

# Top 10 Communicable Disease Report Utah, 2014



The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) monitors more than 75 communicable diseases in the state. The list below shows the 10 most common communicable diseases reported to public health authorities. Many cases of disease go undiagnosed and unreported, therefore the numbers shown are lower than what occurs in the community.

## Top 10 Reported Communicable Diseases in Utah, 2014, Cases and Rates

Disease	Number of reported cases*	Rate per 100,000 <sup>†</sup>	% change in rate from 2013	
Chlamydia	8,223	279.4	↑	7.6
Hepatitis C, past or present	1,502	51.0	↑	35.4
Gonorrhea	1,441	49.0	↑	49.5
Influenza-associated hospitalization <sup>‡</sup>	1,413	48.0	↑	34.5
Pertussis (“Whooping Cough”)	940	31.9	↓	-29.1
Campylobacteriosis	558	19.0	↑	9.0
Salmonellosis	370	12.6	↑	13.0
Hepatitis B, chronic	300	10.2	↑	14.3
Streptococcal disease, invasive, other	287	9.8	↓	-4.0
Giardiasis	225	7.6	↓	-3.9

### Highlights

**Hepatitis C** is transmitted through blood and while there is currently no vaccine to protect against hepatitis C, curative treatments have become available. These treatments have proven to be very effective and well tolerated prompting more people to get tested and seek treatment. In Utah, reported cases increased 37% from 2013. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that persons born between 1945 and 1965, and those at an increased risk of coming in contact with blood, get tested for hepatitis C at least once.

**Gonorrhea** is a sexually transmitted disease that has increased every year in Utah starting in 2011. Analysis of the reported case data suggests a shift in the affected populations from primarily men who have sex with men (MSM) to the heterosexual population. The largest increase has been among females. From 2011 to 2014, infections among males increased 296%, while infections among females increased 714%. Even after treatment a person can become re-infected making gonorrhea a difficult disease to manage. UDOH and Utah’s local health departments are closely monitoring the increase.

**Campylobacteriosis** is the most common cause of bacterial food-borne illness in the United States. In 2014 there were 558 cases reported in Utah, which exceeded the previous 5-year average of 441. This increase is due to an outbreak associated with raw milk consumption that sickened 100 people. Both nationally and in Utah, the highest rates of disease are seen in those four years of age and younger. The disease can be severe in immunocompromised individuals, occasionally spreading to the bloodstream and causing a life-threatening infection. Common sources of exposure include improperly cooked poultry, untreated water, and unpasteurized (raw) milk.

\*U.S. case counts for 2014 are provisional and subject to change. Case counts are determined using print criteria outlined in the CDC National Notifiable Diseases 2014 Event Code List available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/document/nnds\\_event\\_code\\_list\\_2014.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/document/nnds_event_code_list_2014.pdf).

<sup>†</sup>Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates obtained from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/49000.html>.

<sup>‡</sup>Influenza is best assessed seasonally. Additional information is available at <http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/influenza>.