

# 2011 April

## Communicable Disease

Communicable disease control is a core public health function.



Waterfowl, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. © Dave Feliz.

Public health efforts to control communicable, or infectious, diseases have a long history in Yolo County as this excerpt from the County Board of Health’s Annual Report from 1905 demonstrates:<sup>82</sup>

*“General health throughout the County has been rather above the average. Diphtheria appeared at different times at Knights Landing, Clarksburg, Washington [now West Sacramento], Yolo and Woodland. Though the disease was very persistent, especially in Woodland, the type was milder and much less fatal. People generally submitted more promptly to quarantine and are generally more intelligent and careful about sanitary matters. Antitoxin has been more efficiently used. The liberality of your honorable body in providing the serum to all who were not able to pay for it is highly and thankfully appreciated. Scarlet fever in mild form appeared sporadically in Esparto and Woodland, but caused no deaths. Typhoid fever prevailed at different times within the year in every section of the County; but was, for the most part, of only moderate severity. It caused, however, a few deaths. There have been about the usual number of cases of malaria...”*

Communicable disease control, comprised of prevention, surveillance, and response activities for more than 80 infectious diseases, remains a core function of the Yolo County Health Department.

Confirmed Cases of Selected Reportable Diseases, Yolo County <sup>76</sup>	2005	2006	2007	2008
Campylobacter	52	58	40	38
Chlamydia	519	489	503	531
E. coli O157:H7	3	0	3	0
Giardia	9	12	5	6
Gonorrhea	72	61	70	65
Lyme Disease	1	2	1	0
Salmonella	16	25	20	23
Shigella	10	9	2	3
Tuberculosis (active)	9	3	9	8
Syphilis (acute)	2	0	0	5

Alcohol Awareness Month • Child Abuse Prevention Month • National Autism Awareness Month • STD/Family Planning Awareness Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	28		30		1 April Fools' Day	2
3 Public Health Week	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 World Malaria Day	26	27	28	29	30

### Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne bacterial disease. Each year, about 7-10 cases of active TB and 300 cases of latent TB are diagnosed in Yolo County.<sup>76</sup> The Health Department plays an active role in supervising treatment of TB. Treatment for TB often lasts 6 months or longer and requires intensive public health case management.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

It is estimated that medical costs for STDs among teens and young adults exceed \$1 billion/year in California and \$2.8 million/year in Yolo County. Each treated STD case represents many more untreated cases in the community.<sup>50</sup> Chlamydial infection (531 new Yolo County cases in 2008) is the most common STD reported in Yolo County followed by gonorrhea (65 new Yolo County cases in 2008).<sup>76</sup> Countywide, infection rates for these STDs are below statewide rates, but rates for Yolo County teens and young adults continue to rise.<sup>76</sup> Statewide increases in syphilis were reflected in 2008 in Yolo County with 5 acute cases, the highest number of cases since 1996.<sup>76</sup> The CDC estimates that 1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV and 25% of these people do not know that they are infected.<sup>11</sup> In Yolo County, about 20 HIV cases are reported per year.<sup>71</sup> In 2009, state HIV Prevention funding was cut dramatically. Thankfully, local testing and education funding was restored by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. HIV prevention activities also prevent other STDs and hepatitis C, especially among those at highest risk.

### Hepatitis C & Syringe Exchange

Hepatitis C is a chronic liver disease caused by hepatitis C virus through contact with blood of an infected person. Infection often becomes a chronic condition leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer many years after infection has occurred. In 2008, 392 previously unreported hepatitis C cases were identified in Yolo County.<sup>76</sup> About 24 county residents die each year with chronic hepatitis C.<sup>33</sup> In 2007, Yolo County implemented a syringe exchange program to combat the prevalence of bloodborne diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. A number of studies have shown that injection drug users will use sterile syringes if they can obtain them.<sup>16</sup> This means less needle sharing, proper disposal of infected needles, and less disease. Syringe exchange is an effective way to link drug users to substance abuse treatment without encouraging drug use.<sup>16</sup> Syringe exchange programs are also cost effective: prevention of even a single case of HIV through syringe exchange results in a net medical cost savings of \$266,000.<sup>54</sup>

- Diseases & Conditions A-Z
- Yolo County Communicable Disease Statistics
- Tuberculosis
- Needle Exchange Facts

[www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions](http://www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions)  
[www.yolohealth.org](http://www.yolohealth.org) (click on 'Health Statistics' on left toolbar)  
[www.yolohealth.org](http://www.yolohealth.org) (click on 'Communicable Disease' on left toolbar)  
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