

Outbreak Reporting Time

In West Virginia, outbreaks are immediately reportable to the local health department. According to infectious disease rules and regulations and as a condition of receiving threat preparedness funding local health departments are required to report immediately reportable conditions to the Bureau for Public Health within 60 minutes.

To measure adherence to this requirement, date and time of report to the local health department and date and time of report to the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology are recorded on a standard intake form so that elapsed reporting time can be calculated.

For 2010, 15 (15.6%) outbreaks were missing the date or time of report to the local health department or the state health department or both (Figure 4). Of the remaining 81 (84.4%) outbreaks, a mean 35.8 hours and a median of 1 hour elapsed between the time the outbreak was reported to the local health department and the time the outbreak was reported to the state health department. The range of hours between the time the outbreak was reported to the local health department and the time the outbreak was reported to the state health department was 0 to 864 hours. Of the 81 (84%) outbreaks where date of notification was known for the state and local health department, same-day notification occurred for 71 (88%) outbreaks.

