

YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT

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Prevention is Our Business

Morbidity, from page 1

**Sites of Extrapulmonary Involvement,
 1999-2001**

Site	Number
Cervical LN	2
Pleural	3
Bone and Joint	2
Disseminated/Miliary	2
Total	9

Of 25 patients eligible to have complete adequate therapy, all (100%) did so as of the date of this report. Of the remaining nine, one died, one moved, and seven are still under treatment.

Core Public Health Prevention Measures:

- Early identification of and institution of directly observed therapy in active cases
- Evaluating close contacts for testing and treatment of latent TB
- Targeted testing and treatment of latent TB for high risk groups (foreign born, medically compromised)

For questions about screening, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB, call Lela Hansen at the Yakima Health District, 249-6532.

The YHD Handwashing Trailer has arrived!!



After much planning, budgeting, discussion, and way too many fiascos, the Yakima Health District handwashing trailer is finally available.

The objective of the trailer is to take handwashing into the community and make it a fun, educational experience.

The trailer is 16 ft. long and has been modified to meet that objective. It includes a side concession window with three sinks, ramps on both ends, potable and gray-water tanks, a water heater, a pump, and a black light "tunnel".

The "clients" are first given fluorescing Glow Germ to rub onto their hands. They are then directed through the tunnel to see all the shining germs on their hands. After they have exited and washed their hands, using proper technique, they again go through the tunnel to see how well they have done. It's a very popular and successful demonstration.

If you know of community events in the County where the trailer can be effectively used, please contact **Perla Benitez at 249-6517** to check on the trailers availability.



Yakima Health District BULLETIN

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Public Health Websites

- Centers for Disease Control**
www.cdc.gov
- Wa State Dept of Health**
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/>
- Immunizations**
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize>
- CDC Vaccine Shortages**
<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/news/shortages/>
- Tuberculosis Websites**
- CDC, TB Elimination**
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/>

- Francis J. Curry Nat'l Tuberculosis Ctr, California**
<http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/>
- Int'l Union Against TB & Lung Disease (IUATLD)**
<http://www.iuatld.org>

- American Thoracic Society (ATS)**
<http://www.thoracic.org>

- American Lung Association**
<http://www.lungusa.org/diseases/lungtb.html>

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Tuberculosis Morbidity Yakima County 1999-2001

Dominant epidemiologic features:

People who were homeless (8), foreign-born (13), or of Native American origin (10) accounted for 29 (85%) of 34 cases.

Among the 8 homeless cases, 7 were US-born. All racial/ethnic groups were represented among these cases. All were male. Six of eight used alcohol or drugs excessively. Five completed therapy; median duration from diagnosis to completion of treatment was 39 weeks (range: 26-79). One of these five was persistently uncooperative with treatment efforts and had to be detained by the Superior Court to a correctional facility for the duration of his therapy. Two are still under treatment, and one was transferred to another local health jurisdiction for long-term care.

**Cases and Rates by Year,
 Yakima County 1996-2001:**

Year	Yakima Cases	Yakima Rate	Wa. State Rate
1996	18	8.7	5.2
1997	23	11.0	5.4
1998	11	5.2	4.7
1999	9	4.2	4.5
2000	10	4.7	4.4
2001	15	6.7	4.4

**Age-Specific Rates,
 Yakima County, 1999-2001:**

Age Group (yrs)	Rate	
	Male	Female
<5	--	--
5-14	1.6	--
15-24	3.8	6.2
25-44	8.6	2.2
45-64	13.8	4.5
>=65	15.7	2.3
Total	7.5	2.7

**Foreign vs. US Birth among Cases,
 1999-2001:**

	Foreign Born	Percent FB	US Born	Percent US
Total	13	38	21	62

Nations of Origin, 1999-2001:

Nation of Origin	Cases	% Total	Est. Rate
US-Born non-Latino	8	24	2.1
US-Born Latino	3	9	6.3
Mexico	12	35	
Viet Nam	1	3	--
Native Amer/ Alaska Native	10	29	18-34
Total	34	100	5.2

Among 13 foreign-born cases, 12 were from Mexico. Of these 12, seven were male and five were female. Only three used alcohol or other drugs. Six were unemployed. Median duration of residence in the United States prior to developing TB was seven years (range: 2 months-68 years). Seven of 12 occurred within 10 years of arrival. Eleven have completed therapy (median duration: 32 weeks, range: 28-67), and two remain under treatment.

Among the 10 Native American cases, eight resided on tribal lands. Six were male. Six used alcohol or other drugs. Eight were unemployed. Seven completed therapy (median: 26 weeks; range: 24-40). One was diagnosed postmortem with disseminated TB. The other two remain under treatment.

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Public Health Function and Funding

Dennis Klukan, Administrator, YHD

The primary function of Public Health is to prevent disease and premature death. In a community where the Public Health system is operating properly, this activity is nearly invisible. In many states, Public Health is a basic function of Government and is specifically cited in the constitution.

