


Disease outbreaks

Oregon state and local health departments investigated 157 acute and communicable disease outbreaks in 2011, down from 229 in 2010 (a 32% change). The majority (76) of these were outbreaks of calicivirus gastroenteritis. Twenty-four outbreaks were foodborne, sixteen were respiratory, and three were due to animal contact. In many (37) outbreak investigations the mode of transmission was undetermined. Sharing of respiratory secretions caused outbreaks of pertussis (6), varicella (3) and meningococcal disease (1). Foods contaminated with a garden variety of *Salmonella* made folks ill at a variety of venues including restaurants, markets and fairs. Every outbreak reinforces the age-old public health mantras — “wash your hands” and “cover your cough.”



76 Caliciviruses (norovirus and sapovirus)
12 *Salmonella*
7 Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC)
6 Influenza
6 Pertussis
3 Varicella
2 Scrombroid
1 *Campylobacter*
1 *Cryptosporidium*
1 *Shigella*
1 *Staphylococcus aureus*
1 *Streptococcus pyogens*
1 *Neisseria meningitidis* group C
1 Malaria
1 Human metapneumovirus
1 Rhinovirus
1 *Giardia*
1 Aniline toxicity

35 outbreaks had unknown etiologies

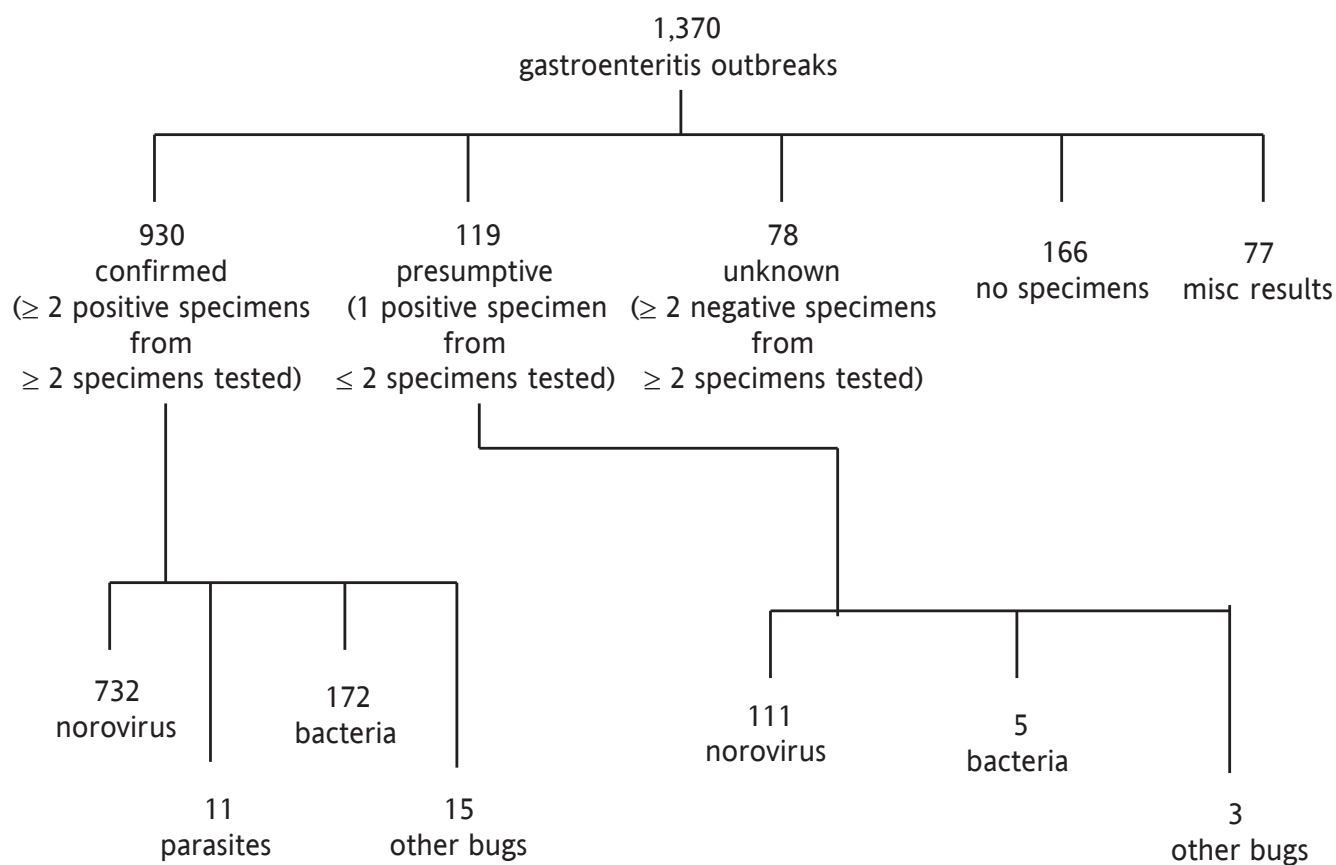
In 2002, we beefed-up reporting and investigating outbreaks in long-term care facilities. A summary of Oregon’s enhanced data collection follows.

