

EPI Gram is a monthly publication of the Stark County Public Health Coalition. It contains a summary of provisional communicable disease reports and other key public health indicators, with summary tables for Stark County, Ohio. Some reportable conditions may be under investigation, and at any given time data may fluctuate from month to month for a specific category.

IN THE NEWS:

Avian Influenza: "Right now, a growing public health challenge is overcoming effects of 'bird flu fatigue'". This quote may apply not only to the public, but also to the entire Health Care Community. Recent media coverage of a genetically mutated form of avian influenza, "linked in laboratory testing to moderately reduced susceptibility to oseltamivir", from two Egyptian cases helped to bring the topic back to the forefront of conversation. This very same mutation was seen in Viet Nam in 2005. This mutation did not affect transmissibility and the WHO did not change the pandemic phase level or its current treatment recommendations. Although this appeared to be another flow in the ebb and flow cycle of media coverage it did help to remind us all that "Right now, the H5N1 virus does not transfer easily from animals to humans or from humans to humans. But that could change at any moment and we must prepare for that possibility. Just because an avian influenza pandemic has not hit, or because there is lower media coverage at times, does not mean the very real and ongoing threat of one has gone away,"

The World Health Organization released the latest toll of this disease; 164 deaths and 270 cases, from 10 Countries. This number pales in comparison to number of deaths from Seasonal Influenza, which easily approaches 36,000 per year in the United States alone, but its pandemic potential places fear in all who think globally.

Influenza: Ohio's influenza activity remains at Sporadic. **Locally**, Stark County has 94 confirmed cases of Influenza with over half of those appearing in the previous two week time period. The most striking feature of the reports is the average age of those affected. The average age reported this year is 17 years and the median is 10 years. A comparison of average age affected is seen in the adjoining graph. The effects of this downward trend in age, has been mirrored in recent school reports. Some local schools closed when absences due to influenza like illness (ILI) combined with other seasonal illnesses, and closure thresholds were reached. Others have reported a two or three fold increase of ILI activity.

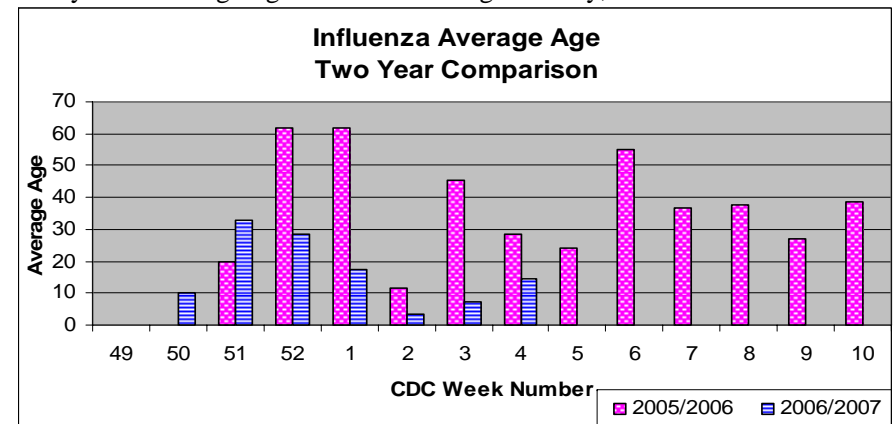


Table 1 Summary of Air Quality Index, Pollen, and Mold Counts for Stark County, Ohio, including limited historical data.

	December 2006				January 2006			
	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Counts in highest reported health risk category	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Counts in highest reported health risk category
Pollen Count	Suspended for season				Suspended for season			
Mold Count	Suspended for season				Suspended for season			
Air Quality Index	45	13	28	14 Good	36	3	19	20 Good

Pollen and Mold counts are derived from rotorod samples on the 2nd story roof of Canton City Hall. The readings are taken from a 24 hour period\24 hour avg. on all work days. Mold counts of 6,500-12,999 are moderate and many individuals sensitive to molds may experience symptoms, counts of 13,000 to 49,999 are high and most individuals with any sensitivity to molds will experience symptoms. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is derived by comparison to EPA standards from the following readings: Particulate Matter 10, Particulate Matter 2.5 continuous on CCHD 2nd floor roof top; Sulfur Dioxide at Malone College; and ozone monitors in Canton, Brewster, Alliance, and Middlebranch. This index is produced from March to October. AQI ratings are 151-200: unhealthy (UH); 101-150: unhealthy for sensitive groups (UH sg); 51-100: moderate (M); 0-50: good (g).

Table 2 Summary of Select Vital Statistics for Stark County, Ohio

	Dec 2006	YTD 2006	2005
Live Births	431	4839	4574
Births to Teens	40	434	508
Deaths	392	4061	4305

Table 3 Stark County Crude Birth and Death Rates per 100,000 population Rates are based on the US Census 2000 Stark County population of 377,438.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Birth	1270	1260	1240	1211	1282
Death	1090	1110	1040	1140	1141

Table 4 – Summary of Select Reportable Diseases for December 2006 in Stark County, Ohio (provisional data only)

Refer to “Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance,” MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) 1997; 46 (No. RR-10), the Ohio Department of Health Infectious Disease Control Manual or visit www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/casedef/index.htm for case definitions.

This report includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases.

	Alliance City			Canton City			Massillon City			Stark County			Stark County Totals			
	Dec 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Dec 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Dec 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Dec 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Dec 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	5 Year annual average
Amebiasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Campylobacteriosis	0	1	2	0	12	16	0	4	2	0	31	29	0	48	49	51.6
Chlamydia	4	78		41	646		5	58		16	381	332	66	1163		1217
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Ds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.6
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	2	1	7	3	0	1	0	0	11	4	1	19	9	11.6
E Coli 0157	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	4	2	2.4
E Coli	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	3	2.4
Enceph., WNV	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	3
Enceph., Other	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	3.2
Giardiasis	0	2	9	0	9	13	1	2	4	1	25	29	2	38	55	53
Gonorrhea	3	29		31	420		3	27		6	110	94	43	586		506
Haemo. Influz., Bac	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	7	5.6
Hepatitis A	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	4	3	9.2
Hepatitis B*	0	3	6	0	16	25	0	0	1	0	20	24	0	39	56	37.4
Hepatitis C*	1	18	29	0	108	137	3	21	31	7	104	105	11	251	302	281
Kawasaki Syndrome	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	3.4
Legionellosis	0	0	0	2	3	6	0	1	1	0	6	12	2	10	19	11.4
Listeriosis	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	2	1.6
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3.2
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Meningitis, Asep	0	6	14	0	15	3	0	4	0	2	19	32	2	44	49	58
Meningitis Bac.	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	4.4
Meningococcal Dis.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	2.8
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Pertussis	0	0	8	0	0	14	0	1	3	0	8	29	0	9	54	16.4
Salmonellosis	0	4	1	2	13	7	1	8	3	0	25	27	3	50	38	48.4
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	2	5	0	2	12	12.4
Strep Inv A GAS	0	3	2	0	3	3	1	2	0	2	4	5	3	12	10	10.6
Strep B Newborn	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	1.8
Strep Pneu ISP	0	7	7	1	22	18	0	1	5	6	29	30	7	59	60	36
Strep TSS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6
Syphilis	0	3		5	8		0	0		1	13	7	6	24		32
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.2
Varicella***	2	32	N/A	2	49	N/A	0	9	N/A	8	181	N/A	12	271	N/A	0
Vibriosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2
Yersiniosis	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0.8

*This includes all hepatitis reports; acute, chronic, and status not known. **Incomplete 5 yr average due to a change in reporting. ***Newly reportable condition.

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