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EPI EXAMINER

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

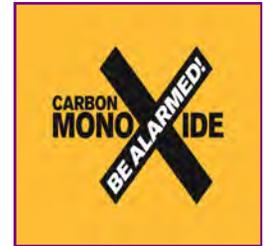
DECEMBER, 2014

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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - Disease Summary:

In December 2014, four cases of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (FLDOH in Broward). This is higher than the five-year monthly average of less than one case. Out of the four cases, three were confirmed and one was probable. All of the cases were exposed in Florida. All the cases were associated with an outbreak .



Food Recalls:

The following food products were distributed in Florida and are being recalled due to a potential health risk in the month of December 2014:

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Perfect Bar	Peanut Butter and Cranberry Crunch	12/19/2014	Salmonella
Global Garlic Inc.	Cuajada Fresca, Cuajada Olanchana 12 oz. (Fresh Curd)	12/09/2014	Listeria Monocytogenes
Overhill Farms	Open Nature Chile Cheese Enchiladas	12/03/2014	Salmonella

Table 1 . Provisional Cases* of Selected Notifiable Disease, Broward County, Florida, December, 2014

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	December			Cumulative (YTD)		December			Cumulative (YTD)	
	2014	2013	Mean	2014	2013	2014	2013	Mean	2014	2013
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	14	14	11	214	192	231	229	175.4	3018	2630
Cryptosporidiosis	3	3	1.2	54	24	109	30	37	1885	414
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing Infection**	4	8	4	40	52	34	44	29.8	528	514
Giardiasis	8	8	10.8	116	81	79	111	139.6	1151	1117
Salmonellosis	39	39	42.8	521	484	446	531	540.4	6316	6339
Shigellosis	16	41	13	490	147	191	146	121	2604	1077
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias										
Haemophilus Influenza Invasive Disease	1	4	1.4	28	18	17	34	24.2	258	272
Meningitis, Bacterial Or Mycotic	2	3	2.4	16	18	16	17	18.6	134	152
Meningococcal Disease	0	2	0.4	6	12	3	6	3.2	52	63
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease:										
Drug Resistant	2	5	6.6	40	49	22	49	69.6	375	538
Drug Susceptible	6	5	6.2	34	51	37	55	72.4	409	555
C. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	0	1	0.8	5	7	12	8	13.6	107	133
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen In Pregnant Women	2	6	6.6	127	41	44	42	43	506	483
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	2	2	21	19	39	35	31	430	376
D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Chikungunya Fever	12	-	-	82	-	49	-	-	441	-
Rabies, Possible Exposure	1	0	0.6	3	11	336	266	276	2950	2733
Malaria	2	2	2.2	9	5	7	4	8	52	54
E. Others										
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	4	0	0.6	13	0	29	13	17.2	185	176
Legionellosis	3	2	1.8	29	30	24	33	21	284	265
Lead Poisoning	1	76	20.6	35	77	68	171	120.6	809	747
Pertussis	0	1	0.4	19	15	22	77	34.6	714	735
Pesticide related illness & Injury	0	2	0.4	-	2	35	15	7.8	69	68
Vibriosis (Vibrio parahaemolyticus)	0	1	0.2	1	2	5	8	3	30	55

* Confirmed, Probable, Suspect and Unknown Cases based on date of report as reported in Merlin.

† Mean of the number of cases of the same month in the previous five years

Highlighted diseases/condition are higher than expected for the current month in Broward

** Includes E. coli O157:H7; shiga-toxin positive, serogroup non-O157; and shiga-toxin positive, not serogrouped

The Merlin system is Florida's state repository of reportable disease case reports, including automated notification of staff about individual cases of high priority diseases. Data is extracted using event date which is usually the date of onset of illness, and when that is unknown, event date may be date of lab report, or date of diagnosis.

The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) was developed by Johns Hopkins University and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. It is a syndromic surveillance tool used to monitor potential bioterrorism threats and reportable diseases. Chief complaint data is transmitted daily to the ESSENCE system from participating hospital emergency rooms. Florida Department of health in Broward County monitors a total of 17 reporting hospitals in Broward County. ESSENCE groups the chief complaint data into twelve syndrome groups, including: botulism-like, exposure, fever, gastrointestinal (GI), hemorrhagic, influenza-like-illness (ILI), neurological, rash, respiratory, shock/coma, injury, and other. ESSENCE creates automatic warnings or alerts for the monitoring of the twelve syndrome groups by comparing statistical differences in observed and predicted disease based on a 28-day average. Specialized queries have also been developed to monitor Florida state reportable diseases in Broward County. When an observed value is statistically higher at the $p < .05$ level, a yellow warning flag is generated.

