



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



Division of Disease Control
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To report diseases or request
information call:

(Mon-Fri, 8-5, Area code 727):
Epidemiology 824-6932
Hepatitis 824-6932
HIV/AIDS 824-6964
Immunizations 824-6936
STD 824-6911
Tuberculosis 824-6953
Non-business hours 824-6900

Epi Watch is a monthly newsletter
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Pinellas County Health Department
Epidemiology Program.

SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY – 2005
DISEASE CONTROL DIVISION

The prevention and control of communicable diseases continues to be a top priority for the Pinellas County Health Department (PinCHD). In 2005, the PinCHD enhanced its public health preparedness activities, strengthened disease surveillance programs, and increased its epidemiologic and investigative capabilities.

The rates of enteric diseases, campylobacteriosis, giardiasis, hepatitis A, salmonellosis, and shigellosis increased in 2005 compared to 2004 from 29 to 47 cases per 100,000 population. The largest increase was seen in the rate of shigellosis cases which increased from 2 to 17 cases per 100,000 population. The increase may be attributed to the 40% secondary attack rate within households. An increase in this illness was also seen in other Floridian counties. The number of cases of hepatitis A and campylobacteriosis decreased. In 2004 the PinCHD reported 1 case of cyclosporiasis, this year 57 cases were identified which were linked by a common exposure. This outbreak affected other states and was probably due to imported herbs. Prompt reporting of cases from community partners and thorough investigation by the PinCHD has helped to prevent additional cases and outbreaks.

The rate of acute hepatitis B decreased in the last year from 5 to 3.6 cases per 100,000 population. The rate of acute hepatitis C also decreased in the same time period from 1.5 to 0.7 cases per 100,000 population. Hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines continue to be administered to high-risk individuals in the community in an attempt to reduce viral hepatitis activity.

During 2005, the PinCHD investigated two mosquito-borne outbreaks. There were 4 cases of imported Dengue Fever in travelers to Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. Pinellas County had 18 cases of West Nile Virus infection out of the 21 total cases statewide. A medical alert was issued to increase the awareness of residents, visitors and physicians to the disease. The outbreak was contained through investigation and collaboration with the Mosquito Control Department. The ongoing surveillance and control of mosquito-borne diseases continues year round in Pinellas County.

The Pinellas County Nursing Home/Assisted Living Facility Program ensures the safety of long-term care residents through inspections, disease surveillance, and the investigation of complaints and outbreaks. There are 304 such facilities county-wide. From 42 outbreak investigations, 20 were gastrointestinal and 14 were respiratory in nature.

The Syndromic Tracking and Reporting System (STARS), used to track specific syndromes in the county hospitals emergency departments, maintained a rate of approximately 20,000 entries per month throughout this year. Cooperation between the PinCHD and the 10 participating hospitals in the county provides information that may indicate an increase or outbreak of disease, or identify a bioterrorism event at the earliest possible stage. This valuable public health tool is undergoing an update by the Hillsborough County Health Department to automate the data input at the hospital level, eliminating the need for manual data entry. Automation improves efficiency as well as increases the quality of data received.

There have been several changes in the staffing of the Epidemiology Program. Diana Jordan, RN, MPH, MS, and Sue Kennedy, RN, have retired after many years of exemplary service. We welcome Sue Heller, RN, BSN, to the position of Nursing Program Specialist and Nurse Epidemiologists Joan Simone, RN, and David Sobamiwa, RN, to the program.

The PinCHD would like to thank our community partners for continued support and assistance in disease reporting and surveillance activities and look forward to another successful year of collaborative efforts to promote, protect, and improve the health of residents and visitors of Pinellas County.

NA = Not Available

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2005 December	2005 Year-to-Date	2004 Year-to-Date	2004 Total
AIDS	23	165	202	202
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	4	48	59	59
Animal Rabies		5	4	4
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue		4		
EEE				
SLE				
WNV		18		
CA/LaCrosse			1	1
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis		39	46	46
Chlamydia	193	1,909	2,403	2,403
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)		2	2	2
Cryptosporidiosis	1	15	7	7
Cyclosporiasis		57	1	1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	2	4	2	2
Giardiasis	4	30	28	28
Gonorrhea	103	1,130	1,373	1,373
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1	1	1
Primary bacteremia		6	5	5
Epiglottitis			1	1
Hansen Disease		1		
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1		
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		8	12	12
B	3	34	48	48
C		7	14	14
Non-A, Non-B		1	5	5
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	33	26	26
HIV	28	244	231	231
Legionellosis		7	14	14
Listeriosis		2		
Lyme Disease		10	4	4
Malaria		1	4	4
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep			1	1
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		5	1	1
Other bacterial	1	5	2	2
Meningococcal Disease	2	6	4	4
Mercury Poisoning			1	1
Mumps		1		
Pertussis	1	14	15	15
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		1	1	1
Salmonellosis	24	207	170	170
Shigellosis	13	164	19	19
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	1	11	8	8
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)	5	25	22	22
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suspect)	2	30	21	21
Syphilis: Total	9	92	95	95
Infectious (P and S)	2	40	38	38
Early Latent	4	31	36	36
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	3	21	21	21
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	4	27	35	35
<i>Vibrio</i> infections		5	10	10

Provisional cases reported by the Pinellas County Health Department. Blank cells indicate no cases reported.

For a complete list of reportable diseases and guidelines for reporting please visit:

http://www.myflorida.com/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_4.pdf