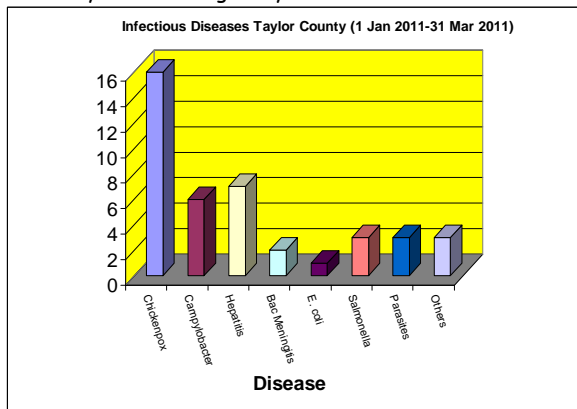


Infectious Diseases

The diseases we report include all of the notifiable conditions. The complete listing of notifiable conditions is located on our city website:

http://www.abilenetx.com/Health/documents/NotifiableConditionsexpJan2011_000.pdf

The graph below depicts data collected from infectious disease reports showing which diseases were reported and how many times during the year.



Disease Surveillance & Reporting

Public health surveillance involves systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of data regarding adverse health conditions. Surveillance involves investigating individual cases as well as epidemics. Only residents of Taylor County are counted in our surveillance.

In public health surveillance data are used to monitor disease trends; detect, respond to, and study new disease threats, outbreaks, or epidemics; identify risk factors; and plan, implement, and assess intervention and prevention services.

Most case reports must include the patient's name, date of birth, sex, race/ethnicity, city of residence, date of onset, physician's name, and method of diagnosis. Surveillance data are obtained from laboratory reports and case investigation forms. Social and demographic information is collected to determine patterns of disease in the population, identify case contacts, and target control measures. Reports should be given to the local public health department.

Surveillance is subject to limitations which affect many data collections systems. Underreporting is an ubiquitous problem, but its extent differs among diseases.

SMART - MRC

The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing volunteers.

The Support and Medical Alert Response Team (SMART) is the local MRC and participates in community awareness activities such as mass prophylaxis, vaccination clinics, and emergency scenarios as needed.

SMART - MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Community members, non-health professionals, can fill key support positions as well.

If you are interested in volunteering for your local SMART - MRC unit please contact us for an application.

Charlotte Lambert
325.676.6356

<http://smartmrc.com/>



CBRNE

CBRN is an initialism for *chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear*. It is commonly used worldwide to refer to incidents or weapons in which any of these four hazards have presented themselves. The term CBRN is a replacement for the cold war term NBC (nuclear, biological, and chemical), which has replaced the term ABC (atomic, biological, and chemical) that was used in the fifties. The addition of R for radiological is a consequence of the "new" threat of a radiological weapon. Since the start of the new millennium, a new term - CBRNE - was introduced as a replacement term for CBRN. The E in this term represents the enhanced explosives threat.

CBRNE weapons/agents are often referred to as weapons of mass destruction (WMD). However, this is not entirely correct. Although CBRNE agents often cause mass destruction, this is not necessarily the case. Terrorist use of CBRNE agents may cause a limited number of casualties, but a large terrorizing and disruption of society. Terrorist use of CBRNE agents, intended to cause terror instead of mass casualties, is therefore often referred to as weapons of mass disruption. A CBRNE incident differs from a hazardous material incident in both effect, scope, and intent.

CBRNE incidents are responded to under the assumption that they are deliberate, malicious acts with the intention to kill, sicken, and/or disrupt society.

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Epidemiology Report



31 March 2011



Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District
P.O. Box 2818, 850 N. 6th St.
Abilene, Texas 79604-2818

Check our websites for public health, epidemiology,
and preparedness information:
www.abilenepublichealth.org
www.abilenetx.com/Health/epidemiology.htm

Wayne R. Rose, Epidemiologist, MPA, BA, AA, AAS

Ph: 325.676.6355, Cell: 325.370.0823,
Fax: 325.676.6358
Email: wayne.rose@abilenetx.com

Statewide Number for Reporting Infectious
Diseases:
800-705-8868

Japan 2011 Earthquake/Tsunami - U.S. Government Information In the United States

Air Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for monitoring air quality in the United States. As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said, as well as other public health experts, we do not expect to see radiation levels of concern reaching the U.S. from the damaged Japanese nuclear power plant. The EPA has its radiation air monitoring (RadNet) data, frequently asked questions, and other resources on <http://www.epa.gov/japan2011/>. At this site you can read the daily data summary, find a map of air monitoring stations and view graphs of the data, read frequently asked questions about EPA's radiation monitoring, and learn about EPA's RadNet radiation air monitoring data.

