

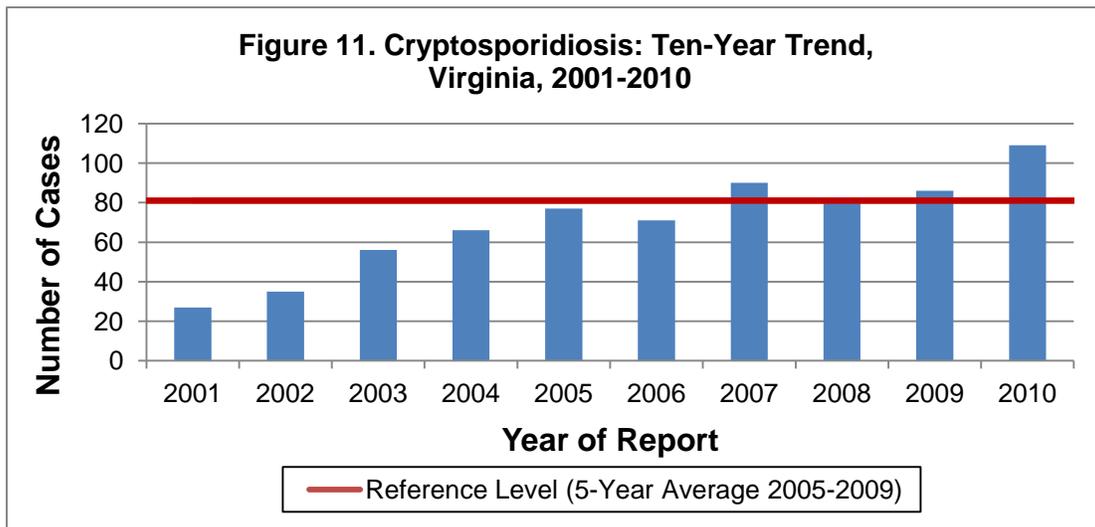
Cryptosporidiosis

Agent: *Cryptosporidium parvum* (parasite)

Mode of Transmission: Occurs via the fecal-oral route and can include person-to-person, animal-to-person, foodborne and waterborne transmission. *Cryptosporidium* oocysts can remain infectious for 2-6 months after being excreted from infected individuals. The oocysts are very resistant to chemicals used to purify drinking water.

Signs/Symptoms: Profuse watery diarrhea with cramping and abdominal pain. The diarrhea may be preceded by anorexia and vomiting in children. Asymptomatic infections are common.

Prevention: Preventive measures include careful hand hygiene after using the bathroom, after changing diapers or cleaning a child who has used the bathroom, after handling animals or their feces, and before preparing and eating food. People with diarrhea should not enter public recreational water. Water purification methods, including boiling water or filtration, should be considered when drinking water from natural streams, lakes, springs or any unknown source.



One hundred nine cases of cryptosporidiosis were reported in Virginia during 2010. This is a 27% increase over the 86 cases reported in 2009 and a 35% increase over the five-year average of 81 cases per year (Figure 11). The 109 cases reported in 2010 contribute to an upward trend in reported cryptosporidiosis cases in the past decade in Virginia, and mirror a national pattern.

In 2010, the highest incidence rate occurred in the 60 years and over age group (2.1 per 100,000), and the lowest rate was seen in the 10-19 year age group (0.5 per 100,000). The other age groups had rates between 0.9 and 1.6 per 100,000. Race was not reported for 21% of cases, but among those with information on race, rates were similar in the white and black populations, but lower in the “other” race group (1.2, 1.0 and 0.2 per 100,000, respectively). The rate of infection was similar among males and females (1.3 and 1.4 per 100,000).

By region, the highest rate was reported from the southwest region (2.3 per 100,000). The other regions had rates between 0.9 and 1.8 per 100,000. A seasonal trend was observed, with 61% of cases occurring from April through August (Figure 12). One or more risk factors were identified in 80% of the reported cases. The most frequently reported risk factor was contact with animals (42 cases, 48%), followed by exposure to recreational water and contact with similarly ill person (19 cases, 22% each). Among cases reported in 2010, one death in a female in the 60 years and over age group was attributed to cryptosporidiosis.

