## **Disease Surveillance**



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## **Objectives**

- Describe purpose of disease surveillance
- Identify data sources & methods used
- Discuss attributes of effective surveillance program
- Participate in outbreak detection exercise

Informal poll: Currently working in Orpheus?



#### Surveillance is

"Systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of data and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken"

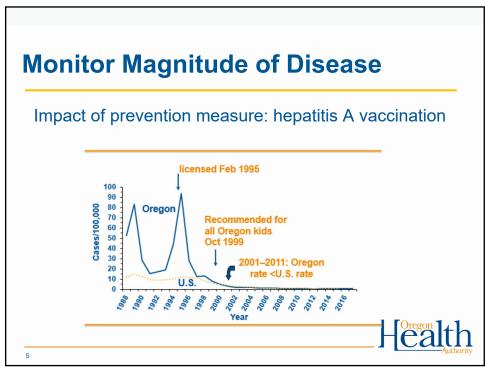
- World Health Organization

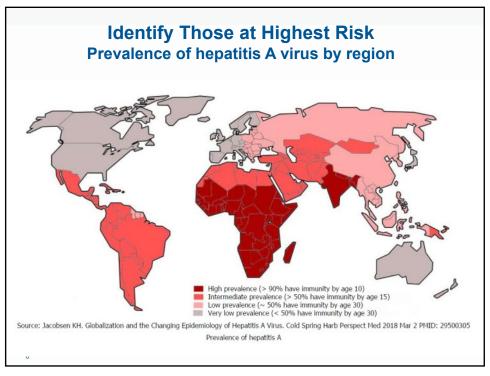


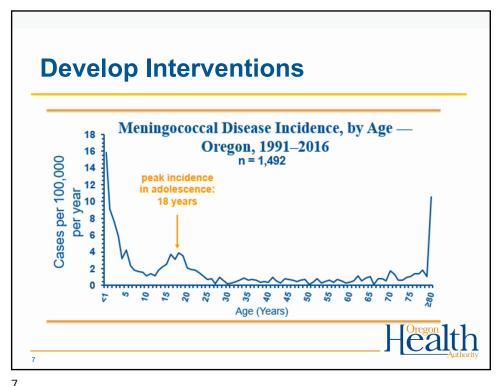
## **Purposes of Surveillance**

- Monitor magnitude of diseases in community
- Identify populations at highest risk
- Develop appropriate interventions
- Improve understanding of specific diseases
- Identify outbreaks









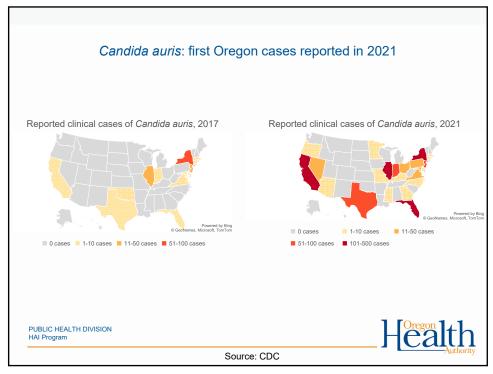
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## **Improve Understanding**

- Increase knowledge of emerging diseases (e.g., novel influenza strains, SARS-CoV-2)
- Monitor changes in infectious agents
   Antibiotic resistance







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## **Detecting Outbreaks**

- Detect changes in disease patterns in community
  - $\succ$  increase in cases (sudden or gradual)
  - ➤ disease affects certain demographic group
  - ➤ disease in previously unaffected geographic area







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#### **Some Surveillance Data Sources**

- Lab results
- Case (morbidity) reports
- Mortality reports (death records)
- Heath care data (hospital discharge, outpatient, ED)
- Disease specific (influenza, FoodNet)
- Others...



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#### What Diseases are Reportable?

- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) makes recommendations - www.cste.org
   Each state determines list of reportable conditions
- Range in US: 35 130 conditions per state





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# Reportable Healthcare-associated Organisms in Oregon

Organism	Reportable?
Pan non-susceptible (panNS) organisms	YES
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE)	YES
Carbapenem-resistant <i>Acinetobacter</i> species (CRA)	Started end of 2023
Carbapenemase producing organisms (CPO)*	Started end of 2023
Candida auris*	Started end of 2023
Carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa (CRPA)**	NO, unless CPO or panNS

<sup>\*</sup>Previously reportable under the "outbreaks and uncommon illnesses"



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#### **Passive Disease Surveillance**

