

July – 2005

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

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 for case definitions.

Table 1 – Summary of Select Reportable Diseases for July 2005 in Stark County, Ohio (provisional data only)

	Alliance City Health			Canton City Health			Massillon City Health			Stark County Health			Stark County Totals			
	Jul 2005	YTD 2005	YTD 2004	Jul 2005	YTD 2005	YTD 2004	Jul 2005	YTD 2005	YTD 2004	Jul 2005	YTD 2005	YTD 2004	Jul 2005	YTD 2005	YTD 2004	5 Year annual average
Amebiasis										1	1		1	1	0	0.2
Campylobacteriosis	1	1	2	6	10	2		1	2	6	18	16	13	30	22	54.6
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Dis											1		0	1	0	0.4
Cryptosporidiosis					2					2	2	4	2	4	4	10
E Coli 0157													0	0	0	2.6
E Coli		1	2									1	0	1	3	1.8
Enceph., WNV													0	0		2.8
Enceph., Other													0	0		3.2
Giardiasis			1		6	4		3	2		11	21	0	20	28	54.6
Haemo. Influz., Bac					1	2			1	1	2	3	1	3	6	4.6
Hepatitis A											2	1	0	2	1	10
Hepatitis B*		5	4	3	16	13		1	3	1	13	19	4	35	39	62.5
Hepatitis C*	1	17	12	9	83	92	4	20	12	5	47	78	19	167	194	340**
Kawasaki Syndrome		1				1						1	0	1	1	3
Legionellosis				1	4	1			1		3	3	1	7	4	9
Listeriosis													0	0		1.4
Lyme Disease											3		0	3		2.8
Malaria											1		0	1		1
Meningitis, Asep	2	3	1	1	2	4				2	6	8	5	11	12	52.6
Meningitis Bac.											1	1	0	1	1	4.4
Meningococcal Dis.												3	0	0	3	2.8
Pertussis		7		2	8	1	1	1	2	3	16	4	6	32	6	7.2
Salmonellosis			2		4	7		1	3	3	16	18	3	21	30	47.4
Shigellosis						1				1	3		1	3	1	11.6
Strep Inv A GAS		2			1	3					5	2	0	8	5	10.2
Strep B Newborn						1						1	0	0	1	1.4
Strep Pneu ISP		4	4	1	13	10		4	3	1	6	19	2	27	36	25
Strep TSS												2	0	0	2	0.6
Typhoid Fever			1										0	0	1	0.2
Varicella													0	0		**
Vibriosis												1	0	0	1	0.2
Yersinosis													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.

Table 2 Summary of Air Quality Index, Pollen, and Mold Counts for Stark County, Ohio, July 2005, including limited historical data.

	July 2005			July 2004			August 2004
	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Monthly High	Monthly Low	Monthly Mean	Monthly Mean
Pollen Count	30	10	23	35	5	18	59
Mold Count	19,810	8,290	12,882	10,420	4,460	7,503	8,376
Air Quality Index	72	24	51	105	23	54	50

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.

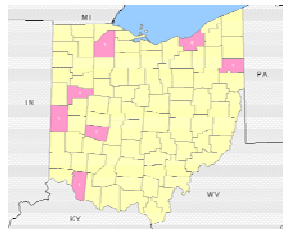
The Air Quality Index (AQI) is derived by comparison to EPA standards from the following readings: Particulate Matter 10, Particulate Matter 2.5 continuous on CCHD 2nd floor roof top; Sulfur Dioxide at Malone College; and ozone monitors in Canton, Brewster, Alliance, and Middlebranch. This index is produced from March to October. AQI ratings are 151-200: unhealthy; 101-150: unhealthy for sensitive groups; 51-100: moderate; 0-50: good.

Table 3 Summary of Select Vital Statistics for Stark County, Ohio

	Alliance City Health District			Canton City Health District			Massillon City Health District			Stark County Health District			Total in Stark County		
	Jul	YTD 2005	2004	Jul	YTD 2005	2004	Jul	YTD 2005	2004	Jul	YTD 2005	2004	Jul	YTD 2005	2004
Number of Live Births*	33	233	384	392	2592	4081	0	0	4	6	108	223	431	2933	4692
Number of Teenage births*	5	39	65	31	243	379	0	0	0	0	14	39	36	332	483
Number of Deaths*	29	229	326	199	1427	1928	16	241	389	107	897	1266	351	2794	3909

*These numbers represent occurrences within the jurisdiction and are not indicative of births and deaths of residents of each jurisdiction, therefore jurisdictional rates are not computed.

The 2002 Birth Rate for Stark County was 0.01266, 0.10262 for 2003 and 0.01243 for 2004. The 2002 Death Rate for Stark County was 0.01091, 0.0111 for 2003 and 0.0104 for 2004 (crude rates are based on US Census 2000 Stark County population of 377,438).



Map of Human West Nile Virus Cases

IN THE NEWS:

West Nile Virus:

West Nile has continued to minimally affect Ohioans. As of week 35 there have been 12 human cases, this is the same number of cases reported in of 2004. In both 2003 and 2004 the number of human cases peaked in week 37. The typical disease curve for WNV has a slow but steady progression. The progression begins in mid June and peaks in mid September, approximately weeks 24 - 37. Following the peak the curve shows a very sharp decline in the presence of disease. Therefore, our season may soon be coming to an end, and with no reported deaths.

For the most up-to date west nile virus maps please visit: <http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov/>.

Disease Reporting:

A recent study entitled “Public Health Response to Urgent Case Reports” published on 30 August, 2005, took a critical look at public health’s ability to respond to disease reporters. Specifically the report used the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance for Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA). This guidance contained four primary recommendations: (1) LPHAs should have a single, well-publicized telephone number to receive all urgent case reports because telephones are the simplest, quickest, and most direct method of communication. (2) They also should have a phone triage protocol to process urgent case reports. (3) They should be capable of receiving urgent case reports twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. (4) They should be able to have a trained public health professional respond to urgent case reports within thirty minutes of receiving the report.

The study included contacting 19 metropolitan health departments throughout the United States. The caller would pose as a physician’s office trying to report a disease, once the caller was able to reach an “action officer” the caller stated that this was only a test. Action officers might include physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, bioterrorism coordinators, and infection control practioners. By doing this the study was able to measure the ability of the health department to meet the CDC’s 4 primary recommendations.

The study found wide variation in performance with respect to the standard, including variation in the availability of phone numbers, the procedures used to triage calls, and the way in which simulated case reports were handled. Only two of 19 LPHAs consistently met the standard of responding to all calls within 30 minutes. The full report can be found at <http://content.healthaffairs.org>

Why is this information presented here? To inform you that local health departments have standards that they are striving to meet. All four Stark County Health Departments have addressed each of these standards. However, if there is a problem, locally or within the state, it needs to be reported. Reports of problems help health departments improve their primary mission. Possible problems or questions may be addressed to the Red Net Advisory Group at the Stark County Health Department, this is a group of local infectious Disease Practioners and Health Department Communicable Disease Staff. The contact for this group is Matt Tillapaw. Also, the Stark County Epidemiology Advisory Committee, the point of contact for this group is Christina Henning. Please feel free to submit questions, comments, concerns, or “at-a-boys” using their contact info below.

If you have any questions, including how to receive other copies of this report, please contact Matt Tillapaw at (330) 493-9928 x287 or Tillapawm@starkhealth.org or Christina Henning at (330) 489-3454 or Henningc@cantonhealth.org.