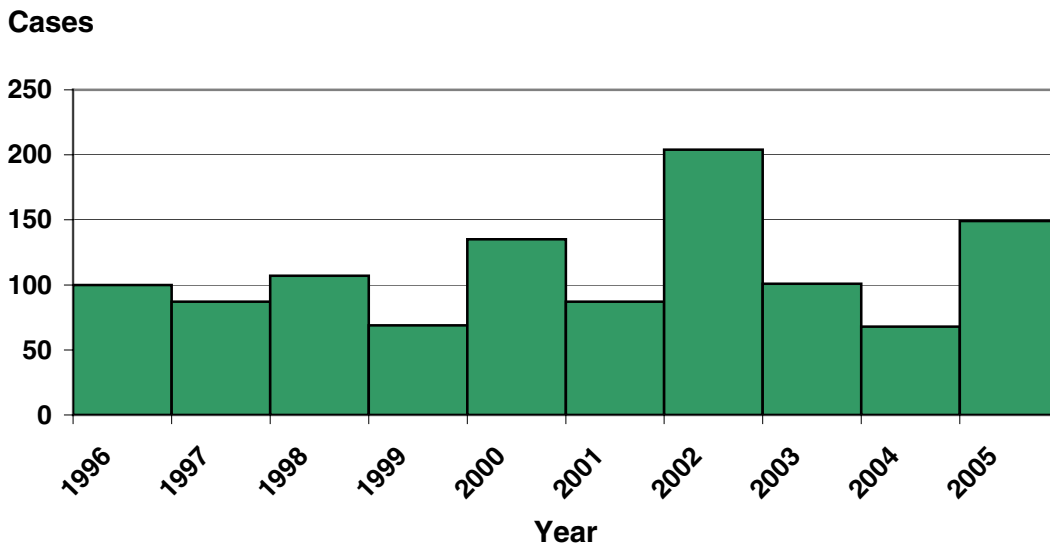


Escherichia coli O157 Infection

E. coli O157 has become one of the most feared of the common causes of infectious diarrhea. Oregon has been the setting for many O157 outbreaks, and investigations of those outbreaks combined with the analysis of other surveillance information have contributed greatly to our understanding of this pathogen. Spread by the fecal-oral route, O157 has a number of animal reservoirs, the most important of which are ruminants: including cattle, goats, sheep, deer, and elk. Transmission often occurs from consumption of contaminated food or water, as well as direct person-to-person spread.

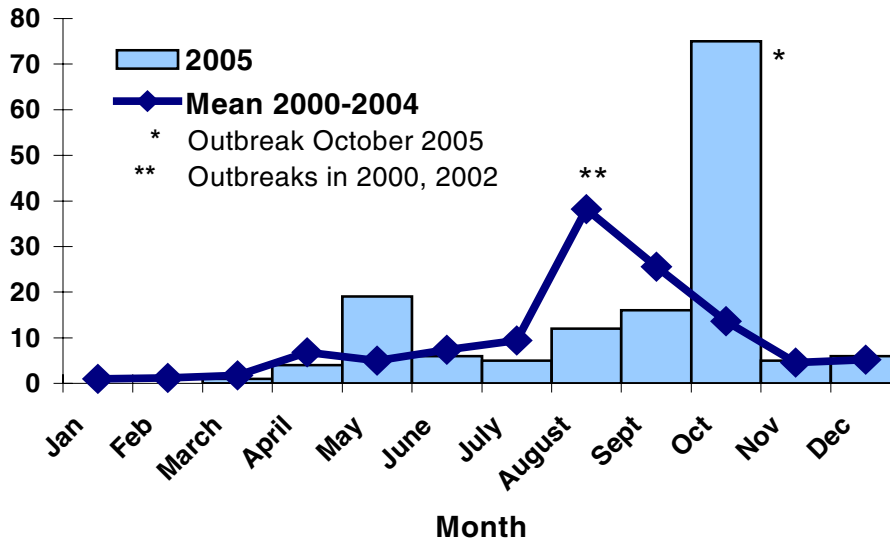
The number of reported cases jumped in 2005 to 149—up from only 69 in 2004. This primarily reflects an increase in outbreak-associated cases, notably one caused by locally grown parsley distributed to restaurants and grocery stores in Oregon and Washington. Restaurant-associated clusters were recognized in both states, the largest involving 64 victims in Deschutes County. Other 2005 outbreak cases were linked to consumption of raw milk, bagged lettuce, and contaminated drinking water at a summer camp. Outbreak-associated cases notwithstanding, surveillance data suggest that O157 infection rates nationally may have declined a bit over the past few years.

