



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



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Pinellas County Health Department
205 Dr. M.L King Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-6900
www.PinellasHealth.com

Director

Claude Dharamraj, MD, MPH, FAAP
claude_dharamraj@doh.state.fl.us

Disease Control Division Director

Patricia L. Ryder, MD, MPH
pat_ryder@doh.state.fl.us

**Disease Control Operations Mgr.
HIV/AIDS Program Manager**

Lisa Cohen, BS
lisa_cohen@doh.state.fl.us

Epidemiology Program Manager

Dongming Cui, MD, MPH, DrPH
dongming_cui@doh.state.fl.us

Surveillance Program Manager

Andrea M. Dopico, MPH
andrea_dopico@doh.state.fl.us

STD Program Manager

Sherry Lewis, BS
sherry_lewis@doh.state.fl.us

TB Program Manager

Robert Berger, BA
robert_berger@doh.state.fl.us

To report diseases by phone call:
(727) 824-6932

To report diseases by fax
(other than HIV/AIDS) use:
(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:
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.”

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

Tuberculosis

Andrea Dopico, MPH



In observance of World Tuberculosis (TB) Awareness Day,

March 24, this issue of *Epi Watch* will highlight current trends in TB along with Pinellas County Health Department activities that target prevention and control of this communicable disease.

The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with the causative organism of TB, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Although the number of reported cases of TB in the U.S. has decreased steadily since 1992, the decline has been limited to persons born in the U.S. Immigration has contributed substantially to changes in TB epidemiology in the U.S. According to the CDC, individuals who are foreign-born continue to bear a disproportionate burden of TB disease in the nation.

In 2007, there were 13,293 TB cases reported in the U.S. The 2007 TB rate in foreign-born persons was 9.7 times higher than in U.S.-born persons. Foreign-born persons accounted for a majority of TB cases that were reported in 2007 among Hispanics (77.2% [2,942 of 3,812 total cases among Hispanics]) and among Asians (96.1% [3,261 of 3,393 total cases among Asians]) (Source: MMWR article published March 21, 2008).

In Pinellas County, 18 of the 39 cases (46%) of TB reported in 2007 were foreign-born individuals. Among these 18 cases, 12 were among Hispanics. In 2006, 10 of the 30 cases reported that year in Pinellas were foreign-born.

The CDC is pursuing a number of strategies to address the higher rate of TB among foreign-born persons in the U.S. and the increasing proportion of cases they represent. This includes revising the requirements for overseas medical screening of applicants for U.S. immigration and continued efforts with international partners to strengthen TB control in countries with high TB incidence.

The Pinellas CHD is committed to serving our diverse community by continuing to provide high quality TB services to our clients. Our staff is able to communicate in different languages to facilitate activities that include Directly Observed Therapy (DOT), a treatment delivery protocol which assures that clients with TB disease complete an approved regimen of TB medications. Ensuring that patients complete a prescribed course of appropriate antibiotic therapy helps prevent the development of antibiotic resistance, another concern for TB controllers.

For additional information about the prevention and control of TB, please visit:

Pinellas County Health Department: www.pinellashealth.com

Florida Department of Health: www.doh.state.fl.us

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2008 February	2008 Year-to-Date	2007 Year-to-Date	2007 Total
AIDS	16	19	29	171
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	5	5	3	42
Animal Rabies				1
Arboviral Illness (Human):				2
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				1
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	5	7	11	48
Chlamydia	307	692	231	3408
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis		1	1	15
Cyclosporiasis				1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7			1	1
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)		1	1	12
Giardiasis	3	3	3	27
Gonorrhea	113	271	123	1496
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia	1	1	2	2
Primary Bacteremia		1	1	5
Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease				2
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A			2	6
B	1	6	3	22
C		1	1	7
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	3	5	6	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	26	55	33	265
C	132	280	230	1744
HIV	42	75	52	251
Lead Poisoning:				
Total:	3	5	4	28
Children < 6 years:			1	6
Legionellosis	1	1	3	8
Listeriosis				1
Lyme Disease		1		8
Malaria				1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	1	1	1	5
Other Bacterial	1	1	1	6
Meningococcal Disease		1	1	3
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps				
Pertussis	4	4		8
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				1
Salmonellosis	16	28	31	220
Shigellosis		1	3	39
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A	1	2	3	15
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	4	9	11	39
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)	4	7	5	24
Syphilis:				
Total	11	27	8	129
Infectious (P and S)	4	11	3	64
Early Latent	6	14	4	39
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	2	1	26
Tuberculosis	5	8	4	39
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	1	1	11

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.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html