

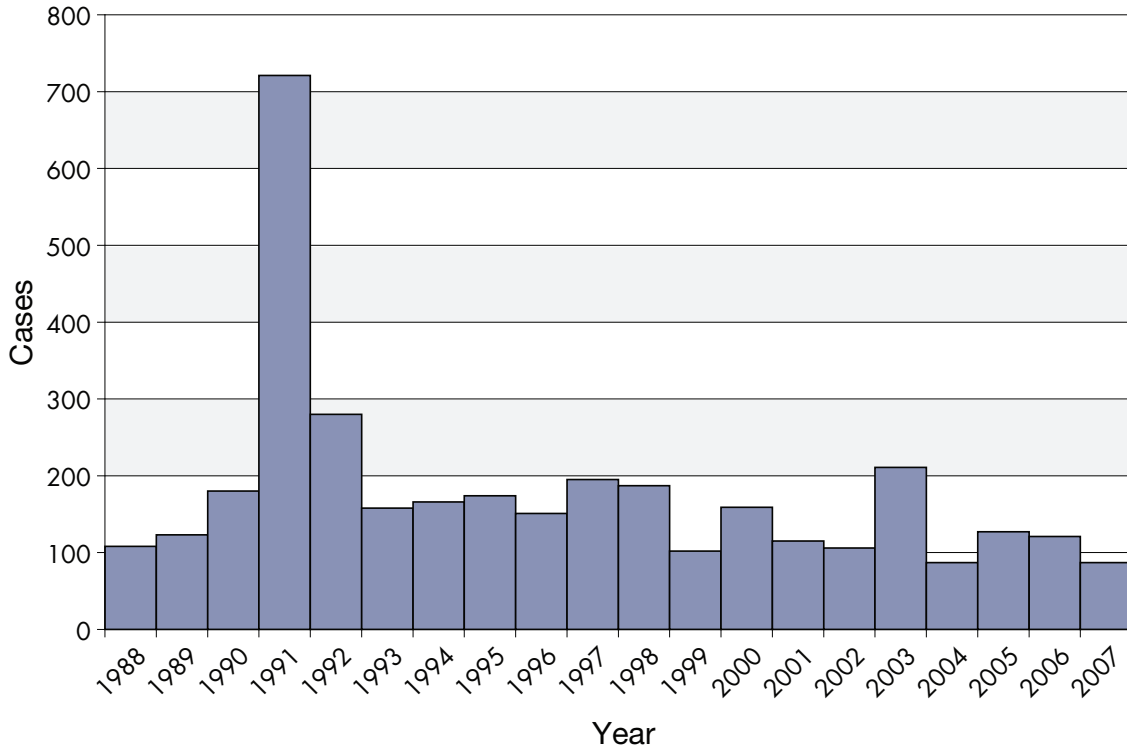
Shigellosis

Shigellosis is an acute bacterial infection characterized by (sometimes bloody) diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and, often, fever. Humans are the only known reservoir. Shigellosis is transmitted from person to person, and just a few organisms can cause illness. It is important to track the incidence of this disease to see trends and to detect outbreaks. The rate is higher among children 1–4 years of age. The incidence of shigellosis usually increases in late summer and fall. A large community-wide outbreak in 1991 resulted in hundreds of cases in multiple Portland metropolitan area daycare centers from April onward. At the tail end of that summer, in August, additional cases were associated with a dual pathogen outbreak (*E. coli* and *Shigella*) at Blue Lake Park in Fairview.

