Illness & Injury

Salmonellosis incidence

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps, typically for several days. It is commonly transmitted by contaminated food, or by contact with infected animals, especially reptiles. Nationally, salmonellosis is the most commonly reported bacterial foodborne infection. Laboratory serotyping allows us to identify even small outbreaks. Major efforts by U.S.D.A. and F.D.A. to control this infection have been implemented.

During 2013, 9.6 reported cases of salmonellosis occurred per 100,000 residents. The rate has been relatively stable over time.

Source: Oregon Reportable Diseases Database

Salmonella infection occurs most frequently among infants and young children. Rates of disease among females were higher (10.3 per 100,000) than males (8.7 per 100,000).
Despite significant effort to reduce *Salmonella* contamination in beef and poultry, and steps to protect newly identified sources of infection such as sprouts, peanut butter, almonds, and jalapeños, we have seen no sustained decrease in the incidence of salmonellosis over the past 10 years. Consistent public health surveillance and identification of other risk factors are needed to control this infection.

**Additional Resources:** [Salmonellosis disease details](#)

**About the Data:** Case data come from Oregon’s reportable diseases database known as “Orpheus.” Cases include culture-confirmed salmonellosis or diarrhea and fever in someone epidemiologically linked to a culture-confirmed case. The population numbers, by age group, needed for the rate calculations come from Portland State University’s Population Research Center.

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