



HEPATITIS B

IN IRELAND 2025



572 notifications of hepatitis B in Ireland in 2025

Let's **break it down.**

3% acute

97% chronic

Acquired within last 6 months
Most adults clear hepatitis B

Persists for more than 6 months (lifelong infection)
Most children who acquire hepatitis B at birth develop chronic hepatitis B

Many people living with hepatitis B don't know they have it.

Chronic cases

Most common risk factor

is coming from a country where hepatitis B is common, often acquired at birth or in early childhood



35%
female

40 yrs
average age



65%
male

40 yrs
average age

99%
born outside Ireland

14,000-24,000 people estimated to be living with **chronic hepatitis B** in Ireland¹

Acute cases



2 in 3
cases male

Majority (60%)
of acute cases were born in Ireland



Most common risk factor
is unprotected sexual contact in Ireland or internationally

Who is at risk?



People born in a country where hepatitis B is more common

(Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe)



IF NOT VACCINATED:

People who come into contact with blood or body fluids from a person with hepatitis B

(e.g. babies exposed at birth, unprotected sexual contact, sharing drug equipment, getting tattoos, medical or dental treatment in unsafe settings)



If you are at risk:

Talk to your doctor about testing for hepatitis B, and getting the vaccine if you are not protected

If you have hepatitis B:

Treatments are available that can prevent serious illness, ask your doctor about these

¹Canabarro AP, et al. Use of the Workbook Method to estimate the prevalence of chronic hepatitis B infections in the European Union and European Economic Area, 2022. Euro Surveill. 2026;31(14):pii=2500322.