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Tuscarawas County
Health Department

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2021 Communicable Disease Summary Now Available

Dover –Today, the Tuscarawas County Health Department released its 2021 Annual Communicable Disease Summary. This report summarizes all Tuscarawas County communicable diseases reported to the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) and the New Philadelphia City Health Department (NPCHD) in 2021. Communicable diseases (also called “infectious diseases”) are illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses, and parasites (also called “microorganisms”) and are transmitted from an infected person or animal to another. The route of transmission varies by disease; however, it may include contact with contaminated objects, direct contact with contaminated body fluids (e.g., blood) or respiratory secretions, the bite of an animal or vector (e.g., insect) carrying the microorganism, inhalation of contaminated airborne particles, or ingestion of contaminated food or water.

The Annual Summary of Communicable Diseases 2021 includes cases of reportable diseases that were diagnosed among residents of Tuscarawas County, reported to public health, and found to meet the public health surveillance definition of a confirmed, probable, or suspected case. These data do not represent all cases of reportable infectious disease that occurred in the community, as individuals may not seek medical care for mild or asymptomatic infections, or laboratory confirmation tested is not always conducted. Data in this summary are considered provisional.

Key Findings:

In 2021, there were 10,937 disease investigations completed between the New Philadelphia City Health Department (NPCHD) and the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD). This is a 63% increase from 2020 to 2021.

2021 Top 10 Most Reported Diseases (Excluding COVID-19):

1. Chlamydia
2. Gonorrhea
3. Hepatitis C
4. Lyme Disease
5. Campylobacteriosis
6. Cryptosporidiosis
7. Streptococcus Pneumoniae
8. Hepatitis A
9. Legionnaires' Disease
10. Hepatitis B

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COVID-19 continued to be the most reported communicable disease from 2020 to 2021. A total of 10,253 confirmed and probable cases were reported in 2021. That represents 95% of all reported diseases in Tuscarawas County residents. The 2021 case rate per 100,000 population for COVID-19 was 10,993.6. The State of Ohio case rate for 2021 was 16,195.6.

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020 the Tuscarawas County zip codes with the highest COVID-19 case rates are as follows (as of February 14, 2022):

1. 44671 – Sandyville – Case rate per 100,000 = 27,931.0
2. 44622 – Dover – Case rate per 100,000 = 25,828.4
3. 44682 – Tuscarawas – Case rate per 100,000 = 23,786.4
4. 44621 – Dennison – Case rate per 100,000 = 23,503.1
5. 44663 – New Philadelphia – Case rate per 100,000 = 23,211.8

Report Purpose:

The Communicable Disease Summary is meant to provide residents, as well as healthcare organizations and providers, with important information about preventable diseases in Tuscarawas County. This report provides data on Tuscarawas County as a whole, but also provides data broken down by the Tuscarawas County Health Department and the New Philadelphia City Health Department jurisdictions.

Even in times when a Pandemic is not underway, it is an essential role of public health to provide disease surveillance to determine where patterns, clusters, and outbreaks may be detected. Timely and complete disease reporting allows public health professionals to respond to the changing health status of the community and ensure that prevention activities reach the right people.

The 2021 Annual Communicable Disease Summary is now available on the Tuscarawas County Health Department's Website. The summary can be found at

https://www.tchdnow.org/uploads/4/2/8/6/42860741/communicable_disease_annual_summary_2021_final.pdf

For more information, please contact the Tuscarawas County Health Department at (330) 343-5555.

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