Gastroenteritis outbreaks, Oregon, 2003–2011

Gastroenteritis outbreaks are by far the most commonly reported outbreaks in Oregon, accounting for 1,370 (85%) of the 1,619 outbreaks investigated from 2003–2011.

Thanks to rigorous stool specimen collection by local health investigators, 68% of gastroenteritis outbreaks had disease-causing agents identified, mostly caliciviruses (norovirus and sapovirus). Oregon State Public Health Lab now routinely tests for sapovirus when stool specimens are norovirus-negative.

Gastroenteritis outbreaks by confirmation and infection, Oregon, 2003–2011

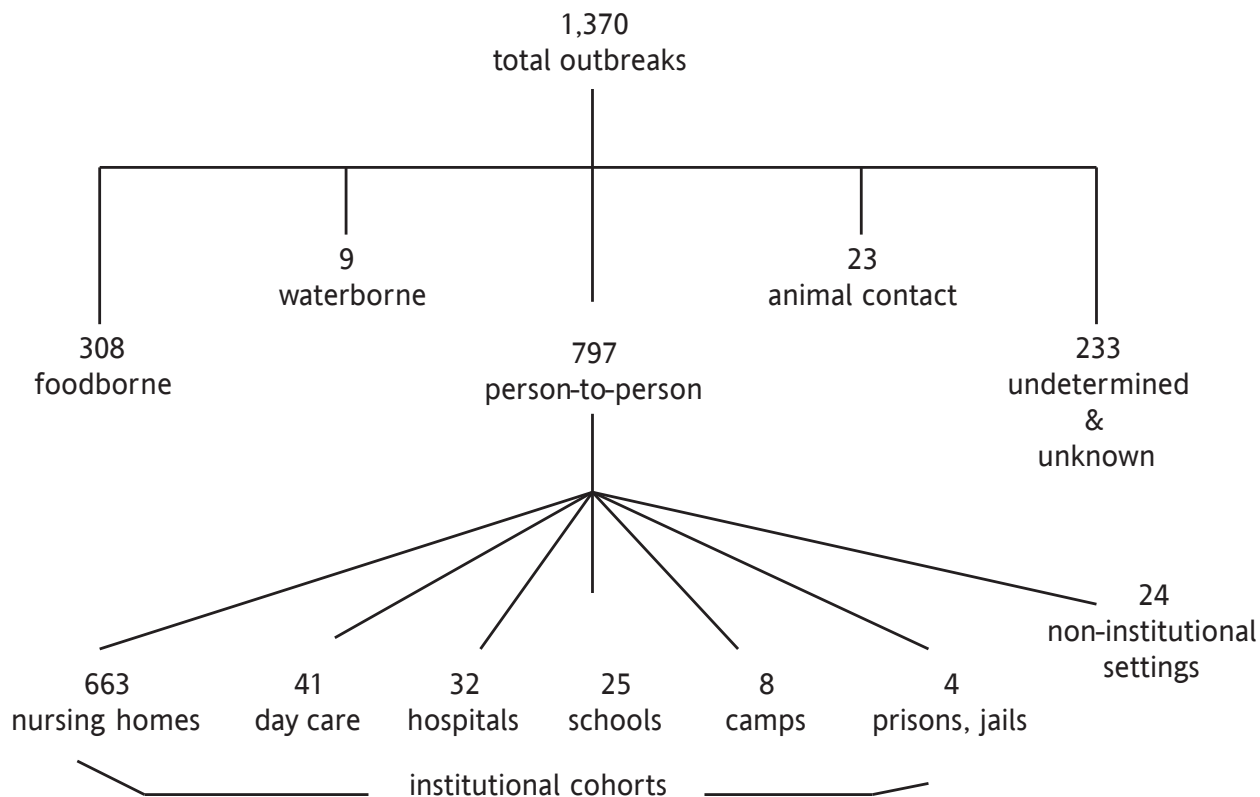


Finalized September 13, 2012

**Gastroenteritis outbreaks by transmission modes and settings:
Oregon, 2003–2011**

Person-to-person transmission was responsible for 58% of outbreaks and foodborne transmission for 23%. Transmission was undetermined (we couldn't figure it out) or unknown (we didn't have enough data to figure it out) in 17% of the outbreaks. More than 50% of the outbreaks happened in institutional cohorts, especially in long-term care.

