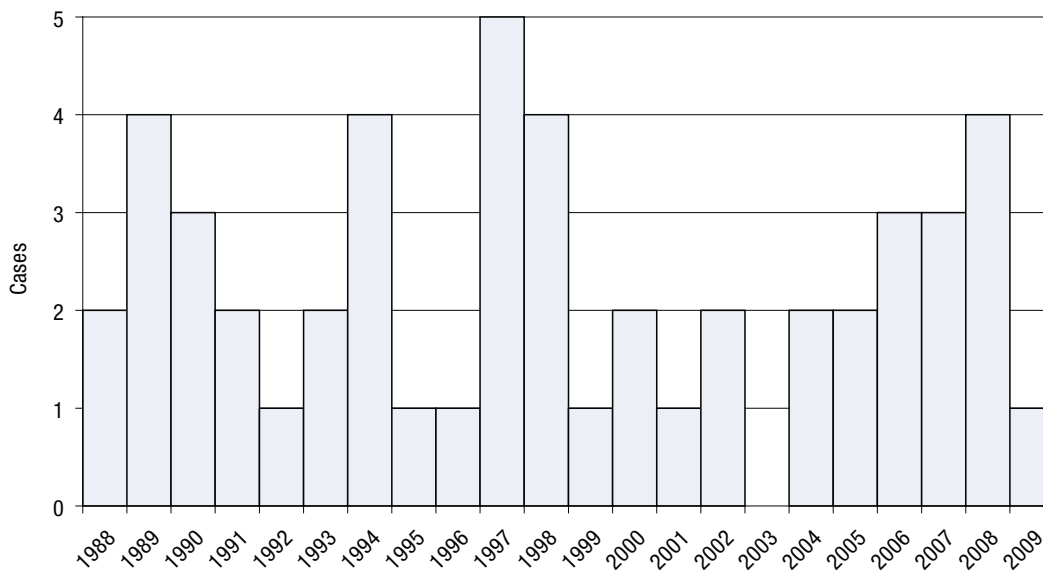


Tularemia by year: Oregon, 1988–2009



Vibriosis

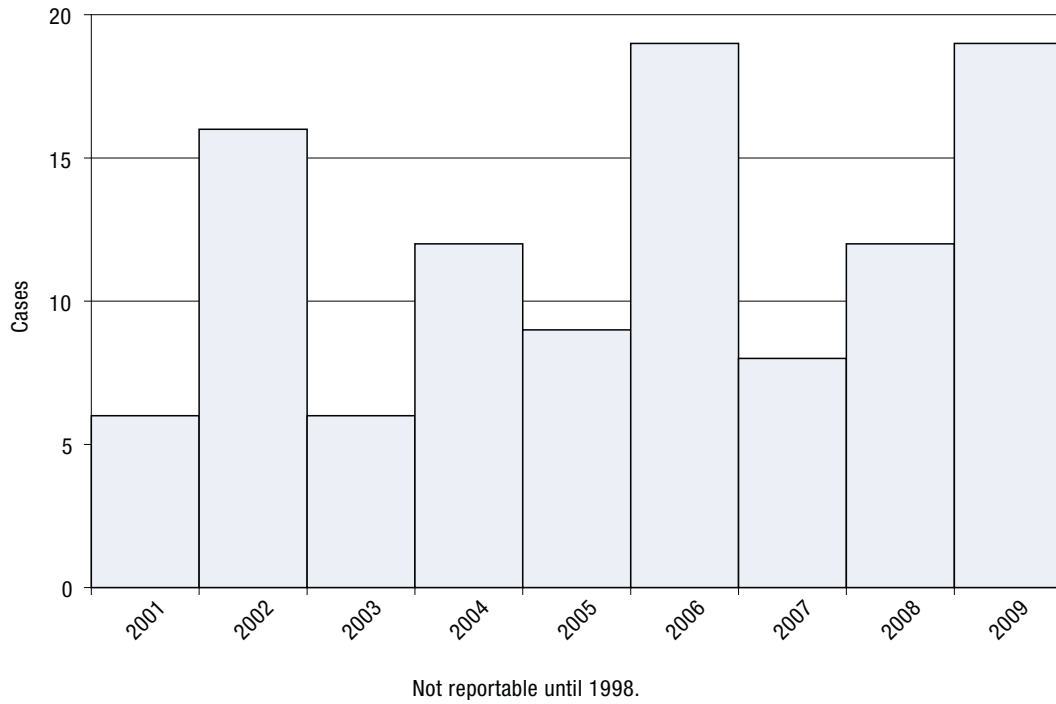
Vibriosis is caused by infection with *Vibrio* bacteria. *Vibrio* is a species of bacteria that causes watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever. They are commonly found in coastal marine waters and, therefore, in filter-feeding shellfish, such as oysters (which, for this reason, should be eaten only 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. *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 surveilling for it, and it could be that with warmer temperatures there are just more opportunities for exposure. Oregon saw 12, then 18 laboratory confirmed cases, in 2008 and 2009, respectively. While the majority of cases in Oregon are attributed to *V. parahaemolyticus*, in 2008 there was an imported case of *V. cholerae* and a single case of *V. alginolyticus*. In 2009 there were two cases *V. alginolyticus*. The majority (80%) of cases occurred in males and most (83%) were 21-59 years old.

Vibrio parahaemolyticus infections: Oregon, 2001–2009



Vibriosis by onset month: Oregon, 2009

