

The Amarillo Department of Public Health (APH) Communicable Disease program is responsible for the investigation and analysis of disease to protect citizens in Potter and Randall counties.

**Table 1. 2017 – 2018 Selected Notifiable Conditions Reported and Residing in Potter/Randall Counties**

	<i>Potter</i>		<i>Randall</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>Vaccine Preventable</b>						
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	4	1	10	2	14	3
Varicella (Chickenpox)	14	3	5	8	19	11
<b>Enteric</b>						
Campylobacteriosis	68	56	58	48	126	104
Cryptosporidiosis	5	11	2	8	7	19
<i>E. coli</i> , Shiga-toxin producing (STEC)	11	5	8	13	19	18
Salmonellosis	38	30	42	28	80	58
Shigellosis	1	4	9	3	10	7
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>						
Hepatitis A	1	1	1	2	2	3
Hepatitis B, acute	1	2	2	1	3	3
Hepatitis B, perinatal	27	14	5	12	31	26
Hepatitis C, acute	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Invasive/Respiratory</b>						
Legionellosis	0	2	0	2	0	4
Multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter (MDRA)	2	4	3	0	5	6
<i>Streptococcus</i> , Group A, invasive (GAS)	4	13	6	9	10	22
<i>Streptococcus</i> , Group B, invasive (GBS)	13	16	9	11	22	27
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive	9	19	21	12	30	31
<b>Vector-Borne Zoonotic</b>						
Animal Exposures	114	120	61	77	175	210
West Nile Virus, fever	0	0	1	1	1	1
West Nile Virus, neuroinvasive	1	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Tuberculosis (TB)</b>						
Active					4	5
Latent*					132	116
<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)<sup>P</sup></b>						
AIDS	8		3		11	
Chlamydia	1043		211		1254	
Gonorrhea	510		53		563	
HIV	22		5		27	
Syphilis	68		12		80	
<b>Influenza**</b>						
Influenza A – Rapid Test					3410	5333
Influenza B – Rapid Test					3522	979
Influenza Like Illness					11618	11311

\*Started on latent TB therapy from Amarillo Department of Public Health TB clinic.

\*\* Flu A and B are lab-confirmed only. Influenza report represents “season-to-date” cases rather than year-to-date.

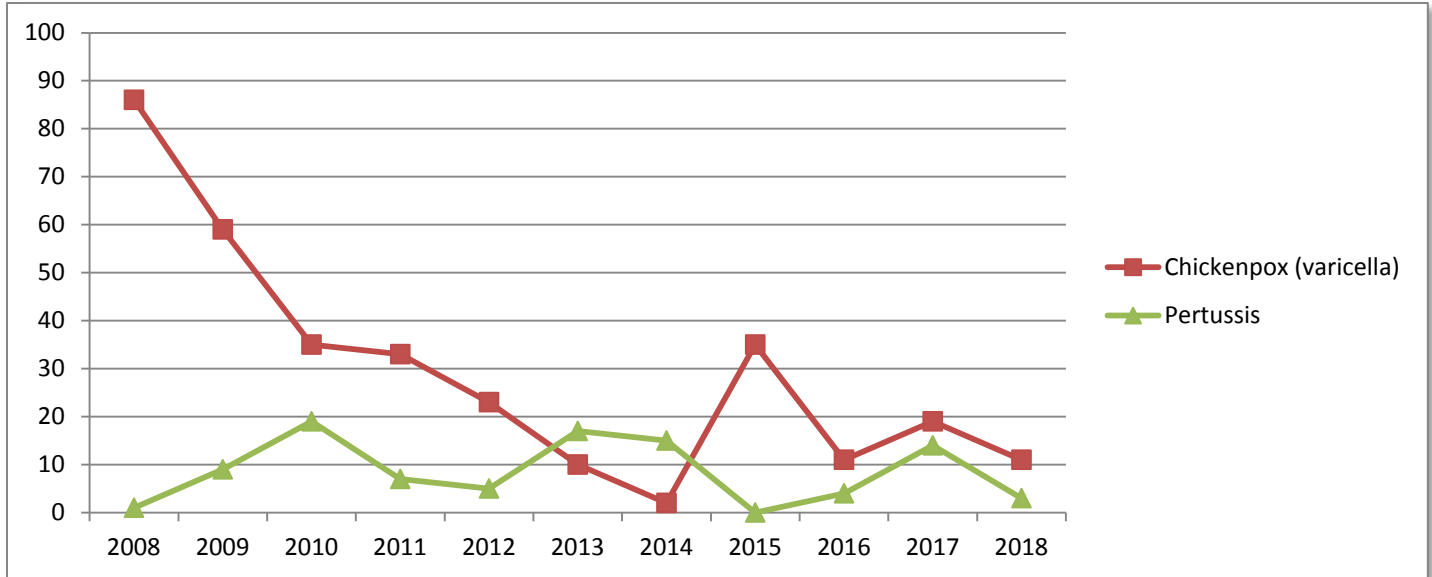
P: 2018 information will be added when data becomes available.

## Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Even though most infants and toddlers have received all recommended vaccines by age 2, many under-immunized children remain, leaving the potential for outbreaks of disease. Several adolescents and adults are under-immunized as well, missing opportunities to protect themselves against diseases such as Pertussis, influenza, and pneumococcal disease. (CDC)

The APH Immunization program offers low or no cost immunizations to children and adults, and uses the Mobile unit to travel around Potter and Randall counties hosting immunization events.

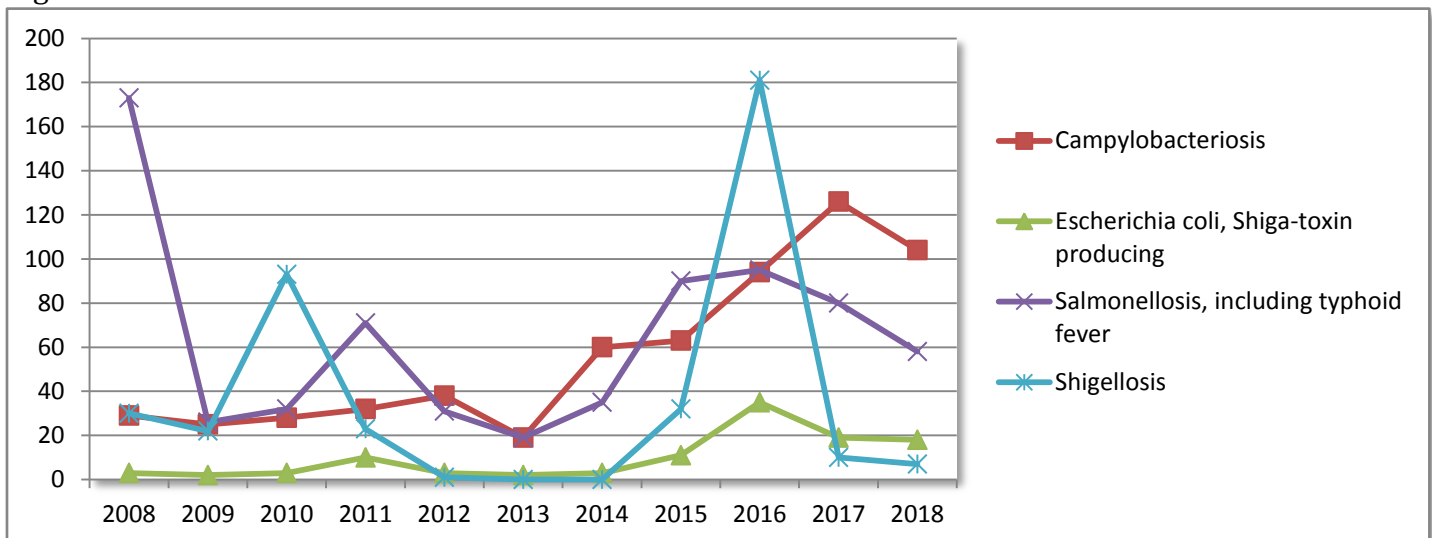
Figure 1. Select Vaccine Preventable Diseases 2008-2018



## Enteric Diseases

Enteric diseases enter the body through the mouth and intestinal tract and are usually spread through contaminated food and water or by contact with the organism in vomit or feces (poop). Good hand washing and proper food preparation is the best way to avoid these diseases. Common symptoms include: diarrhea, stomach pain or cramps, headache, nausea and sometimes vomiting. (CDC)

Figure 2. Select Enteric Diseases 2008-2018



## Viral Hepatitis

“Hepatitis” means inflammation of the liver and also refers to a group of contagious viral infections that affect the liver. Hepatitis is the leading cause of liver cancer and the most common reason for liver transplantation. (CDC) The best way to prevent Hepatitis A and B is through vaccination.