Gastroenteritis outbreaks by transmission modes and settings, Oregon, 2003–2011

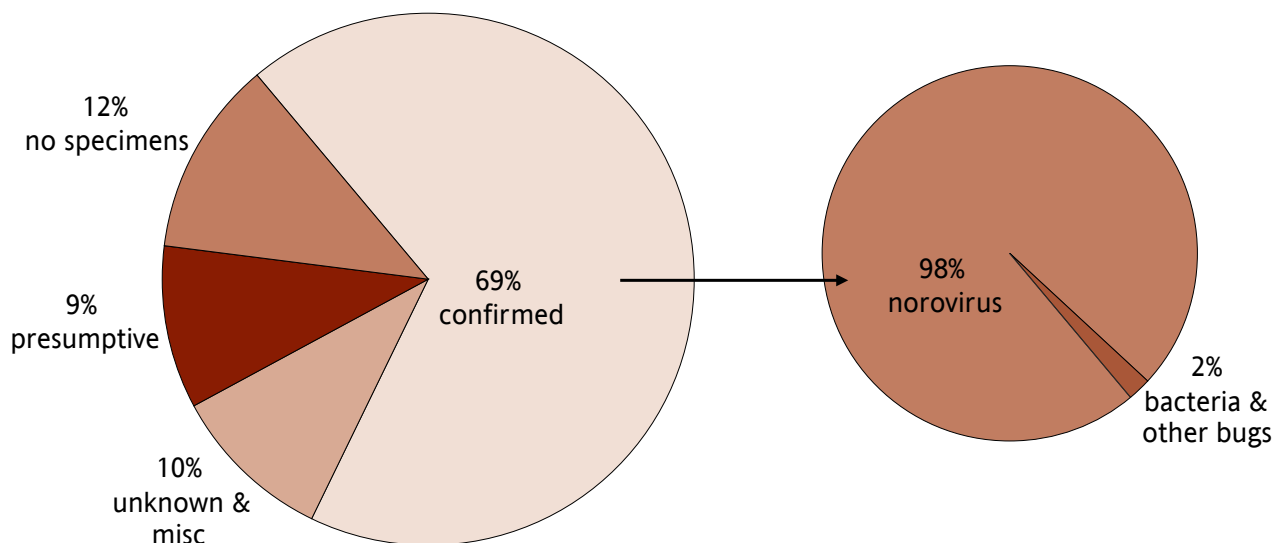


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Gastroenteritis outbreaks in long-term care: Oregon, 2003–2011

Slightly less than one-half of reported gastroenteritis outbreaks occurred in long-term care facilities for the elderly. Seventy-eight percent had confirmed or presumptive etiologies, and 98% of etiologically confirmed outbreaks were caused by noroviruses.

Gastroenteritis outbreaks in long-term care (n=750), all transmission modes, Oregon, 2003–2011



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Gastroenteritis outbreaks in long-term care by county of occurrence and year of investigation: Oregon, 2003–2011

County	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Baker	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	5
Benton	2	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	19
Clackamas	3	4	5	13	12	11	6	17	6	77
Clatsop	1	2	0	1	4	1	2	5	1	18
Columbia	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	5
Coos	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	12
Crook	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Curry	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Deschutes	2	0	1	8	5	9	6	5	3	39
Douglas	0	3	1	3	4	4	0	4	2	21
Grant	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Harney	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Hood River	4	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	2	13
Jackson	6	8	5	7	7	4	8	4	2	51
Jefferson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Josephine	0	1	1	5	2	3	0	0	0	12
Klamath	0	1	0	3	2	2	0	2	4	14
Lake	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lane	5	8	5	9	13	11	8	14	6	79
Lincoln	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	1	8
Linn	0	1	1	4	2	7	0	5	3	23
Malheur	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Marion	4	6	7	15	17	20	6	10	7	92
Morrow	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
multi-state	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Multnomah	1	5	2	6	14	12	20	13	20	93
Polk	2	1	1	3	3	3	5	2	1	21
Tillamook	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
Umatilla	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	2	3	12
Union	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	6
Wasco	2	0	1	3	0	1	2	2	1	12
Washington	1	0	0	12	12	9	11	9	4	58
Yamhill	3	3	0	6	6	6	2	8	4	38
Total	40	48	39	112	118	120	85	112	76	750