



# Infectious Disease Epidemiology Report

## Invasive Group B Streptococcal Disease, 2012



### Background

Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) is a type of bacteria that causes illness in people of all ages. Group B strep disease in newborns most commonly causes sepsis, pneumonia, and sometimes meningitis. The most common problems caused by GBS in adults are bloodstream infections, pneumonia, skin and soft-tissue infections, and bone and joint infections.

Early-onset GBS is passed from the mother to the baby, most often during labor and birth. Late-onset GBS in babies is sometimes due to the passing of the bacteria from mother to newborn, but sometimes the bacteria come from another source.

The source of infection for adults is unknown. Since GBS is a common organism in the gastrointestinal tract, this may be the source of some infections.

### Methods

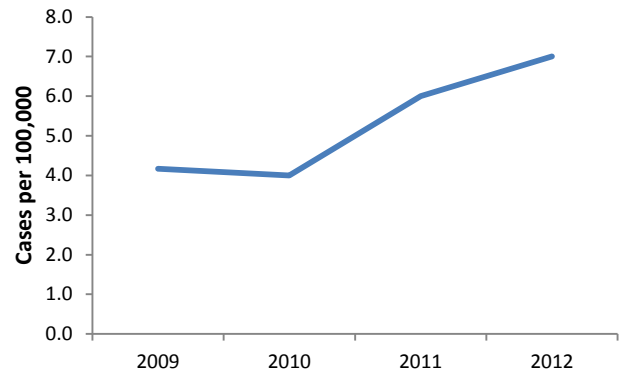
Invasive GBS is defined as isolation of Group B *Streptococcus* (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid [CSF] or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid). Standardized case report forms were completed for each reported case in an infant (<3 months) in 2012. All other cases were entered in Maine CDC's surveillance system.

This report summarizes surveillance data on cases of invasive GBS from 2012.

### Results

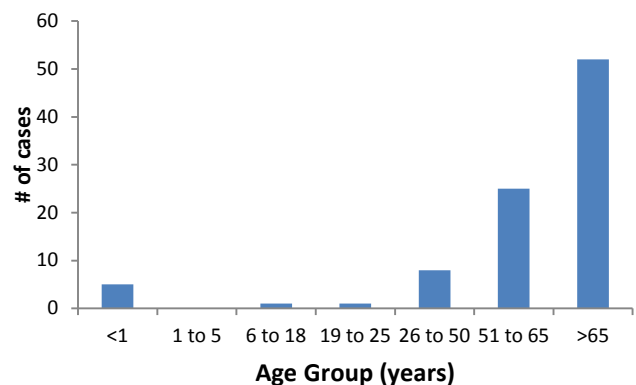
A total of 92 cases of invasive GBS were reported in 2012. This is an increase from the 79 cases reported in 2011. The rate of GBS in Maine was 7.0 cases per 100,000 persons in 2012 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Rate of invasive GBS by year, Maine 2009-12



Invasive GBS infections were found primarily among older adults with 84 percent of cases occurring in individuals over 50 years old (Figure 2).

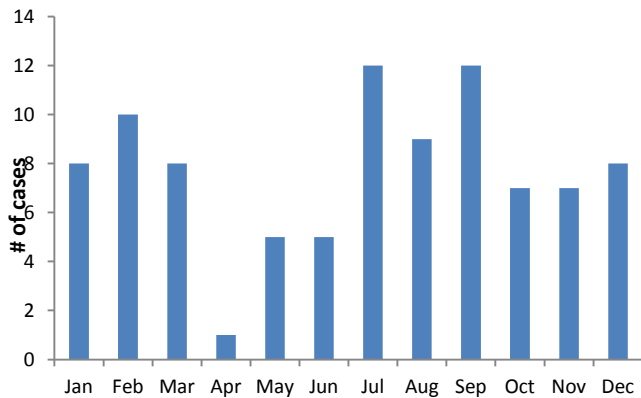
Figure 2: Invasive GBS by age – Maine, 2012



In 2012, one case of early onset (<7 days) and three cases of late onset (≥7 days and < 3 months) GBS disease occurred in infants. No infants died of GBS in 2012.

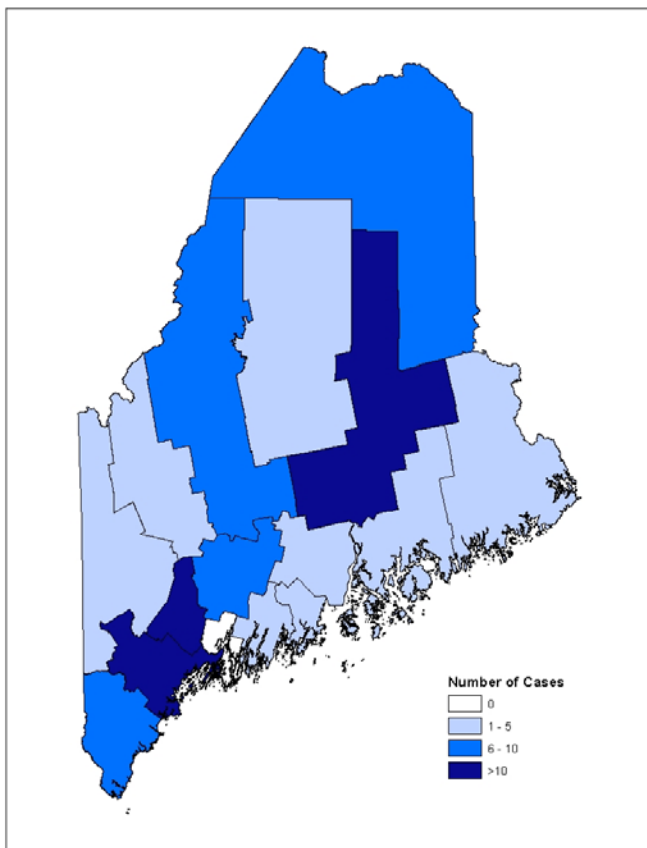
Invasive GBS cases occurred year round in 2012, with the highest number of cases reported in July and September (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Invasive GBS by month – Maine, 2012**



Invasive GBS was identified among residents of fifteen Maine counties in 2012 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Invasive GBS cases by county – Maine, 2012**



## Discussion

Ninety-two cases of invasive GBS were reported in Maine in 2012. The majority of cases occurred among older adults, though five cases of GBS infection occurred in infants, 4 in infants less than 3 months old. The total number of invasive GBS cases and the number in infants both increased from 2011.

Persons with chronic illnesses are most at risk for invasive GBS infection, although risk of infection is also high among children born to women with GBS colonization, prolonged rupture of membranes or preterm delivery.

Health care providers are encouraged to integrate GBS prevention into routine obstetric care, by promoting use of CDC guidelines for GBS prevention.

Invasive GBS should be reported to Maine CDC by calling 1-800-821-5821 or faxing to 1-800-293-7534. For more information contact your health care provider or local health center.

Additional information about invasive GBS can be found at:

- Maine CDC's website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/group-b.shtml>
- Federal CDC's website: <http://www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/index.html>
- 2010 Revised Guidelines for the Prevention of Perinatal Group B Streptococcal (GBS) Disease) [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5910a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5910a1\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5910a1.htm?s_cid=rr5910a1_w)