

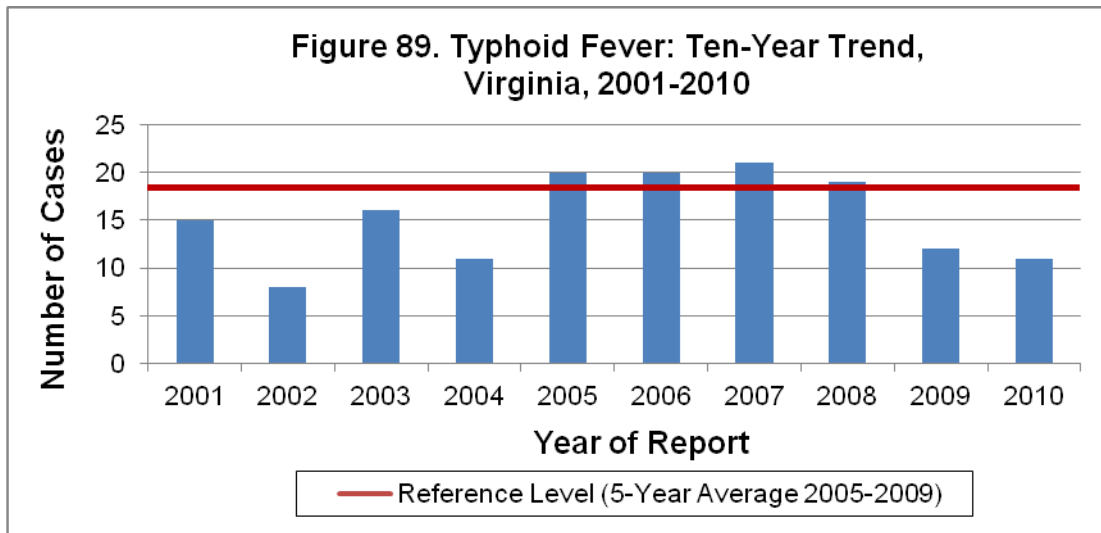
Typhoid Fever

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.

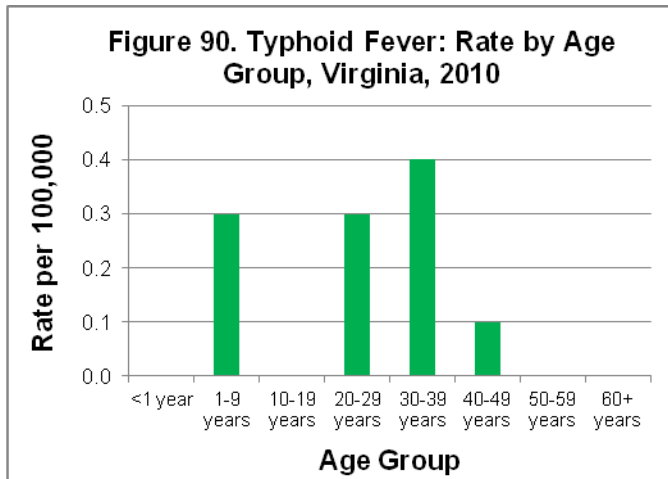
Signs/Symptoms: Include sustained fever, headache, malaise, altered mental status, lethargy, anorexia, fast heart rate, enlarged spleen, a non-productive cough and constipation.

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.



During 2010, 11 cases of typhoid fever were reported in Virginia, a slight (8%) decrease from the 12 cases reported in 2009, and a 40% decrease from the five-year average of 18.4 cases per year (Figure 89). This is the third consecutive year with a decreasing number of cases. Travel histories were obtained for all cases, and each infected person had traveled outside the United States in the 30 days before illness onset. The countries visited were India (9 cases, 82%), and Pakistan and Bangladesh (one case each).

The 30-39 year age group had the highest incidence rate (4 cases, 0.4 per 100,000), followed by the 1-9 and 20-29 year age groups (3 cases, 0.3 per 100,000 each), and the 40-49 year age group (1 case, 0.1 per 100,000). No cases were reported from the remaining age groups (Figure 90). Race information was not available for 27% of the cases. Where information on race was available,



it was reported as “other” race, with an incidence of 1.4 per 100,000. The female population had a slightly higher rate than the male population (0.2 and 0.1 per 100,000, respectively). Most of the cases (91%) were reported from the northern region, where the incidence rate was 0.5 per 100,000. Onset occurred throughout the year with no seasonal trend observed; however, because these infections were acquired outside the country, any seasonality is likely to be related to travel patterns to countries where the disease is more common.