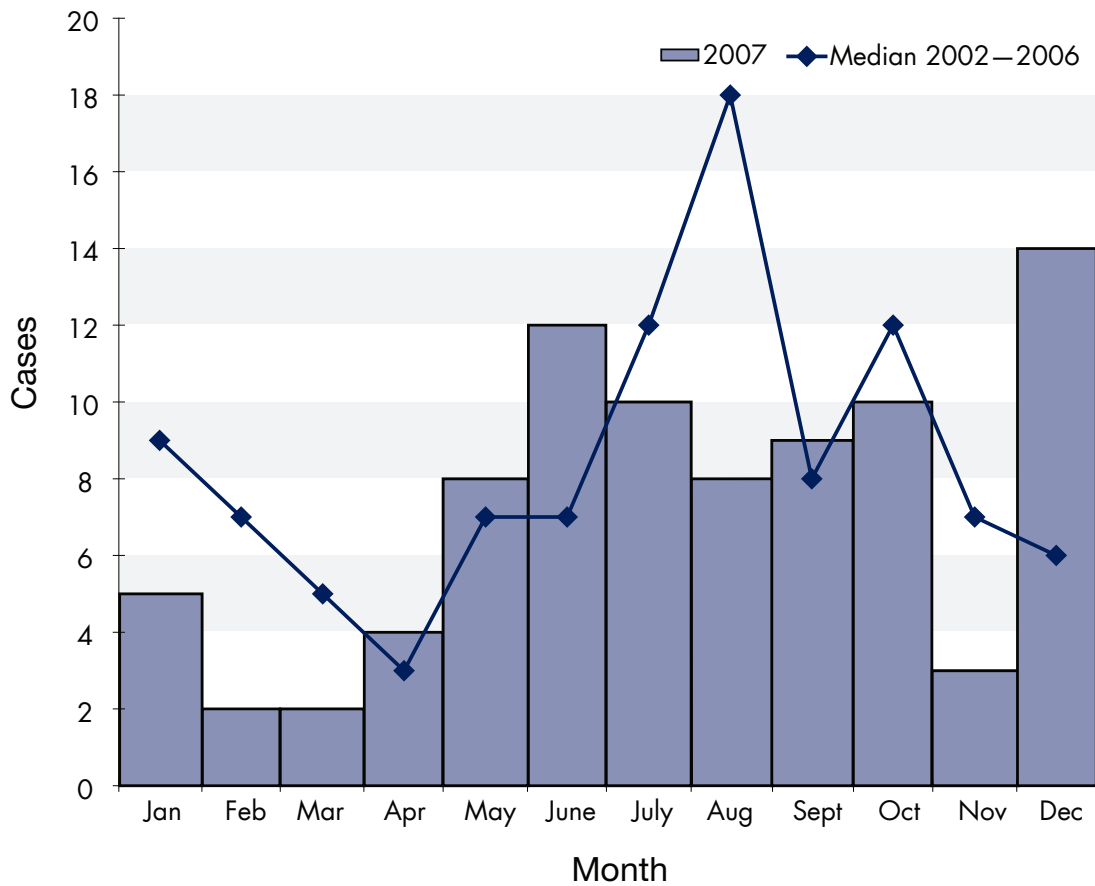
Outbreaks in daycare centers are common, mainly due to the poor hygienic practices of small children. Hand washing is the most important means of prevention. Treatment reduces duration of illness, but the organism has become resistant to many antibiotics used for empiric therapy. Testing for antibiotic susceptibility is important for treatment.

The number of cases in 2007 decreased to 87, the same number of cases reported in 2004, which was a 20-year low. Thirteen of these cases were presumptive cases with household transmission of illness. A small cluster of seven cases appeared to be person-to-person transmission within an elementary school. No other outbreaks were reported.

