



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



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(727) 820-4270

Epi Watch is a monthly newsletter from the Pinellas County Health Department. For more information, or to add your e-mail address to the distribution list, please contact Andrea Dopico:
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“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.”

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

STD Trends and Information



According to a recently published study from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), at least one in four (26%) female adolescents in the United States has a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Female adolescents aged 14-19 were tested for human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, chlamydia, herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) infection, and trichomoniasis. The authors examined high-risk HPV types, including 23 types of the virus that are known to cause cancer, and the two types that cause most genital warts. The most common STD was HPV (18.3%), followed by chlamydia (3.9%), trichomoniasis (2.5%), and HSV-2 (1.9%). Among the teenage girls who had an STD, 15% had more than one.

This study is the first to examine the combined national prevalence of common STDs among adolescent women in the United States. Based on these findings, the authors estimate that about 3.2 million adolescent females in the United States are infected with one of these STDs. They note that the total prevalence might be slightly higher, because some STDs – including syphilis, HIV and gonorrhea – were not included in the analysis. However, these STDs are not as common in this age group.

In 2006, there were a total of 2,904 chlamydia cases and 1,631 gonorrhea cases reported in Pinellas among all ages. In females aged 15-19, Pinellas County had the 4th highest rate of gonorrhea and the 8th highest rate of chlamydia in Florida and the 2nd highest rate of gonorrhea and chlamydia among the seven largest counties (Miami-Dade, Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas).

National surveillance data indicates that the U.S. syphilis rate has increased for the seventh consecutive year in 2007, largely reflecting continued syphilis increases among men who have sex with men (MSM). The syphilis rate among females also increased nationally in 2007 for the third consecutive year, causing concerns about a potential resurgence of the disease among women. The reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis have increased in Pinellas County from 38 cases in 2004 to 64 in 2007.

It is important to note that many STDs are asymptomatic, especially in women, and can still be transmitted to others despite the lack of 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 Pinellas County Health Department is dedicated to monitoring STD trends in the county in order to implement effective prevention and control programs for this important public health issue. We are also committed to providing high quality STD services to our community that include testing, examinations, medications and contact tracing in our clinics and screening tests at high-risk community outreach events.

For more information about the prevention and control of STDs, please visit our website at www.pinellashealth.com or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2008 March	2008 Year-to-Date	2007 Year-to-Date	2007 Total
AIDS	24	65	47	171
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	2	7	7	42
Animal Rabies				1
Arboviral Illness (Human):			1	2
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				1
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	5	12	15	48
Chlamydia	311	929	603	3468
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis		1	2	15
Cyclosporiasis				1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7			1	1
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)	1	2	1	12
Giardiasis	2	5	4	27
Gonorrhea	114	351	253	1521
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1	2	2
Primary Bacteremia		1	1	5
Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease				2
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:			2	6
A				
B	2	8	6	22
C	1	2	1	7
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	2	7	7	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	20	75	47	265
C	111	390	352	1743
HIV	41	116	85	251
Lead Poisoning:				
Total:	4	9	4	28
Children < 6 years:			1	6
Legionellosis		1	4	8
Listeriosis	1	1		1
Lyme Disease				4
Malaria				1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		1	1	5
Other Bacterial	1	2	1	6
Meningococcal Disease	2	3	1	3
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps				
Pertussis	1	5	1	8
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				
Salmonellosis	7	35	37	220
Shigellosis	1	2	6	39
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A		2	5	15
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	2	11	17	39
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	1	8	9	24
Syphilis:				
Total	7	27	18	139
Infectious (P and S)	3	12	9	68
Early Latent	2	10	8	45
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	2	5	1	26
Tuberculosis	1	9	8	39
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections		1	1	11