

# Top 10 Communicable Disease Report Utah, 2012

- ◆ The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) monitors more than 75 communicable diseases in the state.
- ◆ The list below shows the 10 most common communicable diseases reported to public health authorities.
- ◆ Many cases of disease go undiagnosed and unreported, therefore the numbers shown are lower than what occurs in the community.

## Reported Communicable Diseases — Utah, 2012

Disease	Number of reported cases*	Rank of disease Utah	U.S. <sup>†</sup>
Chlamydia	7,616	1	1
Pertussis (“Whooping Cough”)	1,591	2	4
Hepatitis C <sup>§¶</sup>	964	3	-
Influenza-associated hospitalizations <sup>¶</sup>	608	4	-
Gonorrhea	480	5	2
Campylobacteriosis <sup>¶</sup>	451	6	-
Varicella (“Chickenpox”)	317	7	11
Giardiasis	287	8	9
Salmonellosis	260	9	3
Cryptosporidiosis	196	10	12

### Highlights

**Chlamydia**—Easily spread through any unprotected sexual contact, chlamydia continues to represent the largest number of reported disease cases and primarily affects younger populations. The majority of infected individuals experience no signs or symptoms leaving testing as the only way to know for sure if a person is infected. Untreated chlamydia can result in infertility.

**Pertussis (“Whooping Cough”)**—Reported cases of pertussis more than doubled from 2011 to 2012 and included 241 outbreaks. Pertussis complications include pneumonia and seizures and can be particularly severe in children less than one year of age. This highly contagious disease can be prevented through vaccination which is recommended for children, adolescents, and adults.

**Hepatitis C**—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends that every person born between 1945 and 1965 get tested for hepatitis C at least once. This disease affects the liver and it is estimated that 3 out of 4 people infected do not know they have the disease. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

**Influenza-associated hospitalizations**—UDOH monitors hospitalized cases of influenza (commonly referred to as “flu”) rather than the number of people diagnosed with flu, due to the severity of hospitalizations. Hand-washing and the flu vaccine are some of the best protection against flu. Infants, older populations, and those with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk of hospitalization and death from flu.

**Gonorrhea**—Representing an approximate 75% increase from 2011 to 2012, gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease that has grown resistant to most drugs used to treat it. Even after treatment a person can get re-infected making gonorrhea a difficult disease to manage.

**Cryptosporidiosis**— This parasitic disease affects the intestines and is often spread through contaminated water, both in lakes and recreational pools as it is resistant to chlorine. There were approximately three times as many cases in 2012 than 2011.

U.S. and Utah case counts for reporting year 2012 are provisional and subject to change.

\*Case counts determined using print criteria outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nationally Notifiable Diseases 2012 Event Code List.

<sup>†</sup>U.S. ranking based on CDC Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables. MMWR Weekly, available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm6152md.pdf>

<sup>§</sup>Includes both acute and chronic hepatitis C.

<sup>¶</sup>Not a nationally notifiable disease/condition.