

**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:**

**Newly reportable disease: *Clostridium difficile*.**

In late December 2005 health-care associated *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) infections in hospitals and nursing homes became reportable as an aggregate number by the week. The required reporting period, originally from January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006, has now been extended to December 31, 2006. Further, hospitals and nursing homes have been asked to report patient days retroactively to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Utilizing patient days obtained from hospitals has provided some preliminary findings. The rate of initial cases reported for Ohio hospitals was 7 per 10,000 patient days for January and February, and 8 per 10,000 patient days from March through June. The average number of initial cases reported was 312 per month. The rate of recurrent cases reported for Ohio hospitals was 2 per 10,000 patient days in January, March and April, 1 per 10,000 patient days in February and 3 per 10,000 patient days in May. The average number of recurrent case reported was 78 per month. This data was analyzed only from facilities that reported patient days and either new (77% of reporting hospitals) or recurrent (76% of reporting hospitals) cases.

The number of cases and case rates in these reports assist in establishing baseline levels, which facilitate detection of unusual disease occurrence within a health care facility. The state is currently in the process of finalizing the data from the first six months of reporting, from January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006. This data will be available along with State wide data that is compiled on a monthly basis on the Ohio Department of Health website ([www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)).

**Preparedness, making ground.**

In order to test 24/7 disease reporting capabilities as well as the Stark County Multi-Jurisdictional Disease Response plan, a drill was conducted June 2-3, 2006. All 4 local health departments and all 5 hospitals in Stark County participated. According to Ohio Revised Code, Class A(1) diseases are required to be reported to the local health department immediately by phone. A test scenario was created in which each hospital emergency department would report the first 5 cases of chest pain per shift as if they were cases of a Class A(1) disease. A very limited amount of information was collected in order to protect patient privacy. The drill was conducted from 7:00 AM on Friday (06/02/06) until approximately 8:00 PM on Saturday (06/03/06). Throughout the course of the drill a total of 51 cases were reported to all 4 health departments. Several 24/7 reporting issues were discovered during the exercise, ranging from education of emergency department staff on reporting procedures to the logistics of taking after-hours calls for some of the health departments.

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

	June 2006			June 2005			Jul 2005
	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Monthly Mean
Pollen Count	240	10	63	355	10	152	23
Mold Count	13,260	3,030	6,722	13,690	2,930	7,649	12,882
Air Quality Index	77	30	50	119	28	55	51

Pollen and Mold counts are derived from rotorod samples on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story roof of Canton City Hall. The readings are taken from a 24 hour period/24 hour avg. on all work days. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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; 101-150: unhealthy for sensitive groups; 51-100: moderate; 0-50: good.

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

	Jun	YTD	2005
Live Births	229	2169	4574
Births to Teens	21	217	508
Deaths	270	2073	4305

**Table 3 Stark County Crude Birth and Death Rates**

Crude rates are based on US Census 2000 Stark County population of 377,438.

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Birth	0.0127	0.0126	0.0124	0.0121
Death	0.0109	0.0111	0.0104	0.0114

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

Please 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](http://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			
	Jun 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Jun 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Jun 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Jun 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Jun 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	5 Year annual average
Amebiasis													0	0	0	0.4
Campylobacteriosis				0	3	4	0	2	1	5	16	12	5	21	17	51.6
Chlamydia	12	43		85	361					22	164		107	525		1217
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Ds												1	0	0	1	0.6
Cryptosporidiosis				0	4	2				0	4	0	0	8	2	11.6
E Coli 0157			1	1	1								1	1	1	2.4
E Coli										1	1	0	1	1	0	2.4
Enceph., WNV													0	0	0	3
Enceph., Other										0	1	0	0	1	0	3.2
Giardiasis	0	1		1	7	6	0	1	3	0	13	11	1	22	20	53
Gonorrhea	1	13		43	210					10	51		54	274		506
Haemo. Influz., Bac				0	1	1				0	2	1	0	3	2	5.6
Hepatitis A	0	1					0	1		0	1	2	0	3	2	9.2
Hepatitis B*	0	2	5	0	8	13			1	1	13	12	1	23	31	37.4
Hepatitis C*	0	10	17	7	66	73	0	8	16	15	69	50	22	153	156	281
Kawasaki Syndrome			1										0	0	1	3.4
Legionellosis						3				0	2	3	0	2	6	11.4
Listeriosis										0	1	0	0	1	0	1.6
Lyme Disease										1	1	3	1	1	3	3.2
Malaria												1	0	0	1	1
Meningitis, Asep	0	1	1	0	3	1				1	4	4	1	8	6	58
Meningitis Bac.										1	1	1	1	1	1	4.4
Meningococcal Dis.													0	0	0	2.8
Mumps										0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pertussis			7			6				0	2	16	0	2	29	16.4
Salmonellosis	0	1		0	9	4	1	1	3	4	12	13	5	23	20	48.4
Shigellosis										0	1	2	0	1	2	12.4
Strep Inv A GAS	0	2	2	1	3	1				0	2	5	1	7	8	10.6
Strep B Newborn						1							0	0	1	1.8
Strep Pneu ISP	1	4	4	2	16	12			4	1	15	22	4	35	42	36
Strep TSS													0	0	0	0.6
Syphilis	2	3		0	2					1	4		3	9		32
Typhoid Fever													0	0	0	0.2
Varicella	3	23		0	27		0	8		2	152		31	210	0	0
Vibriosis													0	0	0	0.2
Yersinosis													0	0	0	0.8

\*This includes all hepatitis reports; acute, chronic, and status not known. \*\*Incomplete 5 yr average due to a change in reporting requirements. \*\*\*Newly reportable condition. ## 2005 total, not an average

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