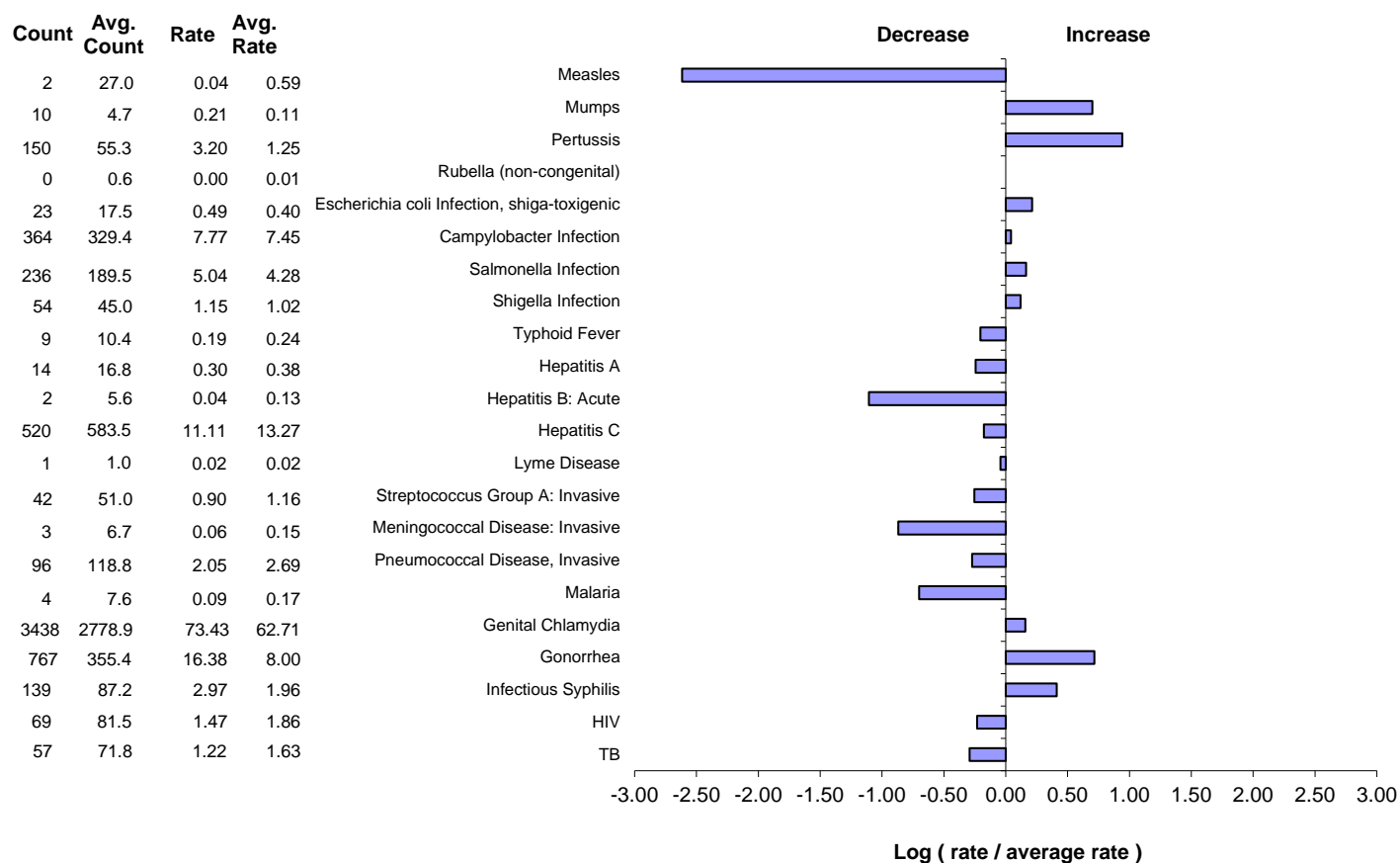


Quarterly Incidence of Selected Communicable Diseases

Selected Communicable Diseases Monthly Report Quarter 1, 2015



Note: Report regenerated on November 3, 2015. Previous version may be incorrect.

Measure:	The ratio (in natural log scale) of the quarterly incidence rate to the average of the same quarter for the past 10 years for selected communicable diseases across British Columbia based on reportable disease notifications to BCCDC from Health Authorities.
Limitations:	These reports are based on passively notified case reports made to local public health authorities. There may be incomplete reporting or delayed reporting. The log ratio does not offer direct interpretation for the magnitude of increase or decrease in incidence rate.
Sources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panorama and weekly PARIS data uploads for Vancouver Coastal Health Authority ▪ Enhanced Invasive Meningococcal Disease database¹ ▪ Enhanced Invasive Group A Streptococcus database¹ ▪ STI Division for genital Chlamydia, gonorrhea, infectious syphilis and HIV (new positive tests) ▪ TB Division for tuberculosis²

¹ For Streptococcus Group A; Invasive Meningococcal Disease, only data since 2002 were used to calculate the historical rate.

² Tuberculosis data included in this report are lagged by one quarter due to additional time needed for laboratory confirmation of cases and represent the previous quarter.

Trend: There was a large increase in Chlamydia cases in 2015 Q1 compared with 2014 Q1. Further investigation is underway as to the reason for this. The data also reflect a continuing decline in new HIV cases in BC. The Northwest HSDA in Northern Health Authority continues to experience ongoing pertussis activity in Quarter 1, following a large-scale outbreak in the Haida Gwaii and Prince Rupert regions last spring, with outbreak response measures in place until mid-August and ongoing monitoring continuing across the region thereafter. Heightened pertussis activity was also observed in the Vancouver Island Health Authority, particularly in South Vancouver Island, during this period, indicative of asynchronous activity in this region.

Comments: Monitoring of notifiable diseases is an important activity in BC for evaluation of the effectiveness of control programs and for detection and response to outbreaks. Note that targets are not specified as with few exceptions, these diseases are not under elimination strategies. Declines are anticipated for diseases with active prevention programs such as vaccine preventable diseases. Endemic rates of enteric and sexually transmitted diseases are expected.

Action Plan:

Action Plan	Timeline	Expected Outcomes/Impact	Progress Notes
Promotion of routine and recommended vaccines for all British Columbians.	Annual and ongoing promotion of routine vaccination;	Higher levels of vaccine uptake in all populations and improved control of vaccine preventable diseases.	Development of tools and materials including mass media and social networking messages to promote immunization.
Improved surveillance of notifiable diseases through electronic data receipt from laboratories.	Development of common data standards by laboratory services in British Columbia for electronic reporting of notifiable diseases.	More timely and complete reporting of notifiable disease cases from laboratories in BC.	A provincial laboratory information system has been developed and is in the process of being implemented in BC.