

March 2024

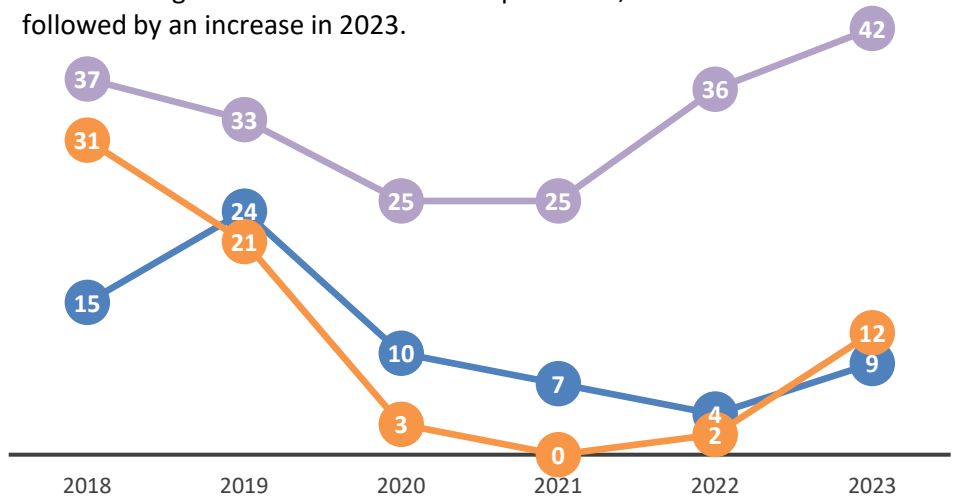
The EpiGram is a monthly publication of the Stark County Reportable and Emerging Disease Network (REDNET). It contains a summary of provisional communicable disease reports and other key public health indicators, with summary tables for each of the four local health department jurisdictions. Some reportable conditions may be under investigation, and, at any given time, data may fluctuate from month to month for a specific category. If you have any questions, please contact Julianna Smith at 330.451.1650 or smithj@starkhealth.org or Kaelyn Boyd at 234.458.5135 or kboyd@cantonhealth.org.



Monthly Highlight: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has widespread impact, but one notable impact is on routine vaccination rates and prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases. In Stark County, the counts for reportable diseases that are also vaccine-preventable varies by year, and each follow different patterns; however, some diseases have had a drop in cases around the start of the pandemic, but are once again climbing. These decreased counts during the height of the pandemic can be attributed to a true decrease in spread, but also to a decrease in medical care and diagnosis. Rates for routine vaccination nationwide have been impacted as well and could be creating an environment that would allow for increases in disease prevalence reaching levels higher than what was seen pre-pandemic.

Counts of **varicella**, **pertussis**, and **streptococcus pneumoniae** all follow a similar pattern of decreased counts during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by an increase in 2023.



Data in graph retrieved from ODH's Summary of Infectious Diseases Dashboard on 4/23/24; <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/summary-of-infectious-diseases-in-ohio>

It is crucial that routine vaccine coverage rates are increased in the coming years to avoid increased disease prevalence and widespread outbreaks. In fact, the count of invasive streptococcus pneumoniae cases in Stark County in 2023 was at a level higher than what was seen pre-pandemic.

For more information:

[The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vaccination uptake in the United States and strategies to recover and improve vaccination rates: A review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

[Reporting of Infectious Diseases in the United States During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

Table 1: Select Vital Statistics for Stark County

	March 2024	YTD 2024	2023
Live Births	315	898	3,915
Births to Teens	18	39	215
Deaths	380	1,193	4,570

* Birth and death data are preliminary.

Table 2: Stark County Crude Birth and Death Rates

	2019	2020	2021*	2022*	2023*
Birth	11.1	10.6	10.6	10.4	10.6
Death	12.1	14.3	14.6	13.0	12.5

*2021-2023 data are preliminary.

**Source: Data Ohio. Rates are per 1,000 population.

Table 3: Summary of Air Quality Index, Pollen, and Mold Counts for Stark County, Ohio, including historical data.

	March 2024				April 2023			
	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Median	Counts in highest reported health risk category	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Median	Counts in highest reported health risk category
Pollen Count	100	3	13	N/A	333	15	106	N/A
Mold Count	1,200	60	300	Low	1,620	128	233	Low
Air Quality Index	59	19	37	Moderate (4)	90	34	46	Moderate (12)

**See the following websites for updated Air Quality Index and mold index terminology and color coding: <http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqibasics.aqi> <https://pollen.aaaai.org/#/pages/reading-the-levels>. Data source for this table is the Air Quality Division of the Canton City Health Department.

