



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 produced and distributed by the Pinellas County Health Department Epidemiology Program. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact Andrea Dopico: andrea_dopico@doh.state.fl.us

"The reason for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on a disease is to control that disease. Collection and analysis should not be allowed to consume resources if action does not follow."

Foegen, W.H. et al. (1976).
Int. J of Epidemiology, 5:29-37.

The Jail Linkage Project

Lisa Cohen

Throughout the U.S., inmates have higher rates of infectious diseases and are at a higher risk for many health problems compared to the general population. This disparity is due to risk factors among inmates that include drug use, unprotected sex and sexual assault. The Pinellas/Pasco County Jail Linkage Project is a collaborative effort between the Pinellas County Health Department and the Pinellas/Pasco County Sheriff's Offices. This award-winning program began as a pilot project in 2001 to reduce the spread of infectious diseases among inmates, in the jail and upon their release, by providing health care and prevention education to this population. The Pinellas/Pasco Jail Linkage project is one of the first in Florida and it has served as a model program for other areas in the state and throughout the U.S.

The Pinellas County Health Department strives to provide health services to the entire community, including those who have limited access to care. There is an urgent need to provide prevention information, education and testing to those who are incarcerated. Long recognized as underserved, these individuals are involved in high-risk behaviors and might otherwise "slip through the cracks" of the jail health care system. This unique project recognizes the overall public health importance of targeting this high-risk population for prevention and control of communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STDs, and TB.

The primary goal of the program is to reduce the number of people who are at risk for developing such diseases by providing sustained prevention education programs and intervention services to the inmates. Jail Linkage program staff conduct risk assessment screenings and pre- and post-test counseling. Inmates are offered rapid HIV testing, screening for Hepatitis A, B, and C, and Hepatitis A and B vaccinations. The inmates screened and tested through this program are informed of their HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis status, and then linked to appropriate treatment and support services upon release.

From August 2002 through December 2005, the Jail Linkage Program provided one-on-one prevention education and screening to 3,586 inmates and referred more than 1,700 inmates to community agencies. In addition, during this period, 1,607 inmates were given hepatitis vaccines (704 hepatitis A vaccines and 903 hepatitis B vaccines).

In 2002, the Jail Linkage Project received the prestigious Davis Productivity Award, which recognizes Florida state government employees who have significantly increased productivity in delivering state services and products. The project was also a featured display at the Quality Management Showcase in September 2003 and was featured in the National Sheriff's Association meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2002. The collaboration between the Pinellas County Health Department and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has been essential in overcoming barriers to service, and the collaboration with other disease prevention/intervention agencies within the community has been greatly enhanced during the period that this project has been in existence.

More information about the Jail Linkage Project can be found at:

http://www.pinellashealth.com/HIVAIDS_Jaillinkage.asp or by calling Lisa Cohen: (727) 824-6902.

NA = Not Available

Selected Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Pinellas County

Disease	2006 September	2006 Year-to-Date	2005 Year-to-Date	2005 Total
AIDS	17	178	125	159
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	1	30	37	48
Animal Rabies			4	5
Arboviral Illness (Human): Dengue		3	3	3
EEE				
SLE				
WNV			18	18
CA/LaCrosse				
Botulism				
Campylobacteriosis	2	20	32	39
Chlamydia	253	2226	1781	2505
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)			2	2
Cryptosporidiosis	2	8	10	15
Cyclosporiasis			57	57
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	1	1	1	3
Giardiasis	4	28	23	30
Gonorrhea	157	1231	1029	1436
<i>H. influenzae</i> : Meningitis				
Pneumonia		2	1	1
Primary bacteremia		4	3	6
Epiglottitis				
Hansen Disease			1	1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)		1	1	1
Hepatitis, Acute Viral: A	1	5	9	9
B	3	17	27	36
C		6	5	7
Non-A, Non-B			1	1
Hepatitis B: Pregnant woman +HBsAg	3	23	25	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral B	4	111	100	131
C	91	1029	1057	1378
HIV	14	144	175	234
Lead Poisoning: Total:	2	17	27	30
Children < 6 years:	2	7	8	12
Legionellosis	2	11	7	8
Listeriosis		2	1	1
Lyme Disease		3	2	4
Malaria	2	3	1	1
Meningitis: <i>Group B Strep</i>				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		2	5	6
Other bacterial	1	7	4	5
Meningococcal Disease		5	5	7
Mercury Poisoning	1	3		
Mumps			1	1
Pertussis	3	18	8	13
Plague (Bubonic & Pneumonic)				
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1	3		
Salmonellosis	23	109	122	212
Shigellosis	4	18	111	169
<i>Streptococcal</i> disease, Inv. Group A	1	10	10	11
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (DR)	3	13	18	27
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. disease (Suscept)	2	20	25	29
Syphilis: Total	2	103	59	95
Infectious (P and S)		28	27	41
Early Latent	1	51	20	32
Late Syphilis(Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	24	12	22
Congenital				
Tuberculosis	3	24	20	34
<i>Vibrio</i> infections		6	3	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