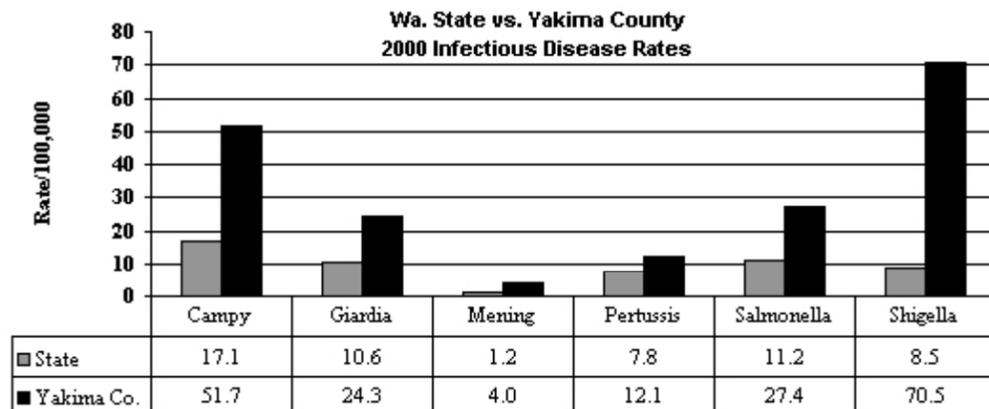
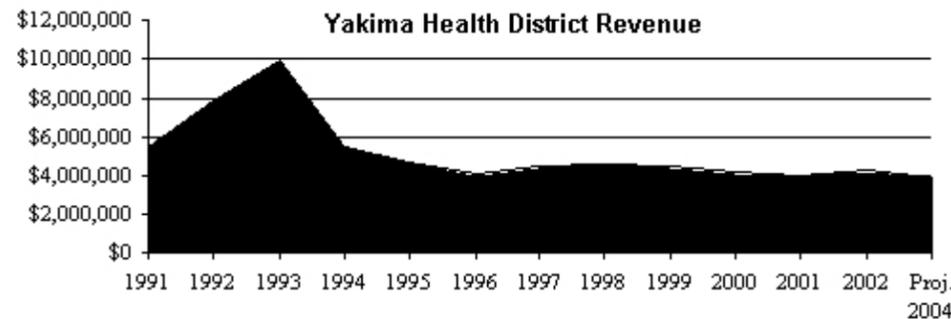
The Yakima Health District is the oldest combined City-County Public Health service in the nation. It has served the residents of Yakima County since 1911 and has performed tirelessly through epidemics of Typhoid, Influenza, Measles, Meningococcal Disease and a variety of disasters both natural and man made.

Since the enactment of Initiative 695, the District has lost its' most significant form of consistent, population based, funding. During the present biennium, the Washington Legislature has included "backfill" revenue to cover this loss to local Public Health Services. Should this funding cease, local Public Health Services will be so severely impacted that basic preventive and protective activities may be eliminated.

As drastic as this loss would be in any community, it would be even more devastating in Yakima County.

Our high rate of poverty, limited number of medical practitioners, high number of teen births, and the general problems of a highly mobile population, presents a fertile ground for rampant infectious and environmental disease. In fact, Yakima County has traditionally had the highest rate of infectious diarrheal disease in Washington. The Yakima Health District is the linking thread in the health safety-net of Yakima County. The small, dedicated staff of public health professionals serves as a central point for communication and consultation for the community network of health services as well as the primary link with the public health services of the state and federal governments. Without these local assets and expertise, it would be impossible to imagine how drastically a preventable infectious disease like smallpox could affect our community.

The Yakima Health District requires a regular source of basic funding to maintain this essential infrastructure and expertise. The ability to raise funds by a voted levy, would allow Public Health to best serve the needs of the community.



Tetanus And Diphtheria Toxoids [Td] Vaccine Now Available

We are pleased to forward this message from CDC related to Td vaccination.

“Td supply is sufficient to return to the following: 1) routine immunization as recommended by ACIP/AAP, and 2) reinstatement of the administration of Td booster doses.”

Providers who are receiving State supplied vaccine from the Yakima Health District for youth less than 19 years of age will now be able to order Td vaccine for routine boosters. Orders should be limited to a 30 day supply.

For providers **not** receiving State supplied vaccine, Td can be purchased directly from:

1. Aventis Pasteur (Av P) - for order placement or for inquiries, call (800) 822-2463 or 800-VACCINE. Av P is ascribing some ordering limits for private and public

sector providers and health districts as follows:

- a) Hospitals and Health Departments: limited to 500 doses per month.
 - b) Private Providers: limited to 100 doses every 14 to 30 days.
2. General Injectables and Vaccines (GIV) --- for order placement or inquiries, call (800) 521-7468.

Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP) remains in short supply. Therefore, the Yakima Health District continues to recommend community wide deferral of the fourth and fifth doses to ensure adequate supply for primary immunization of infants.

Current information on shortages and delays in distribution of recommended childhood vaccines can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/news/shortages/>

Tuberculosis Skin Testing Classes

Lela Hansen, R.N.

In April, the medical care providers and licensed nurses in Yakima County, were invited to attend a class on TB skin testing. The objectives included correct administration and interpretation of tuberculosis skin tests, new skin testing guidelines, correctly documenting PPDs, and the implications of a PPD.

The half-day classes were held, free of charge, at the Health District. Upon completing the class, pre- & post-tests, and evaluation, each participant was given a competency certificate. Class participation was excellent with personnel from all areas of the county attending.

There is an increased awareness of the roles of medical care providers in tuberculosis control, evidenced by class



attendance and telephone calls received by the TB control program. Providers and their staff are asking good, pertinent questions and offering well thought-out responses. The offices are also demonstrating their awareness of the local resources available to them and the materials needed to provide tuberculosis education to their patients.

The last class for the summer is June 20th. All classes have been limited to 15 participants to allow good contact time and to practice skills.

Classes will resume in September. Notification will be sent to all offices with the scheduled dates, times, and content. All classes this spring were full, so please consider this when planning to attend class this fall.

In addition to focusing on giving & reading skin tests, classes will be developed in the future for transmission, treatment and monitoring patients with Tuberculosis.

