

## Shigellosis

In 2015, 182 cases of shigellosis were reported; 58.8% were associated with international travel. The 2015 incidence rate (3.9/100,000) was higher than the previous two years, but similar to the years prior to that. Incidence rates were highest in Vancouver and among males aged 25-59 years. Shigellosis can be transmitted via food and from person-to-person, including via sexual contact. Previous analyses of BC data have demonstrated that higher rates of shigellosis in adult males may in part be due sexual transmission among men who have sex with men<sup>1</sup>. Males were at a greater risk of acquiring shigellosis locally compared to females, especially among those aged 20-59 years<sup>1</sup>.

Cases were reported throughout the year with a large increase the week of October 18 (week 42), and an increase during the winter months. Twelve of the 15 cases reported during the week of October 18 were *Shigella sonnei* infections in adult males from Metro-Vancouver and four cases traveled internationally.

Multiple different strains were involved and no specific outbreak or common exposure was identified.

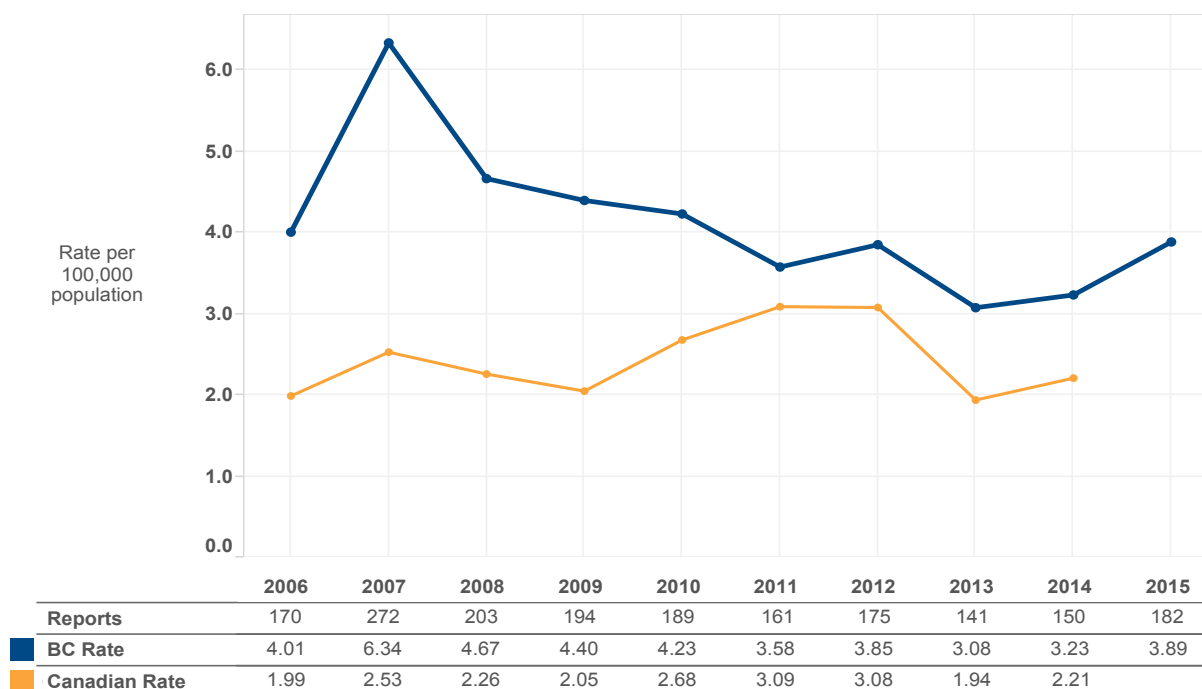
In 2015, *S. sonnei* surpassed *S. flexneri* as the most common species reported. During 2009-2014, *S. flexneri* was the prevalent infecting species (50.7%) and *S. sonnei* accounted for 42.1% of cases. In 2003-2008, *S. sonnei* accounted for 65.0% of shigellosis cases<sup>1</sup>. The reasons for this shift are unknown. Nationally, the annual incidence of *S. sonnei* exceeded that of *S. flexneri* in 2004-2013, with the exception of 2009, when the two species had similar incidence rates<sup>2</sup>.

Two regional outbreaks of *Shigella sonnei* were reported in 2015; one in a homeless shelter and one associated with a restaurant. Each outbreak had four lab-confirmed cases identified.

