

EPI CONNECTIONS

March 2009

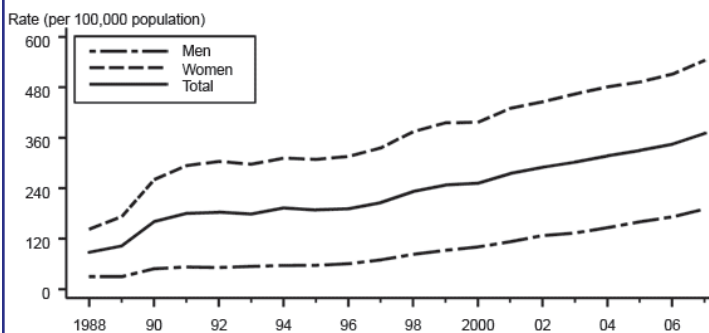
A Monthly Newsletter of the Communicable Disease Division

Chlamydia Rates Reach Record High

Among all 19 million reportable sexually transmitted infections (STI), chlamydia is the most common; in fact, it is the most commonly reported disease of any kind in the U.S. In 2007, 1,108,374 chlamydia diagnoses were reported; this is up from 1,030,911 in 2006. Despite the increased numbers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than half of all new cases remain undiagnosed, untreated, and unreported.

The national rate of reported chlamydia in 2007 was 370.2 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 7.5% from 2006. Increases in chlamydia rates most likely reflect success in the expansion of screening and the use of more sensitive tests, as well as an actual increase in disease burden.

Chlamydia Rates: Total and by Gender: United States, 1988–2007



NOTE: As of January 2000, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had regulations requiring the reporting of chlamydia cases.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of STD Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

The local impact of chlamydia infection follows the national trend. In 2007, there were 17,186 cases of chlamydia reported in Colorado, corresponding to a rate of 349.3 per 100,000 population. In Boulder County, 624 cases of chlamydia were reported, for a rate of 211.2 per 100,000 population.

If left untreated, chlamydia can cause severe health consequences for women, such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which can lead to long-term complications like infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. Complications from chlamydia among men are less common but can include epididymitis and urethritis, which may cause pain, fever, and in rare cases, sterility. In addition, studies suggest that chlamydia infection increases the risk of HIV transmission.

Chlamydia, continued on page 2

World TB Day, March 24—Get Involved!

March 24 is “World TB Day” and commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes TB. His discovery was a crucial step toward improving the control of this deadly disease, although 127 years later, there is still a lot of work to be done. World TB Day is intended to educate the public and remind healthcare providers about the devastating health and economic consequences of TB. Building and strengthening partnerships in the medical, business, scientific, and political communities, both locally and internationally, is a key step toward the elimination of TB worldwide.

Among infectious diseases, TB still remains the second leading killer of adults in the world, with more than 2 million TB-related deaths each year. About 1/3 of the world’s population is infected with TB. On average, 10% of infected persons will develop active TB at some point in their lives if they aren’t treated. Since 1992, the TB rate has been decreasing in the U.S.; however, the average annual percentage decline slowed from 6.6% to 3.3% between 2003 and 2007. Multi-drug resistant (MDR) and extremely drug-resistant (XDR) TB are becoming larger problems each year with XDR TB reported in 49 countries, including the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Progress in global TB control is constrained by the lack of effective new diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines. Accurate and early diagnosis of TB is vital for effective patient care and to prevent the spread of the disease. Conventional methods for diagnosis rely on early 19th century technologies that are difficult, slow, and imprecise at best. Standard TB treatment regimens have not changed in over 30 years, and the last new anti-TB drug to be

“STOP TB” Trot - Colorado Coalition against TB

Benefiting Colorado’s underserved tuberculosis patients

Sunday March 22, 2009

5K Run/Walk
1 Mile Walk

Register online: www.active.com



TB, continued on page 2



Continue to Monitor for Salmonella Infections in Ongoing Multistate Outbreak

On November 25, 2008, an epidemiologic assessment began of a growing cluster of Salmonella serotype Typhimurium isolates that shared the same pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern in PulseNet. As of January 28, 2009, 529 persons from 43 states and 1 person from Canada had been reported infected with the outbreak strain. Currently, Boulder County has 1 case that is being investigated as part of this outbreak. Confirmed, reported onset of illness dates have ranged from September 1, 2008, to January 16, 2009. A total of 116 patients were reported hospitalized, and the infection might have contributed to 8 deaths.

