

HEALTH MATTERS

Newsletter for the Division of Communicable Disease & Epidemiology - Spring 2023

Disease Matters

Extensively Drug-Resistant Shigellosis in the U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been monitoring an increase in extensively drug-resistant (XDR) *Shigella* infections (shigellosis) reported through national surveillance systems. In 2022, about 5% of *Shigella* infections reported to CDC were caused by XDR strains, compared with 0% in 2015 (Figure 1). XDR *Shigella* strains can spread antimicrobial resistance genes to other enteric bacteria. Given these potentially serious public health concerns, CDC asks healthcare professionals to be vigilant about suspecting and reporting cases of XDR *Shigella* infection to their local or state health department and educating patients and communities at increased risk about prevention and transmission.

Shigella bacteria are transmitted by the fecal-oral route, directly through person-to-person contact including sexual contact, and indirectly through contaminated food, water, and other routes. *Shigella* bacteria are easily transmitted because of the low infectious dose (as few as 10–100 organisms), and outbreaks tend to occur among people in close-contact settings.

Historically, shigellosis has predominantly affected young children (age 1–4 years) in the United States. More recently, CDC has observed an increase in antimicrobial-resistant *Shigella* infections among adult populations, especially:

- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM),
- People experiencing homelessness,
- International travelers, and
- People living with HIV.

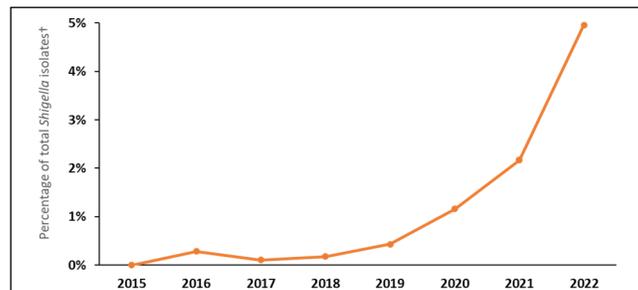
Healthcare professionals are recommended to consider shigellosis in the differential diagnosis of acute diarrhea, especially patients who are at higher risk for *Shigella* infection. For more information, please visit:

- <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00486.asp> and
- <https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/treatment/antibiotic-resistance-general.html>.



Shigella bacteria cause an infection called shigellosis. *Shigella* cause an estimated 450,000 infections in the United States each year and an estimated \$93 million in direct medical costs.

Figure 1: Percentage of *Shigella* isolates that showed an extensively drug resistant (XDR) phenotype or genotype in the U.S., by year, 2015–2022



Need to Report a Communicable Disease?



Call Davis County
Health Department at
801-525-5220



Or fax the [information](#)
to 801-525-5210

Seasonal Matters

Floodwater Safety



With the record amounts of snowfall Utah has received this winter, the increased snowpack is certainly welcome. However, it also poses a higher risk of flooding. We encourage all to be prepared.

Stay out of floodwater

Floodwaters contain many things that may harm health. We don't know exactly what is in floodwater at any given point in time. Floodwater can contain downed power lines, human and livestock waste, hazardous waste, physical objects (lumber, vehicles, and debris), and wild or stray animals.

Exposure to contaminated floodwater can cause wound infection, skin rash, gastrointestinal illness, tetanus, and leptospirosis (not common).

Don't drive in flooded areas—turn around don't drown!

Floodwater can pose a drowning risk for everyone— regardless of their ability to swim. Swiftly moving shallow water can be deadly, and even shallow standing water can be dangerous for small children. Always follow warnings about flooded roads and don't drive in flood areas. Cars or other vehicles won't protect you from floodwaters. They can be swept away or may stall in moving water.

Resources

For more information on floodwater safety, please visit:

- Be Ready Utah: <https://beready.utah.gov/utah-hazards/flood/> and
- CDC Floodwater: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/floodsafety.html>.

Number Matters

Selected Notifiable Diseases, 2022 & 2023

	2022 Year-to-Date	2023* Year-to-Date	% Increase or Decrease Year-to-Date
Campylobacteriosis	10	17	70.0% ↑
Chlamydia	262	276	5.3% ↑
Giardiasis	8	2	75.0% ↓
Gonorrhea	67	35	47.8% ↓
Hepatitis B, chronic	3	4	33.3% ↑
Hepatitis C, acute	2	5	150.0% ↑
Meningitis, bacterial	2	0	100.0% ↓
Meningitis, viral	2	0	100.0% ↓
Norovirus	17	33	94.1% ↑
Pertussis	3	2	33.3% ↓
Salmonellosis	4	8	100.0% ↑
Shiga-toxin producing E. coli	2	4	100.0% ↑
Shigellosis	1	3	200.0% ↑
Syphilis, all stages	9	14	55.6% ↑
Tuberculosis, active disease	0	0	0.0% ↔
Tuberculosis, latent infection	22	22	0.0% ↔

*Data are provisional and subject to change

Calendar Matters

May 9: Board of Health meeting

May 14: Mother's Day

May 14-20: National Women's Health Week

May 29: Memorial Day

June 18: Father's Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 27: National HIV Testing Day

July 4: Independence Day

July 24: Pioneer Day

