

## **Typhoid Fever**

Agent: *Salmonella* ser. Typhi (bacteria)

Mode of Transmission: Ingestion of food or water contaminated by feces or urine of infected persons. The bacteria live only in humans.

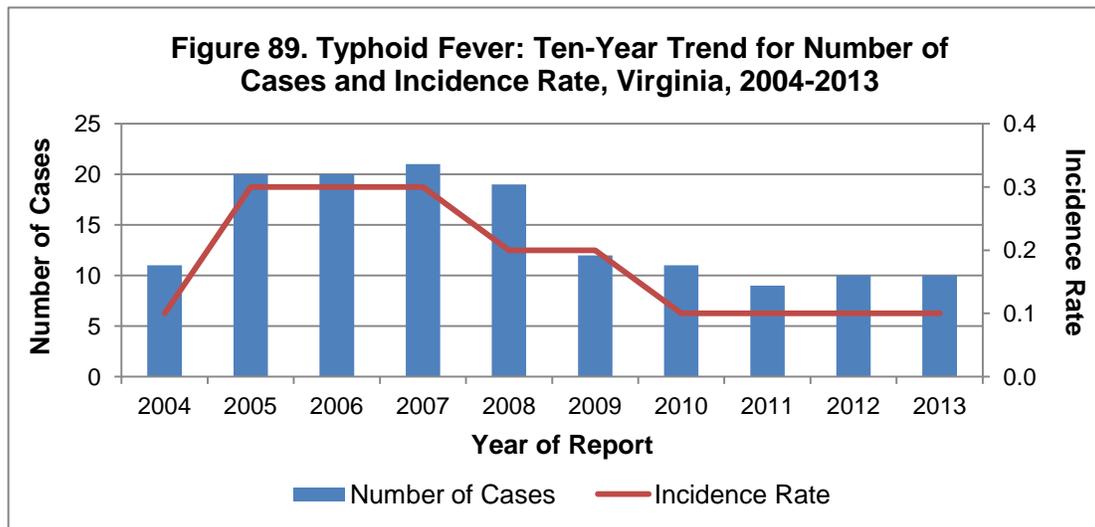
Signs/Symptoms: Include sustained fever, headache, malaise, altered mental status, lethargy, anorexia, fast heart rate, enlarged spleen, a non-productive cough and constipation.

Prevention: Access to safe water and proper sanitation, and following safe food handling and hand hygiene practices are essential. Travelers to countries where the disease is common should get vaccinated and avoid consuming risky foods and drinks.

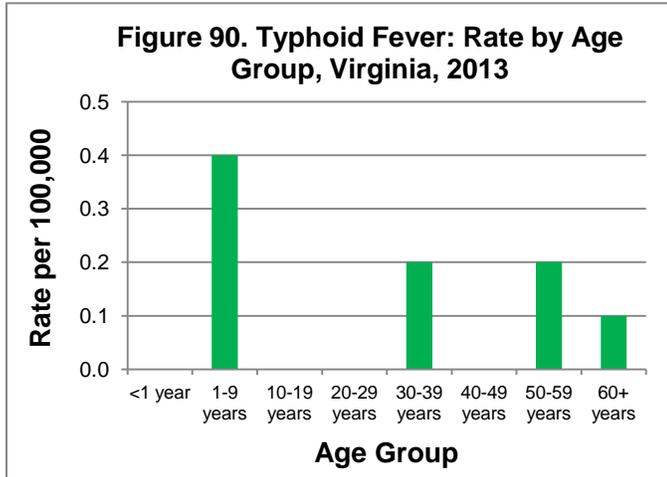
Other Important Information: According to the CDC, most cases of typhoid fever in the U.S. (up to 75%) are acquired while traveling internationally. The condition is very common in the developing world, where it affects more than 20 million persons annually. Approximately 200,000 deaths are attributed to typhoid fever worldwide each year.

<b>Typhoid Fever: 2013 Data Summary</b>	
Number of Cases:	10
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	12.2
% Change from 5-Year Average:	-18%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.1

During 2013, 10 cases of typhoid fever were reported in Virginia. This is the same number of cases as reported in 2012, but an 18% decrease from the five-year average of 12.2 cases per year (Figure 89). Eight of the ten cases had a history of travel outside the United States in the 30 days prior to illness onset; two visited El Salvador and individual cases visited India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Guatemala and Sudan. One of the cases occurred in someone who did not travel outside the United States and reportedly acquired typhoid fever from a relative who was visiting from Pakistan. The final case was not associated with a history of travel or known exposure.



Among all age groups, the 1-9 year age group had the highest incidence rate (4 cases, 0.4 per 100,000) (Figure 90). Race information was not available for half of the cases. Where information on race was available, the “other” race population had the highest incidence (0.5 per 100,000). Males and females had similar incidence rates (0.1 per 100,000, each). All ten cases were reported from the northern region, where the incidence rate was 0.4 per 100,000.



Onset occurred throughout the year. However, because most cases are acquired outside the country, any seasonal pattern would most likely be related to travel patterns. During 2013, no deaths were attributed to typhoid fever in Virginia.