



# Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



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**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:  
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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.

## Hepatitis Awareness Month

Bonnie Lovely, RN



The prevention and control of viral hepatitis is recognized as a public health issue of priority. Hepatitis A is transmitted by the fecal-oral route, while hepatitis B and C are transmitted by blood and body fluids. Hepatitis B and C infections are responsible for numerous cases of chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer, with many deaths each year attributed to these diseases. At least 130 million people in the world, including 4 million Americans, live with Hepatitis C and more than 350 million people in the world live with Hepatitis B. About 20-25% of them will develop cirrhosis or liver cancer. Unfortunately, most Hepatitis B or C infected people do not know that they have Hepatitis.

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are vaccine-preventable diseases with vaccines widely available for both. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine available for hepatitis C. Therefore, behavioral changes are key to the prevention of hepatitis infections.

To encourage these behavioral changes, education, risk reduction counseling, hepatitis A and B immunizations and routine testing in the Pinellas County Health Department STD clinic are available to all clients via The Florida Hepatitis and Liver Failure Prevention and Control Program.

In 2007, the Pinellas County Health Department Hepatitis and STD Programs were integrated. All STD clients are now tested for hepatitis at their first visit to STD clinics and are subsequently tested once a year. All results are reviewed by Disease Control Division staff and vaccine recommendations are made. Clients are followed up on to ensure completion of the vaccine series. In 2007, more than 2,300 STD clients have been tested for hepatitis and were offered vaccines.

In addition, the Pinellas CHD is currently involved in chronic Hepatitis B and C Surveillance in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Complications from chronic Hepatitis B & C is a leading factor in the need for liver transplants. Physicians are given requests for additional information about their clients regarding reason for testing, treatment, and additional confirmation testing done. CDC will use this information to seek additional funding for chronic Hepatitis B & C surveillance, education and counseling.

Prompt reporting of suspect and confirmed hepatitis cases will ensure timely implementation of interventions to prevent further transmission of these communicable diseases.

Please visit our website at [www.pinellashealth.com](http://www.pinellashealth.com) or the Florida DOH Hepatitis Prevention and Control Program 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 viral hepatitis.

# Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2008 April	2008 Year-to-Date	2007 Year-to-Date	2007 Total
AIDS	20	85	67	171
Animal Bite, PEP Recommended	2	9	9	42
Animal Rabies				1
Arboviral Illness (Human):			1	2
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				1
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	1	12	19	48
Chlamydia	280	1211	944	3468
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)				2
Cryptosporidiosis		1	2	15
Cyclosporiasis				1
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	1	1	1	1
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)		2	2	12
Giardiasis	4	9	7	27
Gonorrhea	102	454	417	1521
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Meningitis				
Pneumonia		1	2	2
Primary Bacteremia		1	2	5
Epiglottitis				
Hansen's Disease			2	2
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A	1	1	2	6
B	2	10	9	22
C	1	3	1	7
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	3	10	10	33
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	26	101	82	265
C	159	546	536	1743
HIV	24	140	100	251
Lead Poisoning:				
Total:		9	7	28
Children < 6 years:			1	6
Legionellosis		1	6	8
Listeriosis		1		1
Lyme Disease				4
Malaria				1
Meningitis:				
Group B Strep				
<i>S. pneumoniae</i>		1	2	5
Other Bacterial		2	1	6
Meningococcal Disease		3	1	3
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps				
Pertussis		5	2	8
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever				
Salmonellosis	8	43	47	220
Shigellosis		2	12	39
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A		2	5	15
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	1	12	21	39
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)		8	11	24
Syphilis:				
Total	10	36	36	139
Infectious (P and S)	5	16	21	68
Early Latent	4	14	11	45
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	6	4	26
Tuberculosis	1	10	11	39
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	2	3	3	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](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/index.html)