

Tularemia

2010 Case Total 8
2009 Case Total 7

2010 Incidence Rate 0.22 per 100,000
2009 Incidence Rate 0.19 per 100,000

Although tularemia is endemic in Oklahoma, *Francisella tularensis* is classified as a bioterrorism agent and is therefore an immediately notifiable disease. Epidemiologists from the Acute Disease Service rapidly investigate all cases upon receipt to identify the source of exposure and evaluate for case clustering or outbreaks.

There are several different clinical presentations of tularemia. Of the eight reported cases in 2010, six (75%) individuals experienced symptoms consistent with ulceroglandular disease, and two (25%) experienced symptoms characterized as a typhoidal syndrome. Commonly reported symptoms among cases included: fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, myalgia, vomiting, ulcers, and headache.

Although trends in disease are not entirely understood, weather changes do affect tick survival. While cases are reported throughout the year, all of the reported cases in 2010 had onset of symptoms between April and August. Tularemia prevention centers on avoiding tick bites, use of rubber gloves while skinning or handling animals, and thoroughly cooking wild game meat before eating. For more information regarding tularemia or tick bite prevention, visit <http://ads.health.ok.gov> and click on the "Disease Information" tab.

Demographic and Clinical Summary of Reported Tularemia Cases, Oklahoma, 2010 (N = 8)

	Number (%)	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Gender		
Male	5 (63%)	0.27
Female	3 (37%)	0.16
Age	Median = 46 years (range: 17 – 82 years)	
Race		
White	5 (63%)	0.17
American Indian/Alaska Native	2 (25%)	0.68
Two or more races	1 (12%)	0.66
Hospitalization	4 (50%)	-
Death	0 (0%)	-
Geographical Distribution		
Cherokee	1 (12%)	2.17
Cleveland	1 (12%)	0.41
Haskell	1 (12%)	8.07
Kay	1 (12%)	2.17
McClain	1 (12%)	3.01
Roger Mills	1 (12%)	29.35
Stephens	1 (12%)	2.30
Wagoner	1 (12%)	1.42
Exposures		
History of recent tick bite	7 (88%)	--
Exposure to tick infested or wooded area	7 (88%)	--