

Top 10 Communicable Disease Report, Utah, 2011



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH
Bureau of Epidemiology

The Utah Department of Health tracks more than 75 communicable diseases in Utah. In collaboration with Utah's 12 local health departments, cases are investigated, data are collected and analyzed, and interventions are implemented to prevent additional disease. The following table lists the 10 most common diseases in Utah during 2011 as reported to public health authorities, accompanied by a brief commentary for certain diseases:

Table 1. Reportable communicable diseases, by frequency, Utah, 2011

Disease	Number of cases [†]	Rank		Incidence*	
		Utah	U.S. [¶]	Utah	U.S. [¶]
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infection	7080	1	1	251.3	422.7
Hepatitis C ^{§**}	963	2	-	34.2	-
Pertussis	645	3	6	22.9	4.9
Influenza-associated hospitalization**	490	4	-	17.4	-
Campylobacteriosis**	405	5	-	14.4	-
Chickenpox (Varicella)	389	6	9	13.8	3.9
Salmonellosis	338	7	3	12.0	14.7
Gonorrhea	277	8	2	9.8	96.9
Giardiasis	256	9	7	9.1	4.8
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive disease	206	10	8	7.3	4.1

Highlights

Chlamydia—Chlamydial infections continue to represent the largest number of reportable disease cases annually, both in Utah and nationally. Chlamydia rates in Utah have increased over each of the past five years, with a 24% increase from 2007 to 2011.

Hepatitis C—Chronic hepatitis C infections are difficult to track because many cases are not symptomatic and do not seek testing or treatment. National data for chronic hepatitis C give an estimated incidence rate of 81.5 cases per 100,000 population^{††}. For 2011, 10 cases of acute hepatitis C were reported in Utah.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)—The 645 cases of pertussis in 2011 are nearly double the cases (352) seen in 2010. Pertussis is cyclical in nature and typically peaks in activity every 3-4 years. Numerous outbreaks of this vaccine-preventable disease were reported in 2011. The last year that Utah saw high levels of pertussis circulating was 2006.

Influenza-associated hospitalizations (IAH)—IAH surveillance helps to assess the severity of influenza in the state. Influenza activity is best summarized on a seasonal, not annual, basis. Therefore, the 2011 calendar year includes portions of the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 influenza seasons. The 2011-2012 influenza season was comparable to other non-pandemic years with moderate activity^{¶¶}.

Chickenpox (Varicella)—The number of chickenpox cases has been declining since 2006 in Utah. Chickenpox was very common in the U.S. before the vaccine became available in 1995. Due to the vaccine this disease, as well as hospitalizations and deaths from chickenpox, have decreased dramatically in the U.S. Under-vaccinated children in schools continue to be the largest source of outbreaks in Utah.

Gonorrhea—Incidence rates of gonorrhea in Utah have declined over each of the past five years, with a 66% decrease in gonorrhea rates from 2007 to 2011. In 2011, the Utah gonorrhea rate was one-tenth of the national rate.

*Cases per 100,000 population. Population estimates for 2011 obtained from the US Census Bureau Population Estimates, available at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/index.html>

†Case counts determined using print criteria outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Nationally Notifiable Diseases and Other Conditions of Public Health Importance 2011 Event Code List.

¶U.S. ranking and incidence based on CDC Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables. MMWR Weekly, 60(51); 1762-1775. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6052md.htm?s_cid=mm6052md_w. U.S. case counts for reporting year 2011 are provisional and subject to change. National surveillance case definitions approved by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

§Includes both acute and chronic conditions.

**Not a nationally notifiable disease/condition.

††Viral Hepatitis Statistics and Surveillance data available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Statistics/2010Surveillance/Table4.4.htm>

¶¶ Additional Utah influenza surveillance data are available at: <http://health.utah.gov/flu>.