



Healthy Choices • Healthy People • Healthy Communities

# The Importance of Vaccination

**Physician remembers the tragedies of vaccine-preventable disease**

*The following letter to the editor appeared in the Spring/Summer 2000 issue of NEEDLE TIPS.*

I am one of the increasingly rare old-timers who lived during the pre-vaccination era. I am the second to the last of thirteen siblings, five of whom died of vaccine-preventable diseases in infancy. Born to poor immigrant parents, I remember well my mother's account of the causes of their deaths-- three from "la tussa forte" ("tussa" derives from the same stem from which we get pertussis) and two from "rosolia" (measles). Even after many years had passed, she spoke of these "morte d.angeli" (death of her angels) with a great deal of emotion. Imagine losing not one, two, three, or four, but five babies! It was common in the pre-vaccine era. Like our family, many families lost several children to these diseases.

We forget. Time blurs our memories of these common tragedies of yesteryear. I remember well, during the winter and spring of each year, hearing the whoop of pertussis in movie theaters, school assemblies, and assorted gatherings. Today, few have ever heard this, and those who have, forget. I remember the summer outbreaks of polio, the crippled children who could no longer walk or walked with limb-distorted limbs. As a third- and fourth-year medical student, I remember answering the appeals of hospital administrators who could not find the nursing staff for special duty tending to the needs of polio patients in "iron lungs". We forget. I remember the awful cases of measles my own children experienced. I remember the children with smallpox during the years my family lived in Pakistan. I remember those who lost their sight from lesions in their eyes. I remember those who died. We forget.

In memory of all of them, I commend Immunization Action Coalition and others who share "Unprotected People" stories to remind those who have been spared these tragedies that most of these illnesses are still a threat. And, they can be prevented. Easily. We forget.

Thank you for promoting vaccines in such a unique way by telling the stories of the vaccine-preventable disease tragedies. So people won't forget.

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## May 2011 Statistics



### Fayette County Health Department

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#### Phone:

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WIC 283-5037  
Home Health 283-7262

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WIC 618-283-4195  
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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Clinics

#### By Appointment Only

Tuesdays 8:00-12:00  
1:00-4:00

- Lab Clinic
- Adult & Adolescent Immunizations
- TB Testing

#### Fridays (Schedule Varies)

- Children's Immunizations
- TB Assessments
- Lead Screenings

## Family & Clinical Services

### WIC

Active WIC Clients.....	774
WIC Services.....	272
Breast Feeding Contacts.....	154
Breast Feeding Peer Counseling.....	99

### Family Case Management

Active Families.....	305
EPSDTs.....	55
Pregnancy Tests.....	5
ASQ:SE.....	82
Edinburghs.....	39
Developmental Screenings.....	82
Home Visits.....	2
APORS Visits.....	6
Healthwork Clients.....	19

### Healthy Families Illinois

Families Served.....	37
Home Visits.....	90
Screenings.....	05

### Doula

Families Served.....	17
Home Visits.....	54
Doula Assisted Deliveries.....	2

### TPS

Clients.....	18
Graduated High School/GED.....	6

### Genetics

Screenings.....	28
Clinics.....	1
Patients Seen In Clinic.....	7
Paternity Testing.....	3

### Immunizations

Children.....	328
Adult.....	50
Lab Draws.....	28
Adult Injections.....	9

### Lead

Lead Screenings.....	27
Active Lead Cases.....	2

### Flu

Clinics.....	0
AdultFlu Vaccinations.....	0
Pneumonia Vaccinations.....	0
Child Flu Vaccinations.....	0
Child Flu Mist.....	0

### Diabetes

Diabetes Participants.....	370
New Participants Enrolled.....	1
Annual Follow Ups.....	10

### Smoking Cessation

New Break the Habit Smoking Cessation ..	
Clients.....	2
Tobacco Quitline Calls.....	33

### Communicable Disease

New Cases.....	8
Cases Closed.....	7

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

STD Cases Received & Reported.....	2
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### Tuberculosis

Investigations.....	0
New Prophylactic Patients.....	0
New Active Cases.....	0
TB Tests.....	21
TB Screenings.....	5

### HOME HEALTH

Number of Current Patients.....	56
Total Served.....	76
Total Number of Visits.....	503
Foot Care.....	40

### HOSPICE

Number of Patients.....	9
Number of Volunteers.....	15
Families in Bereavement.....	142

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

#### Food Safety

Inspections.....	24
Re-Inspections.....	0
Spot Checks.....	0
Complaints.....	1
Pre-Openings.....	2
Permits Issued.....	8
On-line Course.....	0

#### Tanning

Inspections.....	1
Re-Inspections.....	0

#### Private Sewage

Plan Approvals.....	11
Installations.....	7

#### Potable Water

Wells Permitted.....	0
Wells Constructed.....	0
Water Samples.....	1
Non-Community.....	0

#### Complaints

Sewage Complaints.....	0
Nuisance Complaints.....	3
Resolved Complaints.....	1
Referred Complaints.....	3

#### Wells Sealed.....

#### Real Estate Surveys.....

Vandalia Lake.....0

#### West Nile Bird Submission.....

#### Subdivision Review.....

#### Rabies Specimen Submission.....