

## Toxic Shock Syndrome

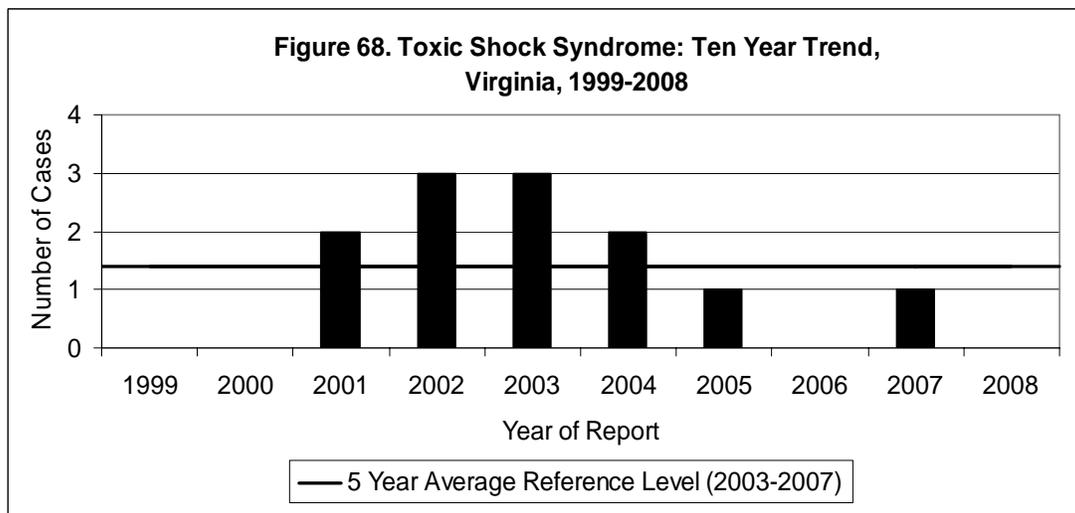
Agent: *Staphylococcus aureus* or beta-hemolytic streptococci (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Person-to-person spread through direct contact or through contact with contaminated materials or surfaces.

Signs/Symptoms: Sudden onset of high fever, rash, vomiting, watery diarrhea, and muscle pain, followed by a drop in blood pressure, and shock in severe cases.

Prevention: Practice good hand hygiene, clean skin abrasions, and eradicate *S. aureus* and *Streptococcus pyogenes* from draining wounds.

Other Important Information: The majority of early cases were reported in women during menses; however, in recent years, only 55% of cases have been reported among women of child-bearing age.



No cases of toxic shock syndrome due to *Staphylococcus aureus* were reported in Virginia during 2008. The last reported case occurred in 2007 in a white female adolescent from the northwest region. For the past five years, the average occurrence of this condition was 1.4 cases per year (Figure 68). This is substantially lower than the average of 7.7 cases per year observed from 1994 to 1996.

For information on toxic shock syndrome cases caused by infection with group A *Streptococcus*, see the “Streptococcal Disease, Group A, Invasive” section in this report.