



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



December 2009

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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 the Editor.

As of December 15, 80 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium have been reported from 28 states.

The outbreak is believed to have begun in April, 2009.

For more information, please visit: www.cdc.gov

"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.

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

To report diseases by fax (other than HIV/AIDS) use:
 (727) 820-4270

Increase in Cases of Salmonellosis, 2009

The number of cases of salmonellosis reported in Pinellas County has reached a historical max during the first 11 months of 2009. From January 1 to November 30 2009, 266 cases were reported to the Health Department. In comparison, the average number of cases reported in the County each year is 200. Other counties in Florida have experienced a similar increase. In 2009, the number of confirmed cases of *Salmonella* reported throughout Florida increased by 27% compared to the average number for the previous three years (2006-2008). The increase in Pinellas during 2009 is of a similar magnitude at 30%. The Florida Department of Health is currently working to investigate possible causes.

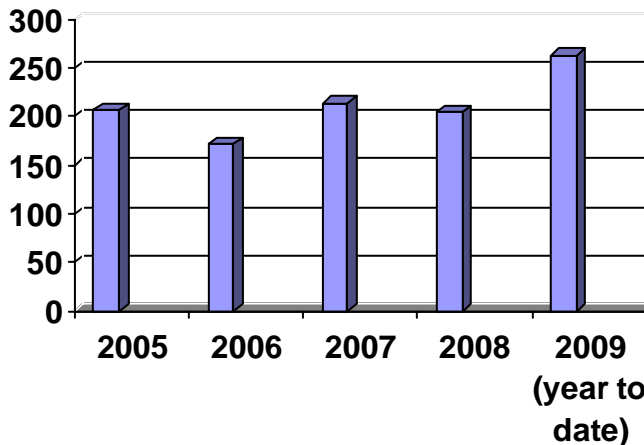
Of the 266 cases reported in Pinellas County during this time period, 263 were laboratory confirmed and three were symptomatic individuals who were epidemiologically linked to confirmed cases. Infants and children under nine years of age accounted for 52% of the cases (137 cases).

A national outbreak of *Salmonella* infections has been attributed to water frogs, including the African Dwarf Frog. The Centers for Disease Control is currently investigating this multistate outbreak, which is believed to have begun in April 2009. The serotype that has been attributed to this outbreak of salmonellosis is Typhimurium. However, the increase in Pinellas County cannot be attributed to any clusters or outbreaks due to a particular serotype.

The Pinellas County Health Department will provide any updates to the investigation of this increase in our *Epi Watch* newsletter. Health care providers are asked to continue reporting confirmed cases to the Health Department.

Amphibians such as frogs and reptiles such as turtles are recognized as a source of human *Salmonella* infections. Although the increase in Pinellas County appears to be unrelated to the outbreak associated with the water frogs, providers are advised to ask patients about their contact with animals and to discuss the importance of thorough hand washing in preventing infections like salmonellosis.

Number of Confirmed Cases of Salmonellosis Reported in Pinellas County, By Year



Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2009 November	2009 Year to date	2008 Year to date	2008 Total
AIDS	19	161	174*	201
Animal Rabies		1	2	2
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	3	26	34	36
Chlamydia	247	3696	3547	3915
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)		1	2	2
Cryptosporidiosis		20	12	12
Cyclosporiasis		2	5	5
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7			2	2
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)		2		
Giardiasis	2	33	29	32
Gonorrhea	83	1400	1353	1493
<i>H. influenzae</i> :				
Invasive Disease	1	8	4	4
Hansen's Disease		1		
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A		6	3	3
B	2	27	21	22
C		3	7	8
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	1	23	34	35
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	17	160	230	260
C	128	1192	1413	1534
HIV	19	199	282*	314
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:		5	4	5
Legionellosis	1	9	6	9
Listeriosis			2	3
Lyme Disease	2	6	6	6
Malaria	1	3	3	3
Meningitis:				
Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic	1	7	4	7
Meningococcal Disease	1	3	5	5
Mercury Poisoning			1	2
Mumps		1		
Pertussis		4	11	11
Rabies, possible exposure	6	72	62	69
Salmonellosis	28	263	186	205
Shigellosis		3	5	11
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A	1	12	7	9
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)	3	31	24	28
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)		26	21	27
Syphilis:				
Total	5	164	139	149
Infectious (P and S)	2	60	62	66
Early Latent	3	75	47	51
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)		29	30	32
Tuberculosis	1	14	28	30
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections	1	7	7	8

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

* Reporting changes (expansion of electronic lab reporting) disrupted ordinary HIV and AIDS trends in 2008, resulting in increases in cases that did not reflect actual increases in new infections or illnesses.