

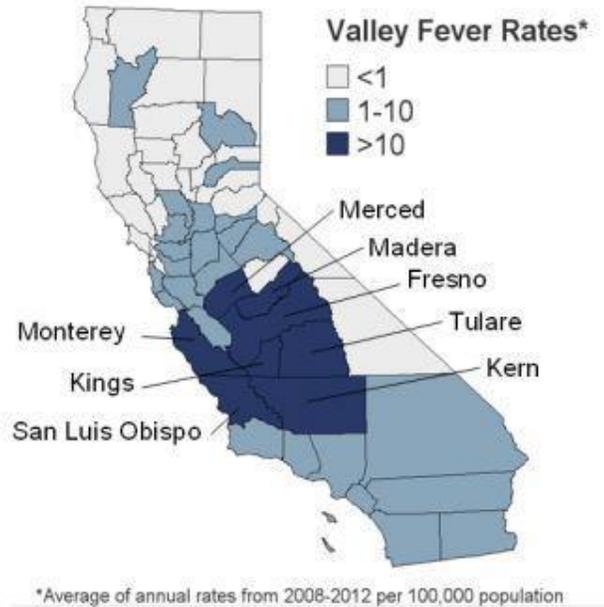
# Coccidioidomycosis Yearly Summary Report 2015

Riverside University Health System – Public Health  
Disease Control  
Epidemiology & Program Evaluation

**Introduction**

Coccidioidomycosis (also known as “cocci” or Valley Fever) is an infection caused by inhaling spores of the fungus *Coccidioides* found in the soil and dirt of some areas. This fungus cannot be spread between people. This fungus is primarily endemic in the southwest region of the United States, including California, and is predominantly found in the soil of the San Joaquin Valley.

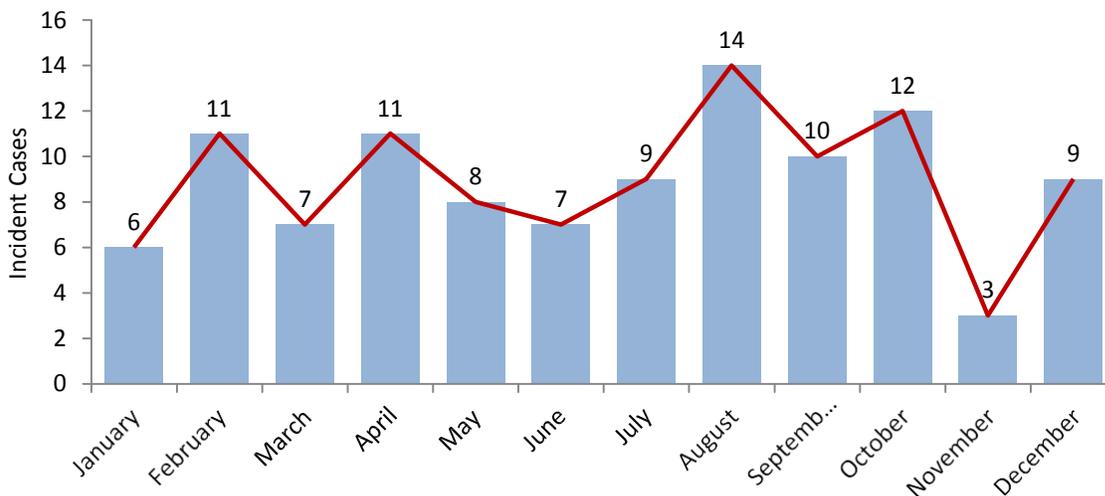
Most people who do get sick with Valley Fever will get better on their own within weeks to months, but most people who breathe in spores don’t get sick. Although Valley Fever can affect people of any age, it is most common in adults aged 60 and older. People who have weakened immune systems may be at higher risk of developing the severe forms of Valley Fever. Pregnant women, people who have diabetes and people who are black or Filipino are also at higher risk of developing the severe forms of Valley Fever.



For the purposes of this report, analysis was conducted on Coccidioidomycosis cases with a CalRedie resolution status of “Confirmed,” “Suspect,” or “Probable”. This report serves as the baseline for reporting Coccidioidomycosis cases in Riverside County. For further analysis, it would be significant to look at trends over multiple years and to also calculate rates for geographic (region or zip code) tables for improved accuracy. Due to missing data, we were unable to analyze cases based on race/ethnicity.