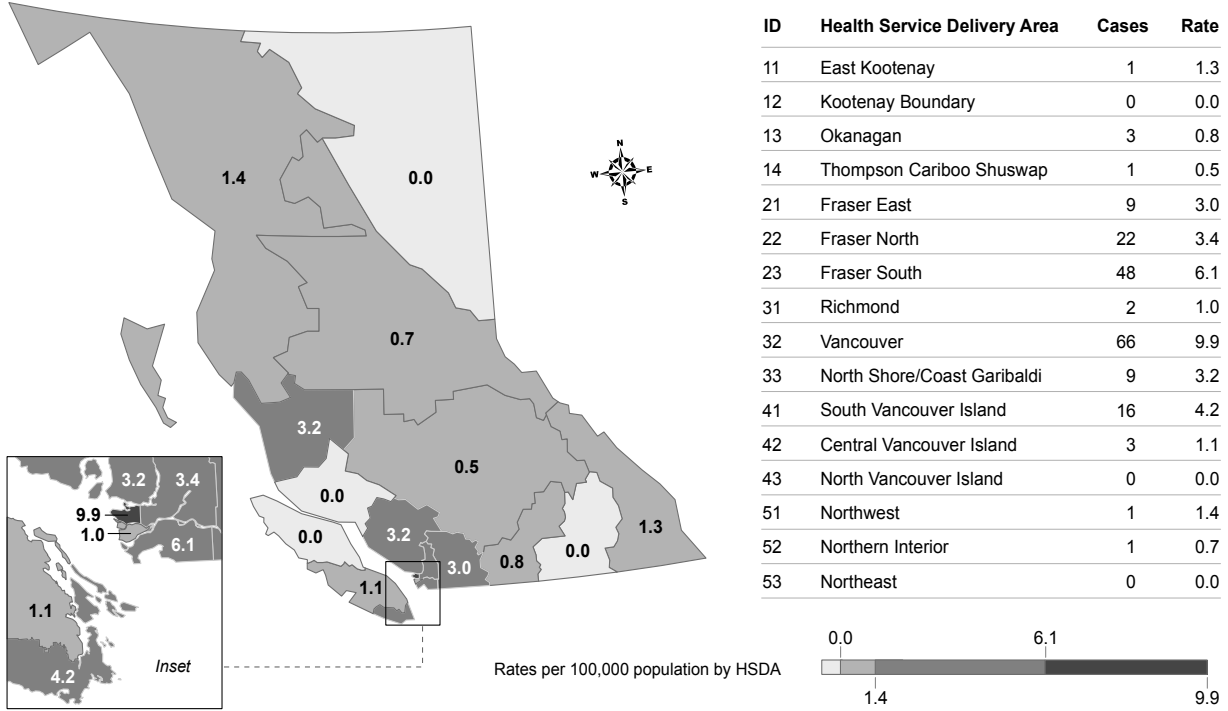


1. Narayan S, Galanis E, BC STEI Group. Are enteric infections sexually transmitted in British Columbia? CCDR: Volume 42-2, February 4, 2016. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/16vol42/dr-rm42-2/ar-01-eng.php>.
2. Government of Canada. National Enteric Surveillance Program Annual Summary 2013: Public Health Agency of Canada, Guelph, 2015.

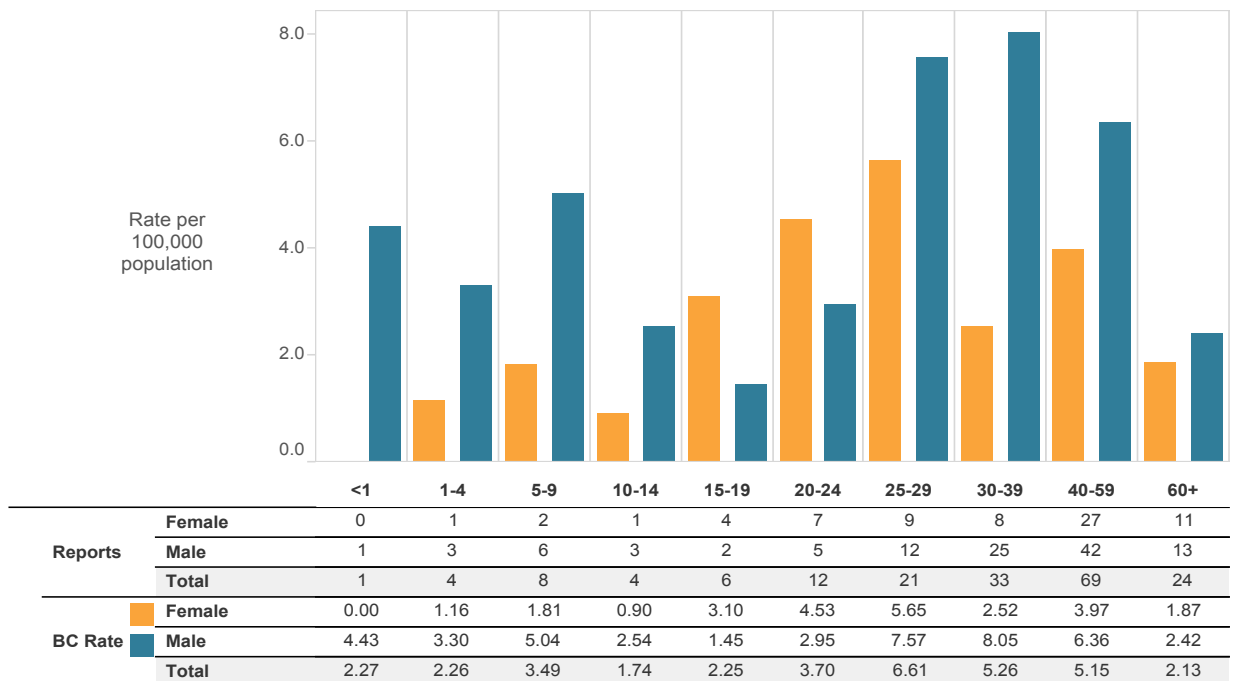
### 11.1 Shigellosis Rates by Year, 2006-2015



