

Infectious Diseases

Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites cause disease that can lead to death. The burden of disease can also include disability, missed work time, and cost of care, and affect mental health. Nearly 70,000 Americans die each year from infectious diseases. Many recover from infectious diseases but live with chronic illness or altered health. Public Health interventions (vaccines, hand washing, indoor plumbing, etc.) decrease deaths and minimize the effects of illnesses. New and re-emerging infections, germs that are resistant to medications, and increased travel emphasize how important it is to monitor, prevent, and control the spread of disease.

Reportable Infectious Diseases

In 2017, 458 cases of infectious diseases in Carver County residents were reported to the Minnesota Department of Health. The most reported disease was chlamydia (204) followed by influenza cases that required hospitalization (87). Many infectious diseases are not reportable and some that are reportable, like sexually transmitted infections, may go undetected.

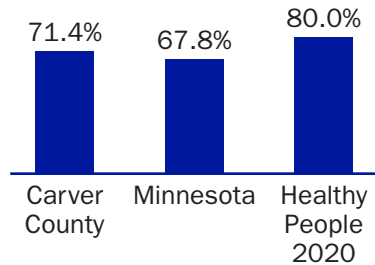
Immunizations

Vaccines are one of the best weapons we have against a number of serious diseases. Because vaccines are available at low or no cost to those who need them, historically Minnesota has not seen disparities in vaccination by population. In 2008, however, state and local public health officials became concerned about the declining rate of vaccination.

Since 2011, local and state efforts have increased community outreach and public education activities to improve vaccination rates.

- In 2018, 71% of Carver County children age 24–35 months had completed the childhood immunization series, which includes seven vaccines that should be given by age 2 if following CDC recommendations.

Childhood Immunization Series Completion, 2018



Source: Minnesota Public Health Data Access Portal, 2018



Diseases Preventable by Immunization

- Pertussis (whooping cough): In 2018, there were 13 confirmed and probable cases reported in Carver County residents and 450 total cases reported in Minnesota.
- Measles: 75 cases were reported in Minnesota in 2017. This was the state's largest outbreak since 1990 (75 cases). While no cases were reported in Carver County, Carver County Public Health was active to assure several preventive actions were taken to promote measles prevention.
- Mumps: 13 confirmed and probable cases reported in Minnesota in 2017; no cases were reported in Carver County.

Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacteria that usually attacks the lungs; however, TB bacteria can attack many parts of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. As a result, two TB-related conditions exist: latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

- In 2018 there were 2 confirmed cases of TB disease and 12 latent TB cases that were managed by Carver County Public Health.
- In 2018, MN was faced with an outbreak of MDR TB or active TB disease that is drug resistant; no cases were reported in Carver County.

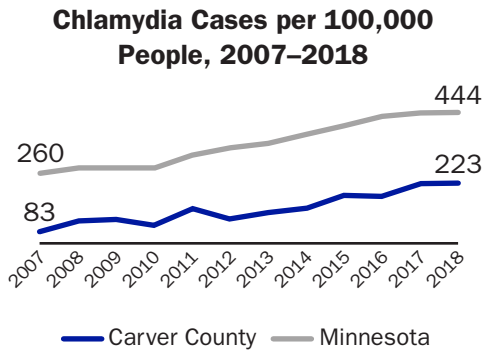
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Sexually transmitted infections are the most frequently reported infectious disease in Carver County. Many STIs have no signs and symptoms, and sometimes the symptoms go away but the STI is still present. If left untreated, STIs can lead to complications such as infertility in men and women, plus pregnancy complications and pelvic inflammatory disease in women.

- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STI, with 203 cases reported in Carver County residents in 2018. Chlamydia cases in Carver County have grown over 60% since 2007.
- There were 38 reported cases of Gonorrhea in Carver County in 2018. This number has grown by 60% since 2013.
- Adolescents and young adults accounted for 61% of chlamydia and 43% of gonorrhea cases diagnosed in Minnesota.
- The number of people with syphilis in Minnesota has increased by almost 50% over the past five years. There were 292 cases in the state in 2018, with 91 in the suburban areas of the Twin Cities metro, and 2 of those cases in Carver County.

Cervical Cancer

Almost all cervical cancer is caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV). It is also linked to head, neck, and throat cancers. In 2006, a vaccine was developed that prevents types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer.



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings, 2018; Minnesota Department of Health STD Statistics, 2018

- In 2018, 35% of Carver County adolescents aged 13–19 were fully vaccinated for HPV.
- According to the National Immunization Survey (NIS), only 46.9% of Minnesotans of this age group has full vaccine coverage.

Pap tests look for cancers and precancers in the cervix. Precancers are cell changes that can be caused by HPV. The traditional test for early detection of HPV has been the Pap test. For women age 30 and over, an HPV test is also recommended.

- 37% of Carver County adult women between 18 and 34 years have never had a Pap test.

Seasonal Influenza

On average, 5 to 20% the U.S. population gets seasonal influenza every year. Vaccination has been shown to have many benefits including reducing the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and even the risk of flu-related death in children.

- 60% of Carver County residents have received a flu shot in the last year, 25% had one more than a year ago, and around 13% have never had a flu vaccine.
- Eastern Carver County residents are more likely to report a current flu vaccine, with 67% reporting having had one in the last year compared to 56% of those in Western Carver County.
- In 2017, there were 87 cases of influenza that required hospitalization in Carver County.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). Key Facts about Seasonal Flu Vaccine. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/keyfacts.htm>

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