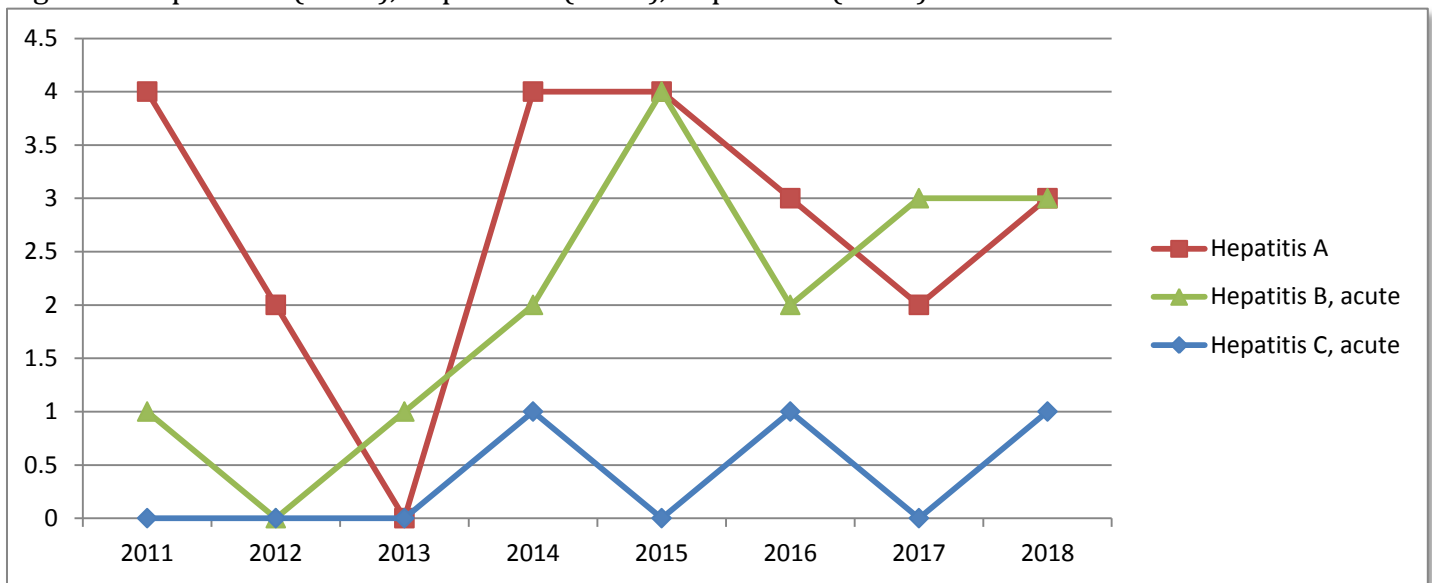
**Hepatitis A** can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person ingests fecal matter from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by the feces or stool of an infected person.

**Hepatitis B** is usually spread when blood, semen, or another body fluid from a person infected with the Hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected.

**Hepatitis C** is usually spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. Today, most people become infected with the Hepatitis C virus by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs.

There is effective treatment, but no vaccine for Hepatitis C. The best way to prevent Hepatitis C is by avoiding behaviors that can spread the disease, especially injection drug use. (CDC)

Figure 3. Hepatitis A (acute), Hepatitis B (acute), Hepatitis C (acute) 2011-2018



## Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

Hepatitis B can be passed to a newborn during delivery. The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention program (PHBPP) case manages Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive pregnant women through delivery, and their newborns through the immunization process and post vaccine serology testing.

A main goal of the PHBPP is to aid in the prevention of a potentially devastating, but completely preventable illness from affecting any newborn child. Additionally, the PHBPP strives to increase awareness and reporting so that all newborns who will be potentially affected receive live saving vaccine in a timely manner.