Food Safety

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has deemed that based on current information, there is no risk to the U.S. food supply.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has jurisdiction over 80 percent of the food supply, including seafood, dairy, and produce. The U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates meat, poultry, and processed egg products, while FDA regulates all other food products.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has stated that Japan has not exported any beef products to the United States for nearly a year.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has stated that Japan is not currently eligible to export any poultry or processed egg products to the U.S.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Customs and Border Protection carefully screen all food products for unsafe substances, including radiological material at Ports of Entry.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) does not recommend that people in the United States take potassium iodide (KI) supplements in response to the damaged nuclear reactors in Japan because of the associated health risks. Only take KI on the advice of emergency management officials, public health officials, or your doctor. (continued)

Food, Mail, Ships, and Cargo from Japan (continued)

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is monitoring developments in Japan carefully and uses several types of radiation detection equipment in air and sea ports, mail facilities, and elsewhere to ensure safety. CBP and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration carefully screen all food products for unsafe substances, including radiological material, at Ports of Entry. All inbound travelers, baggage, and cargo are screened for radiological materials. CBP employs radiation monitors at international mail facilities.

What Is Radiation?

Radiation is a form of energy that is present all around us. Different types of radiation exist, some of which have more energy than others. Amounts of radiation released into the environment are measured in units called **curies**. However, the dose of radiation that a person receives is measured in units called **rem**.

How Can Exposure Occur?

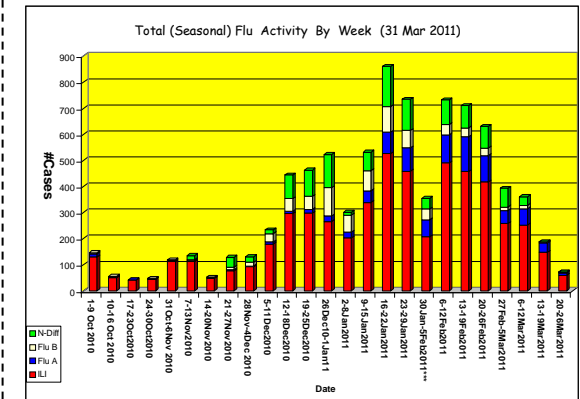
People are exposed to small amounts of radiation every day, both from naturally occurring sources (such as elements in the soil or cosmic rays from the sun), and man-made sources. Man-made sources include some electronic equipment (such as microwave ovens and television sets), medical sources (such as x-rays, certain diagnostic tests, and treatments), and from nuclear weapons testing. The amount of radiation from natural or man-made sources to which people are exposed is usually small; a radiation emergency (such as a nuclear power plant accident or a terrorist event) could expose people to small or large doses of radiation, depending on the situation. Scientists estimate that the average person in the United States receives a dose of about one-third of a rem per year. About 80% of human exposure comes from natural sources and the remaining 20% comes from man-made radiation sources - mainly medical x-rays. Contamination refers to particles of radioactive material that are deposited anywhere that they are not supposed to be, such as on an object or on a person's skin.

Internal contamination refers to radioactive material that is taken into the body through breathing, eating, or drinking. Exposure occurs when radiation energy penetrates the body. For example, when a person has an x-ray, he or she is exposed to radiation. (continued)

Influenza

Influenza surveillance is vital for educating our communities, preparing them for future health emergency situations, and for early detection of the virus's presence in the area. Flu cases are confirmed by rapid test, culture, PCR, or antigen detection. Our influenza sentinels represent a cross section of our medical community. Sentinels submit their statistics weekly from October through March. Please contact us if you wish to become a flu sentinel.

We record and report Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), Flu A, Flu B, and Non-Differentiated (ND) Flu in the area. ILI is defined as fever >100°F with cough and/or sore throat. ND is the designation given when a patient rapid tests positive for the flu but type A or B cannot be determined. The graph represents 1 Oct 2010 through 31 March 2011.



What Happens When People Are Exposed to Radiation? (continued)

Radiation can affect the body in a number of ways, and the adverse health effects of exposure may not be apparent for many years.

These adverse health effects can range from mild effects, such as skin reddening, to serious effects such as cancer and death, depending on the amount of radiation absorbed by the body (the dose), the type of radiation, the route of exposure, and the length of time a person was exposed.

Exposure to very large doses of radiation may cause death within a few days or months.

Exposure to lower doses of radiation may lead to an increased risk of developing cancer or other adverse health effects later in life. (Source; www.cdc.gov)