

Communicable Diseases

March – April 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

Monthly Newsletter

For Joplin City and Jasper County

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

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The Centers for Disease Control estimate that there are approximately 19 million new cases of STDs each year in the United States, almost half of them among the young people ages 15 to 24. In addition, it is estimated that the medical costs associated with STDs are \$16.4 billion annually.

In 2008, there were more than 1.5 million

cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea in the U.S. which makes them the two most commonly reported infectious diseases in the U.S.

Some studies have shown antibiotic resistance in treating cases of gonorrhea leading to concerns for treatment in the future. Untreated STDs lead to long-term consequences, especially in young women and include emotional stress, and a variety of health risks that can cause harm to a mother and possibly her baby. Approximately 24,000 women become infertile each year due to untreated STDs.

Source: CDC and Joplin/Jasper STD surveillance

HIGHLIGHTS

April is STD Awareness Month, an annual observance to raise awareness about sexually transmitted diseases' (STDs) impact on Americans' health and the importance of individuals discussing sexual health with their healthcare providers and partners.

Source: CDC

Local Sexually Transmitted Diseases Updates

As of February 2010, chlamydia accounted for most of the STDs in both Joplin City and Jasper County. This was consistent with the national pattern of STD occurrence. There were 118 chlamydia cases in both Jasper County and Joplin City. There were more cases reported in February than were in January.

During the two months of data, there were no syphilis cases in both jurisdictions but there were 15 gonorrhea cases in Jasper County and Joplin - See fig. 1 in page 3.

Based on STD surveillance data from previous years, STDs start increasing around April.

Increased prevention efforts, including screening, are critical to reducing the serious health consequences of STDs.

What You Can Do

- ◆ Talk with your health care provider about STDs and ask about recommended vaccinations and testing.
- ◆ Get tested. Visit www.findSTDtest.org to find STD testing locations near you.
- ◆ Talk openly and honestly with your partner about STDs.

Source: CDC & Joplin /Jasper County Health Departments STD Surveillance

Campylobacteriosis: Overview

Reporting Rules

Campylobacteriosis is a Category II disease and shall be reported to the local health agency or to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services within three (3) days of suspected diagnosis.

Contact your local health department about the reporting guidelines

What is Campylobacter?

Campylobacter is a bacterium that infects the intestines. It is the most common bacterial cause of diarrheal illness in the United States.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms are usually diarrhea (sometimes bloody), stomachache, fever, nausea and vomiting. The illness usually ends by itself within one week, but some people may require treatment with antibiotics.

How is Campylobacter spread?

The bacteria are found in human and animal feces. It is very common in cattle as well as chickens. People can get it by eating or drinking contaminated water, raw milk, poultry, meat, or from infected pets and other animals. While it is very rare to get Campylobacter from another person who has it, person-to-person spread occasionally occurs, primarily in young children with diarrhea.

Outbreaks of diarrhea in child care centers have been reported, but they appear to be uncommon. Infected individuals may shed Campylobacter bacteria in the feces for 2-7 weeks. However, treatment with appropriate antibiotic(s) typically shortens the duration of communicability to 2-3 days. Temporary immunity often develops following infection.

How long from when a person is infected until they get ill?

Usually people get sick within two to five days of infection with these bacteria, but it can be as short as one day to as long as ten days before illness occurs.

How can Campylobacter be prevented?

It can be prevented by properly cooking poultry and meats to at least 165° F, thorough hand washing with soap and water after using the toilet; before handling any food and after handling raw foods; only drinking pasteurized milk; and never drinking water from creeks, lakes, or springs.

Where can I get more information ?

To find out more, call your doctor or local public health agency.

Local Campylobacteriosis Activity

Both Joplin City and Jasper County Health Department reported an increase in campylobacteriosis illnesses in the month of March 2010.

The greatest increase was in Jasper County where about more than 39 illnesses have been reported in March alone. About 30 more cases are being investigated as well as possible sources of exposure.

This outbreak is localized in one particular region in the county. Increased surveillance has also been going on in the region.

Source:
CDC, DHSS and Joplin City /Jasper County Communicable Diseases Surveillance 2010

Communicable Disease Monthly Report—March 2010

Table 1 **Cumulative Case from January Through the End of March, by Jurisdictions (2009 & 2010)**
(Includes confirmed, probable and suspect cases)

CONDITION / YEAR BY LPHA	JOPLIN		JASPER	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	2	4	5	39
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	0	1	0	0
E. COLI SHIGA TOXIN	0	1	2	0
GIARDIASIS	0	0	2	2
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE	0	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B PREGNANCY	2	0	1	0
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	4	2	1	2
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	1	1	2	1
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	1	0	0	0
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC IN	18	11	20	13
MYCOBACTERIUM OTHER THAN TB	1	0	3	0
PERTUSSIS	0	1	3	0
SALMONELLOSIS	3	0	1	1
SHIGELLOSIS	0	3	0	0
TB INFECTION	5	2	12	2
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	0	0	8	1

