

# Top 10 Communicable Diseases Report Utah, 2015



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**  
Bureau of Epidemiology

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, 2015, Cases and Rates

Disease	Number of reported cases*	Rate per 100,000 <sup>†</sup>	% change in rate from 2014	
Chlamydia	8,636	288.3	↑	3.2
Hepatitis C, past or present	1,843	61.5	↑	20.5
Gonorrhea	1,562	52.1	↑	6.5
Influenza-associated hospitalization <sup>‡</sup>	588	19.6	↓	-59.1
Pertussis (“Whooping Cough”)	502	16.8	↓	-47.5
Salmonellosis	460	15.4	↑	22.1
Campylobacteriosis	435	14.5	↓	-23.4
Streptococcal disease, invasive, other	363	12.1	↑	24.2
Hepatitis B, chronic	304	10.1	↓	-0.5
Chickenpox (Varicella)	217	7.2	↓	-1.3

### Highlights

**Hepatitis C** Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is transmitted through contact with the blood of an infected individual. A majority of those infected will develop a chronic infection which can lead to serious liver problems, including cirrhosis or liver cancer. Effective curative treatments are available. These treatments have proven to be well tolerated prompting more people to get tested and seek treatment. In Utah, the 2015 incidence rate increased 20.5% from 2014. 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 HCV at least once.

**Gonorrhea** is a sexually transmitted disease that has increased every year in Utah starting in 2011. The 2015 rate of gonorrhea increased 6.5% from 2014, resulting in a rate of 52.1 per 100,000 population. The largest increase has been among females. From 2011 to 2015, infections among males increased 362%, while infections among females increased 623%. 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. Gonorrhea a difficult disease to manage, as infections are commonly asymptomatic and re-infection after treatment is possible. UDOH and Utah’s local health departments are closely monitoring the increase.

**Streptococcal disease, invasive, other:** Although not generally the most pathogenic members of the Streptococcal species, a variety of other streptococcal species are capable of causing invasive illness. Many of these streptococcal organisms do not cause illness in healthy individuals. However, there is increasing concern about the ability of groups C and G streptococcus species to cause invasive disease in otherwise healthy individuals since transmission can occur through body substances and the respiratory tract. During 2015, the incidence rate of Streptococcal species, invasive, other, has increased over 24% from 2014.

\*U.S. case counts for 2015 are provisional and subject to change. Case counts are determined using print criteria outlined in the CDC National Notifiable Diseases 2015 Event Code List available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/document/nnds\\_event\\_code\\_list\\_2015.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/document/nnds_event_code_list_2015.pdf).

<sup>†</sup>Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates for 2015 were 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>.