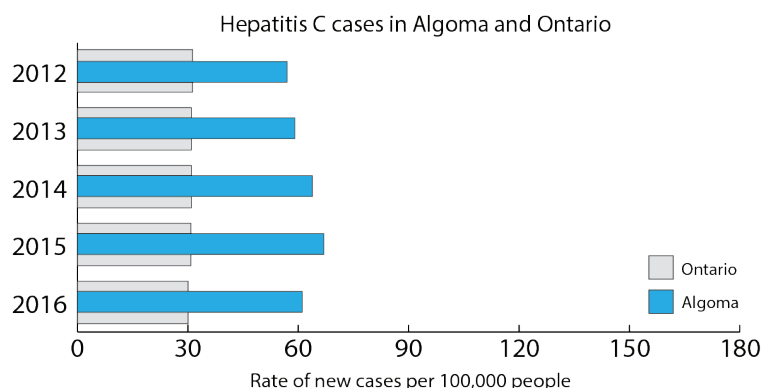
Algoma
PUBLIC HEALTH
Santé publique Algoma

Hepatitis C is a viral disease that affects the liver. Left untreated, it can result in liver damage or cancer.

Hepatitis C is found in an infected person's blood and is spread through blood or body fluids. The virus is spread by sharing needles, personal care items, piercing equipment or having unprotected sex.

Between 2012 and 2016 the rate of new cases of hepatitis C in Algoma has **increased 7.2%**, compared to a decrease in the province of 4.0%.

During 2016, new cases of hepatitis C were most common in 20-29 year olds in Algoma. The rate of new cases in this age group was **3.8 times higher** in Algoma than in the province. Algoma also had a higher rate of new cases of hepatitis C in 0-19, 30-39 and 40-49 year olds.



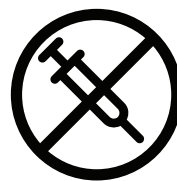
How to reduce your risk:



Practice safe
sex



Do not share
personal care items



Do not share
needles



Check inspection reports at
spas, salons and parlours

To reduce the spread of hepatitis C, Algoma Public Health is committed to:

- Ensure all people diagnosed with hepatitis C receive education about treatment
- Raise public awareness, especially among youth and young adults
- Encourage safe practices to prevent the spread of hepatitis C

Data source: 'Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database; Ontario Population Estimates and Projections, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO. Accessed January 10 2017.

Together with our communities, Algoma Public Health is a leader in promoting and protecting health and well-being