

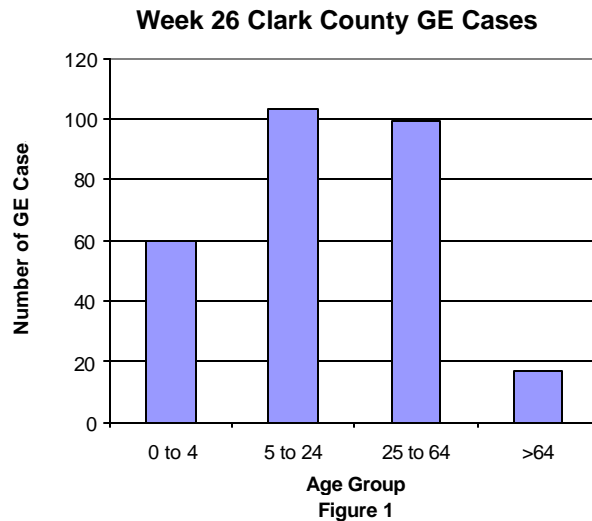


Office of Epidemiology
Gastroenteritis Surveillance Program

Date: July 14, 2000
To: Health Care Providers
From: Patricia Rowley, BS, Surveillance Coordinator
Subject: Report for week ending July 1, 2000 (Week 26).

The Clark County Health District Gastroenteritis Surveillance Program began data collection on May 15, 2000 (week 20). This is an ongoing program and is open to new participants. Health care providers wishing to participate as sentinel sites for the surveillance program should contact Patricia Rowley, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 383-1378.

Thirty-three sentinel sites reported during week 26 (June 25 to July 1). A total of 279 cases of gastroenteritis (GE), were reported, which is 2.0% of the 13,940 patients seen that week. Persons experiencing diarrhea or vomiting not explained by a chronic condition were counted as cases. Figure 1 shows the distribution of cases by age.



Although enteric illnesses are frequently transmitted through contaminated food or by person to person spread, other modes of transmission have been identified. An article published the June 30, 2000 issue of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) addresses the issue of disease transmission in recreational water venues (see <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4925a3.htm>). Since 1989, there have been approximately 170 disease outbreaks reported in the United States associated with public pools, waterparks, interactive fountains, hot tubs, spas, lakes, rivers and oceans. Half of these outbreaks have resulted in gastrointestinal illness. Pathogens identified in outbreaks include *E. coli 0157:H7*, *Shigella sonnei*, *Giardia lamblia* and *Cryptosporidium parvum*.

Swallowing water puts swimmers at risk of ingesting enteric pathogens. The possibility of fecal contamination of recreational water facilities is enhanced by the presence of diapered children, since no diaper completely prevents stool leakage.

Appropriate chlorination and filtration systems will eradicate viable enteric pathogens under normal conditions. However, the disinfection is not instantaneous, and a bolus of feces can cause transient contamination of the surrounding water.

If you have questions regarding the gastroenteritis surveillance program, please call Patricia Rowley at (702) 383-1378. The weekly GE reports are now posted on the Web at <http://www.cchd.org/gastro.html>