

Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Report: Q1 & Q2 2014

Number of reportable diseases investigations* conducted by report quarter, City of Hamilton, 2013 and Q1 & Q2 2014.

Program	Type	Reported 2013*					Reported 2014*		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Total
Infectious Diseases (ID)	Cases	572	274	290	266	1402	559	433	992
Tuberculosis (TB)	Active TB	8	10	3	10	31	13	6	19
	Latent TB	126	119	104	136	485	103	99	202
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Cases	440	408	433	409	1690	405	416	821
Column Total		1146	811	830	821	3608	1080	954	2034

The top 3 infectious diseases in Q1 & Q2, 2014 were:

1. Influenza
2. Hepatitis C
3. Salmonellosis

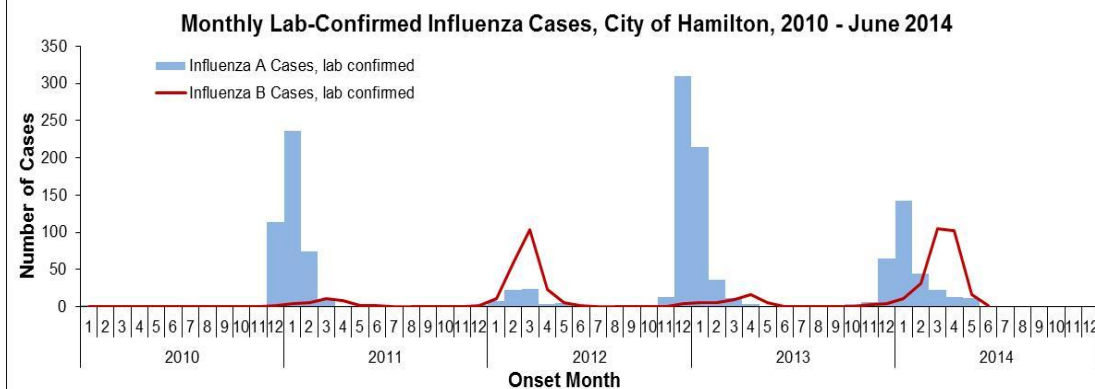
The top 3 sexually transmitted diseases in Q1 & Q2, 2014 were:

1. Chlamydia
2. Gonorrhea
3. Syphilis

		Reported 2013*					Reported 2014*		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Total
Outbreak Activity	Community Outbreaks	0	0	3	1	4	2	4	6
	Institutional Outbreaks [†]	76	18	15	22	131	45	27	72
Column Total		76	18	18	23	135	47	31	78

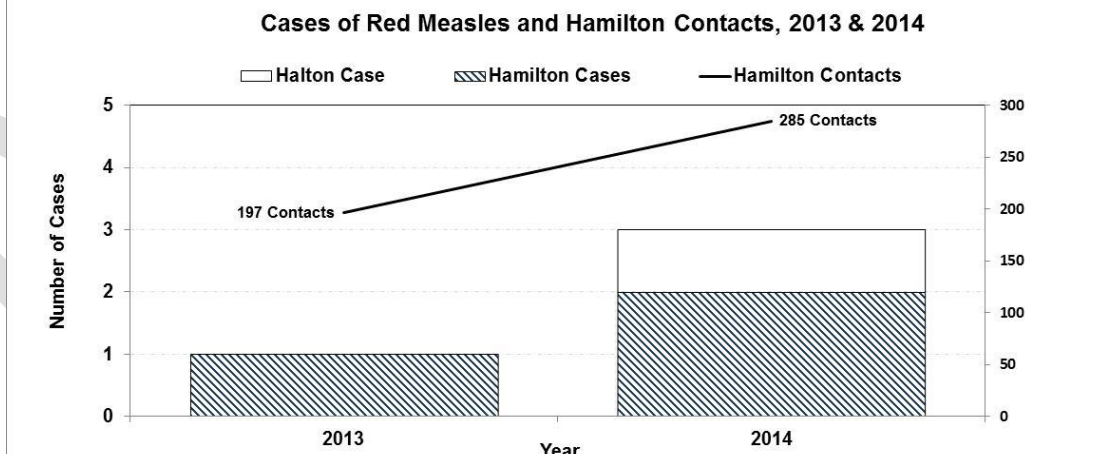
Measles was the most significant outbreak investigation in Q1 & Q2, 2014

* Note: These figures are subject to change due to case follow-up procedures. Data Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Integrated Public Health Information System database. Prepared by: City of Hamilton Public Health Services. Data Extracted: 2014-07-15. [†] Institutional: hospitals, long term care homes, residential care facilities, detention centre.



This figure is subject to change due to case follow-up procedures. Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System database. Prepared by: City of Hamilton Public Health Services Data Extracted: 2014-07-28

For the 2013/14 flu season, influenza A activity was lower than in the 2012/13 season, where half as many influenza A cases were reported. As a result, flu case and outbreak management required less Infectious Disease Prevention & Control program staff resources. This was offset, however, when influenza B activity for the 2013/14 flu season circulated later into the spring than in previous seasons and was 6 times higher than what was observed in the 2012/13 season. This resulted in re-prioritizing flu case and outbreak management during spring months, when infection control inspections would be the predominant program activity.



