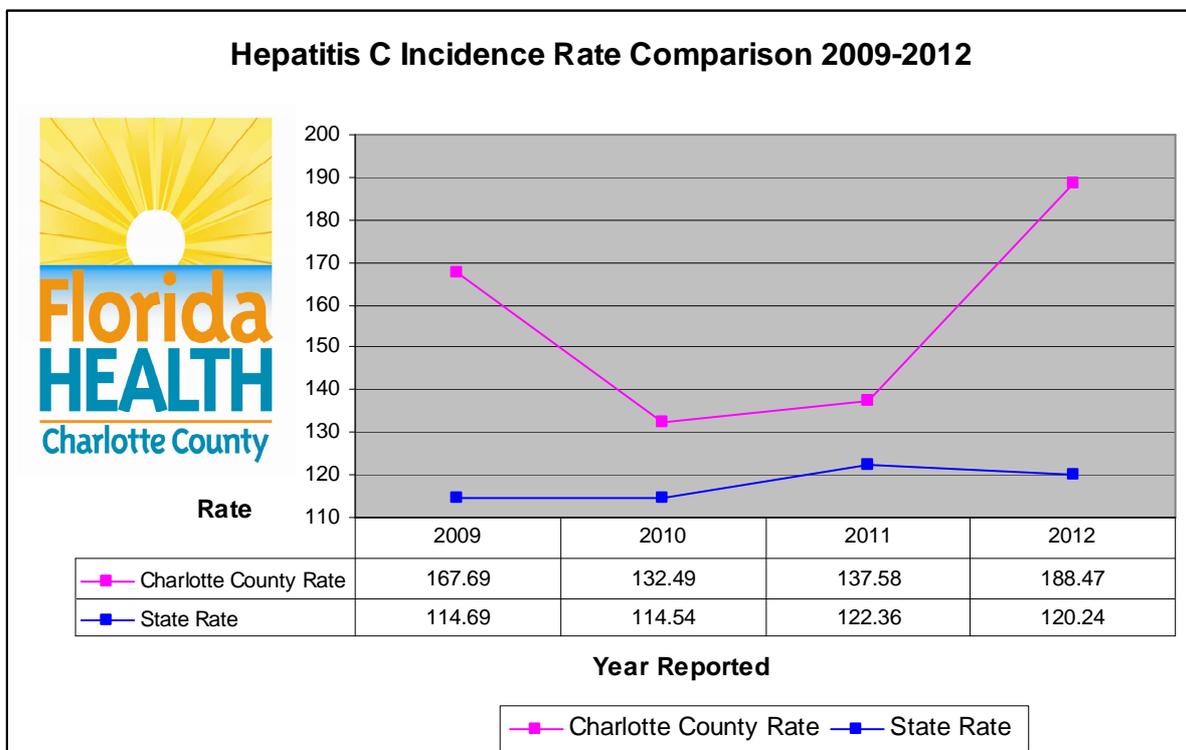


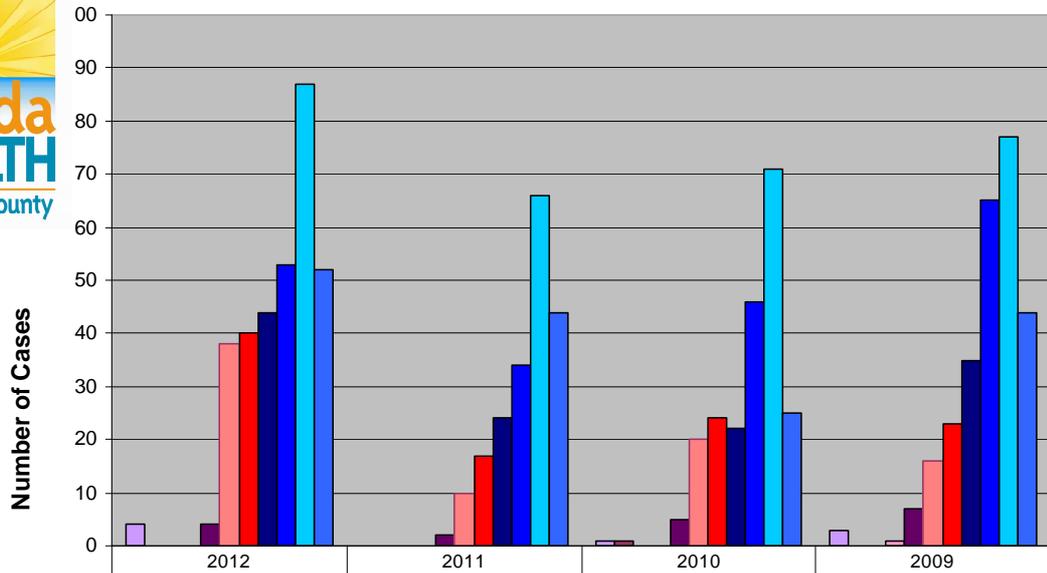
Chronic Hepatitis C cases in Charlotte County

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a major cause of liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma in the United States. Of the estimated 2.7-3.9 million persons with active HCV infection, most were born during 1945-1964 and likely were infected during the 1970s and 1980s, before the advent of prevention measures. Newly reported HCV infection had declined in the U.S. during 2002-2006 but an increase has been observed among cases in the 15--29 year age group. The following two tables describe the increase in rates of newly reported HCV infection in Charlotte county compared to State rates and an increase among persons aged 15-29 years during the past 4 years. Chronic Hepatitis C is a reportable condition in Florida; however, these cases are not investigated. There is a need for enhanced surveillance of HCV infection and intensified hepatitis C prevention efforts targeting adolescents and young adults in our community. In response to this increase, the Charlotte County Health Department would like to conduct a surveillance initiative to collect more detailed information on cases reported during 2010-2012 among this younger age group and to examine the data for trends through 2012. During 2009-2012, Charlotte county received 216 reports of new cases of HCV infection among persons aged 15-29 years. Addressing the epidemic of HCV infection among adolescents and young adults presents unique challenges in terms of education, outreach, and other interventions. CDC, in collaboration with state and local health departments, is examining HCV surveillance data to determine whether similar trends are occurring in other reporting areas. Some interventions that could be implemented include access to sterile syringes and drug preparation equipment through syringe exchange services, expanded school-based education that includes viral hepatitis prevention messages, expanded harm reduction programs directed toward young drug users, entry to drug treatment for young injection drug users, and access to comprehensive health services that include HCV testing and linkage to care.





Hepatitis C Cases by Age Group



	2012	2011	2010	2009
<1	4	0	1	3
1 - 4 yrs	0	0	1	0
5 - 9 yrs	0	0	0	0
10 - 14 yrs	0	0	0	1
15 - 19 yrs	4	2	5	7
20 - 24 yrs	38	10	20	16
25 - 29 yrs	40	17	24	23
30 - 39 yrs	44	24	22	35
40 - 49 yrs	53	34	46	65
50 - 59 yrs	87	66	71	77
> 60	52	44	25	44

Year Reported