Counts of notifiable maladies afflicting Oregonians are tallied for 2003, and it’s time to highlight the peaks and valleys of the last year. This issue of the CD Summary is but a condensation of our annual data summary, which can be found in all its glorious completeness at http://www.oshd.org/acd/art/index.cfm. By presenting snapshots of reported incident rates over the last decade we can highlight successes and address areas of concern. For the graphs below, raw case counts are translated into rates (per 100,000 population). For tabulation of reported cases by condition and county see the reverse side. Keep in mind that reported cases are a mere reflection of the true burden of disease. First of all, not every ill person seeks medical care, some individuals (e.g., youths) are more apt to be tested, outbreaks of disease lead to fits of active case finding, and some cases are just never reported. With these limitations, surveillance data are used to monitor population health, target interventions and decide where public health money should be spent.

Overall in 2003 most diseases continued their salutary downhill trend in Oregon — to mention a few, hepatitis A and B, tuberculosis, and giardiasis. However, outbreaks of pertussis, salmonellosis and shigellosis resulted in a reverse of their trajectories. Surpassing a 25-year high in 2002, Oregon had a 40-year high in the number of pertussis cases reported; nationally, Oregon had the fourth highest incidence, with a rate 3.5 times the national average. Despite

![Graphs of various notifiable diseases](image-url)
increasing immunization rates in Oregon children, pertussis holds the dubious distinction of being the only vaccine-preventable disease increasing in reported incidence.

Ten-year records were also broken for salmonellosis and shigellosis, boasting the highest rates since 1992. Although these data are undoubtedly skewed by the occurrence of notable outbreaks (Shigella transmission at an interactive water fountain, Salmonella from honeydew melons, alfalfa sprouts x 2, and baby chicks) and the accompanying active case finding, they underscore the need for education about handwashing (and more handwashing).

Other highs include the 57% increase in syphilis — which disease also tallied its greatest number of cases since 1992. Chlamydiosis continues to rise, especially in 10–40-year-old women. Other highlights include a full year of Legionella and Vibrio parahaemolyticus reporting, respectively adding 17 and 4 cases to our roster. In addition, 7 animals (6 bats and a fox) were positive for rabies virus.