Figure 4. Perinatal Hepatitis B Cases 2016-2018

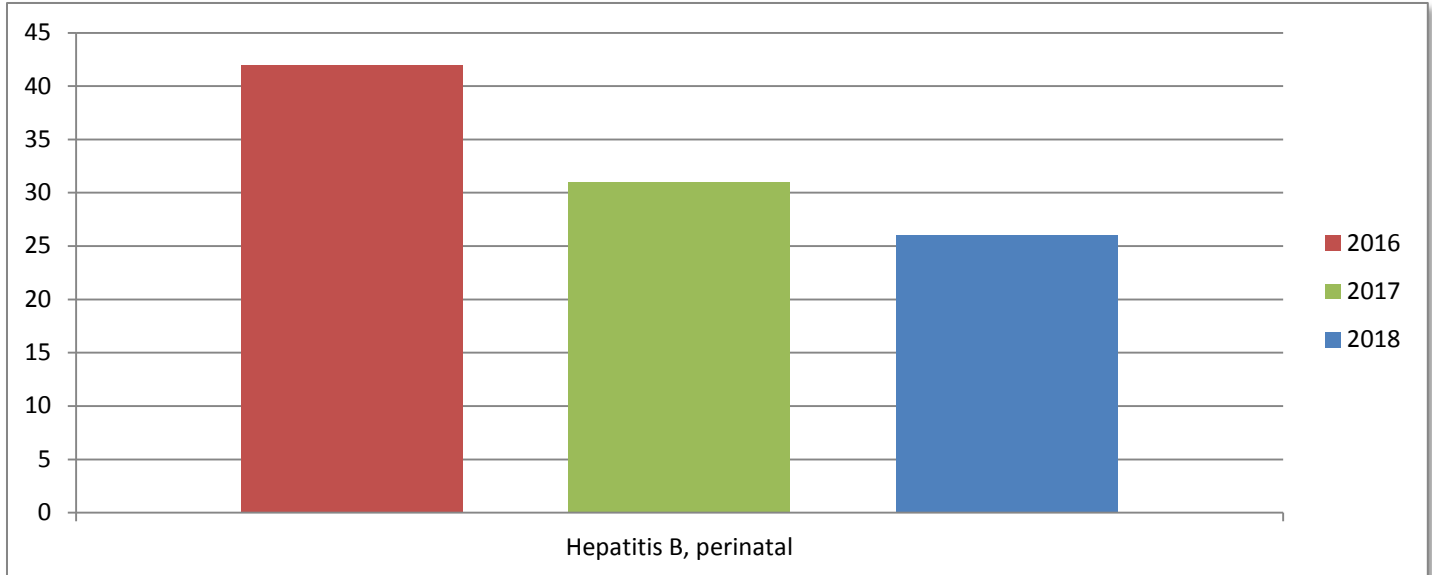
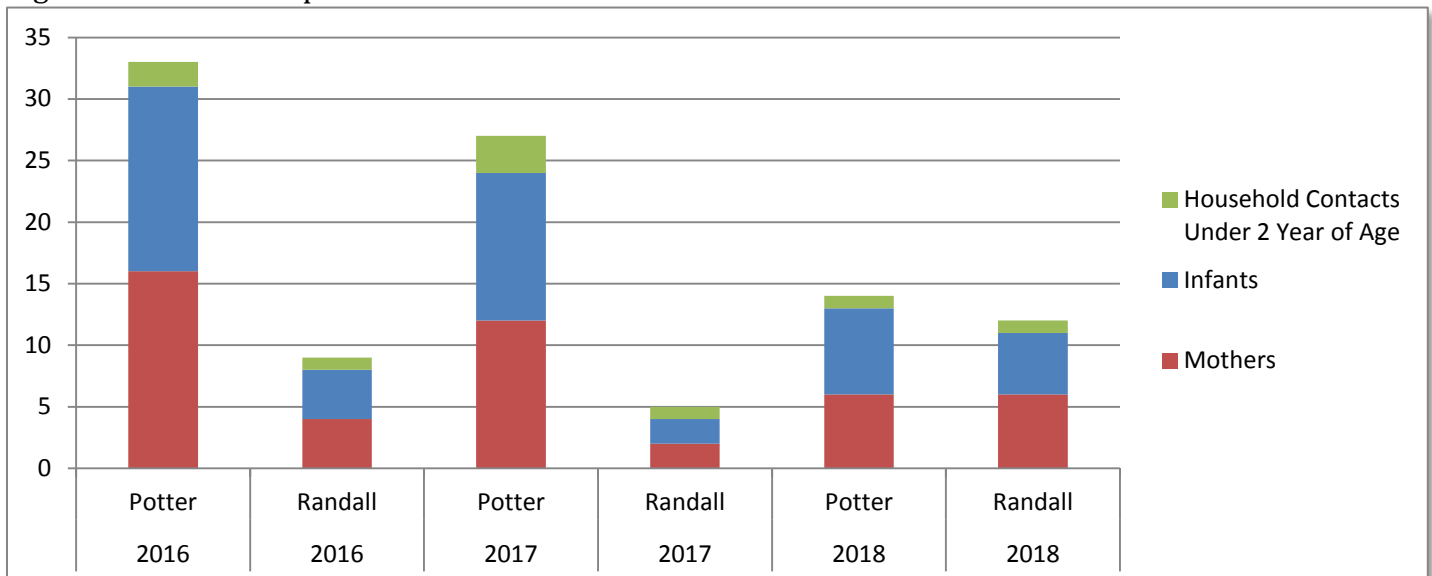


