



QUARTERLY REPORT



MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health & Services Building

3180 Center Street NE

Salem OR 97301-4592

1st Quarter

March 2000

Vital Statistics Quarter Ending: March 2000	1st Quarter		Year to Date	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
BIRTHS				
TOTAL DELIVERIES	1172	1088	1172	1088
Delivery in Hospital	1108	1045	1108	1045
Teen Deliveries (10-17 years)	64	43	64	43
DEATHS				
TOTAL	609	674	609	674
Medical Investigation	41	51	41	51
Homicide	02	0	02	0
Suicide	07	07	07	07
Accident - MVA	03	12	03	12
Accident - Other	10	09	10	09
Natural/Undetermined/Pending	19	23	19	23
Non-Medical Investigation (All Natural)	568	623	568	623
Infant Deaths	02	04	02	04
Fetal Deaths	06	05	06	05
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES				
E-Coli: 0157	0	01	0	01
Hepatitis A	09	02	09	02
Acute Hepatitis B	07	02	07	02
Chronic Hepatitis B	14	10	14	10
Meningococcus	01	04	01	04
Pertussis	01	02	01	02
Tuberculosis	01	07	01	07
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE				
PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease)	20	12	20	12
Chlamydia	224	182	224	182
Gonorrhea	31	12	31	12
AIDS	03	03	03	03

Foodborne Illness in Marion County

Karen Landers MD MPH,
Health Officer

April 3-9, 2000 marked National Public Health Week in the U.S.; a time to recognize the many contributions that public health has made to the health of our communities and the nation. Among the most significant are improvements to food preparation such as pasteurization, and better food preservation techniques that have made eating in this country a generally safe and enjoyable pastime. But despite advances in food safety, foodborne diseases are still estimated to cause 76 million illnesses, nearly 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5000 deaths each year in the U.S.

More than 200 known diseases are transmitted through food by a variety of agents including viruses, bacteria, parasites, toxins, and prions, and they cause a range of illness from mild gastroenteritis to life-threatening neurologic, hepatic, and renal syndromes. Measuring the actual amount of foodborne illness is difficult for a number of reasons. Underreporting is

common as many persons with mild illness may not seek medical care and are not detected through routine surveillance. Also many causes of illness may be transmitted from person to person as well as through food and the role of food as a vehicle of transmission may be unclear. Finally, many agents responsible for foodborne illness may not be diagnosed because no screening (i.e. stool specimens) occurred at the time of illness or because the agent is unknown and diagnostic tests are not readily available. Many of the foodborne pathogens of greatest significance today (*Campylobacter jejuni*, *E. Coli* 0157-H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Cyclospora cayatanensis*) were not recognized as causes of foodborne illnesses 20 years ago.

Here's a brief look at four important causes of foodborne illness in Marion County:

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is currently at record low levels in Marion County but this may represent the lull before the storm. Cyclic epidemics of hepatitis A occur in Oregon about every six years with last big outbreak in 1995. (See graph) Since the last epidemic, a safe and effective vaccine to prevent hepatitis A has become available.

Continued 

Because Oregon is one of 11 states with annual rates of hepatitis A that are more than double the national average, this vaccine has been recommended for all children in Oregon age 2 years to 18 years of age.

Salmonella

Salmonella remains one of the most commonly reported foodborne illnesses in the U.S. and rates have remained fairly stable in Marion County over the past 5 years. (See graph) Although most infections occur from eating undercooked or raw eggs or poultry, some cases in Marion County have occurred through contact with reptile pets which are typically colonized with this organism.

E. Coli O157-H7

Most cases of E. Coli in Marion County have been sporadic, that is, unassociated with an outbreak and in many cases, despite investigation, the source of the infection has remained unclear.

Although actual numbers of reported cases are small, one death has occurred in the past 5 years. (See graph)

Listeriosis

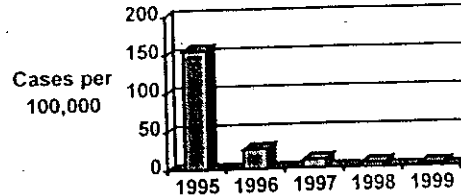
This organism typically causes illness in pregnant women, the elderly, and others with immune suppression. In Marion County, cases of listeria have been associated with consumption of a homemade cheese prepared with unpasteurized or raw milk. Again, although total numbers of reported cases are small, two deaths have occurred in the past five years, both stillbirths. (See graph)

To prevent foodborne illness, Marion County Health Department conducts regular surveillance of foodborne diseases, investigates foodborne outbreaks when they occur, and provides training for persons involved in food preparation for public consumption. Food safety is regularly monitored at all permanent and temporary food establishments in Marion County.

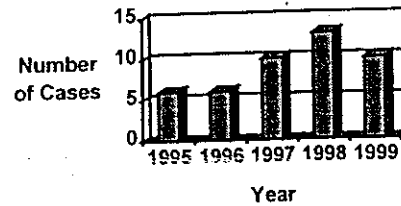
Outbreaks of foodborne illness are reportable by law to your local health department immediately, and foodborne illnesses unassociated with an outbreak are reportable within 24 hours. Collecting stool specimens on suspected foodborne illnesses when they present can be critical to identifying the offending agent and is always appreciated. To report a foodborne-related illness between the hours of 8:30 to 5:00 pm on weekdays call 588-5621. After 5:00 pm on weekdays and on weekends and holidays, call the Oregon Health Division at 731-4030.

To get more information on food safety and safe food preparation, call Environmental Health at 588-5346. If you would like information or pamphlets on listeria or other foodborne illnesses for reception or waiting areas, call 588-5621. You can also log on to the Marion County Health Department web page at www.open.org/~mhealth.

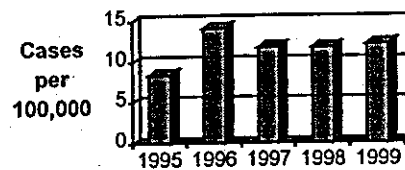
Hepatitis A in Marion County
1995-1999



E. Coli in Marion County
1995-1999



Salmonella in Marion County
1995-1999



Listeria in Marion County
1995-1999