Jurisdictional Summary of Select Reportable Conditions in Stark County, OH (Provisional Data)	Alliance City		Canton City		Massillon City		Stark County		All Departments	
	Mar	YTD	Mar	YTD	Mar	YTD	Mar	YTD	Mar	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	0	1	3	5	1	1	3	8	7	15
Chlamydia infection	16	35	49	193	14	40	43	140	122	408
COVID-19	18	179	59	407	25	188	177	1,330	279	2,104
CPO	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	5	2	6
CPO - Colonization Screening	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	2	5
Giardiasis	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	1	7
Gonococcal infection	2	7	12	66	2	4	16	42	32	119
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	1	6
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	0	1	2	3	1	2	4	5	7	11
Hepatitis C - acute	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis C - chronic	0	1	9	18	2	5	3	8	14	32
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	0	13	9	68	6	24	25	131	40	236
Legionellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Lyme Disease	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	5	2	8
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pertussis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Salmonellosis	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	10	5	13
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	7	1	13
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	1	2	1	2	0	1	4	8	6	13
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	5
Syphilis, Total	1	1	3	21	0	3	1	10	5	35
Syphilis, Primary, Secondary and Early Latent	1	1	2	16	0	2	1	8	4	27
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Varicella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	5
Total	39	244	151	801	51	272	292	1,747	533	3,064

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System, downloaded 4/10/2024



Summary Table of Select Reportable Conditions Reported in the Previous 5 years within Stark County, OH (Provisional Data)	Mar 2024	Mar 2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	All of 2023	5 Year Annual Average	Rate
Campylobacteriosis	7	5	15	13	108	74.6	20.10
Chlamydia infection	122	130	408	412	1,650	1680.6	452.86
COVID-19	279	1,162	2,104	3,161	9,183	20989.6	5655.87
CPO	2	5	6	11	37	22.6	6.09
CPO - Colonization Screening	1	1	2	1	8	N/A	N/A
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	0	1	0	1	0.8	0.22
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2	1	6	16	23.8	6.41
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	0	0	3	3.2	0.86
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	2	1	5	2	21	12.8	3.45
Giardiasis	1	1	7	2	16	10.4	2.80
Gonococcal infection	32	59	119	164	618	708.8	190.99
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1	2	6	6	11	8.0	2.16
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	7	0	11	4	34	36.0	9.69
Hepatitis C - acute	1	1	1	2	5	4.0	1.08
Hepatitis C - chronic	14	14	32	45	178	213.6	57.56
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	1	1	1	1	1	0.8	0.22
Hepatitis E	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	0.05
Influenza-associated hospitalization	40	3	236	91	186	262.6	70.76
Legionellosis	0	1	4	1	17	24.8	6.68
Listeriosis	0	1	0	1	1	1.2	0.32
Lyme Disease	2	2	8	4	90	37.6	10.13
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	2	1	16	15.2	4.10
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	0	0	2	0	3	2.0	0.54
Mumps	0	0	1	1	1	0.4	0.11
Pertussis	0	0	2	3	13	12.2	3.29
Salmonellosis	5	1	13	9	55	44.4	11.96
Shigellosis	0	2	2	4	11	10.8	2.91
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	1	3	13	13	47	19.8	5.34
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	0	0	1	0	1	1.2	0.32
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown or non-resistant	6	4	13	10	34	21.6	5.82
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	1	0	5	1	8	10.8	2.91
Syphilis, Total	5	9	35	30	128	57.6	15.50
Syphilis, Primary, Secondary and Early Latent	4	8	27	22	78	41.4	11.14
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	0	1	2	0.6	0.16
Toxic shock syndrome (TSS)	0	0	0	1	1	0.2	0.05
Tuberculosis	0	0	1	2	2	1.0	0.27
Varicella	0	0	2	1	10	11.6	3.13
Vibriosis (not cholera)	0	0	0	0	2	2.0	0.54
West Nile virus disease (also current infection)	0	0	0	0	2	0.4	0.11
Yersiniosis	1	2	5	4	10	6.4	1.72

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System, downloaded 04/10/2024. Rates are per 100K population and based on 5 yr. average incidence 2019-2023.