Figure 1. ESSENCE Daily Emergency Department Visits, Broward, December, 2014

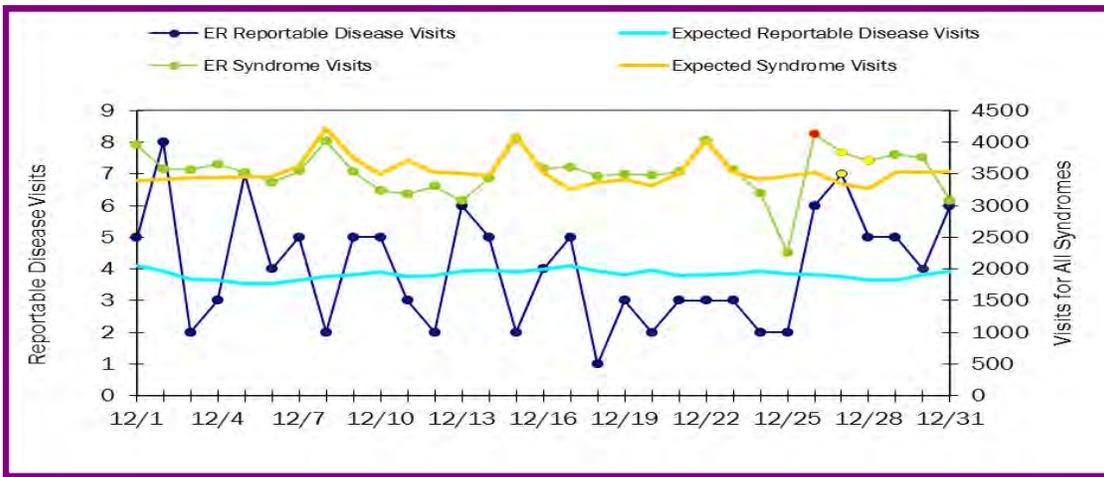


Figure 1. There is one warning and no alerts for E.R reportable disease visits; and two warnings and one alert for E.R syndromic visits .

Warning - Yellow data point
Alert - Red data point

Table 1. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Diseases and Chief Complaint Syndromes, December, 2014

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	None	27	Botulism-like Illness	None	1, 28, 29, 30
Vaccine Preventable Diseases ¹	None	None	Exposure	None	2
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever*	None	None
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	9	4, 5, 10	Gastrointestinal Illness	2, 8	None
Varicella (chicken pox)	22, 23, 26, 27	28	Hemorrhagic Illness	15	1, 26
Vector Borne Diseases	None	29	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)*	1	2, 15, 21, 22, 26
Dengue	None	None	Injury	5	6, 7, 27
Encephalitis	None	None	Neurological	None	None
Malaria	None	None	Rash	1, 29	22, 27, 28
Chikungunya	None	None	Respiratory*	1	2, 15, 22, 26
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	8	10	Shock/Coma	11, 12, 17	10, 16, 18, 20
General Enterics ²	8	10	Other Illness	27, 28	26
Vomit and Diarrhea	None	21, 22, 23			

*The increased alerts and warnings of ILI and respiratory symptoms in the syndromic reporting is the result of ongoing flu season.

¹ Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio

² Cryptosporidium, cyclospora, shigellosis, shigella, salmonellosis, salmonella, ciguatera, campylobacteriosis, cholera, E. coli, and vibrio

Influenza Surveillance

Chantal Hall, M.P.H.

Influenza activity is elevated nationally. In Florida, influenza activity is widespread. It has decreased in recent weeks in some surveillance systems and it appears that the season has peaked. The most common influenza subtype detected at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks has been influenza A (H3). Emergency department visits for Influenza Like Illness (ILI) is highest in children under 5 and those 65 and older. Broward flu activity is moderate.

