INFECTIOUS DISEASE — OVERVIEW

Infectious diseases covered in this report include sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. Because the incidence of AIDS and HIV is very low in the North Inland region they will not be covered in this report.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have been referred to by the Institute of Medicine as a “hidden epidemic of enormous health and economic consequence in the U.S. They are hidden because many Americans are reluctant to address sexual health issues in an open way and because of the biological and social characteristics of these diseases” (IOM 1997). STDs encompass more than 25 infectious organisms transmitted primarily through sexual activity. Local, state and national health agencies are responsible for surveillance and monitoring of STDs.

During 2006, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported 1,030,911 cases of chlamydia, 358,366 cases of gonorrhea and 9,756 cases of syphilis in the U.S. Furthermore, in the U.S. there are currently an estimated 20 million people infected with genital human papillomavirus (HPV); an additional 6.2 million people become newly infected each year (CDC 2007).

Recently, tuberculosis (TB) has become prominent in the national press with several well-publicized drug resistant TB cases. Despite this recent increase in public awareness of TB, there has been an overall decrease in the incidence of TB in the U.S. during the past few years. However, the incidence of TB among foreign born persons in the U.S. is almost 20 times that of U.S. born persons.

Since 2001, the incidence rate for tuberculosis per 100,000 population in the North Inland region has declined very slightly, from 5.9 to 5.7. During 2005 there were 31 cases of tuberculosis reported among North Inland region residents.

During 2005, there were five cases of primary and secondary syphilis reported among North Inland region residents.
Who is most impacted — Chlamydia

During 2005 there were 985 cases of Chlamydia reported among North Inland region residents. Between 2000 and 2005, the rate of Chlamydia has increased by 26.2%, from 193.7 to 244.4 cases per 100,000 population.

Review of North Inland region incidence data related to Chlamydia found that those most impacted are:

- Females
- Persons ages 15 to 24 years
- Asians, Pacific Islanders and other
Who is most impacted — Gonorrhea

During 2005 there were 137 cases of gonorrhea reported among North Inland region residents. Between 2000 and 2005, the rate of gonorrhea has increased by 92.3%, from 13.0 to 25.0 cases per 100,000 population.

Review of North Inland region incidence data related to gonorrhea found that those most impacted are:

- Males
- Persons ages 15 to 24 years
- Asians, Pacific Islanders and other

* Rates not calculated for fewer than 5 cases.