

Cryptosporidiosis

Cryptosporidiosis in humans results from infection with protozoal parasites of the genus *Cryptosporidium* — most commonly *C. hominis* or *C. parvum*. Symptomatic infections are characterized by watery diarrhea and abdominal cramps.

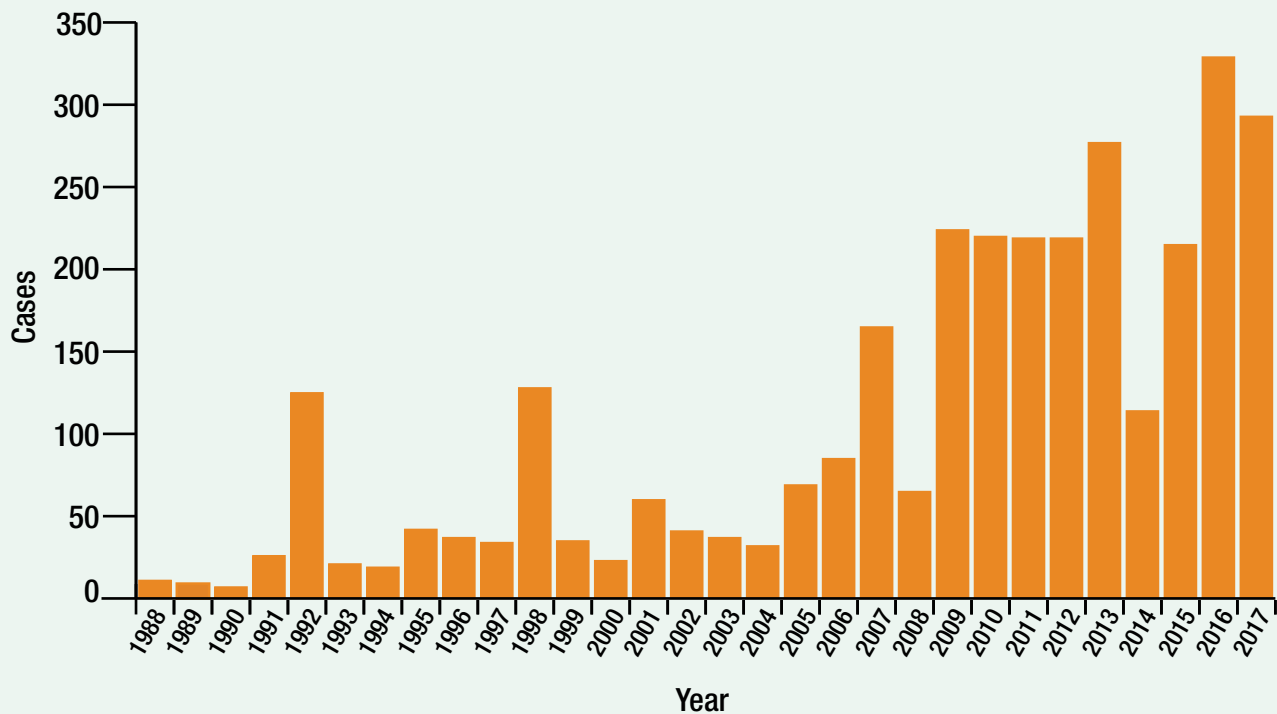
Symptoms typically resolve in one to four weeks in immunocompetent persons, but infections in immunocompromised persons can be difficult or impossible to cure. Studies suggest the prevalence of cryptosporidiosis among young children, particularly those in large child care facilities, is surprisingly high. There are no symptoms for many of these infections.

In Oregon, the rate of infection with *Cryptosporidium* remains elevated from rates observed in 2000, with the 2017 rate of 7.1 per 100,000, down slightly from the rate in 2016. Nationally, infections began to rise in the early millennium but leveled out. Oregon incidence of *Cryptosporidium* remains twice the national rate (3.5 per 100,000 persons). Cases occur year-round with peaks in August, coincident with increases in exposure to recreational water.

