

Typhoid Fever

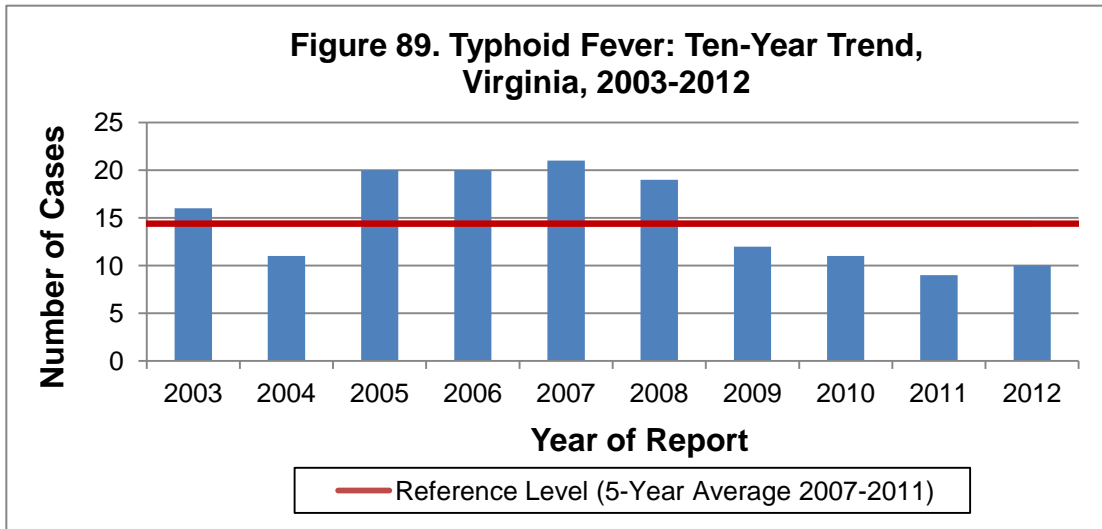
Agent: *Salmonella* ser. Typhi (bacteria)

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

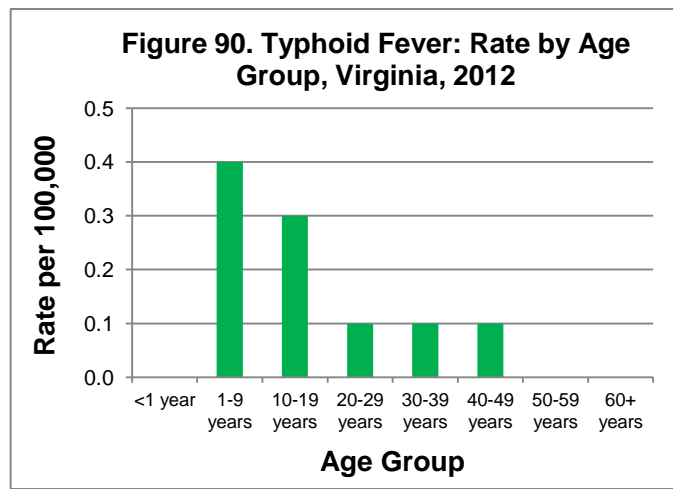
Signs/Symptoms: Include sustained fever, headache, malaise, altered mental status, lethargy, anorexia, fast heart rate, enlarged spleen, a non-productive cough and constipation.

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.



During 2012, 10 cases of typhoid fever were reported in Virginia, which is similar to the nine cases reported in 2011, and a 31% decrease from the five-year average of 14.4 cases per year (Figure 89). All cases had traveled outside the United States in the 30 days before illness onset, visiting India (70%), El Salvador (20%) and Pakistan (10%).



The 1-9 and 10-19 year age groups had the highest incidence rates (0.4 and 0.3 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure 90). Race information was not available for two of the ten cases. Where information on race was available, the “other” race population had the highest incidence (1.1 per 100,000). Males and females had similar incidence rates (0.2 and 0.1 per 100,000, respectively). The majority of the cases (70%) were reported from the northern region, where the incidence rate was 0.3 per 100,000.

Onset occurred throughout the year; because all cases were acquired outside the country, any seasonal pattern would most likely be related to travel patterns. During 2012, no deaths were attributed to typhoid fever in Virginia.