January Through March

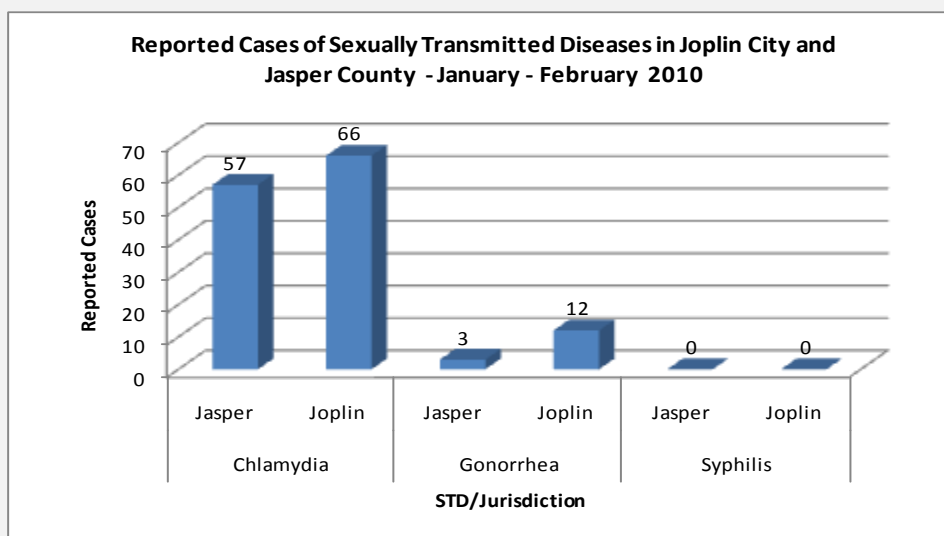
Most of the communicable diseases in Joplin City and Jasper County remained low as of March 2010 compared to March 2009. However, there was a significant increase in campylobacteriosis cases in Jasper County- see page 2 about the illness.

More than 39 cases were reported in Jasper County in March alone. About 30 more cases are being investigated.

Source: Crystal Reports, MDHSS & Analyzed by Joplin City/Jasper County Health Departments

Incidence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Joplin and Jasper County

Figure 1



Source: Missouri DHSS; Analyzed by Joplin City/ Jasper County HDs' STD Surveillance, 2010.

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UPCOMING TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Principles of Epidemiology Course: [April 21 & 22](#), [July 21 & 22](#), or [October 20 & 21, 2010](#). To register, contact Rose.Kowieski@dhss.mo.gov

Hepatitis A, B, C, and D, HIV, Syphilis, and Perinatal Prevention Early Identification and Interventions For A Better Outcome Workshops

The Viral Hepatitis Prevention Program team within the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis of the Missouri DHSS, will be conducting the above indicated free workshops. For questions, please contact Libby Landrum or Leslie Rumans at 573-751-6475, or by e-mail at Libby.Landrum@dhss.mo.gov or Leslie.Rumans@dhss.mo.gov. See attached [registration](#).

Recruiting Summer Interns

The University of Missouri-Columbia Masters in Public Health (MPH) Program is recruiting summer internship placements for 45 MPH students. If there is a project you would like an intern to work on, please contact Lynelle Phillips at phillipsml@missouri.edu or call 573-884-8976. Attached is the [internship description form](#) which can be faxed to her attention at 573-884-4132.

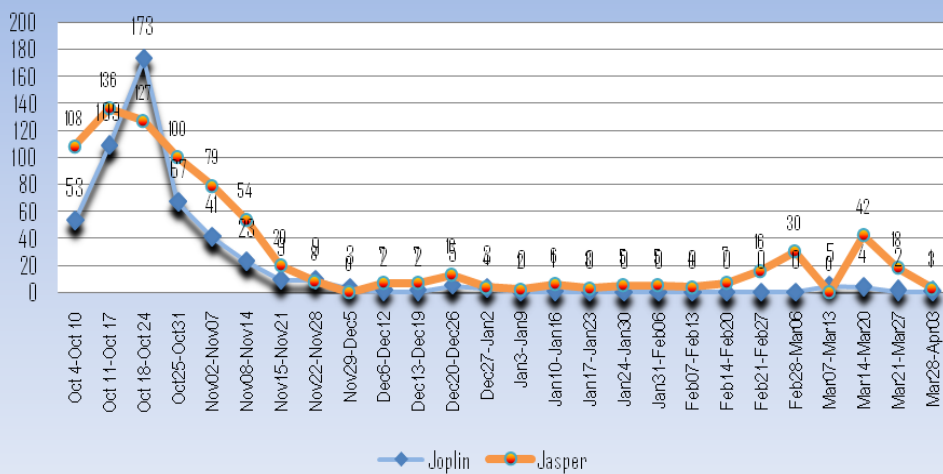
Cumulative Flu Updates For Joplin and Jasper County

Flu cases have remained relatively low in the both Jasper County and Joplin City area. No cases were reported during the week of April 4 through April 10, 2010.

Surveillance efforts continue to be in place in order to detect any changes in the trend. However, some states in the Southeast reported some increased flu activity toward the end of March.

Although the flu trend has declined in the last several months, everyone is encouraged to continue with flu related preventive measures such as hand washing, cough etiquette, staying home when sick, eating healthy, and vaccination if not vaccinated.

Reported Influenza Cases in Joplin City and Jasper County By Week: 2009-2010 Flu Season on Year-To-Date



Source: Joplin/ Jasper County Health Department Flu Surveillance

GREAT WORK IS DONE BY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO BE GREAT.— FERNANDO FLORES