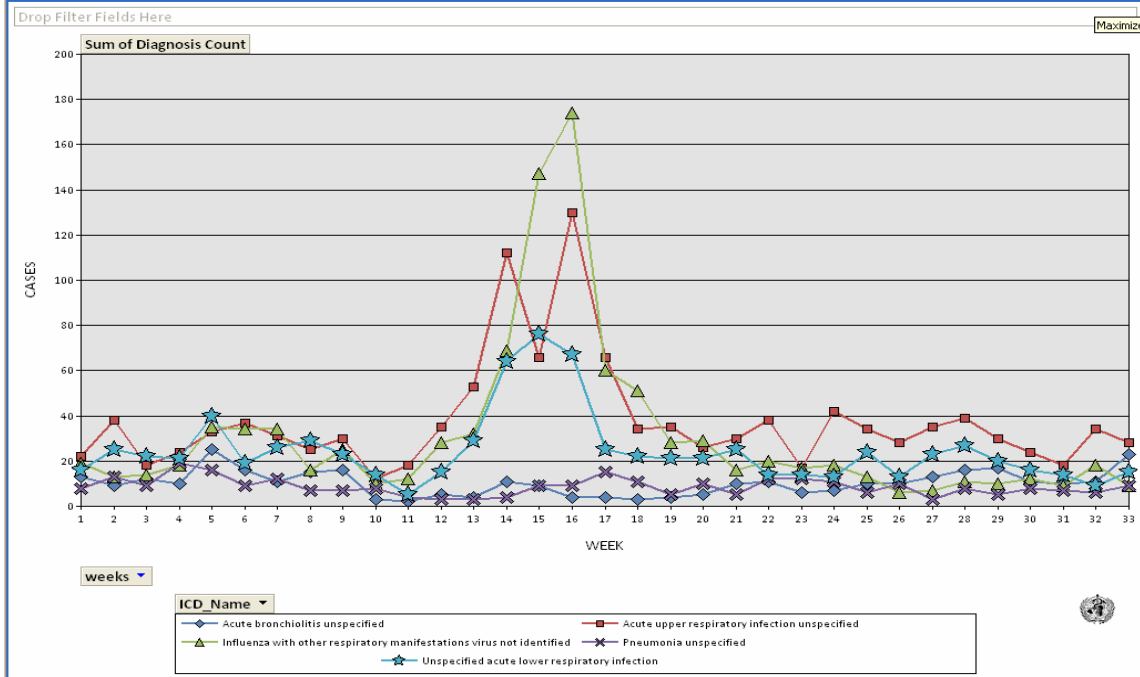
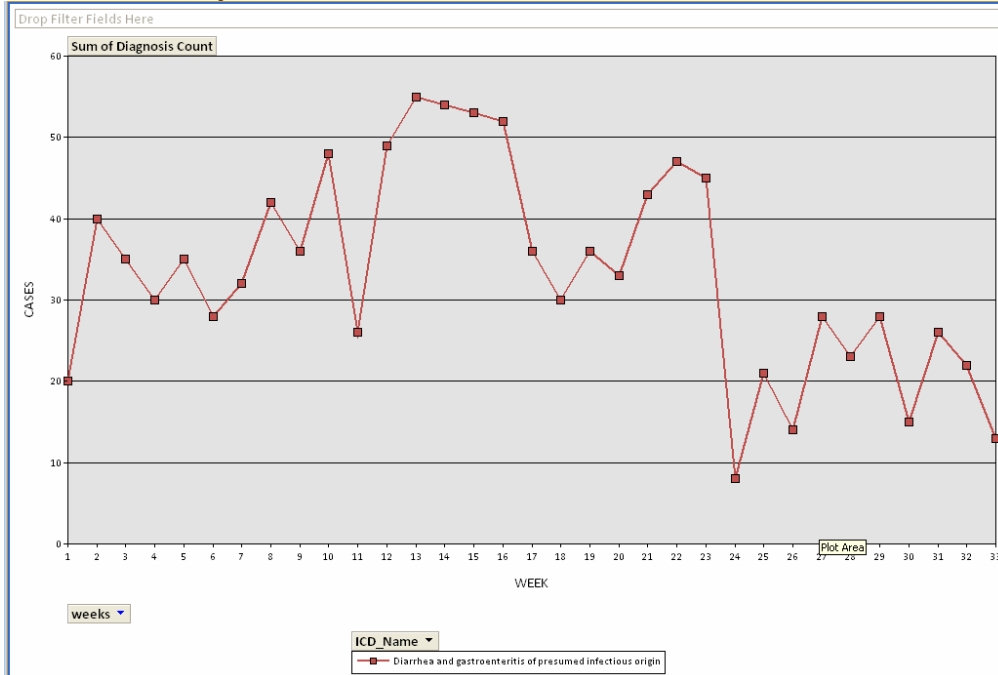