**By Month**

Coccidioidomycosis Incidence in Riverside County by Month, 2015

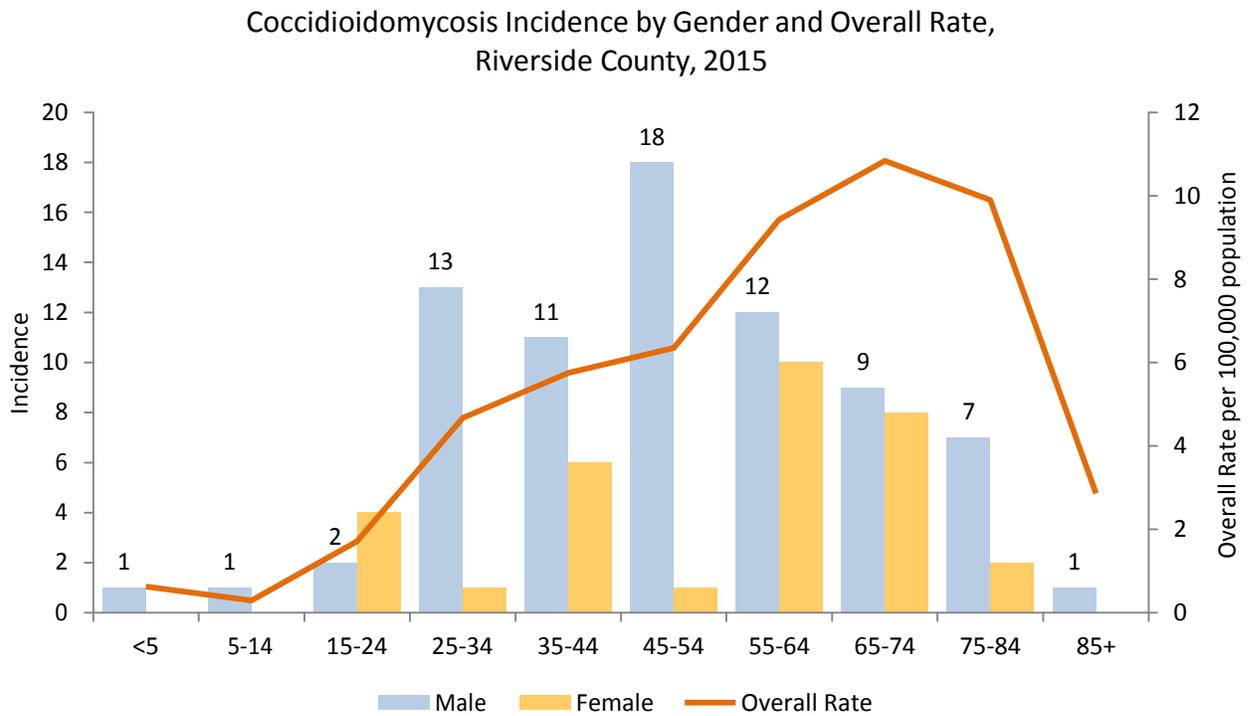


Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	11	7	11	8	7	9	14	10	12	3	9

(Source: CalRedie, California Department of Public Health)

Coccidioidomycosis incidence appears to peak in late summer and early fall, likely due to increased time spent outdoors or with windows open. In 2015, the highest case numbers were seen in August (14 cases) and October (12 cases), while the lowest incidence was seen in November (three cases).

**By Age**



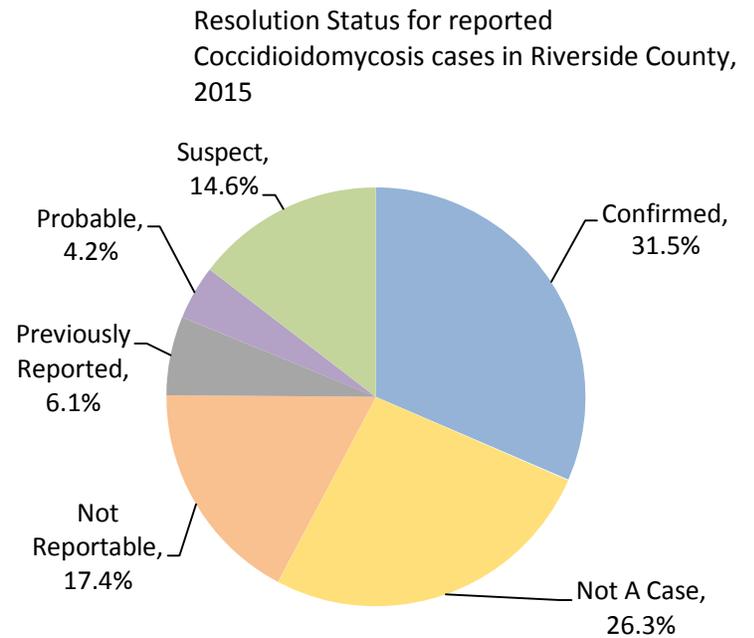
*Numbers and rates of reported cases of Coccidioidomycosis in Riverside County in 2015.  
Rates calculated per 100,000 population.  
(Source: CalRedie, California Department of Public Health)*

Among most age groups, incidence of Coccidioidomycosis is higher among males. The rate of cases seems to increase gradually with age in adults over 60 years and then drops for adults over 85 years of age. Males between age 45-54 had the highest incidence (18 cases) compared to other age groups and females. Within this age group, males were also over 10 times as likely to have cocci than females in the same age group. In 2015, the highest overall incidence was seen among the 55-64 age groups (22 cases).

