

*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

### **Nationally: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has asked for a comprehensive approach to reduce morbidity and mortality from Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning. This plea comes on the heels of an early storm in Buffalo New York that sent at least 230 individuals to emergency departments and killed at least 3 from CO poisoning. CO is a silent, colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Nationally, approximately 500 individuals suffer from fatal exposures and 15,200 individuals seek emergency department care. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, vomiting, chest pain, confusion, and in some cases long lasting neurological damage. The highest rates are seen in December and January. For more information on this topic please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/co/default.htm>.

### **Statewide: Influenza**

The state health department has provided influenza vaccine to the local health departments. The local health departments must use this vaccine in accordance with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Guidelines, which vary slightly from the CDC. Vaccine will be administered to those who fall within the guidelines throughout the influenza season unless supplies are exhausted. Please feel free to refer those individuals who are 65 years and older, pregnant, living with chronic illness, and under the age of 2 to their local health department for specific information.

ODH has also asked for increased support from the medical community to track the presence of the flu virus in our community. ODH along with CDC is recruiting area physicians and hospitals to participate in the "Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network." If you are interested in this program, which includes many benefits for participants, please contact your local health department.

### **Locally: West Nile Virus**

Currently, there are two reported human cases of West Nile Virus, one in September and one in October. The September case had a delayed onset of treatment of approximately 6 weeks. His patient history was suggestive of viral encephalitis, and he had extensive outdoor evening exposure to mosquitoes. This case showcases the role of the astute physician in control of environmental infectious disease. With the diagnosis the environmental exposures were assessed and control measures were implemented to prevent and/or reduce the risk to the local community.

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

	September 2006				October 2005			
	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	160	5	40		Suspended for season			
Mold Count	17,800	4,500	12,033	9 of 20 high				
Air Quality Index	81	14	43	6 of 20 moderate	111	8	34	1 of 21 Unhealthy sg

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. 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 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 (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**

	Sep 2006	YTD 2006	2005
Live Births	274	2963	4574
Births to Teens	26	289	508
Deaths	316	3010	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 September 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			
	Sep 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Sep 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Sep 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Sep 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	Sep 2006	YTD 2006	YTD 2005	5 Year annual average
Amebiasis										0	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Campylobacteriosis	0	1	1	3	9	14	0	4	1	4	28	24	7	42	40	51.6
Chlamydia	3	56		57	510		7	41		62	308		129	915	N/A	1217
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Ds										0	0	1	0	0	1	0.6
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	1	1	5	2				2	9	4	3	14	7	11.6
E Coli 0157				1	1	0				0	1	0	1	2	0	2.4
E Coli	0	1	1							0	1	0	0	2	1	2.4
Enceph., WNV				1	1	1							1	1	1	3
Enceph., Other	0	1	1							0	1	0	0	2	1	3.2
Giardiasis	0	1	8	1	8	11	0	1	4	1	20	18	2	30	41	53
Gonorrhea	3	22		25	319		3	11		16	90		47	442	N/A	506
Haemo. Influz., Bac				0	1	4				0	2	2	0	3	6	5.6
Hepatitis A	0	1	0				0	1		0	2	2	0	4	2	9.2
Hepatitis B*	0	3	5	2	16	20	0	0	1	1	19	16	3	38	42	37.4
Hepatitis C*	2	17	18	6	84	105	0	9	23	8	84	72	16	194	218	281
Kawasaki Syndrome	0	0	1										0	0	1	3.4
Legionellosis				0	1	4	0	1	1	1	3	6	1	5	11	11.4
Listeriosis	0	1	0	0	1	0				0	1	0	0	3	0	1.6
Lyme Disease										0	1	3	0	1	3	3.2
Malaria										0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Meningitis, Asep	2	4	13	4	12	3	0	2	0	4	11	26	10	29	42	58
Meningitis Bac.										0	1	1	0	1	1	4.4
Meningococcal Dis.													0	0	0	2.8
Mumps										0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	7	0	0	12	0	0	3	4	8	23	4	8	45	16.4
Salmonellosis	1	3	0	1	12	7	0	8	3	3	19	21	5	42	31	48.4
Shigellosis										0	2	4	0	2	4	12.4
Strep Inv A GAS	0	2	2	0	3	2				1	3	5	1	8	9	10.6
Strep B Newborn													0	0	0	1.8
Strep Pneu ISP	2	6	4	1	20	15	0	0	4	2	20	24	5	46	47	36
Strep TSS													0	0	0	0.6
Syphilis										1	9		1	9	N/A	
Typhoid Fever										0	1	0	0	1	0	0.2
Varicella***	1	24		4	36		0	8		7	161		12	229	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.

If you have any questions, including how to receive copies of this report, please contact Karen Schanz at (330) 493-9928 x287 or [Schanzk@starkhealth.org](mailto:Schanzk@starkhealth.org) or Christina Henning at (330) 489-3454 or [Chenning@cantonhealth.org](mailto:Chenning@cantonhealth.org).