Figure 5. Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Breakdown 2016-2018

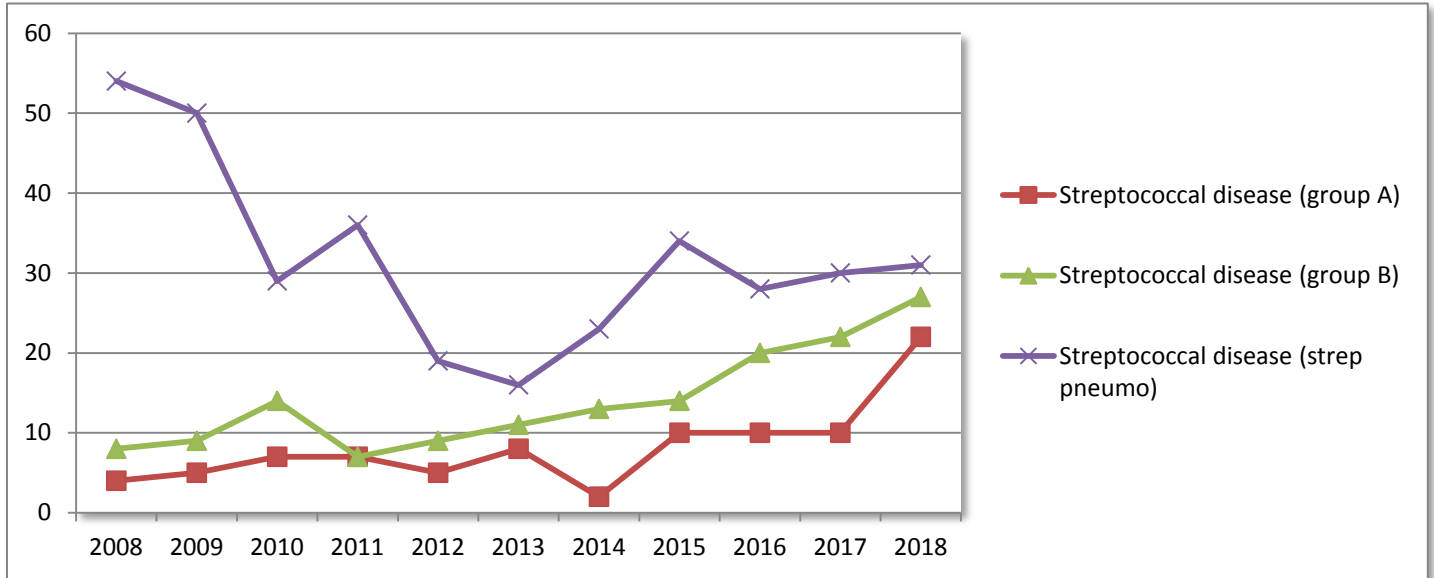


## Invasive Streptococcal Disease

Streptococcal infections are reportable to the health department for three categories - Invasive group A streptococcus, Invasive group B streptococcus, and *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* disease. Severe, sometimes life-threatening disease may occur when these bacteria get into parts of the body where bacteria usually are not found, such as the blood, muscle, or the lungs.

These bacteria are spread through direct contact with mucus from the nose or throat of persons who are infected or through contact with infected wounds or sores on the skin. Ill persons, such as those who have strep throat or skin infections, are most likely to spread the infection. Persons who carry the bacteria but have no symptoms are much less contagious.

Figure 6. Invasive Streptococcal (Group A, Group B, and Strep Pneumoniae) Disease 2008-2018



## Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

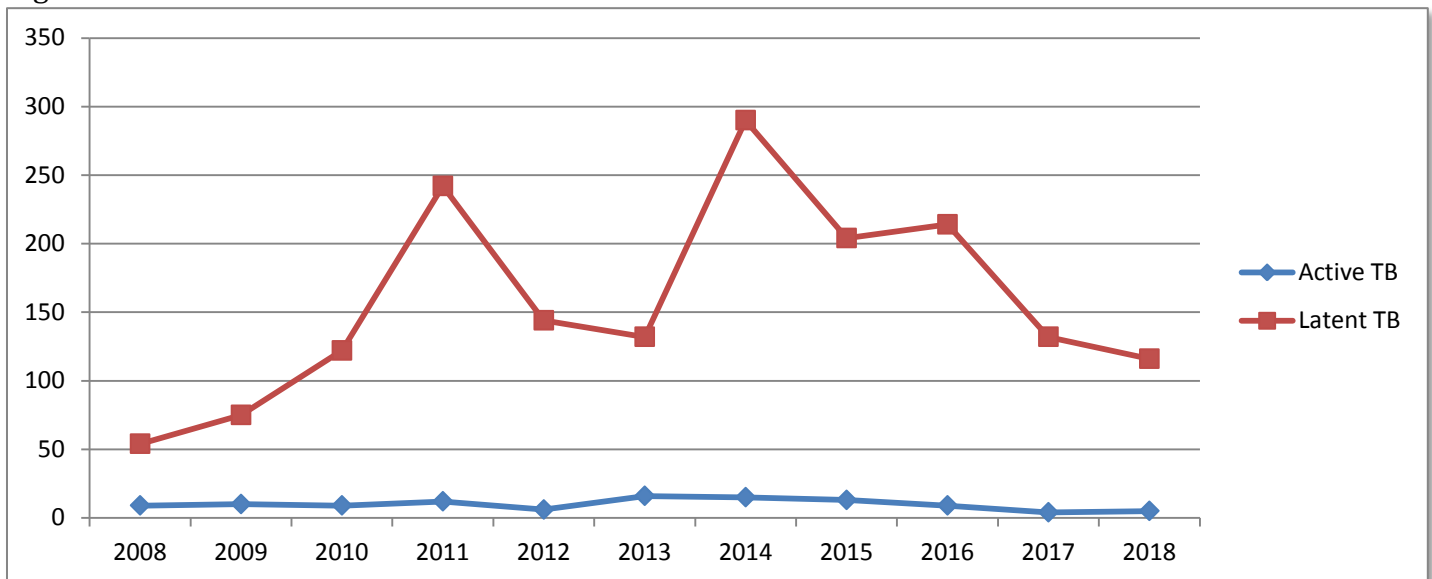
TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

TB is NOT spread by shaking someone's hand, sharing food or drink, touching, bed linens, toilet seats, sharing toothbrushes, or kissing.

TB bacteria can live in the body without making you sick. This is called latent TB infection. In most people who breathe in TB bacteria and become infected, the body is able to fight the bacteria to stop them from growing. People with latent TB infection do not feel sick and do not have any symptoms. People with latent TB infection are not infectious and cannot spread TB bacteria to others. However, TB bacteria become active if the immune system can't stop it from growing. If this happens, the person will go from having latent TB infection to being sick with TB disease.

The Amarillo Department of Public Health TB program diagnoses and manages latent TB. They provide case management and directly observed therapy for patients with active TB.

Figure 7. Active and Latent TB 2008-2018



## Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

**Chlamydia** is caused by the bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which can damage a woman's reproductive organs. It is the most frequently reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Under-reporting is substantial because most people with Chlamydia are not aware of their infections and do not seek testing. (CDC)

Chlamydia infections in women are usually mild or asymptomatic. Untreated infection can “silently” result in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which is a major cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. As with other inflammatory STDs, Chlamydia infection might facilitate the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Chlamydia also can cause discharge from the penis of an infected man.

