



Epi Watch

A Monthly Epidemiology Newsletter



May 2010

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

Epi Watch Editor

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

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.

A CDC Health Advisory was issued due to an increase in reports of Q fever among deployed U.S. military personnel due to endemic transmission in Iraq, as well as a large ongoing outbreak of Q fever in the Netherlands may place travelers to these regions at risk for infection. Health-care providers should consider this in symptomatic persons with travel history.

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

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

"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—May 2010

May 2010 marks the 15th anniversary of Hepatitis Awareness Month in the United States, and May 19 is World Hepatitis Day. Globally, viral hepatitis is the cause of most (78%) cases of liver cancer, primarily hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the world. In the United States, chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections that persist for decades are the major risk factors for HCC and the most common reason for liver transplantation. During 2001-2006, a total of 48,596 HCC were reported nationally (CDC data in 2010), with an average annual incidence rate of 3.0 per 100,000 persons. Overall, the HCC rate increased from 2.7 per 100,000 persons in 2001 to 3.2 in 2006. Prevention of hepatitis B and hepatitis C virus transmission and treatment for early disease can prevent most primary liver cancers.

According to a CDC report, an estimated 1.2 million Americans are currently living with chronic hepatitis B and 3.2 million are living with chronic hepatitis C. Many do not know that they are infected. Each year an estimated 43,000 Americans were infected with hepatitis B, and 17,000 with hepatitis C. Worldwide, one in 12 people are living with either chronic hepatitis B or C.

In 2009, the Pinellas County Health Department reported 186 chronic hepatitis B cases and 1,382 chronic hepatitis C cases. We also provided 3,317 doses of hepatitis B vaccines to high risk population, such as clients from STD clinics and correctional facilities.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) recently issued *Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C*. The IOM strategy has four components: 1) accurate public health surveillance, 2) innovative approaches to community education, 3) immunization capacity to eliminate hepatitis B virus transmission, and 4) development of viral hepatitis services, including screening with referral for medical management. Taken together, these strategies can reduce morbidity associated with viral hepatitis, including primary liver cancer.

Additional hepatitis information is available at www.cdc.gov/hepatitis or by contacting the Pinellas CHD Hepatitis Prevention Program at (727) 824-6932.

Selected Reportable Diseases in Pinellas County

Disease	2010 April	2010 Year to date	2009 Year to date	2009 Total
AIDS	16	45	38*	155
Animal Rabies			1	1
Arboviral Illness (Human):				
Dengue				
EEE				
SLE				
WNV				
CA/LaCrosse				
Campylobacteriosis	2	10	8	30
Chlamydia	301	1247	1253	3974
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)			1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	5	10	3	23
Cyclosporiasis			1	2
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7				
<i>E. coli</i> Shiga Toxin (+)				
Giardiasis	1	7	7	34
Gonorrhea	108	402	473	1509
<i>H. influenzae</i> : Invasive Disease	2	7	5	8
Hansen's Disease		1		1
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)				
Hepatitis, Acute Viral:				
A			2	6
B	1	2	9	28
C		3	1	3
Hepatitis B: Pregnant Woman +HBsAg	2	15	7	24
Hepatitis, Chronic Viral				
B	35	101	62	186
C	122	510	461	1382
HIV	18	76	35*	190
Lead Poisoning: Children < 6 years:		1	4	5
Legionellosis	2	3	1	10
Listeriosis				
Lyme Disease	1	2		6
Malaria			2	3
Meningitis:				
Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic	1	3	6	7
Meningococcal Disease	2	3	1	3
Mercury Poisoning				
Mumps		1		2
Pertussis		2		4
Rabies, possible exposure		6	18	74
Salmonellosis	6	29	29	284
Shigellosis		2	1	5
Streptococcal Disease, Inv. Group A	1	2	6	14
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (DR)		7	15	35
<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , Inv. Disease (Suscept)		6	19	28
Syphilis:				
Total	3	22	76	182
Infectious (P and S)		7	29	67
Early Latent	2	12	32	81
Congenital				
Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	1	3	15	34
Tuberculosis	2	10	8	18
<i>Vibrio</i> Infections			1	8

Provisional data for confirmed 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

* Year to date HIV and AIDS data cannot be compared to the first few months of 2009 due to data entry issues with the new eHARS system at that time.