

# Incidence of Legionellosis, 2000-2016, Montana & U.S.

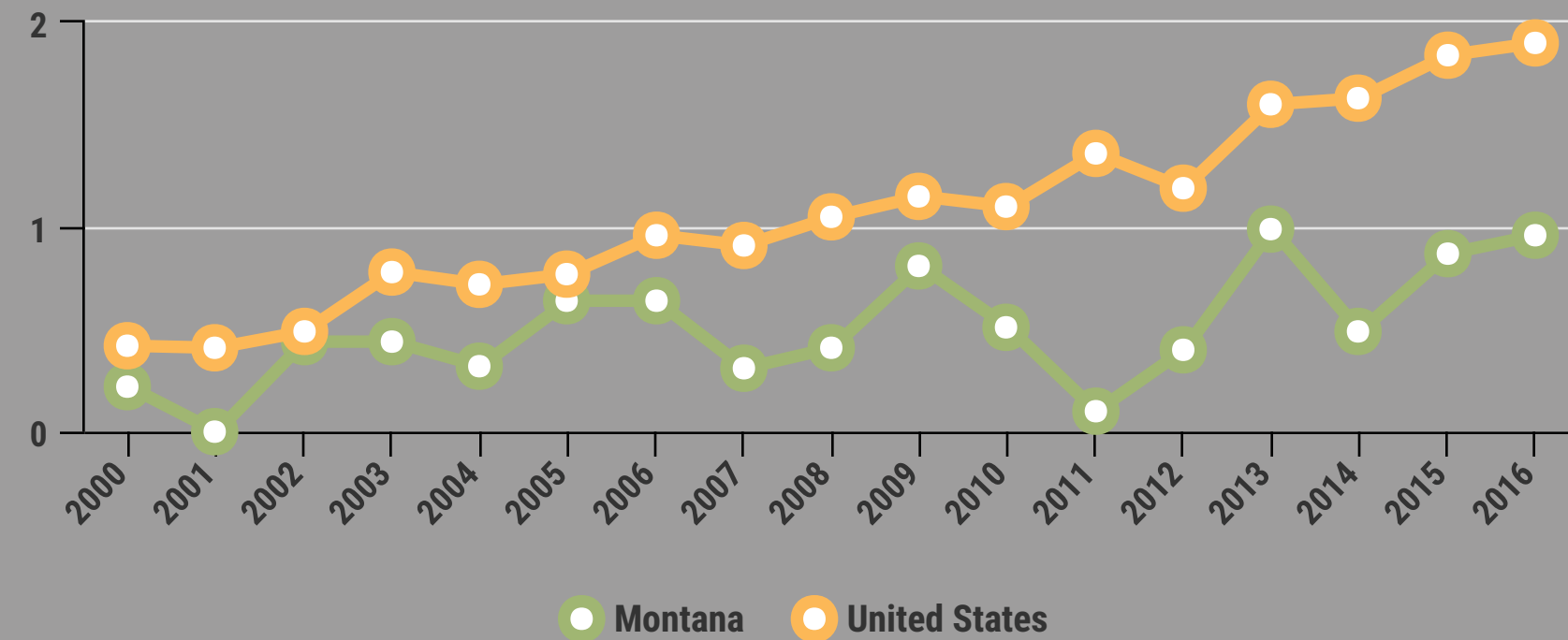
Cases per 100,000 population

In the United States, the number of cases of Legionnaires' disease rose nearly **4.5X** between 2000 and 2016, with 6,100 cases in 2016.

In Montana, the number of cases of Legionellosis increased **5X** between 2000 and 2016, with 10 cases reported in 2016.



↑ 400%



## Legionella Over Time



### What is it?

- Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia, most often caused by the bacterium *Legionella pneumophila 1*
- People who are at risk can become ill by breathing in small droplets of water that contain *Legionella*
- *Legionella* is found naturally in the environment, and can become a health concern when found in human-made water systems

### Factors affecting the rise:

- Increase in diagnostic testing
- Environmental factors such as increased rain, drought, and warmer temperatures
- Potable water is the primary source of infection
- People who are older than fifty years, smokers, and immunocompromised individuals are at the highest risk for infection



### Prevention:

- Facilities should determine if they are at an increased risk of growing and spreading *Legionella*
- Facilities at risk can develop and implement a *Legionella* water management program
- Providers should consider *Legionella* testing of at-risk individuals with severe pneumonia and report positive results to local public health quickly