

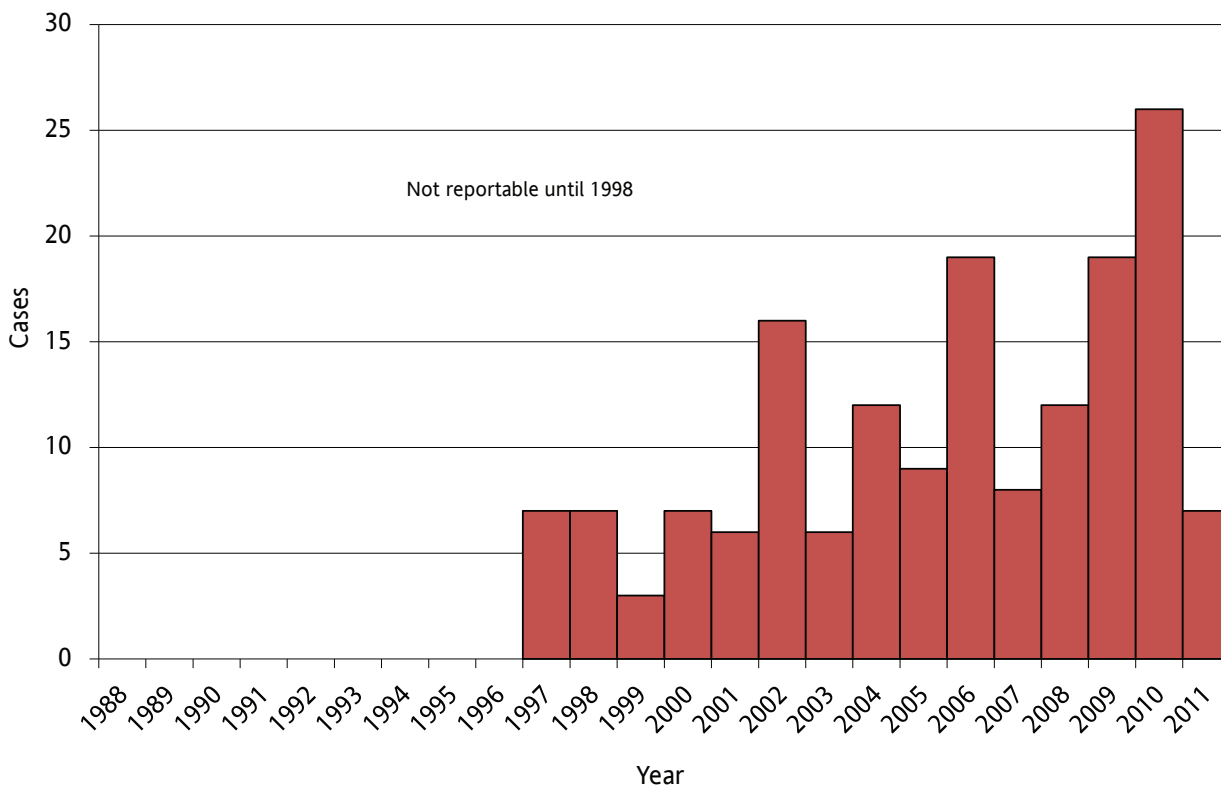
Vibriosis

Vibriosis is caused by infection with *Vibrio* bacteria. *Vibrio* is a species of bacteria that causes watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever. They are commonly found in coastal marine waters and, therefore, in filter-feeding shellfish, such as oysters (which, for this reason, should be eaten only when fully cooked). Some *Vibrio* species are more likely to cause wound infections (e.g., *V. alginolyticus*) after the skin is lacerated (for example, after shucking an oyster).

Non-cholera *Vibrio* infections were not nationally reportable until 2007 and not reportable in Oregon until 1998. Today, all *Vibrio* infections are nationally notifiable, and in addition to Oregon’s reporting forms, additional CDC supplements need to be completed for each case. *V. parahaemolyticus*, which occurs naturally in Pacific coastal waters, especially during warmer months, is by far the most common species diagnosed in Oregon. Case reporting is essential to the identification of contaminated shellfish beds and removal of these shellfish from the raw seafood market.

In the past several years, *Vibrio* infections have increased across the nation, and Oregon is following the same trend. It could be that we’re getting better at identifying cases or it could be that with warmer temperatures there are just more opportunities for exposure. Oregon saw five laboratory confirmed and two presumptive cases in 2011, the lowest since 2003. All the confirmed cases were *V. parahaemolyticus*. The majority (71%) of cases occurred in males.

Vibrio infections: Oregon, 1988–2011



Vibriosis by onset month: Oregon, 2011