***E. coli* O157 Infection by Year Oregon, 1996-2005**



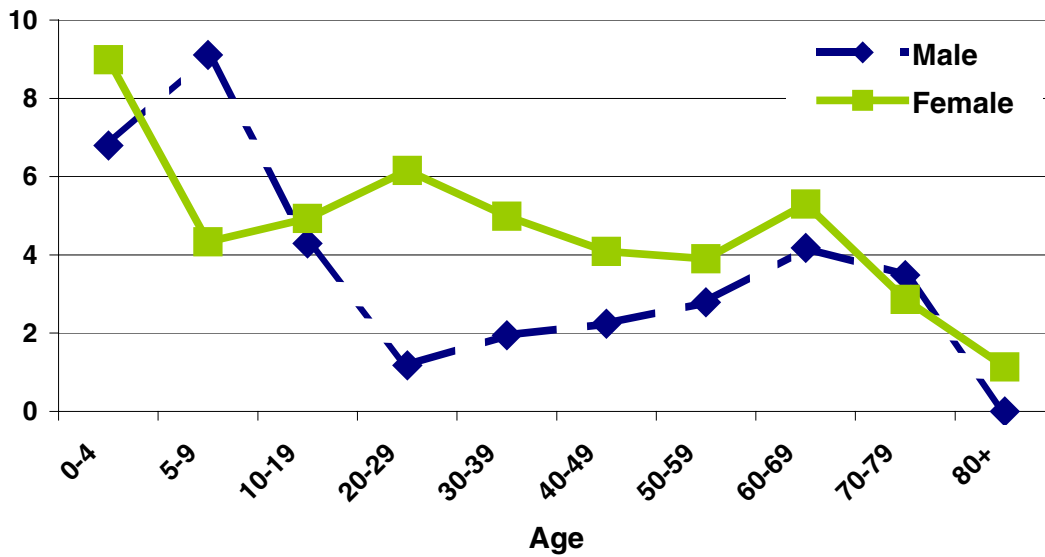
E. coli O157 Infection by Onset Month Oregon, 2005

Cases



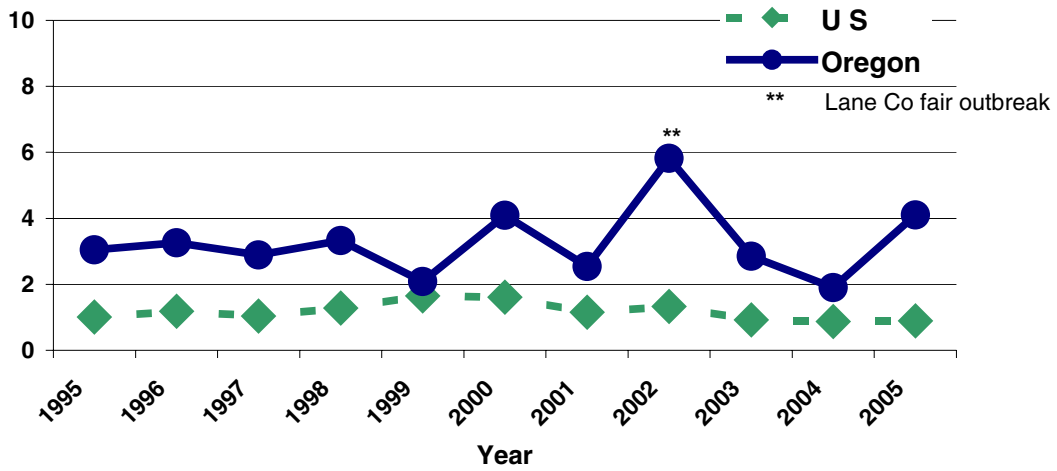
Incidence of *E. coli* O157 Infection by Age and Sex Oregon, 2005

Cases/100,000



Incidence of *E. coli* O157 Infection Oregon vs. Nationwide 1995-2005

Cases/100,000



Incidence of *E. coli* Infection by County Oregon, 2005