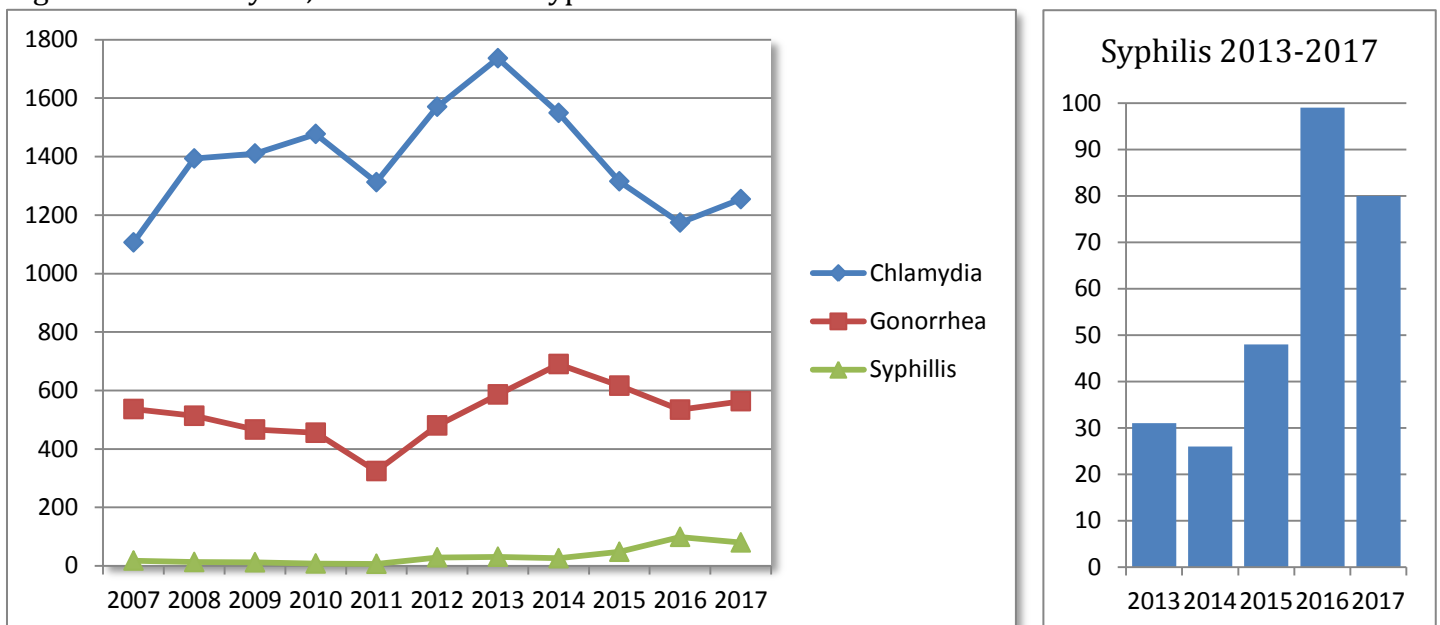
**Gonorrhea** is caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a bacterium that can grow and multiply easily in the warm, moist areas of the reproductive tract, including the cervix (opening to the womb), uterus (womb), and fallopian tubes (egg canals) in women, and in the urethra (urine canal) in women and men. The bacterium can also grow in the mouth, throat, eyes, and anus.

Infections due to *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* are a major cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in the United States.

**Syphilis** is caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. It has often been called "the great imitator" because so many of the signs and symptoms are indistinguishable from those of other diseases. Many people infected with syphilis do not have any symptoms for years, and remain at risk for late complications if they are not treated.

Syphilis is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Sores occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum. Sores also can occur on the lips and in the mouth. Syphilis can NOT be spread through contact with toilet seats, doorknobs, swimming pools, hot tubs, bathtubs, shared clothing, or eating utensils. Pregnant women with the disease can pass it to the babies they are carrying.

Figure 8-9. Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis 2007-2017<sup>P</sup>



## HIV & AIDS

**HIV** is the human immunodeficiency virus. It is the virus that can lead to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS. HIV damages a person's body by destroying specific blood cells which are crucial to helping the body fight diseases.

