

## **Typhoid Fever**

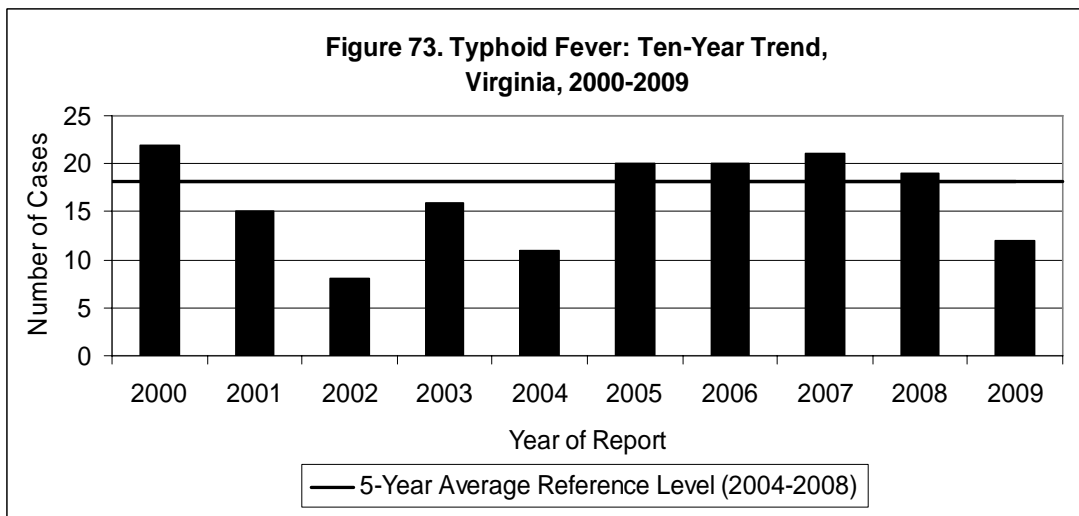
**Agent:** *Salmonella* ser.Typhi (bacteria)

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

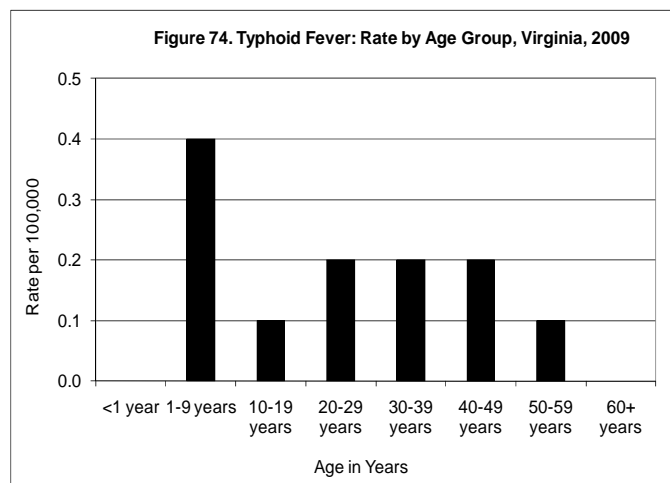
**Signs/Symptoms:** Include sustained fever, headache, malaise, altered mental status, lethargy, anorexia, fast heart rate, enlarged spleen, a non-productive cough and constipation.

**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 2009, 12 cases of typhoid fever were reported in Virginia. This is a 37% decrease from the 19 cases reported in 2008, and a 34% decrease from the five-year average of 18.2 cases per year (Figure 73). Travel histories were obtained for all cases, and infected persons had traveled outside the United States in the 30 days before illness onset. The countries visited were Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Belgium.



The 1-9 year age group had the highest incidence rate (0.4 per 100,000), followed by the 20-29, 30-39 and 40-49 year age groups (0.2 per 100,000 each) (Figure 74). Race information was not available for 33% of the cases. The remaining cases were reported as “other” race with an incidence of 1.5 per 100,000). Incidence was evenly distributed between females and males (0.2 per 100,000). Seven (58%) cases were reported from the northern region, where the



incidence rate was 0.3 per 100,000. Among other regions in the state, incidence rates ranged from 0.0 to 0.2 per 100,000. Onset occurred throughout the year with a slight peak in August; however, because these infections were acquired outside the country, any seasonality would be related to travel patterns to countries where the disease is more common.