Figure 2. ESSENCE ILI Visits, Broward, 2014-2015

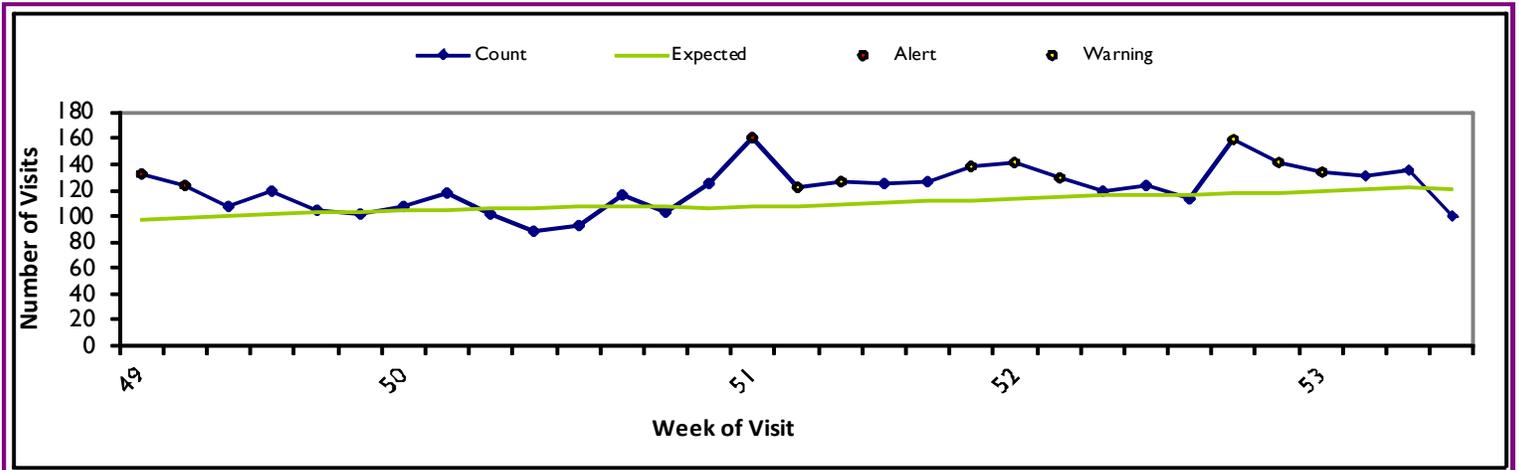


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2014-2015

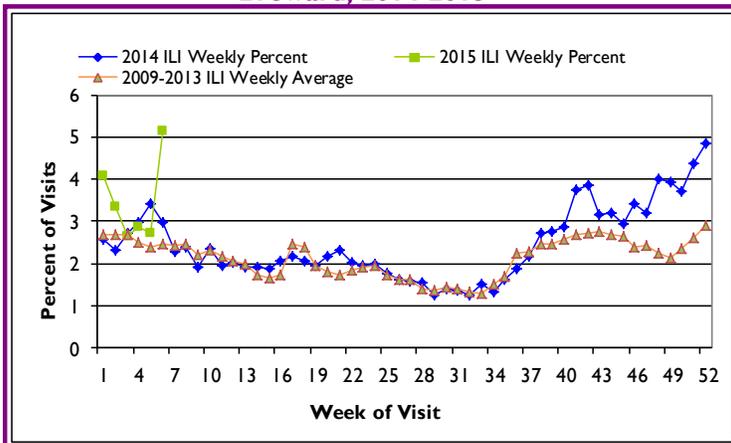
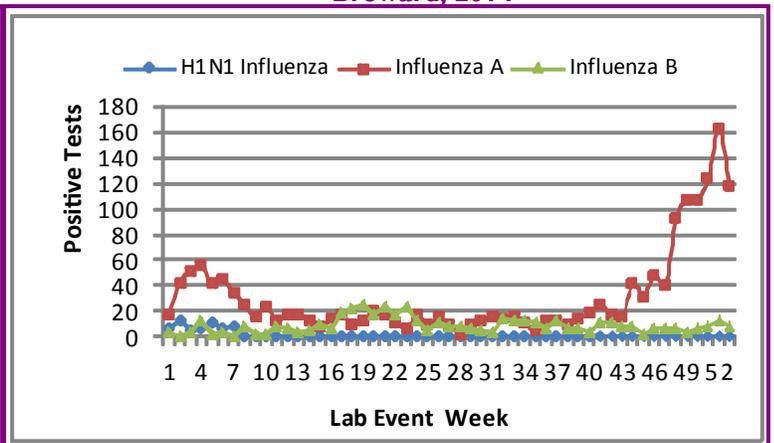


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2014



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was slightly elevated for the month of December (week 49 to week 52) with several warnings and alerts (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to influenza like illness (ILI) was slightly higher than normal for this time of year (Fig. 3). According to Merlin—Flu Lab Reports, the number of positive tests for Influenza A was found in majority as compared to other types.

Influenza Prevention Recommendations

Florida Department Health in Broward County recommends that everyone take precautions to prevent the spread of influenza. The flu is a contagious disease, caused by the influenza virus, and spreads to others when infected persons cough, sneeze or talk. Common symptoms of the flu include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (more common among children than adults). Influenza vaccines have protected millions of people safely for decades. The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine as the first and best way to protect against influenza. This recommendation is the same even during years when the vaccine composition (the viruses the vaccine protects against) remains unchanged from the previous season. Everyone 6 months and older is encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu even if they got vaccinated last season.

Other recommendations include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick, keep sick children home and check with a health care provider, as needed.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.