### **Resolution Status**

Nearly 1 in 3 reported cases were confirmed to be Coccidioidomycosis cases due to confirmatory lab results and symptoms. About 1 in 4 cases were ruled out as "Not a Case".

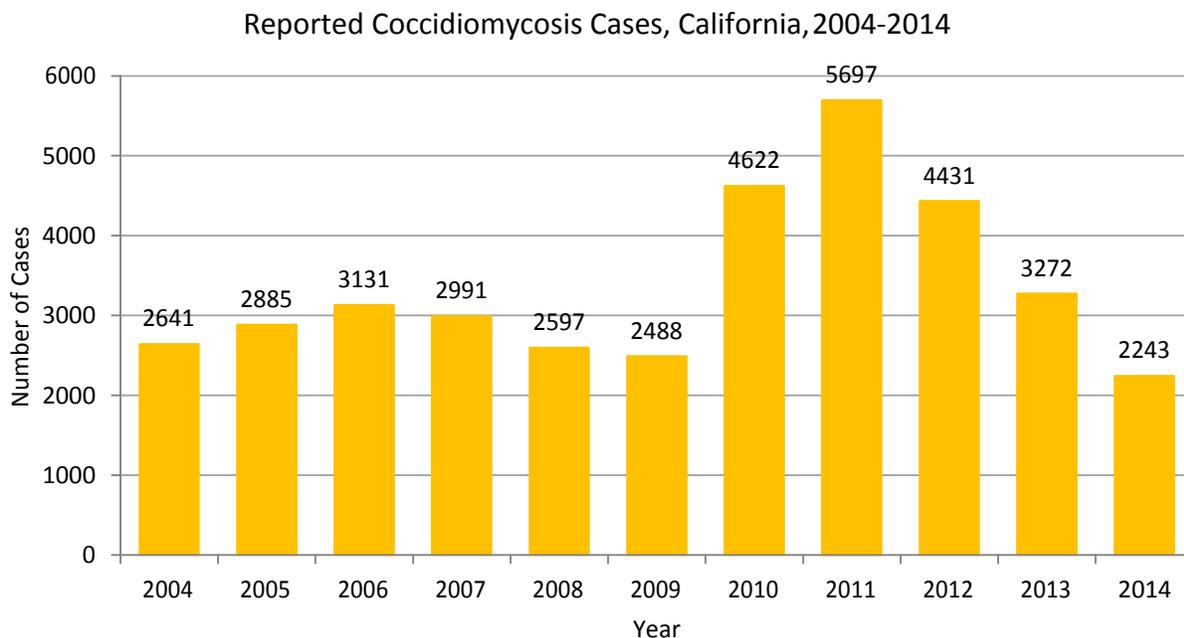
Of all reported cases (n=213) in Riverside County, only half (n=107) were confirmed as "Probable," "Suspect," or "Confirmed" cases of Coccidioidomycosis.



### **Geographic Distribution**

Half (52.3%) of reported Coccidioidomycosis cases were reported among residents living in Western Riverside County. Of those in this area, the city of Riverside had the highest incidence of 33 cases. 15.9% of cases were seen in eastern county, 10.3% seen in mid-county and 13.1% in the southern part of the county. About 8% of cases (9 cases) were missing geographical information.

In 2015, the incidence rate for confirmed cases in Riverside County was 2.9 per 100,000 population. In comparison, California's incidence rate for confirmed cases was 5.8 per 100,000 population in 2014.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<b>West</b>	Frequency	Percent
Corona	10	9.3%
Moreno Valley	4	3.7%
Norco	2	1.9%
Perris	6	5.6%
Riverside	33	30.8%
Sun City	1	0.9%
<b>Total West</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>52.3%</b>

<b>South</b>	Frequency	Percent
Lake Elsinore	2	1.9%
Menifee	3	2.8%
Murrieta	4	3.7%
Temecula	1	0.9%
Wildomar	1	0.9%
Quail Valley	3	2.8%
<b>Total South</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

<b>Mid</b>	Frequency	Percent
Banning	1	0.9%
Hemet	7	6.5%
San Jacinto	3	2.8%
<b>Total Mid</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

<b>East</b>	Frequency	Percent
Blythe	4	3.7%
Cathedral City	2	1.9%
Desert Center	1	0.9%
Desert Hot Springs	1	0.9%
Indio	2	1.9%
La Quinta	1	0.9%
Palm Desert	3	2.8%
Palm Springs	3	2.8%
<b>Total East</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15.9%</b>

References:

1. Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever). California Department of Public Health
2. Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever). Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
3. Epidemiological Summary of Coccidioidomycosis in California, 2009-2012. California Department of Public Health

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