



21 YEARS OF PROGRESS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EYYOU ISTCHEE, 2000-2020

What infectious diseases affected Eeyou Istchee from 2000 to 2020?

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs):

Chlamydia and gonorrhea were the most commonly reported STIs, especially among young adults.

Young men were often under-tested.

Syphilis, HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C were uncommon.

Invasive Bacterial Diseases:

Invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS) and invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type a (Hia) were **more common in Eeyou Istchee than in the rest of Quebec**, especially among infants and older people.

Enteric Infections:

Severe illness due to reportable bacterial and parasitic infections of the stomach and intestines were not common.

No major outbreaks occurred during this period.

Tuberculosis (TB):

New cases of TB disease were not common.

Still, **many older people may carry latent TB infection** (sleeping TB).

Rabies:

No human cases were reported, but rabies was found in dogs and foxes in several communities.

What does this mean?

We need a targeted public health response to encourage young men to get screened for STIs.

We need new ways to prevent people from getting sick from invasive bacterial diseases. There are no vaccines for iGAS or Hia yet.

We need to test for and treat older people with TB infection, to prevent future TB disease.

Public Health successes: What has worked so far?



Widespread Vaccination

Eeyou Istchee has had some of the highest childhood vaccination coverages in Quebec. **Vaccines have helped to control and eliminate diseases** like:

- Hepatitis B
- Invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) - **no cases reported since 2007**
- Meningococcal disease (serogroup C)
- Measles - **no cases reported between 2000-2020**



Local & Regional Collaboration

Since 2016, nearly **80% of people diagnosed with hepatitis C have been cured**, through direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatment coordinated by Public Health and local clinics.



Case & Contact Management

The **number of new TB cases in the region remained low**, likely due to:

- Past population based TB prevention and control measures, and
- Ongoing timely identification and management of new cases and priority contacts.

Risk of getting rabies remained low, likely due to:

- Vaccinating dogs
- Creating a reporting system for dog bites and scratches
- Supporting local clinics in responding to potential rabies cases

Continued community collaboration, local clinic engagement, and strong surveillance systems are essential to prevent and control infectious diseases and outbreaks in Eeyou Istchee.