Sequential case-control studies have indicated significant associations between illness and consumption of any peanut butter (matched odds ratio [mOR] = 2.53) and specific brands of prepackaged peanut butter crackers (mOR = 12.25), but no association with national brand jarred peanut butter sold in grocery stores. Epidemiologic and laboratory findings indicate that peanut butter and peanut paste produced at a single plant are the source of the outbreak. These products are also ingredients in many foods produced and distributed by other companies. This outbreak highlights the complexities of “ingredient-driven” outbreaks and the importance of rapid outbreak detection and investigation. Consumers are advised to discard products that have been recalled. To view the full Early Release MMWR report from CDC, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5804a4.html>

Adapted from the CDC's MMWR. Contributed by Nisha Alden

TB continued from page 1

widely introduced was rifampicin in the 1960s. Please become a partner in the fight against this deadly disease. Join us by spreading the word and helping to educate your patients and colleagues that this disease will not “go away” without everyone’s help. For more information, call the Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) TB Control Program at 303 413-7516.

Contributed by Carolyn Bargman

Big Shot Seminar Series for immunization providers

Third Tuesday every month
February - June 2009
12 noon - 2 p.m.

For more information, visit www.BoulderCountyShots.org.



Chlamydia continued from page 1

Because chlamydia is most common among young women and is usually asymptomatic, CDC recommends annual chlamydia screening for all sexually active women under the age of 26. Older women with risk factors, such as new or multiple sexual partners, should also be screened regularly.

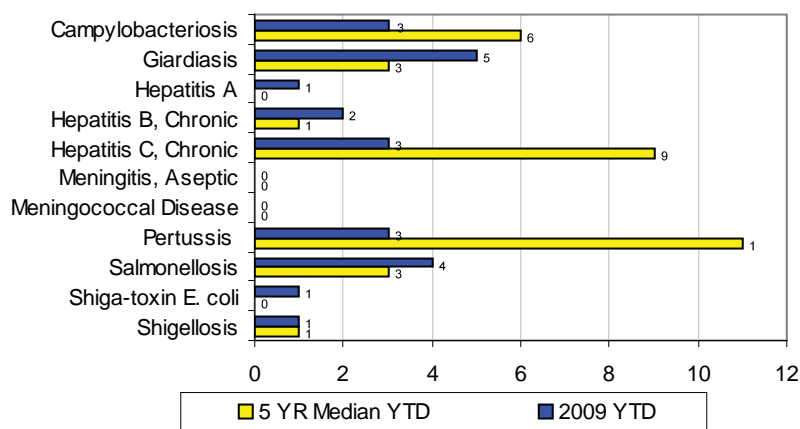
Unfortunately, many sexually active young women are not tested for chlamydia. Although recent data suggest that chlamydia screening may be increasing, it is estimated that more than half of sexually active women under 26 have not been screened within the last year.

Recent studies have shown that many women who have been diagnosed with chlamydia may become reinfected by male partners who have not been diagnosed or treated. CDC recommends that women be retested for chlamydia approximately three months after treatment, and that antibiotic therapy be delivered by heterosexual patients to their partners if other strategies for reaching and treating partners are not likely to succeed (an approach known as “expedited partner therapy”).

Adapted from: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2007. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; December 2008.

Contributed by Kyla Holcomb

Surveillance of Selected Diseases, Boulder County
2009 YTD Compared to 5-year Median YTD
(1/1/2009-1/31/2009)



E.coli and Salmonella in the News

During the month of January, the Communicable Disease Control Program followed up on at least 25 cases of reportable communicable diseases. This graph presents the number of cases seen in Boulder County year-to-date in 2009 compared with the 5-year median. Of particular note are an E.coli case which is related to the current statewide outbreak potentially related to Stock Show attendance, and a salmonella case associated with the nationwide peanut butter recall.

JOB OPENING

Immunization Program Coordinator

Apply at: www.BoulderCountyHealth.org/jobs