

# Epidemics, Threats & Emergencies

The Metro Public Health Department (MPHD) is committed to preventing, detecting, and alleviating outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health threats and emergencies among Davidson County residents.

## Emergency Response:

MPHD works to ensure that all government, business, health care systems, organizations, and the public are prepared for large scale epidemics and emergencies.

- In the past year, MHPD has tested its POD, CHEMPACK and Biohazard Detection System plans.
- All MPHD staff have received appropriate emergency preparedness training in the past year.
- MPHD has become certified as a Medical Reserve Corp. Anyone interested in volunteering can email [health.volunteer@nashville.gov](mailto:health.volunteer@nashville.gov) or call Todd Baker at 340-0535.

## Tuberculosis:

Primarily considered a lung disease, TB can attack any part of the body such as the brain, spine, and kidneys. Left untreated, TB can be fatal.

- Since 2008, the rate of TB has decreased by 51.2%.
- During this same period, the percent of foreign-born cases has increased from 44.2% to 60.5%

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases:

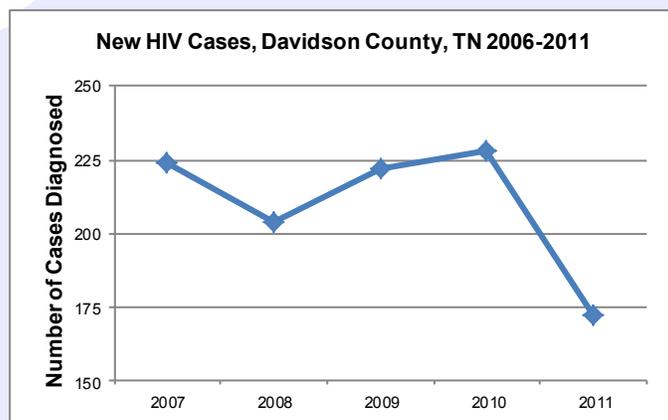
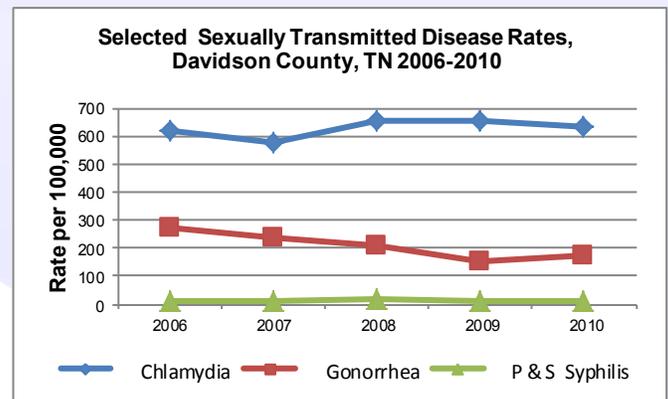
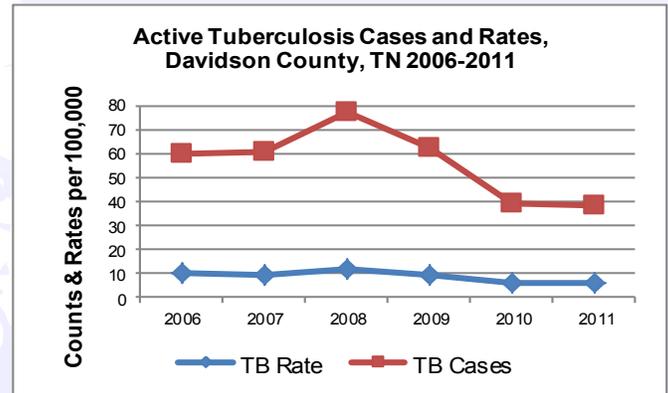
The cost of STDs to the U.S. health care system is estimated to be as much as \$15.9 billion annually.

- Chlamydia is the most common STD in Davidson County, with 3,471 cases reported in 2010.
- The number of cases of gonorrhea has decreased each year between 2006 and 2009, but increased slightly in 2010.
- Syphilis cases increased from 2006 to 2009, but started to decline in 2010.

## HIV Infections:

CDC estimates that more than 1.2 million people are living with HIV disease in the United States. One in five (21%) people living with HIV disease are unaware of their infection and are not accounted for in the 1.2 million HIV-positive individuals.

- The number of new HIV cases diagnosed in 2011 was lower than any of the previous 4 years. There was a 19% decrease from 2010-2011.
- Persons 15-24 years of age accounted for over 26% of new HIV disease cases in 2011, while less than 13% in 2007.



- Unlike other programs within the Health Department, the Ryan White Part A Program monitors the care received by HIV-positive people in a 13 county area in Middle Tennessee.
- Davidson County residents account for 77% of HIV disease cases in this region.

