

May 14, 2019

Washington County Public Health Advisory Council

# Public Health Modernization Regional Communicable Disease Data Sharing Project

Alex Coleman, MPH

Sr. Program Coordinator



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



*Healthy People, Thriving Communities*



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
Public Health



# Public Health Modernization

- Oregon Legislature recognized the need for significant changes to the governmental public health system as a foundational aspect of health system transformation
- Convened a taskforce that developed recommendations to modernize the governmental public health system identifying key programming areas and foundational capabilities

Additional programs

Foundational programs

Foundational capabilities



Present at every local health department

Source: HB 2348 Task Force Report: Modernizing Oregon's Public Health System, 2014

# Current Public Health Modernization Work

- Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties were jointly awarded a grant to develop a regional infrastructure around communicable disease control while addressing specific communicable needs within each county
- Regionally the three counties decided to focus on communicable disease data visualization and how data is reported back to communities

# Regional Data Sharing and Visualization

- Engaging with community partners to better understand how community partners engage with and use communicable disease data
- Improve how and when we report data back to community organizations and the public
- Develop guidelines on best practices for engaging with community to ensure that data being reported out is meaningful and useful, and accurately represents the communities reflected in the data

# Communicable Disease Surveillance Systems

- Communicable disease programs in local jurisdictions receive daily reports from health care providers and laboratories for over 90 legally required reportable diseases, as well as reports from the public
- Communicable disease programs collect large quantities of data on community health

# Reporting Data to the Community

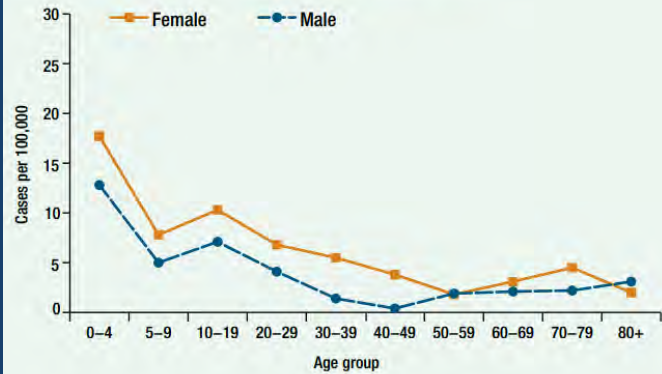
## >> Selected Reportable Communicable Disease Summary