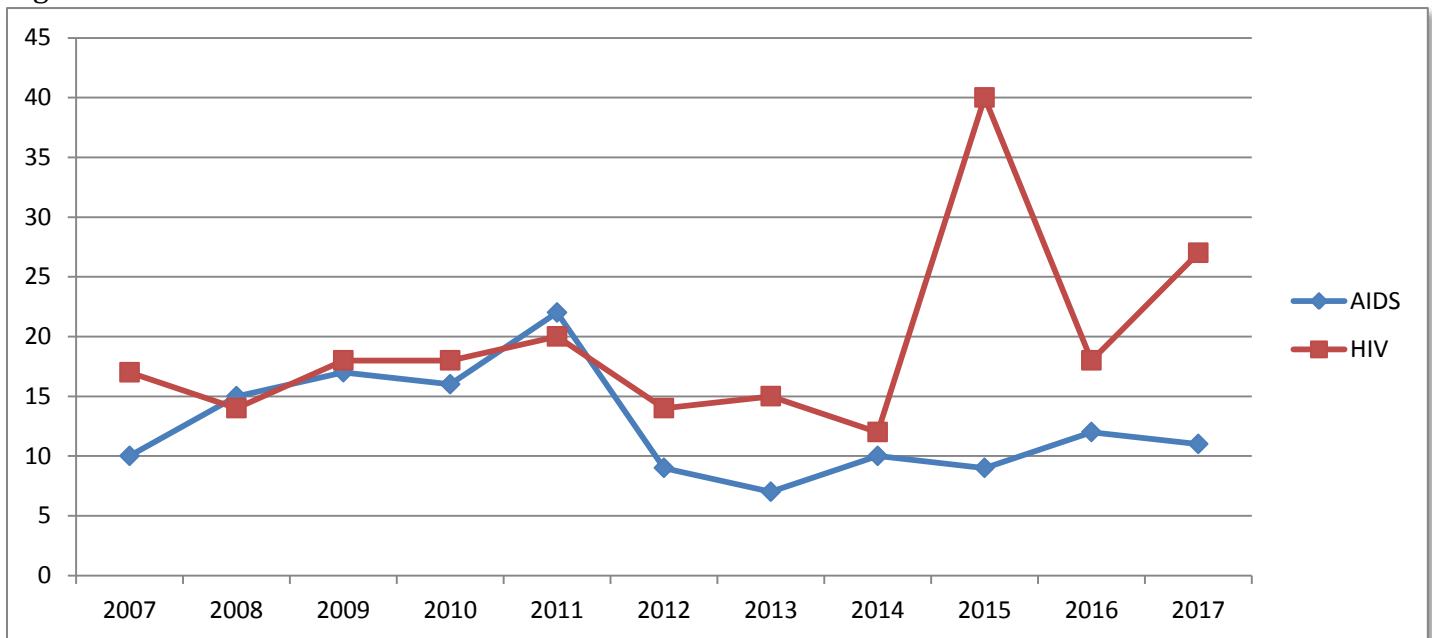
People living with HIV may appear and feel healthy for several years. However, even if they feel healthy, HIV is still affecting their bodies. All people with HIV should be seen on a regular basis by a health care provider experienced with treating HIV infection and possibly receive beneficial medications.

Support services are also available to many people with HIV. These services can help people cope with their diagnosis, reduce risk behavior, and find needed services.

**AIDS** is the late stage of HIV infection, when a person's immune system is severely damaged and has difficulty fighting diseases and certain cancers. Before the development of certain medications, people with HIV could progress to AIDS in just a few years. Currently, people can live much longer with HIV before they develop AIDS.

The Amarillo Public Health Department HIV/STD program conducts HIV prevention activities including screening and treatment, partner elicitation, HIV prevention outreach and linkage to support services.

Figure 10. AIDS and HIV 2007-2017<sup>P</sup>





## **Amarillo Department of Public Health Services**

### **Immunization Program**

**Hours:** Walk-in clinic is Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm

- Late hours are 8am - 6pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

#### **Services offered:**

- \$14.85 per shot for clients over the age of 18
- \$14.85 per shot, not to exceed \$30 for clients 18 years of age and younger
- Eligible children
  - Have Medicaid (No charge for children with Medicaid)
  - No insurance
  - Are underinsured (has insurance that does not pay for vaccines)
  - Or are American Indian or Native Alaskan
- No one will be turned away due to inability to pay
- Mobile immunization unit for community outreach immunization clinics
- Vaccine titers
  - Hepatitis B - \$33.99
  - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella - \$85.09
  - Varicella-Zoster - \$29.80

### **STD Program**

**Hours:** Monday through Friday 8am - 5pm by appt – phone lines open at 7:45am for “same-day” appointments.

#### **Services offered:**

- Testing and treatment for STDs
  - STD Testing
    - Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Syphilis, and HIV - \$20
    - Trichomoniasis - \$8.72
  - STD Treatment is \$5
- Urine Pregnancy Test - \$10
- Education on transmission and prevention

### **HIV Prevention and Outreach**

**Hours:** Monday through Friday 8am - 5pm

- Late hours are 8am - 8pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

#### **Services offered:**

- HIV risk reduction counseling
- Referrals to services
- Risk reduction supplies
- Testing and Treatment (see above STD Testing/Treatment prices.)

### **Tuberculosis Program**

**Hours:** Monday through Friday 8am - 11:30am and 1pm - 4pm

- TB skin tests are not placed on Thursdays

#### **Services offered:**

- TB skin testing for the public for \$15
- T-spot/IGRA (TB blood test) for \$70.84
- Treatment is provided at no cost to the patient
- Public Health Follow-up

Please visit [www.amarillopublichealth.com](http://www.amarillopublichealth.com) for more information on any of our programs or services.