

EPI CONNECTIONS

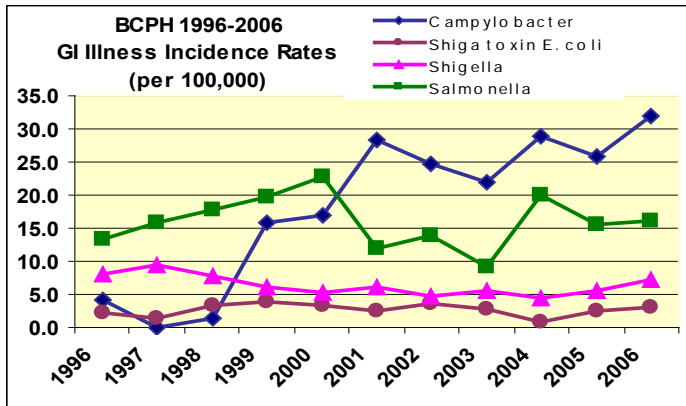
February 2007

A Bimonthly Newsletter of the Communicable Disease Division

Disease Activity

Communicable Disease Summary, 2006: In 2006, Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) received 852 communicable disease reports, a 2% increase from 2005 (835 cases). BCPH cases accounted for 6% of the total reports received by the state in 2006. Newly diagnosed chronic hepatitis C was reported most often; and *legionella*, *listeria*, typhoid, *yersinia*, hepatitis E, and perinatal hepatitis B infections were the least reported illnesses (1 case each). Notably, BCPH also reported its first measles case since 2000 (*Epi Connections*, April 2006). Fortunately, no secondary measles transmission occurred.

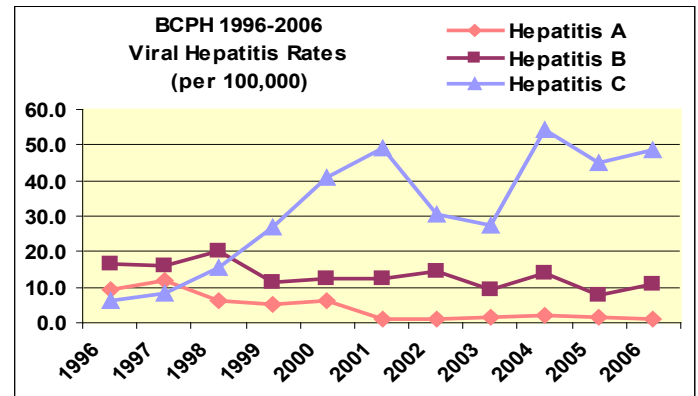
Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness: GI comprised 27% of the total cases reported in 2006. *Campylobacter* remained the most common GI illness, with a reported frequency of 93 cases (a 24% increase from 2005). Accordingly, the *campylobacter* (*campy*) incidence rate also increased from 26 per 100,000 residents in 2005 to 32 per 100,000 in 2006. Forty-two percent of *campy* cases reported travel history within the exposure period, a very common risk factor to infection.



Viral Hepatitis: Viral hepatitis comprised 21% of the total disease burden in 2006. Newly diagnosed hepatitis C infections remained high, at a frequency of 142, with an incidence rate of 49 per 100,000 residents, which is 5 times the national incidence rate of 9 per 100,000. Colorado's hepatitis C burden continues to increase with over 3,800 newly diagnosed infections in 2006, and an incidence rate of 79 per 100,000 (9 times the U.S. rate). Acute hepatitis A remained very low, with 3 cases reported in 2006; one

of those had international travel history and had consumed local fare while traveling.

Tuberculosis (TB): BCPH received 7 reports* of active TB in 2006 (133% increase from 2005), which accounted for 6% of the total active TB cases in Colorado last year. Six of the 7 active TB cases were not born in the U.S., which reflects a continuing trend, as the incidence rate of TB in foreign-born Boulder County residents (2.1 per 100,000) is 7 times higher than the rate in U.S.-born Boulder County residents (0.3 per 100,000). Colorado active TB increased 23%, from 101 cases in 2005 to 124 cases in 2006, but the state continues to have a



low TB incidence rate (2.7 per 100,000 in 2006) compared to the U.S. rate (4.8 per 100,000 in 2005). Sixty-seven percent of the active TB cases in Colorado are also foreign-born. Thus, the changing demographic of active TB cases in Boulder County and the state emphasizes the need to appropriately diagnose TB in foreign-born residents and prevent future cases in these populations. **THINK TB** in your foreign-born patients and those who travel to areas with high rates of TB.

