

Tularemia

2008 Case Total	7	2008 Rate	0.19 per 100,000
2007 Case Total	18	2007 Rate	0.52 per 100,000

Although tularemia is naturally endemic in Oklahoma, *Francisella tularensis* is classified as a bioterrorism agent and is therefore an immediately notifiable disease. Epidemiologists from the Acute Disease Service investigate all cases upon receipt to identify the source of exposure and evaluate for case clustering or outbreaks. In 2008, 7 cases were reported to the Oklahoma State Department of Health. There are many different presentations of tularemia. Of the reported cases in 2008, 5 presented with ulceroglandular, 1 typhoidal and 1 pneumonic as primary infections. Although trends in disease are not understood entirely, weather changes do affect tick survival. While cases are reported throughout the year, 100% of the reported cases in 2008 had onset of symptoms from May through July. Among cases, commonly reported symptoms include fever, chills, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, ulcers, and headache. Sporadic case investigations are important for surveillance activities and provide an opportunity for patient education on tick bite prevention and the safe handling of animals.

Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Tularemia Cases, Oklahoma, 2007 (N=18)

	Frequency (%)	Rate/100,000
Gender		
Male	5 (71%)	0.28
Female	2 (29%)	0.11
Age	Median= 51Years (Range 12- 87 Years)	--
Hospitalized	5 (71%)	--
Deaths	No Deaths	--
Race		
White	5 (71%)	0.18
Native American/Alaska Native	1 (14%)	0.34
Black/African American	1 (14%)	0.34
Geographical Distribution		
Adair	1 (14%)	4.58
Oklahoma	3 (43%)	0.42
Tulsa	3 (43%)	0.51
Exposures		
Tickbite	4 (80%)	--
Wood Exposure	6 (86%)	--

Reported Number of Tularemia Cases by Year, Oklahoma, 1997-2008

