

## **Pima County Health Dept. Communicable Disease Monthly Report/ July 2018**

You are welcome to call or fax in reports to:

**Phone (520) 724-7797**

**Fax (520) 838-7538**

For urgent reporting after hours or on holidays, please call (520) 743-7987.

This report includes:

- **2017-2018 Influenza Season**
- **Black Tar Heroin and Wound Botulism**
- **Increase in STD**
- **High Risk Zip Codes for Lead Poisoning**
- **Mosquito-borne Infections**

### **2017-2018 Influenza Season**

**Arizona is now in the flu summer season.**

Influenza is decreasing in Arizona with sporadic activity for week 26.

**For the state of Arizona 35,479 cases have been reported this season.**

**74% are influenza A, 25% are type B and 1% are unknown type**

**Five influenza- associated pediatric deaths were reported in Arizona this season. One pediatric death was in Pima County.**

**Pima County has reported 4,387 influenza cases this season.**

The cases included in this report represent a small proportion of the true number of cases of influenza. Most people do not visit the doctor when ill and doctors should not be expected to run tests on all patients experiencing flu like symptoms.

### **Black Tar Heroin and Wound Botulism**

Black tar heroin use is believed to be linked to 3 recent suspected cases of wound botulism.

Drug users who inject heroin under their skin or into a muscle are at risk of contracting the illness.

Wound botulism is caused by a bacterium (*Clostridium botulinum*) that gets into a wound and creates a toxin which attacks a body's nerves and can lead to muscle weakness and even death, according to the CDC. Symptoms, which can be mistaken for an overdose, can include drooping eyelids, blurred vision, difficulty speaking, swallowing, trouble breathing, and shortness of breath.

Black tar heroin is a type of illegal narcotic derived from morphine. Commonly called black tar heroin, the heroin content is not actually what distinguishes this particular drug from other kinds of opiates. While black tar does contain an amount of heroin that can range from 29 to 80 percent, the drug is actually identified by the amount of comparatively crude derivatives of morphine that result from incomplete acetylation. Without delving into the chemistry too exhaustively, black tar is an unrefined product that is made without the complex equipment and chemicals necessary to produce heroin with a high level of purity. Black tar is manufactured primarily in Mexico, and is also commonly referred to as black, brown, manteca, night, or dark.

Call the Pima County Health Department if you suspect wound botulism or any case of botulism.

### **Increase in STD.**

Statewide Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are up 17%, and Syphilis up 29%. Many cases have not been processed so the numbers will change. The number of congenital syphilis cases has doubled for Arizona. Twenty three cases of congenital syphilis have been reported to date for the entire state, last year there were 10 cases at this time. Pima County has reported <4 cases of congenital syphilis. Pima County Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases are up 9% and 16%. Syphilis cases are up 6%.

Enhanced screening and timely treatment are essential to eradicate congenital syphilis in Arizona. Recent congenital syphilis cases occurred in women who tested negative for syphilis early in pregnancy but were infected prior to delivery. Some women who tested positive, were treated but were re-infected before delivery. Others were not treated at all.

Testing in the first trimester only is not sufficient for women with risk factors for sexually-transmitted infections (including, having new or multiple partners, having a sexual partner who may have other partners, having an illicit drug use disorder or who have sexual partners with an illicit drug use disorder, or having bisexual partners). CDC 2015 Treatment Guidelines recommends: Pregnant women be re-screened for syphilis early in the third trimester (28-32 weeks estimated gestational age) and at delivery.

### **High Risk Zip Codes for Lead Poisoning**

The Arizona Department Health Services has published zip codes that are at high risk for lead poisoning for 2018. The link to the website is: <https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/lead-poisoning/index.php#high-risk-zip-codes-home>

Pima County Data:

- 7,275 children less than 6 years of age were tested in 2016
  - 37 had a venous blood lead level  $\geq$  to 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$

- Of those 37, 26 had blood lead levels of 5-9 µg/dl and 11 had a blood lead levels of ≥10 µg/dl.

Children living in high risk zip codes should be tested for lead at 12 and 24 months of age. Only 4.5% of Pima County children received blood tests at both ages.

Screening Age	Pima County	State Wide
12 months	24.2 %	24.2%
24 months	13.5 %	14.8 %
12 and 24 months	4.5%	6.0%

### 2018 High Risk Lead Poisoning Zip Codes for Pima County

City	Zip Code
Ajo	85321
Catalina Foothills	85751
Marana	85658
Sahuarita	85629
Sasabe	85633
Sells	85634
Topawa	85639
Tucson	85701, 85702, 85703
	85705, 85706, 85710
	85711, 85712, 85713
	85714, 85715, 85716
	85717, 85719, 85721
	85724, 85725, 85726
	85730, 85731, 85732
	85733, 85734, 85735
	85736, 85745, 85746
	85754, 85756, 85757

### Mosquito-borne Infections

With the recent rains the mosquito population will be increasing. The mosquitos that can transmit West Nile Virus (Culex mosquitoes), Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya (Aedes mosquitoes) are found in Pima County.

Currently Pima County has no reported cases of West Nile Virus. Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya have not been locally transmitted in Pima County or Arizona, however Mexico has reported cases in 2018. Currently the Mexican state bordering Arizona (Sonora) has not reported any cases of Zika for 2018 but states as far north as Sinaloa, Baja California Sur (borders California) and Nuevo Leon (borders Texas) have reported cases of Zika for 2018.

Remind your patients to use mosquito repellent when working or recreating outdoors. Avoid dusk and dawn activities. Wear long sleeved shirts and pants to avoid mosquito bites.

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Please complete a Communicable Disease Report available at [http://webcms.pima.gov/health/resources\\_for\\_professionals/communicable\\_disease\\_reporting](http://webcms.pima.gov/health/resources_for_professionals/communicable_disease_reporting)