**Oregon**  
**Health**  
Authority  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

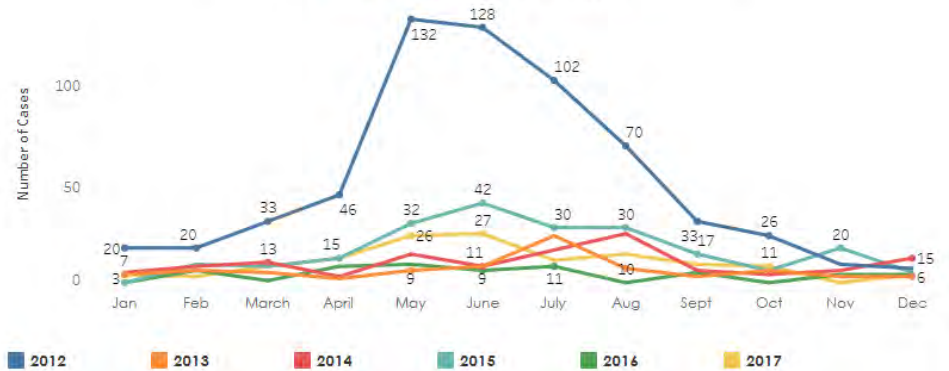


Incidence of STEC infection by age and sex: Oregon, 2016

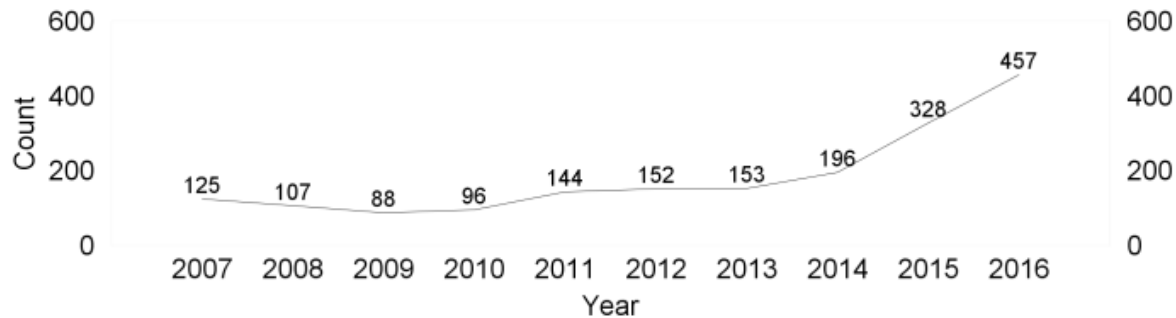


Monthly Number of Metro Area Cases by Year Comparison

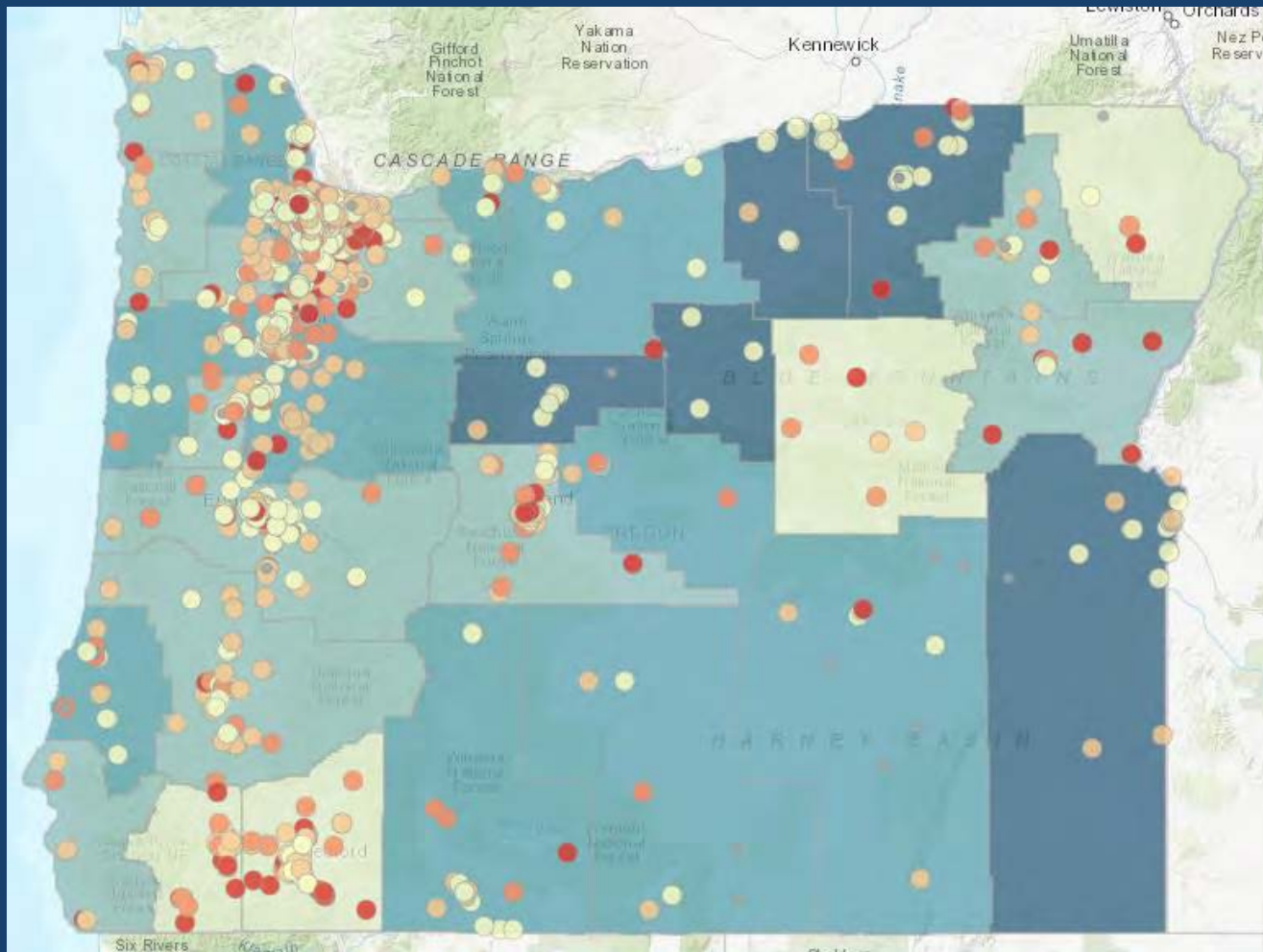
This chart filters by date type but not by year



Gonorrhea Cases by Year, Washington, 2007-2016







# Problems with Current Data Reporting Practices

- Often data reported back to the community highlights health disparities experienced by communities of color and other marginalized communities
- Data often doesn't accurately represent impacted communities
- Data is presented in ways that re-traumatize and further stigmatize affected communities

# Engaging Community Partners

- Oregon Health Equity Alliance
- Oregon Community Health Worker Association
- Clackamas County Public Health Advisory Council
- Urban League of Portland

# Feedback from the PHAC

- What types of communicable disease data do community partners want access to?
- How should data be reported out to the community?
- How can we improve access to communicable disease data?