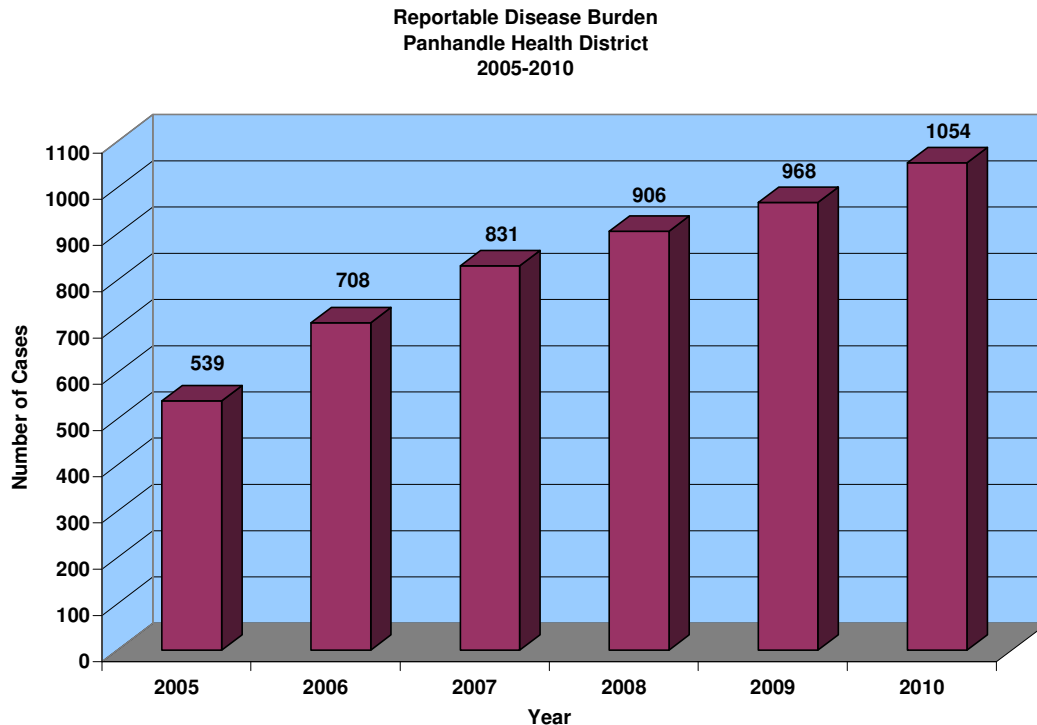


2010 Summary of Panhandle Health Epidemiology Services

One thousand fifty four (1054) cases of reportable diseases were received and investigated in 2010. This is the highest number of reports ever received in one year. The population-based incidence rate of reportable disease has increased from 364 cases per 100,000 population in 2005 to 493 cases per 100,000 population in 2010.



Six hundred sixty cases, 63% of all reported cases, were sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Hepatitis C cases remained at a stable level. The enteric diseases, Cryptosporidiosis, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, and Campylobacteriosis, caused diarrheal illnesses and were responsible for 8% of reportable diseases in 2010. Elevated lead levels in 53 of the 62 reported cases were miners in Shoshone County.

Pertussis caused a confirmed outbreak with community wide spread in Kootenai County. This outbreak began in November of 2009 and officially ended August 1, 2010. PHD epidemiologists interviewed patients and recommended standard control measures for containment: treatment of cases, prophylaxis of contacts, and isolation of the ill during the infectious period. School nurses were instrumental in enforcing the isolation of school children at home during the contagious period and interrupting the further spread of disease in the schools. Pertussis caused an epidemic in California with over 8,000 cases and 10 infant deaths. Pertussis in North Idaho caused 74 cases and no infant deaths. PHD epidemiologists will continue to aggressively investigate all Pertussis cases and advocate for child and adult vaccination against this potentially lethal disease.