

## Vibriosis

Vibriosis is caused by infection with bacteria from the *Vibrionaceae* family. This family of bacteria includes the species that causes cholera, and public health investigators typically distinguish between either cholera (infection with toxigenic *V. cholerae*) and other “vibriosis” (infection with any other *Vibrionaceae*, including those vibrios lately rechristened as “*Grimontia*”).

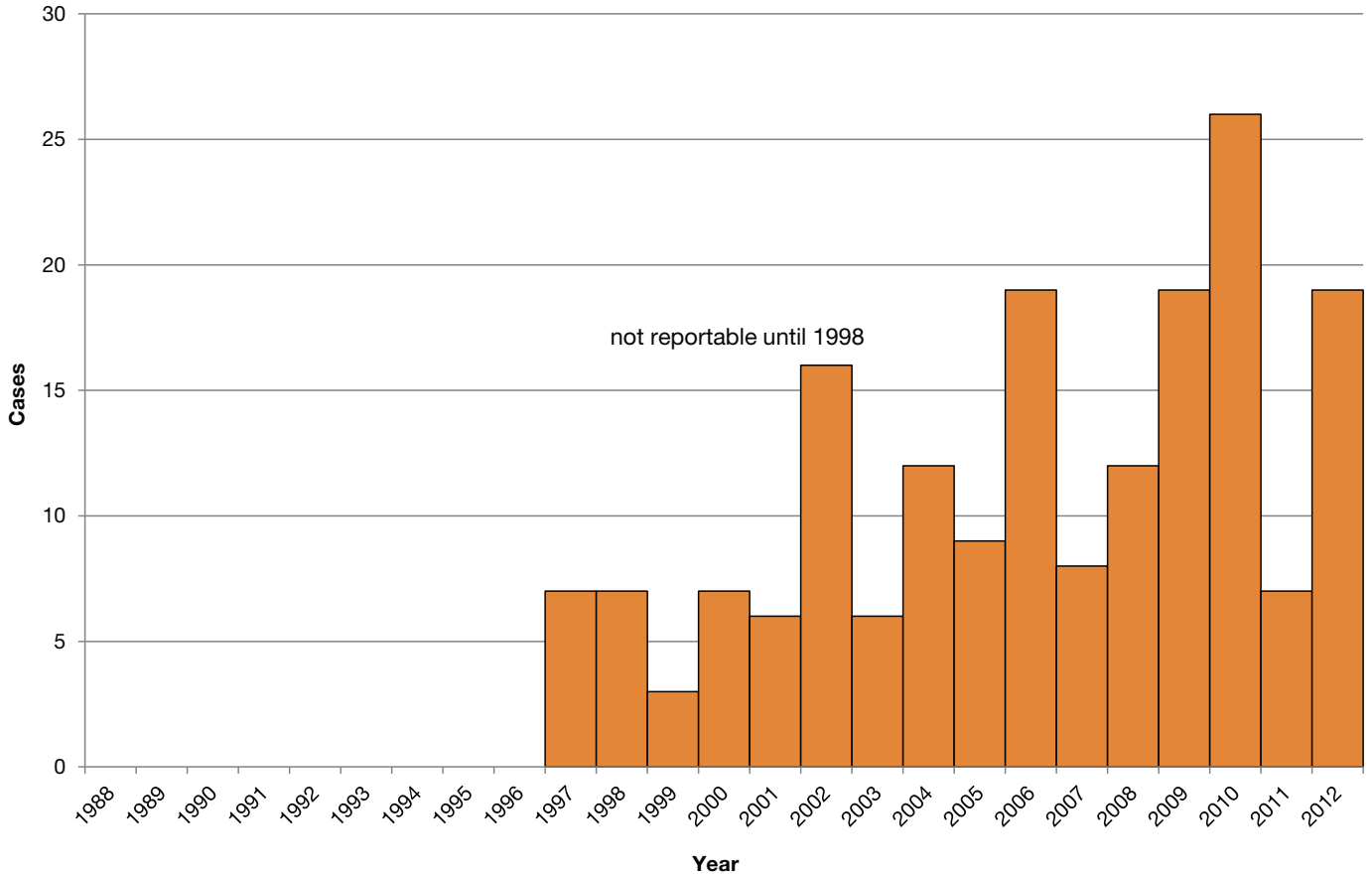
Commonly, vibriosis is acquired by eating raw or undercooked molluscan shellfish and presents as watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever. In Oregon, *V. parahaemolyticus* is the most frequently reported species, as this pathogen is found naturally in the coastal waters and shellfish of the Pacific Northwest, especially during summer months. Nonfoodborne infections with *Vibrio* species can also occur through contact with sea or brackish water (e.g., infection with *V. alginolyticus* after swimming with an open wound, or through a laceration while shucking an oyster). These types of infections can produce bullae, cellulitis, muscle pain, fever and sepsis.

