

Giardiasis

2008 Case Total	172	2008 Rate	4.72 per 100,000
2007 Case Total	172	2007 Rate	4.98 per 100,000

One hundred seventy-two cases of giardiasis were reported to the OSDH resulting in an incidence rate of 4.72 per 100,000. Of the 172 cases reported, 12 (7%) were epidemiologically linked cases identified during the investigation conducted by the county communicable disease nurse. No geographical differences in disease incidence were notable for giardiasis in Oklahoma. Unlike most other enteric diseases, which have seasonal peaks during the summer months, giardiasis infections occurred throughout the year with no seasonal trend observed. No outbreaks due to *Giardia* were identified in Oklahoma during 2008. Cases ranged in age from less than one year to 108 years with a media age of 25 years. Children under the age of 5 had the highest incidence rate at 14.26 per 100,000 population of disease in 2008 (refer to table).

Giardiasis should be suspected when a patient displays with an infection of the small intestine especially associated with chronic diarrhea, pale and greasy stools, and weight loss. The most common symptoms reported by cases were diarrhea (91%), abdominal cramps (73%), and malaise (62%). Direct examination and identification of cysts or trophozoites in stool (ova and parasite test) is the most widely available and frequently used laboratory method for diagnosis. Because of intermittent shedding of the parasite, three negative specimens are needed to rule out the diagnosis.

Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Giardiasis Cases, Oklahoma, 2008 (N=172)

	Frequency (%)	Rate/100,000
Gender		
Male	91 (53%)	5.05
Female	81 (47%)	4.39
Age	Median= 25 Years (Range <1-108 Years)	--
Age groups		
Less than 5 years	38 (24%)	14.26
5-9	18 (11%)	7.25
10-19	11 (7%)	2.24
20-29	17 (11%)	3.12
30-39	18 (11%)	3.97
40-49	16 (10%)	3.27
50-59	20 (13%)	4.24
60 -69	9 (6%)	2.71
70+	10 (6%)	2.89
Hospitalized	20 (12%)	--
Race		
White	128 (74%)	4.50
Native American/Alaska Native	16 (9%)	5.49
Black/African American	8 (5%)	2.76
Asian	1 (1%)	1.59
Multi-Race	4 (2%)	2.70
Reported Symptoms		
Diarrhea	149 (91%)	--
Cramps	104 (73%)	--
Malaise	86 (62%)	--
Bloating	75 (57%)	--
Fever	51 (34%)	--