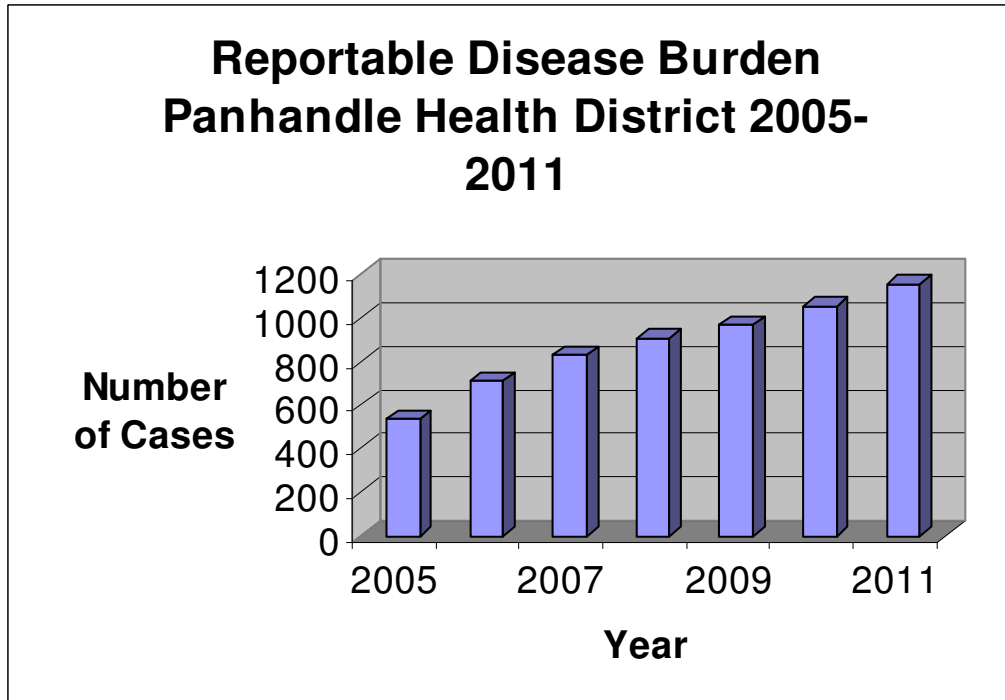


## 2011 Summary of Panhandle Health District Epidemiology Services

One thousand one hundred and fifty three (1153) cases of reportable diseases were received and investigated in 2011. Once again this is the highest number of cases ever received in one year. During this time the epidemiology staff has lost one full time equivalent employee.



Six hundred and sixty one (57%) of all reported cases were sexually transmitted diseases. One hundred and seventy (15%) of all reported cases were chronic Hepatitis C cases. Hepatitis C cases continue to rise most likely due to increased testing within the older population. One hundred and seventeen (10%) of all reported cases were enteric diseases. There were 52 reported elevated blood lead levels, almost all of which were in miners from Shoshone County. The Panhandle Health District investigated one active case of Tuberculosis within the district with no secondary cases identified at this time. It is unknown where this case acquired Tuberculosis but the case did have travel outside the district in the past. There were six outbreaks that were investigated during 2011. There were two Norovirus outbreaks, two Pertussis outbreaks, one E. coli outbreak, and one Salmonellosis outbreak. The two Norovirus outbreaks were in Long Term Care Facilities with several hospitalizations and no deaths. One of the Pertussis outbreaks was concentrated in the Benewah County area and the other concentrated within several pockets of illness in western Kootenai County. There were several hospitalizations and no deaths reported with these Pertussis outbreaks. The E. coli outbreak involved a summer camp on Lake Coeur d' Alene. Almost all the cases were camp counselors sharing several living quarters at the camp. This outbreak coincided with an international E. coli outbreak concentrated in Germany. After samples were tested it was determined that the outbreaks were not related. The Salmonella outbreak was a part of a multi-state outbreak. Raw seed sprouts were the suspected food borne agent involved. This year one bat from Boundary County tested positive for the rabies virus. The bat exposed several family dogs which were quarantined and released after showing no signs of illness.