

INTRODUCTION

The Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning is pleased to release this surveillance summary of reportable diseases in Kentucky. This publication will offer valuable information about disease incidence to readers throughout the health and human services community. Only data on cases that are reported to the Division of Epidemiology and meet the confirmed status category for a case definition are included in this summary, except where specifically noted.

During 2001 several important disease trends were noted. The incidence of reported AIDS cases showed a slight decrease. Reported chlamydia cases continue to increase noticeably in the 15 to 24 year old age group. The number of gonorrhea cases also increased by a small percentage.

Several enteric diseases showed significant increases. Confirmed cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 increased by 70%, confirmed Hepatitis A cases increased by 130% and shigellosis cases by 60% over the respective case numbers for the year 2000. Many of the Hepatitis A cases and shigellosis cases were outbreak associated.

Vector-borne disease report rates remained similar to previous years. Reported malaria cases, although not as many as in 2000, were elevated above the previous 10-year period and most were not associated with military service. The state actively participated in West Nile virus surveillance documenting the arrival of the virus into the state by late August.

Cases of most vaccine preventable diseases remained low. Several cases of measles and mumps were reported, but most notable was a 52% increase in pertussis cases.

We acknowledge the contribution of the local health department's surveillance personnel and of all the physicians, hospital infection control personnel and medical laboratory personnel who have reported cases as required by statute. We remain committed to the timely dissemination of our findings to all who are partners in disease prevention.