Pohnpei Weekly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report for: Epidemiologic Week #33 August 10-16, 2008

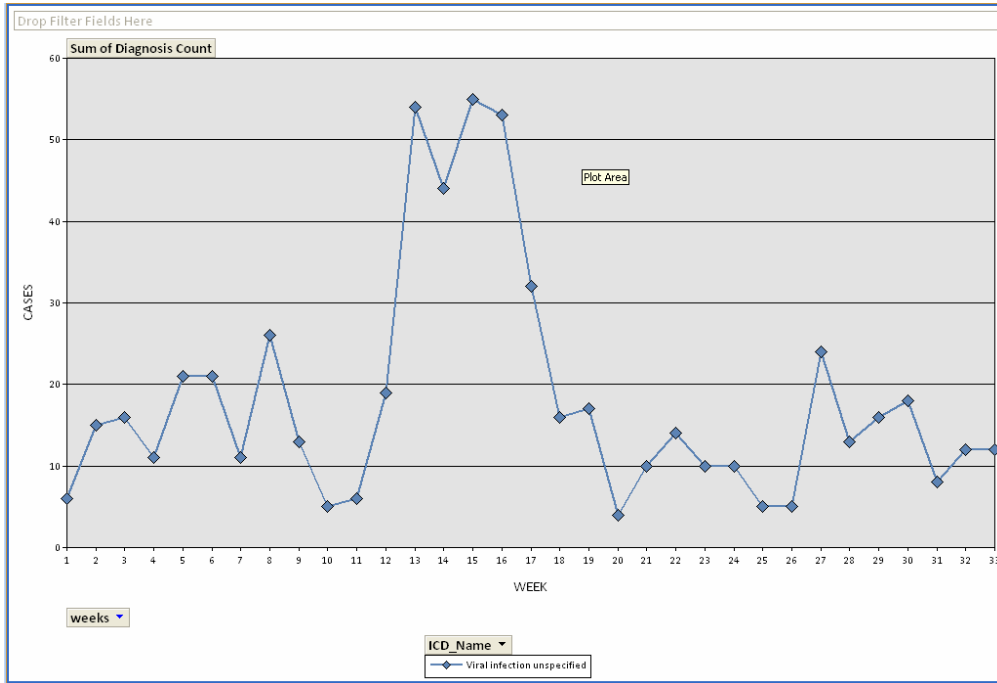
Respiratory Syndromes



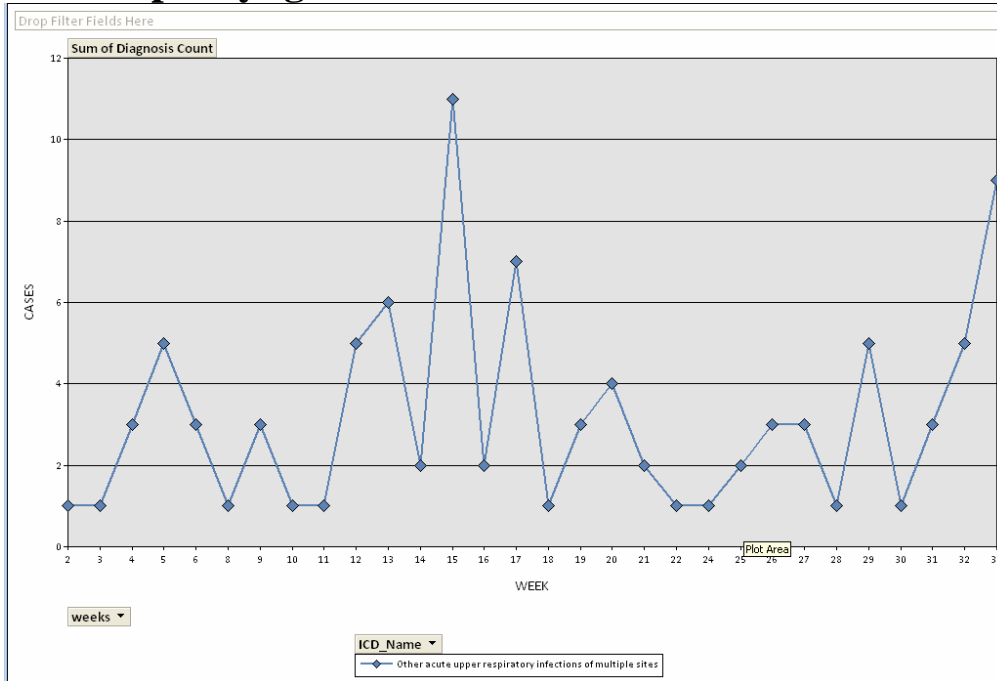
Diarrheal Syndromes



Unspecified Viral Syndromes



Tonsillopharyngitis



Epidemiology Notes:

In May 2008, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) received a request for assistance from the Chuuk State Department of Health Services in order to investigate four cases of culture-confirmed multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB; defined as resistance to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most important first-line TB drugs). In response to this, DHSA requested assistance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), other US Government agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and other partners. From July 8 to July 25, a joint investigation was conducted in Chuuk State, involving local and national authorities and the external partners.

A total of five culture-confirmed MDR TB cases were identified, four of whom (80%) are now deceased. All five were residents of Chuuk State. The five patients were grouped into two clusters by genotype analysis: one cluster of three patients, and one cluster of two. The contact investigation revealed several additional potential cases which will require laboratory confirmation and close follow-up.

Preliminary recommendations developed as a result of this investigation include: continued political commitment to TB control; strict adherence to directly-observed therapy (DOT) treatment principles; the hiring of additional DOT staff; the procurement of an adequate supply of second-line drugs for treating MDR TB cases; inpatient isolation of MDR TB cases during the intensive phase of their treatment (4 - 6 months); and, aggressive case finding and contact investigation around all TB cases.

