**Toxic Shock Syndrome**

**Agent:** *Staphylococcus aureus* or beta-hemolytic streptococci (bacteria)  
**Mode of Transmission:** Person-to-person transmission 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:** Hands should be washed carefully and all skin abrasions should be cleaned thoroughly. Preventive measures include the eradication of *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 *S. aureus* were reported in Virginia during 2009. 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 0.8 cases per year (Figure 68).

![Figure 68. Toxic Shock Syndrome: Ten-Year Trend, Virginia, 2000-2009](image)

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.