

**Investigation Number 2013-3089
Summary**

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Summary of outbreak 2013-3089

Background:

On December 30, 2013 Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL) contacted the Oregon Public Health Division to report two cases of *Salmonella* Overschie, a very rare serotype. Between 1995 and 2005, 23 isolates of *Salmonella* Overschie were reported (range from 0-4 isolates per year) in the United States. No cases of this particular *Salmonella* serotype had been reported in Oregon. The two cases resided in non-adjointing counties in the state; however their initial laboratory reports were clustered within a day (although onset was separated by eight days). Outbreak investigation began, with the State taking the lead (as the cases were residents of more than one Oregon county).

Methods:

Case definition: An Oregon resident with culture positive *Salmonella* Overschie with an onset of illness in December, 2013.

Both cases were interviewed using the shotgun questionnaire which asks about food, travel, and other exposures potentially associated with enteric disease. Shoppers' cards were requested from both cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Washington State and other states participating in the PulseNet program were queried about any recent *S. Overschie* cases in their jurisdictions. OSPHL further subtyped the case specimens by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE).

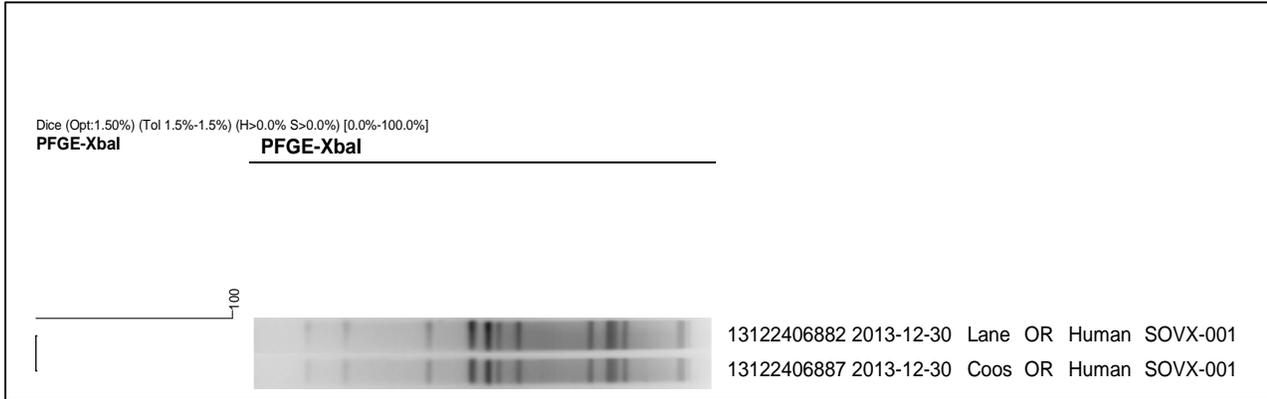
Results:

A total of two cases were part of this cluster case investigation. At time of illness, the cases resided in Lane and Coos counties. Both cases were females and their age groups were 0-9 and 20-29.

Shotgun questionnaire analysis yielded many possible shared exposures, including nuts, cereal, leafy greens, raw salsa, dog food, travel, etc. Analysis of exposures was inconclusive and shoppers' cards were not available for one case (the grocery chain recently discontinued their shoppers' card program). No other cases with the same PFGE pattern were identified elsewhere in the United States.

The molecular analysis of the isolates indicated that the isolates were a 99% match to each other, suggesting they likely came from the same source.

Picture of the PFGE pattern.



Conclusion:

The vehicle for this outbreak could not be determined. Insufficient information exists to be able to narrow down the multiple common exposures – and – without shopping records to enable tracing items to their purchase date, it was not possible to conduct hypothesis testing on likely vehicles (to identify shared lots of the same product). No new cases have been identified since mid-December. Without additional information to triangulate exposure, the investigation concluded.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of cases	
N = 2	
	Number of cases
County	
Lane	1
Coos	1
Case Status	
Confirmed	2
Presumptive	0
Suspect	0
Sex	
Male	0
Female	2