

## AN EPIDEMIOLOGY PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### LOOK MA, NO SARS! (REPORTABLE DISEASES, 2002)

**I**N 2002 West Nile Virus leapt across the country, and SARS began its insidious spread somewhere in the Orient. Meanwhile, the common and sometimes deadly scourges of the past continued to populate our disease surveillance rosters. Illustrated here are 10-year trends for the more commonly reported diseases in Oregon. On the flip side are county-specific reporting frequencies for each condition in 2002.\*

The good news is that most reportable diseases saw declines in 2002. Meningococcal disease continues its steady decline but still hovers above the national average. Spoiling the salutary, downward trends in most diseases were upturns in *Escherichia coli* O157 infection, salmonellosis, pertussis and syphilis. Multi-county outbreaks played a significant role in each of these.

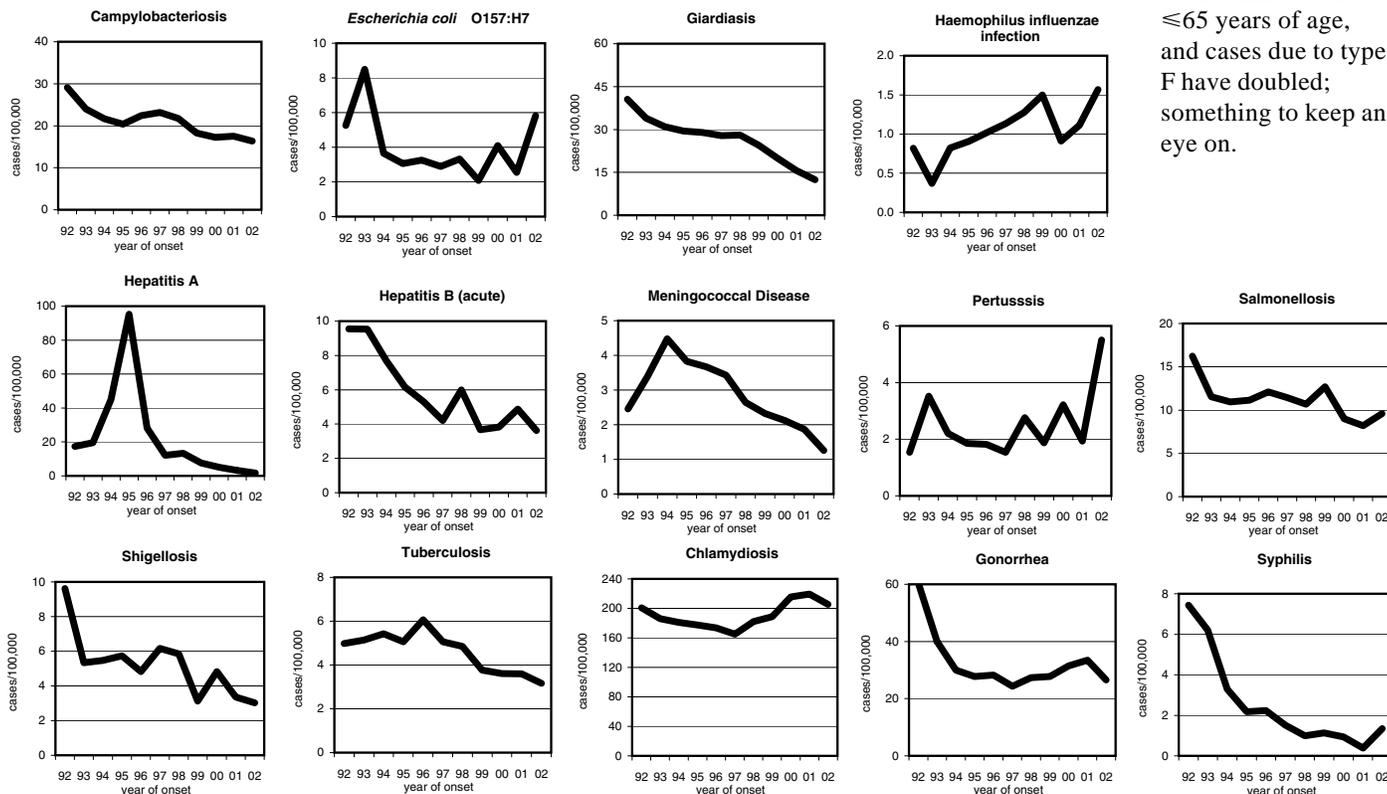
The year 2002 witnessed the largest *E. coli* O157 outbreak in Oregon history—72 confirmed and another 9 presumptive cases associated with attending the Lane County Fair. Seven pertussis outbreaks dramatically changed the trend for that disease; active case finding in outbreak investigations accounted for about one-third of the reported cases. Although historically on a 3–4 year cycle, the 193 reported pertussis represented a 25-year high. Particularly noteworthy was the shift in age distribution since 1993 from infants (at a 10 year low in 2002) to those aged 1–19 years. Nationwide, the reported rate of *Bordetella pertussis* infection is on the rise; still, the 2002 Oregon (5.5) was almost double the national rate (2.9).

