Haemophilus influenzae

Until the advent of an effective vaccine against serotype b (Hib) organisms, *Haemophilus influenzae* (*H. influenzae*) was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children under 5 years of age in Oregon and elsewhere. Today it is well down the listing, with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* now in the lead. In 2008–2009, Hib was cultured from sterile body fluids in three persons, all aged >40 years. Appropriate use of conjugate vaccine will help ensure that Hib occurrence remains minimal well into the future. All sterile site *H. influenzae* isolates must be sent to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory for additional typing.

Concurrent with the decline in serotype “b” infections is an increase in other serotypes. In 2009, 71% of cases were non-typeable, 15% were identified as serotype f, and the remainder were other serotypes. This shift in dominant strains changes the clinical manifestations of illness. From 2003–2009 Oregon clinical manifestations of Oregon cases included primarily pneumonia (more than 50%), followed by sepsis (35%). Less than 10% of cases had meningitis. Concurrent with the changes in clinical manifestations is a shift in age distribution from infants to older persons. The majority of cases in 2008–2009 continue to be among those aged 50 and over.

Peak incidence occurs in late winter and early spring. Fifty-seven cases were reported in 2009.
Incidence of *H. influenzae* by age and sex: Oregon, 2009

*H. influenzae* by year and serotype: Oregon, 2000–2009
Selected Reportable Communicable Disease Summary: 2008–2009

**H. influenzae by year: Oregon, 1988–2009**

![Graph showing H. influenzae cases by year from 1988 to 2009]

**H. influenzae by onset month: Oregon, 2009**

![Graph showing H. influenzae cases by month for 2009]

Cases

Jan Feb March April May June July August Sept Oct Nov Dec
Incidence of *H. influenzae*: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1988–2009

Not nationally reportable until 1995, only Hib consistently reported by states.


Rate per 100,000

- 0.0
- 0.1–0.8
- 0.9–1.5
- 1.6–2.3
- 2.4–3.8