Vibriosis was not reportable until 1998 in Oregon and 2007 nationwide. Today, all *Vibrio* infections are nationally notifiable. Case reporting is essential to the identification of contaminated shellfish beds and removal of these shellfish from the raw seafood market.

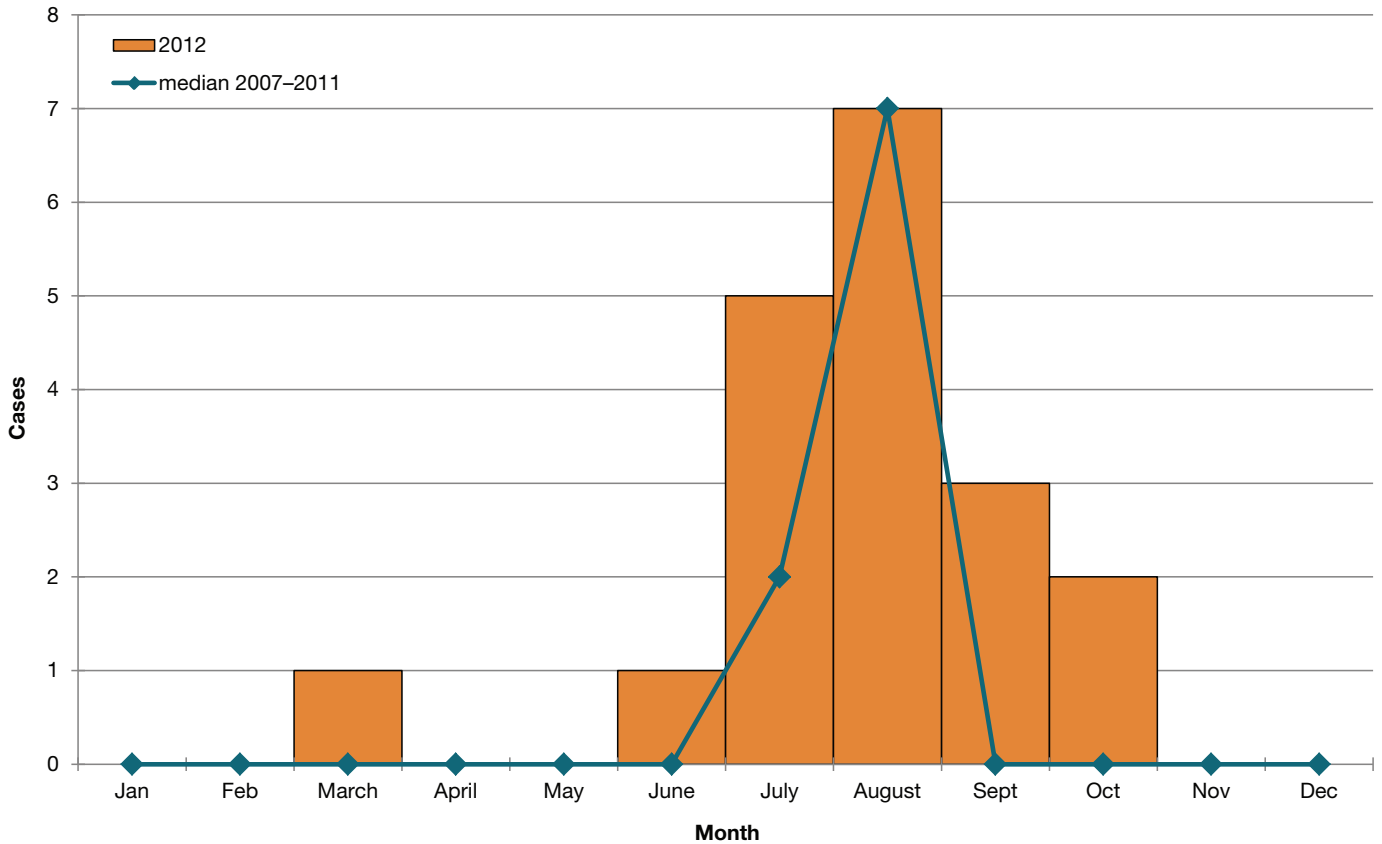
Nationally, reported rates of vibriosis have trended upwards in the past decade. Rates of reported infections have also been rising in Oregon, although increases are not seen every year. The reason for the increasing trend is not clear. It could be that we’re getting better at identifying cases or it could be that with warmer temperatures there are just more opportunities for exposure.

