



# 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  
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## April is National STD Awareness Month

Sherry Lewis, BS, George Richardson, BS Ed

This issue of *Epi Watch* will highlight issues and programs related to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in observance of National STD Awareness Month in April. The Pinellas County Health Department (PinCHD) is dedicated to monitoring STD trends in the community in order to implement effective prevention and control programs for this important public health issue.

While many diseases may be transmitted sexually, the following are reportable to the Florida Department of Health (DOH), County Health Department STD Program: chancroid, chlamydia, gonorrhea, lymphogranuloma venereum, granuloma inguinale, syphilis and herpes simplex in neonates less than 6 months old. HIV and AIDS are reportable STDs as well, but are reported separately to the HIV Program. Page 2 of this newsletter provides information regarding the number of selected STDs reported in 2006 and 2005.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea continue to cause the highest STD disease burden in the community with 2,488 and 1,417 cases reported respectively in 2005. The number of diagnosed cases has increased in the past year. It is important to note that many STDs are asymptomatic, especially in women, and can still be transmitted to others despite the lack of or nonspecific symptoms. This fact underscores the importance of screening for STDs in sexually active individuals. Untreated STDs may lead to more severe conditions in women, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, potentially fatal ectopic pregnancies and cancer of the reproductive tract.

The total number of syphilis cases is increasing. The reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis cases have increased in the past year from 38 in 2004 to 40 in 2005. In response to this increase, the STD Program has increased screening efforts in the PinCHD clinics and in community outreach settings, including the jail. Individuals with a positive screening test (RPR) are notified and offered appropriate medication. Untreated syphilis can cause blindness, deafness, mental illness and death, particularly in newborns. An essential component to the prevention and control of syphilis is tracing of all contacts of primary, secondary and early latent cases in order to educate, screen and treat early in order to prevent the further spread of this devastating disease in the community.

The PinCHD is committed to providing high quality STD services to the community by providing testing, examinations, medications and contact tracing in clinic and screening tests at high-risk community outreach events. Please visit our website at [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com) or the Florida DOH, Bureau of STD at [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to find out more about the prevention and control of STDs. To report a confirmed or suspected case of a reportable STD, please contact the PinCHD STD Program at 824-6911.

NA = Not Available

**Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>2006 March</b>	<b>2006 Year-to-Date</b>	<b>2005 Year-to-Date</b>	<b>2005 Total</b>
AIDS	63	77	54	163
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	3	9	12	48
Animal Rabies			1	5
Arboviral Illness (Human):				3
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				18
CA/LaCrosse				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	1	5	10	39
Chlamydia	287	692	520	2505
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)			1	2
Cryptosporidiosis	2	2		15
Cyclosporiasis				57
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				3
Giardiasis	2	5	3	30
Gonorrhea	122	374	276	1436
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1		1
Primary bacteremia	2	3	1	6
Epiglottitis				
Hansen Disease				1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1	1	1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		2	4	9
B		1	10	36
C		2	3	7
Non-A, Non-B			1	1
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	5	12	33
HIV	35	51	89	240
Legionellosis	1	2		8
Listeriosis			1	1
Lyme Disease			1	5
Malaria				1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		1	3	6
Other bacterial	1	3	1	5
Meningococcal Disease	1	2	2	7
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps			1	1
Pertussis	1	7	4	13
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				1
Salmonellosis	9	21	24	212
Shigellosis	2	6	11	169
Smallpox				
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	1	2	3	11
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)	2	7	8	27
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept)	1	8	13	29
Syphilis: Total	13	36	21	95
Infectious (P and S)	4	9	11	41
Early Latent	3	13	6	32
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	6	14	4	22
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	4	10	4	27
<i>Vibrio</i> infections				5

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