

Solano County Public Health Briefs



Spring 2009 Vol. 4 No. 1

Welcome to the Solano County Public Health Briefs. This report is published semi-annually and informs readers about timely and important public health issues. Please let us know how the Briefs can better meet your needs by sending an email to tboucher@solanocounty.com. Thanks for taking your valuable time to read this report.

Public Health Week - April 6-12, 2009

By Jill Cook PHN, RN, MS, Public Health Administrator

National Public Health Week (NPHW) is observed from April 6-12. The theme for this year is Building the Foundation for a Healthy America. National Public Health Week 2009 raises awareness nationally and locally of public health's critical role in restoring and ensuring a healthy America. For information regarding national public health events please visit www.nphw.org.

Solano County is recognizing National Public Health Week with the following activities:

- The County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution to recognize NPHW in Solano County.
- A health fair was held on April 6th for Solano County employees.
- The Solano County website is posting educational public health information during the week.

Review of TB diagnostic tests

By Dr. Michael Stacey, Deputy Health Officer/TB Controller

In 1907 Dr. Charles Mantoux developed an innovative test to assist in the diagnosis of Tuberculosis (TB). This test is commonly referred to as the "tuberculin skin test" (TST) or "purified protein derivative" test (PPD). Although this 100 year old test has played an important role in the diagnosis of TB in the 20th century it has some significant limitations which include the following:

- Technique dependent inoculation and interpretation steps.
- Requires a return visit for results interpretation.
- False positives caused by BCG vaccination and non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) infection.
- False negatives especially in the immunosuppressed, young and elderly.

In recent years a new type of test known as interferon gamma release assays (IGRA) has become available. Currently the two FDA approved IGRAs available in the U.S. are Quantiferon-Gold and T-SPOT.TB. Both IGRAs are blood tests and offer the advantages of not relying on inoculation or interpretation technique, require only one visit, are not affected by BCG vaccination, are less affected by NTM infection and they show promise in being more effective in the immunosuppressed, young and elderly.

The Solano County public health laboratory implemented the Quantiferon-Gold test in 2007 and in January, 2009 it became the first public health laboratory in California to implement the newly FDA approved T-SPOT.TB test. The T-SPOT.TB test has the advantage of being a more sensitive test with FDA approval for use in the immunosuppressed including those infected with HIV.

Providers with questions regarding TB and/or IGRAs can contact Dr. Michael Stacey by calling the Solano County TB program at (707) 784-8076. To obtain technical assistance regarding specimen collection and transport to lab please contact the Solano County Public Health Lab at (707) 553-5029.

Phone numbers to remember:

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(707) 784-8600

Michael W. Stacey, MD
Deputy Health Officer
CD&TB Controller
(707) 784-8600

Patrick O. Duterte
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(707) 784-8400

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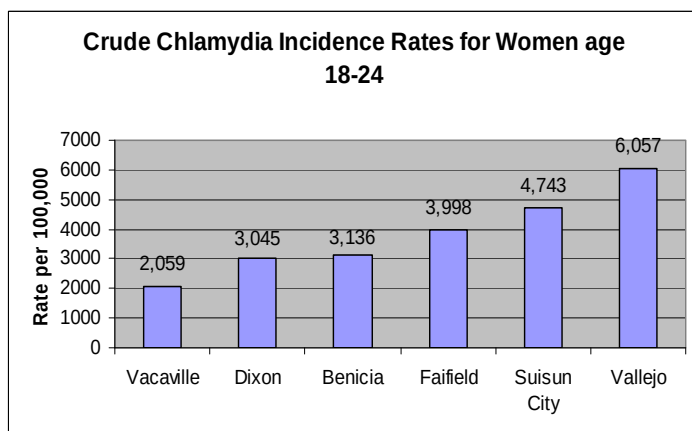
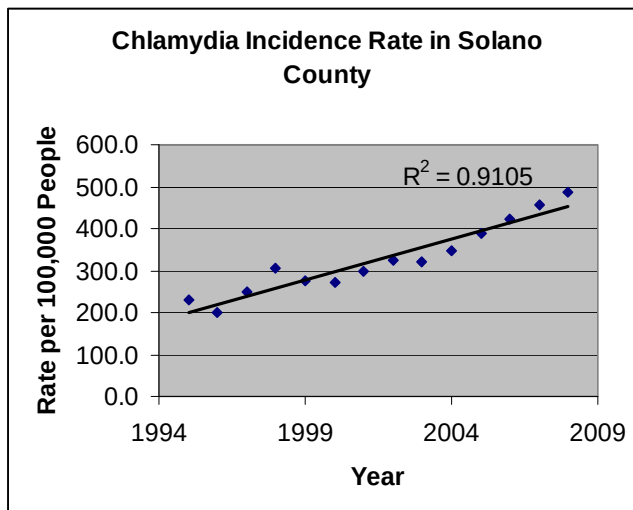
Steady Increase of Chlamydia seen in Solano County