In 2012, Oregon saw 19 (16 confirmed and 3 presumptive) cases of vibriosis, an increase from the 7 cases reported in 2011, but still less than the 26 reported in 2010. Fourteen (74%) of the cases occurred in males. Fifteen (79%) of them occurred during July–September. Of the 16 confirmed cases, 14 (87%) were *V. parahaemolyticus*, with one case each of *V. mimicus* and *V. metschnikovii*.

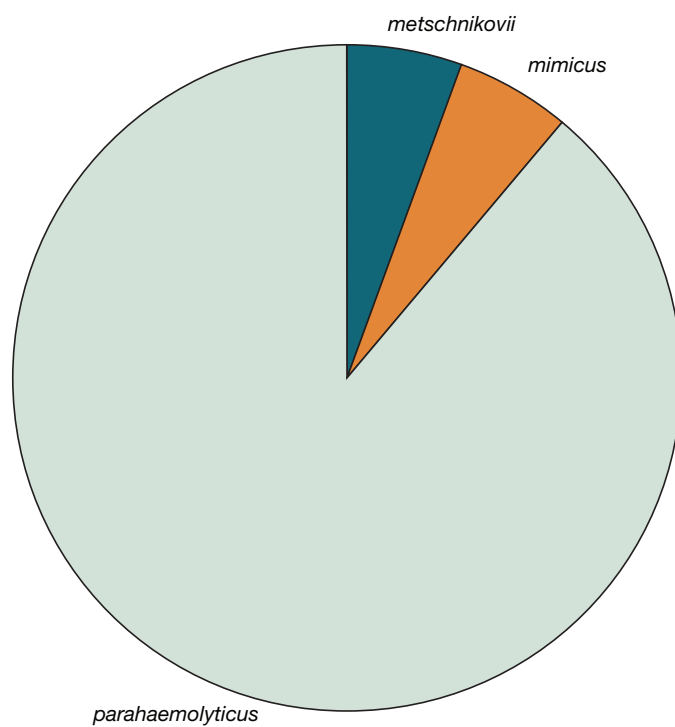
### Vibrio infections: Oregon, 1988–2012



### Vibriosis by onset month: Oregon, 2012



## Vibriosis by species: Oregon, 2012



### Prevention

- Avoid eating raw oysters or other raw shellfish.
- Cook shellfish (oysters, clams, mussels) thoroughly.