This figure is subject to changes due to case follow-up procedures. Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System database. Prepared by: City of Hamilton Public Health Services Data Extracted: 2014-07-28

In Q1 of 2014, 2 Hamilton residents with red measles were reported to PHS, resulting in 285 contacts. The first case acquired the disease while travelling abroad, while the second case was a contact of the first. Additionally, 1 case of red measles was reported to the Halton Region Health Department and was a contact of Hamilton's first case. In 2013, 1 case of red measles was reported to Hamilton PHS, resulting in 197 contacts.

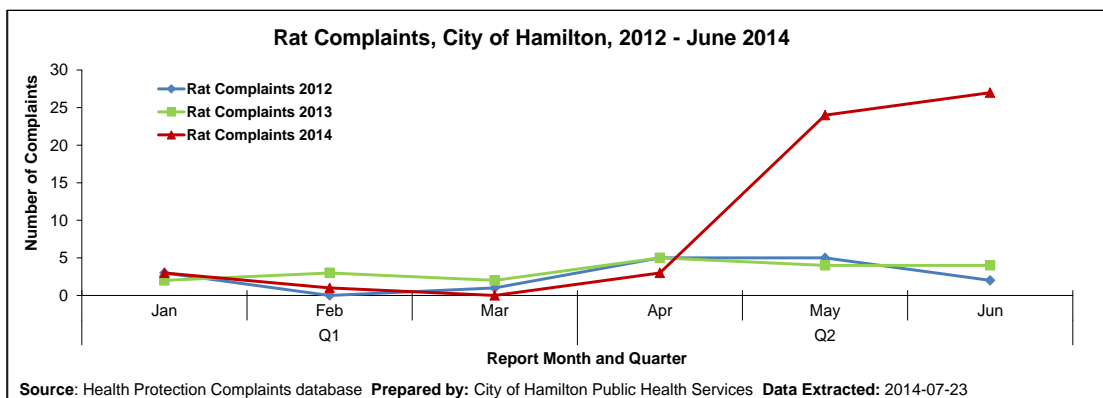
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Environmental Health investigation responses by site visit, telephone call or email, 2013 and Q1 & Q2 2014.

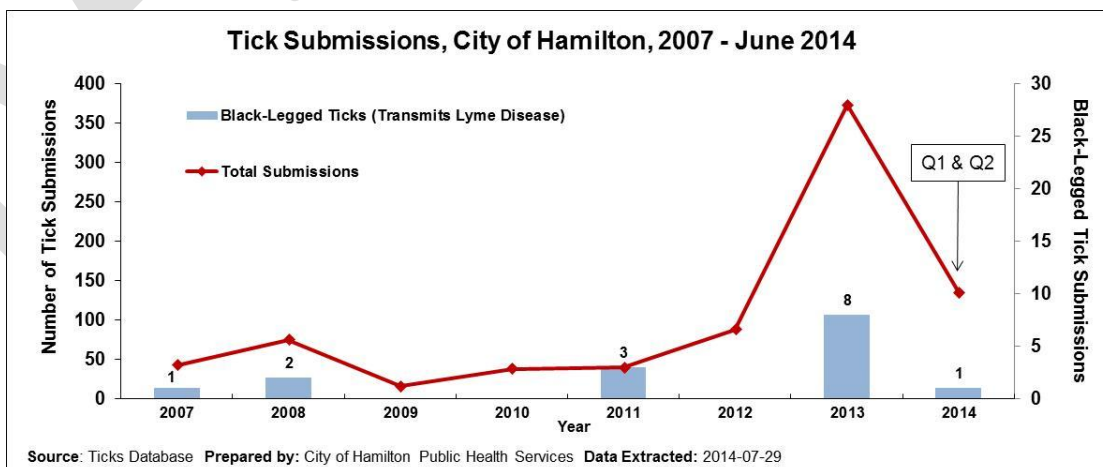
Program	Reported 2013					Reported 2014		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Total
Food Safety	159	154	212	189	714	148	211	359
Water Quality	93	111	189	111	504	86	146	232
Health Hazard Abatement	227	278	512	357	1374	272	341	613
Tobacco Control under Smoke Free Ontario Act	69	94	47	32	242	51	62	113
By-law 11-080	6	23	71	11	111	1	16	17
Vector-Borne Disease	1	51	41	2	95	0	60	60
Infection Control/Injury Prevention	164	137	137	128	566	193	129	322
Rabies Potential Exposure Investigations	245	357	544	288	1434	259	397	656
Column Total	964	1205	1753	1118	5040	1010	1362	2372

The top 3 environmental health issues in Q1 & Q2, 2014 were:

1. Bedbugs
2. Ticks
3. Mould



Rat complaints almost doubled in Q2 of 2014 compared to previous years. Many of these complaints are being reported in established residential areas with no ongoing construction projects. The Vector-Borne Disease (VBD) program is continuing to investigate rat complaints and will be educating property owners on how to prevent rat infestations. Additionally, the VBD program is working with the City's Water department to bait sewers that require attention.



Since 2009, there has been an increase in tick submissions to PHS. This may suggest that community awareness of Lyme disease is growing.