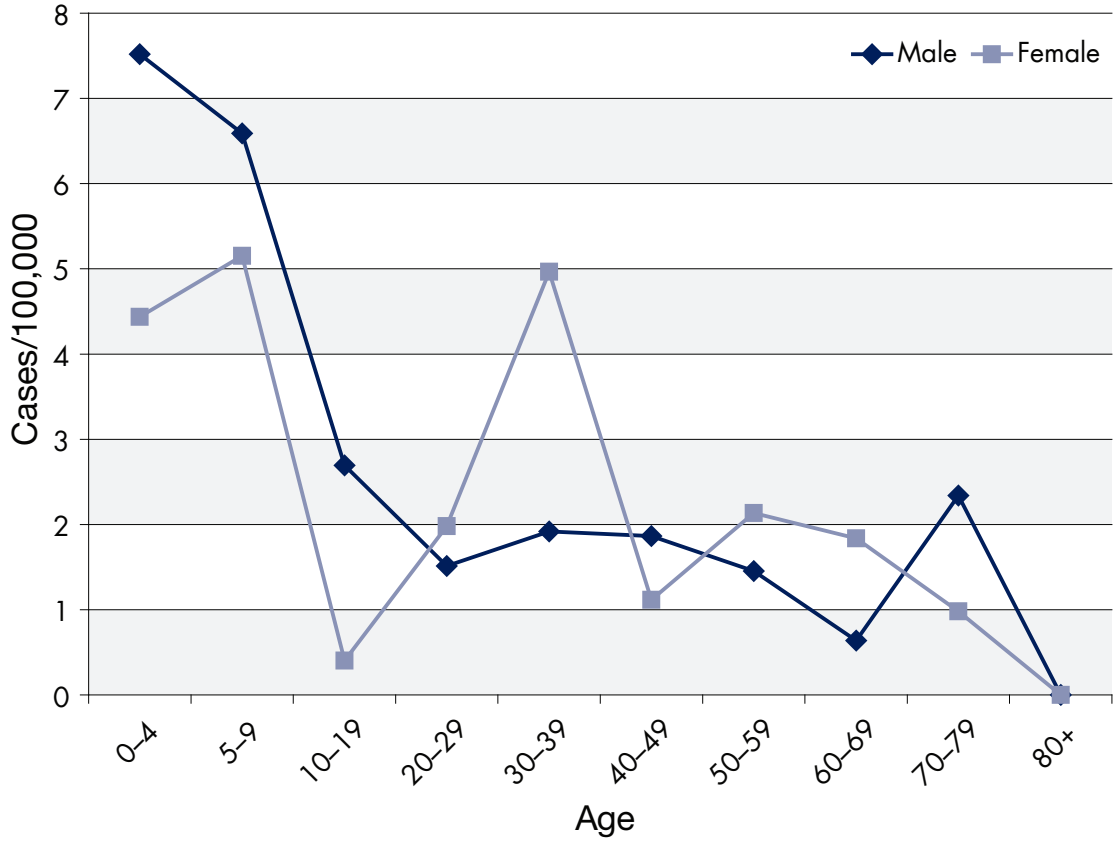
Shigellosis by year: Oregon, 1988–2007



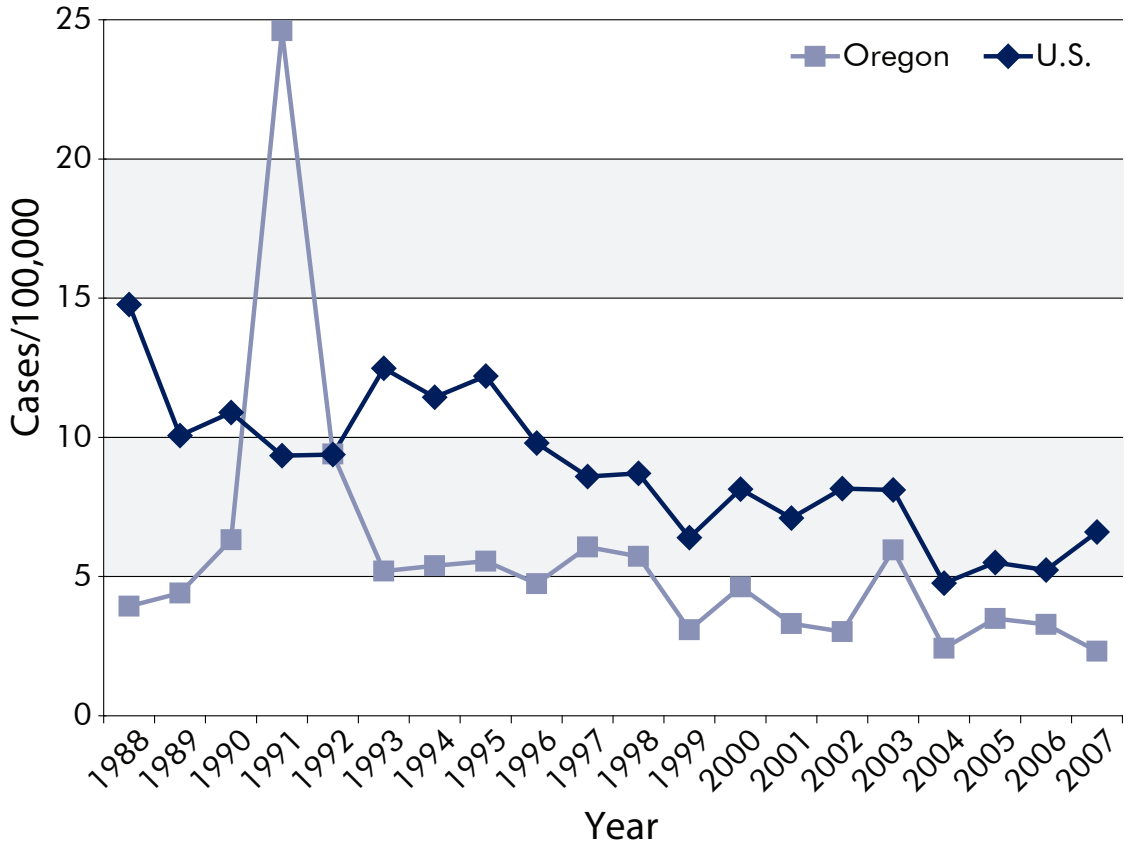
Shigellosis by onset month: Oregon, 2007



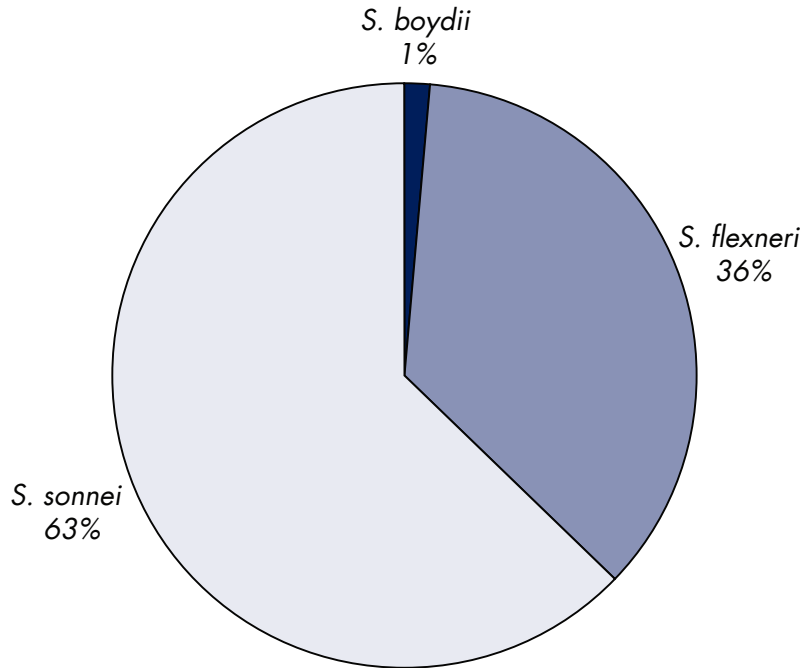
Incidence of shigellosis by age and sex: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of shigellosis: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1988–2007



Shigellosis by species: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of shigellosis by county of residence: Oregon, 1998–2007

