

Giardiasis

2009 Case Total	175	2009 Rate	4.80 per 100,000
2008 Case Total	172	2008 Rate	4.72 per 100,000

One hundred seventy-five cases of giardiasis were reported to the OSDH resulting in an incidence rate of 4.80 per 100,000. Of the 175 cases reported, 13 (7%) were epidemiologically linked cases identified during investigations conducted by the county communicable disease nurse. Unlike most other enteric diseases, which can have seasonal peaks, giardiasis infections occurred throughout the year with no seasonal trend observed. No outbreaks due to *Giardia* were identified in Oklahoma during 2009. Cases ranged in age from nine months to 91 years with a median age of 32 years. Children under the age of 5 had the highest incidence rate at 13.88 per 100,000 population (refer to table).

Giardiasis should be suspected when a patient experiences an illness characterized by chronic diarrhea, pale and greasy stools, and weight loss. 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, 2009 (N=175)

	Frequency (%)	Rate/100,000
Gender		
Male	88 (50%)	4.89
Female	87 (50%)	4.72
Age	(Range: 9 months-91 Years) Median= 32 Years	
<u>Age groups</u>		
Less than 5 years	37 (21%)	13.88
5-9	17 (10%)	6.85
10-19	14 (8%)	2.85
20-29	14 (8%)	2.57
30-39	15 (9%)	3.31
40-49	27 (15%)	5.51
50-59	23 (13%)	4.88
60 -69	18 (10%)	5.43
70+	10 (6%)	2.89
Hospitalized	25 (14%)	--
<u>Race</u>		
White	116 (66%)	4.08
Native American/Alaska Native	7 (4%)	2.40
Black/African American	10 (6%)	3.45
Asian	2 (1%)	3.19
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2 (1%)	51.77
Multi-Race	5 (3%)	3.37
Unknown	33 (19%)	--
<u>Reported Symptoms</u>		
Watery Diarrhea	92 (53%)	--
Abdominal Cramps	80 (46%)	--
Weight Loss	61 (35%)	--