

# Infectious Disease, 2012

There are 72 infectious diseases and conditions reportable in Maine with 55 considered nationally reportable<sup>1</sup>. Surveillance data assist in monitoring trends in disease and identifying immediate threats to public health. Health care providers and facilities, medical laboratories, health officers, veterinarians and others are required to report notifiable diseases to Maine CDC. However, there are limitations in surveillance data, especially pertaining to underreporting. Available data reflects a subset of the disease burden in Maine.

Common infectious diseases reported in Maine include Lyme, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Pertussis.

- The rate of Lyme disease is 75.7 per 100,000, which is roughly 10 times the national average of 7.9 per 100,000<sup>2</sup>. However, it should be noted that Lyme disease is found in only 20 states, and Maine's rate is comparable to the rates in other New England states.
- The Chlamydia rate in Maine is 232.9 per 100,000 compared to 426.0 per 100,000 nationally<sup>2</sup>.
- The Gonorrhea rate in Maine is 20.5 per 100,000 compared to 100.8 per 100,000 nationally<sup>2</sup>. While the statewide rate is lower than the national rate, Androscoggin County reported a rate of 179.4 per 100,000 in 2012. This indicates a higher rate than the national average for a specific geographic area experiencing an increase in Gonorrhea.
- For Pertussis, the rate in Maine is 15.4 per 100,000 compared to 8.9 per 100,000 nationally<sup>2</sup>.



Infectious disease measures chosen for inclusion in the State Health Assessment include:<sup>2</sup>

- Animal Rabies (cases)
- Pertussis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- E. coli (STEC)
- Salmonella
- Tuberculosis
- Chronic hepatitis B
- Acute and chronic hepatitis C
- Lyme disease
- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Syphilis
- Incidence of HIV
- Incidence of AIDS

Additional infectious related measures can be found in the immunization section of the State Health Assessment.

The occurrence of infectious disease is variable among different populations in Maine. For example, males are at higher risk for Lyme disease. Lyme disease rates vary by district with Midcoast, York and Cumberland Districts having the highest rates (154.2, 99.9, 97.3 per 100,000, respectively) and Aroostook the lowest (4.2 per 100,000)<sup>2</sup>. Rates have been increasing in all areas of the state. Among patients with Latent TB infection, 81% are foreign born<sup>1</sup>. This disparity is likely due to a statewide testing program for TB among refugees and immigrants. Homogeneity in Maine's population makes it difficult to detect differences by race because sample sizes are small.

Healthy Maine 2020 objectives related to infectious disease are<sup>3</sup>:

- Increase the percent of persons with chronic Hepatitis C who know their serostatus
- Reduce the rates of vaccine-preventable diseases (focus on Pertussis and Varicella)
- Reduce invasive health care-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections
- Reduce the percent of new HIV diagnoses that are detected late in the course of HIV illness
- Increase routine vaccination coverage levels for children and adolescents
- Reduce infections caused by key pathogens transmitted commonly through food

<sup>1</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Reportable Infectious Diseases in Maine, 2011 Summary.

<sup>2</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. State Health Assessment – 2012. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/phdata/sha/index.shtml> (accessed 5/23/2013).

<sup>3</sup> Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthy Maine 2020. Available from: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-maine/index.shtml>.