The FSM DHSA, under its obligation to the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), is working with the WHO and regional partners to prevent the international spread of MDR TB while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

Health News:

[US EMBASSY] A team of health service professionals from the United States Hospital Ship USNS Mercy will visit Pohnpei this month during the week of August 17-23. The crew of the Mercy will be participating in Pacific Partnership 2008, a humanitarian civic assistance mission in the Western Pacific. The Pacific Partnership Team, working in close partnership with Pohnpei State Health Department colleagues, will conduct medical, optometry and dental community outreach clinics at four locations in municipalities on the main island of Pohnpei according to the following schedule:

- On Tuesday, August 19, at Kolonia Elementary School in Kolonia Town
- On Wednesday, August 20, at Saladak Elementary School in U Municipality
- On Thursday, August 21, at Sapwalap Elementary School in Madolenihmw Municipality
- On Friday, August 22, at Nanpei Memorial High School in Kitti Municipality

- On Saturday, August 23, at Sekere Elementary School in Sokehs Municipality

Residents from any Pohnpei municipality who need primary clinical care from a doctor, dentist or optometrist are encouraged to attend the most convenient clinic between the hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm on the dates indicated above. Patients who are screened and found to be in need of more serious health treatment, such as medical or surgical procedures, will be referred to the Pohnpei Department of Health Services for treatment.