The salmonellosis graph is harder to interpret due to the multiplicity of serotypes causing disease. Serotyping and molecular typing demonstrated at least seven clusters of salmonellosis infection. One—*viz.*, of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Poona—was associated with cantaloupe distributed to several states. Two were due to *S. Muenchen*. The largest cluster—caused by *S. Newport*—accounted for 27 reported cases, mainly in Hispanic persons; an extensive investigation revealed no source.

Overall, reported sexually transmitted diseases declined in 2002, but syphilis cases doubled. Similar to recent findings in other cities, the majority of syphilis cases were in men who had sex with men.

Although rates of *Haemophilus influenzae* disease remained low, the last two years have shown increases. Most

of the afflicted are  $\leq 65$  years of age, and cases due to type F have doubled; something to keep an eye on.



\* The usual caveats to disease surveillance data apply: we can count only what is diagnosed and reported to us.

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Disease Reporting Tallies for Selected Diseases by County, 2002

county	2002 pop.	Amebiasis	Botulism, infant	Botulism, wound	Campylobacter	Cryptosporidiosis	E. coli O157	Giardiasis	H. influenzae	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B (acute)	Hepatitis B (chronic)	Hep B (unspecified)	Hepatitis C (acute)	HUS	Listeriosis	Lyme disease	Malaria	Measles	Meningococcal Dis.	Pertussis	Rabies, animal	RMSF	Salmonellosis	Shigellosis	Tularemia	Typhoid	V. parahaemolyticus	Yersiniosis	
Baker	16,700				4		1	1				1	1	1									1	1						
Benton	79,900				15			8	1	2	3	2	1							1	2	1		12	2					
Clackamas	350,850	1			51	2	12	29	4	4	5	26	9		1		1			4	11		23	4				1	5	
Clatsop	36,100				4		3	1	1	1	3	6		1			1			1			1	4					1	
Columbia	44,600	1			5		2	4	1			2		1			1			1				2						
Coos	62,650				11		3	7	2		1	7												7						
Crook	20,200				4		3	1			2	1	1					1						2	1					
Curry	21,250				4		1	2			1	2	1				1					1								
Deschutes	126,500				27		6	29	3	2	1	6	3	3						1	21	1	1	11	3			1		
Douglas	101,300				12		3	17				5		1			1			2	1	2		7						
Gilliam	1,900																													
Grant	7,750				2																			1						
Harney	7,600				2					1																				
Hood River	20,450				1		6	6				1			1	1	1							4						
Jackson	187,600				18	1		21	7	5	5	16		1			1			3		1	35	8					1	
Jefferson	19,850				6		2	3			1									1	7			1						
Josephine	77,650				4	1	2	10	1	2	1		2				4			2	1			7	1			1		
Klamath	64,550				14		3	18		1	4	5								1		1		5	1	1				
Lake	7,450							1																						
Lane	328,150	2			71	5	93	52	5	6	5	24	6		11	1		4		4	52	2	32	5				2	3	
Linn	44,700				7			7	1	1	3	1	1											5					1	
Linn	104,000			1	22		3	11	2	2	6	3			1	1		1		6	3	3	6	3				2		
Malheur	32,000				19		6	1				1	3		1				3						2					
Marion	291,000				44		23	48	4	3	25	43	4	1	3	3		1		1	44		30	24					1	
Morrow	11,250				5		1	1			3	1	1					1												
Multnomah	670,250	10			104	23	7	91	15	9	41	229	1	3	1		1	6		6	26	2	58	23	1		1	2		
Polk	63,450				5	1	2	7	2		2	6								2				7	3					
Sherman	1,850																							1						
Tillamook	24,600				2		1	2	1			1					1													
Umatilla	71,000				9		1	5		11	1	11	5		1					2	1			8	6		2			
Union	24,600				6			3				1	1	1																
Wallowa	7,150						1																							
Wasco	23,750				5		2	2				1	1					2						1						
Washington	463,050		1		73	8	12	38	3	6	7	76	19	1	1	2		2		2	19	1	51	14					2	
Wheeler	1,550																													
Yamhill	87,500				16		5	9	2		6	10	4				1	1		2	3			11	5			1		
TOTAL	3,504,700	14	1	1	572	41	204	435	55	62	127	485	61	14	20	9	12	15	0	44	193	14	3	336	106	2	2	9	16	

Case totals as of April 10, 2003. Blank indicates zero cases. Amebiasis no longer reportable as of March 2002, but hey, old habits die hard.