By David Lash, MPH Candidate Touro University, Solano Public Health Intern

Chlamydia cases and incidence rates have been rising throughout the country since the early 1990s and Solano County is no exception. In fact, since a low of 738 reported cases in 1996, there has been a linear increase in Solano County cases to 2,088 reported cases in 2008. This trend corresponds to an additional 85.5 more cases being reported each year.

In 2007, Solano County had a Chlamydia incidence rate of 445.8 cases per 100,000 people, higher than all but 7 California Counties as reported by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This rate increased in 2008 to 492.5 cases per 100,000 people.

The burden of Chlamydia is not equally distributed amongst Solano County cities. Considering percentage of cases in relation to population, the city of Vallejo stands out as having the highest rate of Chlamydia among Solano County cities. Vallejo as a city comprises 28% of the county's population and reported 40% of the county's Chlamydia cases in 2008. Using US Dept. of Food and Agriculture population estimates, the city of Vallejo had a Chlamydia incidence rate of 680.4 cases per 100,000 residents in 2008.



The highest number of Chlamydia cases reported in Solano County occurred in females aged 17-19. Using Vallejo's 2000 US Census information as the standard population, 18-24 year old females in Vallejo had a Chlamydia incidence rate of 6,057 cases per 100,000 individuals in 2008. Since the CDC estimates that over half of all Chlamydia cases go unreported, the actual rate is probably much higher.

There are likely multiple factors contributing to the increase in rates of Chlamydia in Solano County. Some of these factors may include increased testing and diagnosis and social influences leading to changes in sexual behavior. The Solano County Communicable Disease Program is investigating and developing strategies to address this alarming trend.

Kick the Butts is Back!

By Robin Cox MPH, CPH, Health Education Manager

The Solano County Public Health, Health Promotion and Education Bureau, is now offering its popular smoking cessation class – thanks to a recent grant from the Reducing Rates Coalition, funded by the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Kick the Butts, which has a 15- year track record, is a series of 5 classes to stop tobacco addiction. The curriculum includes individual study of each person's smoking triggers, and includes tips to reduce stress, improve nutrition, and covers the importance of rewards and building support systems.

The classes are geared towards patients with a lower income who may not have coverage for health education classes. Please refer your patients to the Solano County Tobacco Prevention and Education Program at (707) 784-8900 or 1-800-287-7357, and support them with appropriate pharmaceutical aids.

The next class in Fairfield will be held in the Solano County Health & Social Services building, 275 Beck Ave. from 3 to 5 pm for five consecutive Wednesdays, April 15 through May 13.

The next Vacaville class will be held at Healthy Partnerships, Inc., at 1286 Callen St. from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays, April 16 through May 14.

SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORT

(Rates = number of cases/100,000 population)

Source: Automated Vital Statistics System California Department of Public Health

Disease	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Chlamydia	1320	1432	1584	1776	1890	2088
Solano Rate	318.3	342.9	377.9	421	445.8	492.5
CA Rate	323.8	338.7	350	364.9	378.4	**
Gonorrhea	250	297	408	353	341	312
Solano Rate	60.3	71.1	97.3	83.7	80.4	73.6
CA Rate	71.5	83.6	92.4	90.5	82.6	**
Syphilis 1° and 2°	2	4	9	4	7	5
Solano Rate	0.5	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.6	1.2
CA Rate	3.6	3.8	4.4	5	5.4	**
HIV *	6	64	35	24	205	79
Solano Rate	1.4	15.3	8.6	5.7	48.5	18.7
CA Rate	9.3	11	7.9	4.8	11.9	**
AIDS*	35	51	45	81	87	42
Solano Rate	8.4	12.2	10.7	19.1	20.6	9.9
CA Rate	7.1	9.3	5.9	5.8	9.4	**
Meningitis-bacterial	3	1	7	2	6	0
Solano Rate	0.7	0.2	1.7	0.5	1.4	0
CA Rate	1.3	1.1	1	1	0.9	**
Meningococcal meningitis	3	4	1	1	0	0
Solano Rate	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	0	0
CA Rate	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	**	**
Menigitis-viral	45	25	22	16	19	20
Solano Rate	10.8	6	5.2	3.8	4.7	4.72
CA Rate	14.3	9.8	7.3	4.7	5.4	**
Salmonellosis	56	45	51	69	51	51
Solano Rate	13.5	10.8	12.1	16.1	11.8	11.8
CA Rate	11.5	11.8	12.3	13.2	12.1	**
Tuberculosis	30	42	41	27	37	33
Solano Rate	7.2	10	9.4	6.4	8.7	7.6
CA Rate	9	8.2	7.9	7.4	7.2	7
Hepatitis A	13	5	9	5	14	7
Solano Rate	3.1	1.2	2.1	1.2	3.3	1.7
CA Rate	3.1	2.4	3	2.3	**	**
Pertussis	18	24	9	1	4	4
Solano Rate	4.3	5.7	2.1	0.2	0.9	0.9
CA Rate	2.8	3.1	8.7	4.5	**	**

NOTE: THIS REPORT REFLECTS CASES AS THEY ARE REPORTED BY PROVIDERS.

* On April 17, 2006, HIV names reporting became effective. 2007 and 2008 figures contain non-name HIV/AIDS cases that were reascertained as well as newly diagnosed cases. Number reflects total number of cases in Solano County (General population cases + prison cases).

** Data not yet available.

Contributed by Helena Chung, Epidemiologist and Esther McArthur Communicable Disease Senior Office Assistant..

Cross Sector Pandemic Planning Summit and Tabletop Exercise

By Ted Selby, Health Services Manager

Solano Public Health is partnering with Touro University to host a Cross Sector Pandemic Planning Summit and Tabletop Exercise on April 21, 2009 at Touro University's Farragut Inn (Mare Island's former Officers' Club) beginning at 12:00 noon. The event is designed to assist local organizations with planning for effectively responding to and operating during a pandemic infectious disease outbreak.

Local hospitals, doctors' offices, clinics, skilled nursing facilities, schools, churches, and businesses are encouraged to participate in this valuable networking event. The opening session will include a presentation by Solano County Public Health Officer, Ron Chapman, MD, MPH and Deputy Health Officer, Michael Stacey, MD; who will be speaking about the current status of Avian Influenza (H5N1), as well as how different approaches and strategies affected public health outcomes in various communities during the Spanish Flu of 1918.

Registration for this event is free and lunch will be provided; you can register by calling Amina Richards at (707) 784-8674 or by e-mail to AKRichards@solanocounty.com. Please RSVP by April 15, 2009.

Following the conclusion of the exercise, Touro University is hosting a networking reception. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this very important public health emergency preparedness community partnering event.



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HEALTH



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