

# CHAPTER 11:

## Sentinel Events

Those cases of preventable disease, disability, or untimely death that could have been avoided if appropriate and timely medical care or preventive services were provided are known as sentinel events. This chapter contains information on sentinel events such as vaccine preventable illness and work-related deaths. Sentinel events may help a community to identify problems in the health system such as inadequate vaccine coverage, lack of appropriate screening or preventive services, or introduction of a new infection or agent to the community.

Source: Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), Community Health Indicators, National Association of City and County Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE

- ◆ Vaccines are available for all of the diseases shown below, so the occurrence of any cases may indicate a vaccine coverage issue in the community.

Fig. 11.1 Number of Cases of Vaccine Preventable Disease, Genesee County, 2008					
	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Pertussis	Tetanus
Genesee County	0	2	0	7	0

Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System

### WORK-RELATED DEATHS

Fig. 11.2 Number of Work-Related Deaths in Genesee County, 2004-2007				
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of Work Related Deaths	5	4	18	5

Source: Genesee County Health Department