

Vibriosis

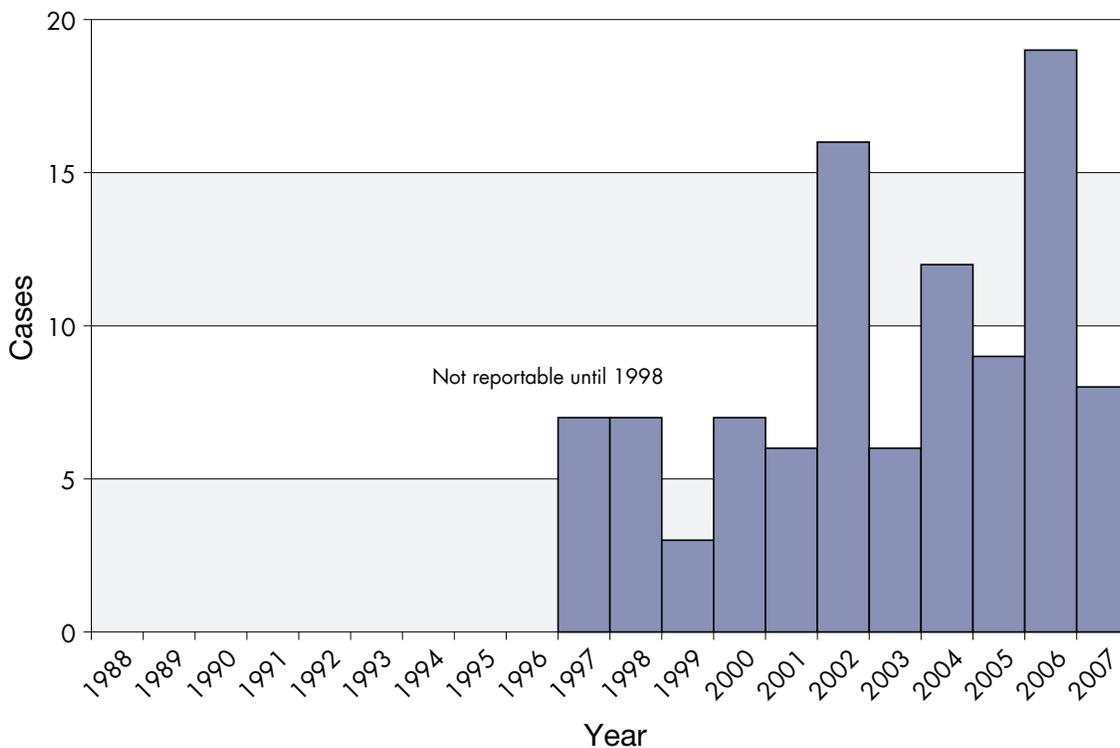
Vibriosis is caused by infection with *Vibrio* bacteria. *Vibrio* is a species of bacteria that cause watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever. *Vibrio* are commonly found in coastal marine waters and, therefore, in filter-feeding shellfish such as oysters (which, for this reason, should be eaten only when fully cooked).

V. vulnificus, a species that occurs primarily in the Gulf of Mexico, can cause sepsis in immunocompromised persons, and infections caused by toxigenic *V. cholerae* are notifiable as cholera. *V. parahaemolyticus* occurs naturally in Pacific coastal waters, especially during warmer months, and is by far the most common species diagnosed in Oregon.

In 2007, eight laboratory-confirmed vibriosis cases were reported in Oregon. One infection was *V. vulnificus*, and the rest of the cases were attributed to *V. parahaemolyticus*. The majority (88%) of cases were male, aged 20–51 years.

Non-cholera *Vibrio* infections were not nationally reportable until 2007 and not reportable in Oregon prior to 1998. Case reporting is essential to the identification of contaminated shellfish beds and removal of these shellfish from the raw seafood market.

Vibrio parahaemolyticus infections: Oregon, 1988–2007



Vibrio parahaemolyticus by onset month: Oregon, 2007