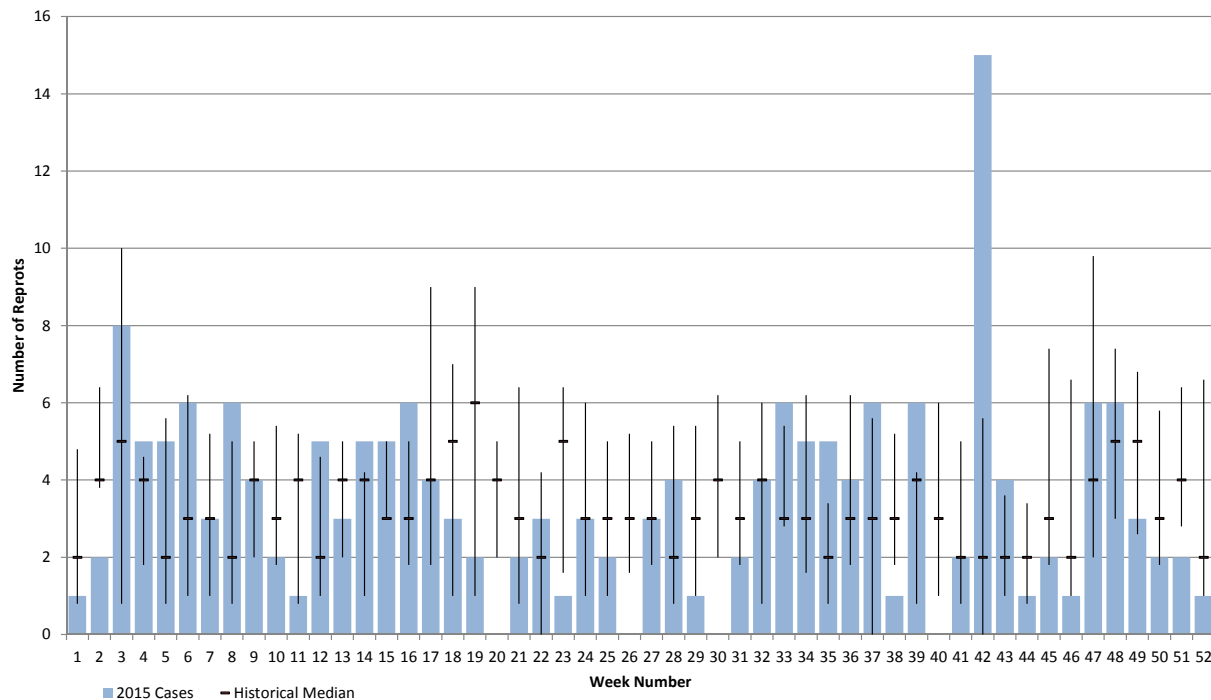
**11.2 Shigellosis Rates by HSDA, 2015**



**11.3 Shigellosis Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2015**



### 11.4 2015 Shigellosis Reports Compared to Historical Median and the 10th and 90th Percentiles Around the Median (2005 to 2014)



### 11.5 Shigella Species Distribution, 2015

Rank	Species	Number of Cases	Proportion
1	<i>sonnei</i>	104	66.2%
2	<i>flexneri</i>	42	26.8%
3	<i>boydii</i>	5	3.2%
3	<i>dysenteriae</i>	5	3.2%
	<i>Unknown/unspecified</i>	1	0.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Species distribution is based on BCCDC PHL data. Numbers may vary from those reported in Panorama.