Monitoring patterns of key diseases

- Mandated by State rules (OAR)
- Relies on providers and labs

**Advantage:** Cost-effective

#### **Limitations:**

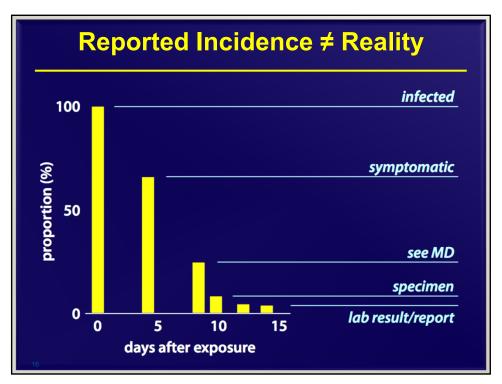
- Underreporting
- Changes in definitions
- Reporting delays
- Variations among reporters





<sup>\*\*</sup> some labs voluntarily report CRPA to OHA,





#### **Active Disease Surveillance**

- Outreach to reporting sources
  - ➤ Personal visits
  - > Telephone calls
  - ➤ Alerts
- Typically for limited duration



Disadvantage: Expensive, time-consuming



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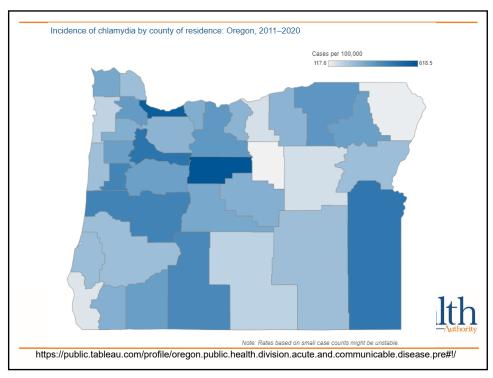
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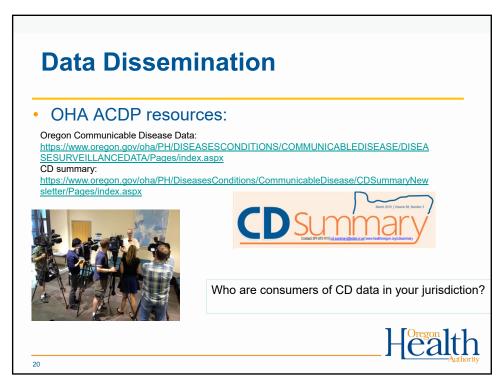
### **Analysis of Surveillance Data**

- Analysis key to communicable diseases control
- Useful to maintain chart with 5 years of case frequencies – see Orpheus reporting features\*
- Simple statistics (counts, rates) can be examined
  - compare my county with Oregon?
  - compare Oregon with the United States?

\*https://public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.public.health.division.acute.and.communicable.disease.pre#!/







# **Attributes of an Effective Surveillance Program**

- Sensitivity
- Specificity
- Many others.....

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## **Sensitivity**

Ability to detect cases of communicable disease that system is meant to detect

- Able to detect an outbreak or sudden change?
- Sensitive enough to identify disease problems in your community?

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## **Specificity**

#### The ability to detect only true cases

 Does excessive "background noise" generate false alerts?



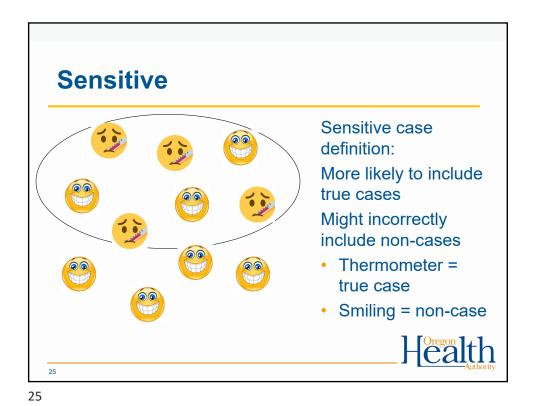
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# Sensitive vs. specific in outbreaks



- Consider a hypothetical group of people who might be included in an outbreak investigation
- Thermometer = true case
- Smiling = non-case





Specific case definition:

More likely to correctly exclude non-cases
Risks missing true cases (if they don't meet narrow case definition)

Thermometer = true case
Smiling = non-case

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#### **Definition of Disease Outbreak**

- A disease outbreak defined as:
  - > Occurrence of two or more cases
  - ➤ With the same clinical illness
  - Affects people from different households
  - Cases share common exposure (setting, activity, medical procedure, food item etc.)
- Informal poll: Current role in outbreak investigations?



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## Is this an outbreak...

## or something else?

- All reported increases in communicable disease should be examined.
- Disease reports may increase for several reasons:
  - > populations change
  - provider awareness
  - case definition change
  - new diagnostic tests



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#### **Disease Surveillance Exercise**

- Handout: CD 303 Exercises (pages 1 and 2)
- Work in groups
- Complete each question before proceeding to next question
- Review questions together at end

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