*6 permanent residents, 1 temporary resident

HIV/AIDS: In 2006, BCPH received reports of 22 HIV-positive cases, a 36% increase from 2005. Of the 22 cases, 15 presented with AIDS at diagnosis, a 40% increase from 2005. Males comprised 82% of HIV/AIDS reports, with 78% of the men reporting having sex with men (MSM). Other risk factors for cases reported in 2006 included heterosexual sex (18%) and injection drug use (10%), consistent with risk factors identified in 2005. Ethnicity data shifted slightly, with a

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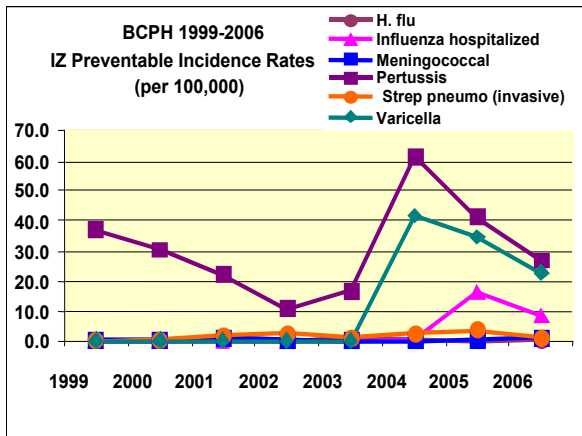




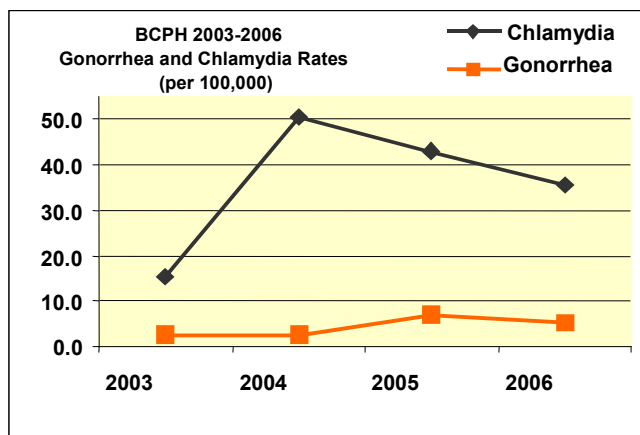
Disease Activity Summary (continued)

higher proportion of Hispanic cases in 2006 (36%) than in 2005 (13%). AIDS cases in 2006 were most likely diagnosed in patients over 40 years old, and HIV (non-AIDS) diagnosed in patients 30 though 39 years old.

Immunization (IZ) Preventable: In 2006, 200 cases of immunization-preventable diseases (not including hepatitis A and B) were reported, comprising 23% of the total disease burden. Pertussis infection remained high, with a frequency of 79 and an incidence rate of 27 per 100,000 persons which is nearly twice the Colorado rate of 15 per 100,000 and 3 times the U.S. rate of 9 per 100,000 (2005). Boulder County meningococcal remained low, with a frequency of 3 cases and a rate of 1 per 100,000 in 2006.



Gonorrhea and Chlamydia: Gonorrhea and chlamydia comprised 14% of the total disease burden in 2006. Chlamydia infection remained high, with an incidence rate of 36 per 100,000 persons, and gonorrhea decreased slightly, from 7 per 100,000 residents in 2005 to 5 per 100,000 in 2006. Chlamydia remained the most common sexually transmitted infection, with 104 cases reported in 2006.



Epi-Eye

A Look Outside Our Community and Around the World

Salmonella Outbreak

Colorado health officials are assisting the CDC in a multi-state salmonella serotype Tennessee outbreak. As of mid-February, 288 persons with illness have been reported to CDC from 39 states. Among 120 patients for whom clinical information is available, 31 (26%) were hospitalized with no deaths.

In Colorado, ten individuals match the PFGE patterns in the salmonella serotype Tennessee outbreak. The cases reside in Arapahoe (1), Broomfield (1), Denver (3), El Paso (1), Fremont (1), La Plata (1), and Weld (2) counties. Illness onset dates range from 10/17/2006 to 1/12/2007.

Public health investigators have identified Peter Pan and Great Value brand peanut butter as being statistically linked with illness. As a result, the FDA has recalled peanut butter lots beginning with number "2111." Health officials and peanut butter industry representatives are working collaboratively to learn more about the production of peanut butter to determine how it may have become contaminated.

Boulder County Public Health Makes House Calls!

Epidemiology and nursing staff are available to visit your practice and provide local statistics, disease information, and training on TB, pertussis, or other reportable conditions. For more information, or to schedule a seminar, please call 303.413.7531.