

Toxic Shock Syndrome

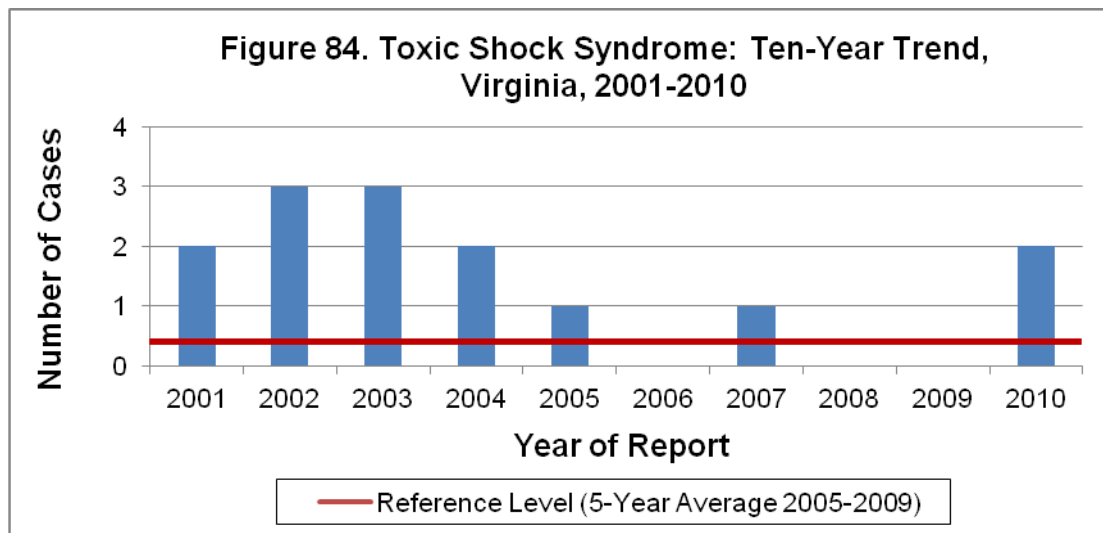
Agent: *Staphylococcus aureus* or beta-hemolytic streptococci (bacteria)

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.



Two cases of toxic shock syndrome due to *S. aureus* were reported in Virginia during 2010. This is higher than the five-year average of 0.4 cases per year (Figure 84). Both cases occurred in adult females from the southwest region, one from the 20-29 year age group, and the other from the 40-49 year age group. Previous to this, the last reported case occurred during 2007 in a female aged 10-19 years from the northwest region.

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