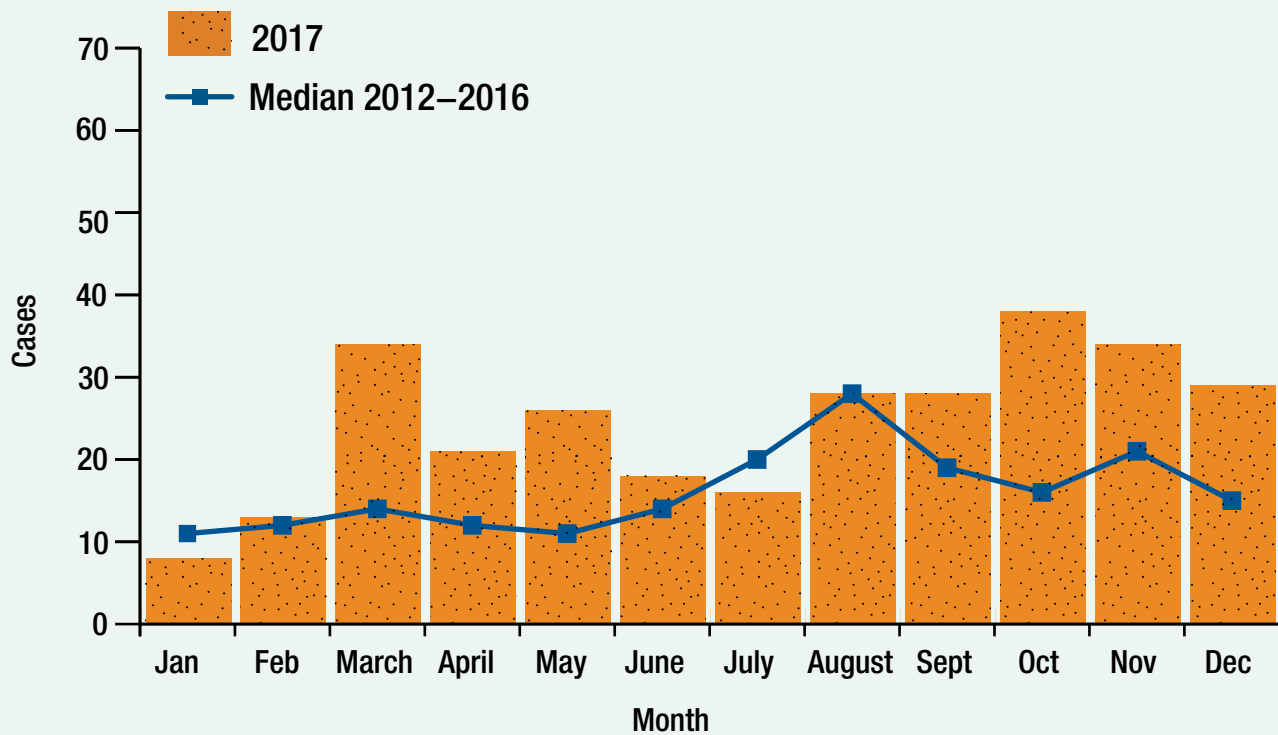
Rapid cartridge (ImmunoSTAT) tests and culture independent diagnostic testing for *Cryptosporidium* might be playing a role in the apparent increase in incidence. In 2017, 293 cases were reported. All cases are routinely investigated to identify the source of infection. No outbreak occurred in 2017.

Treatment with an antiprotozoal agent has been shown effective in persons with a normal immune response; however, there are no proven effective treatments in immunocompromised hosts.

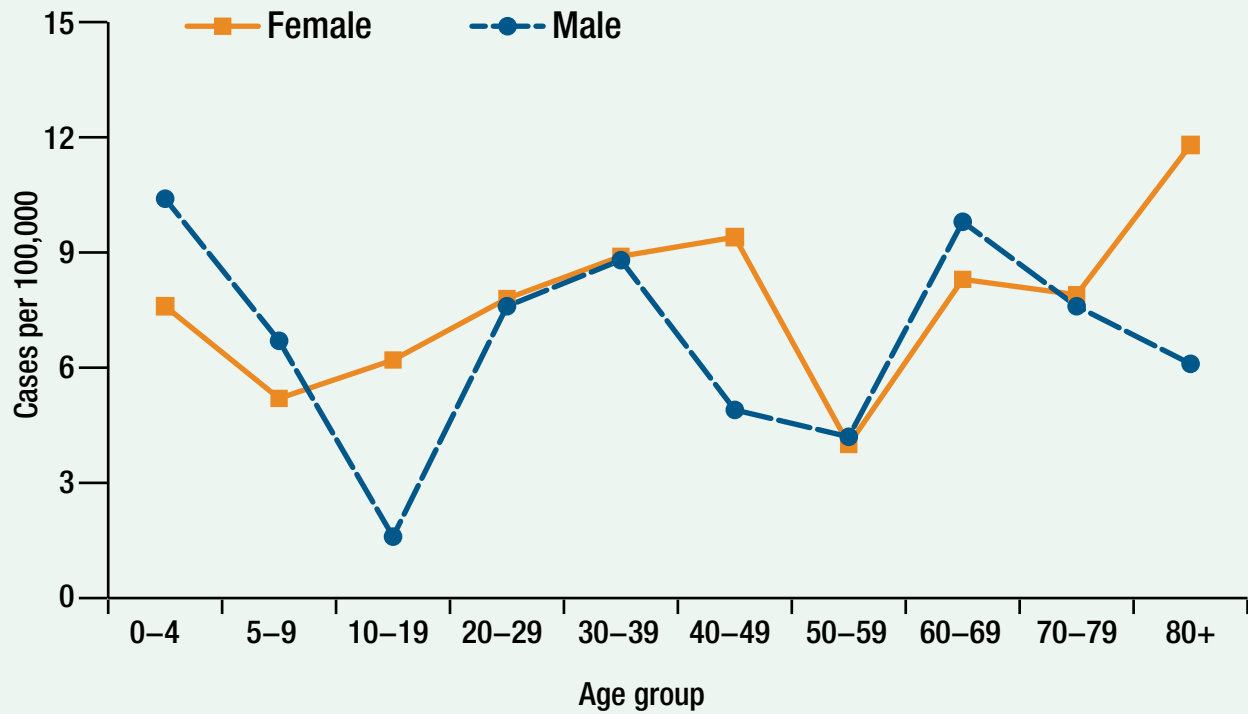
Cryptosporidiosis by year: Oregon, 1988–2017



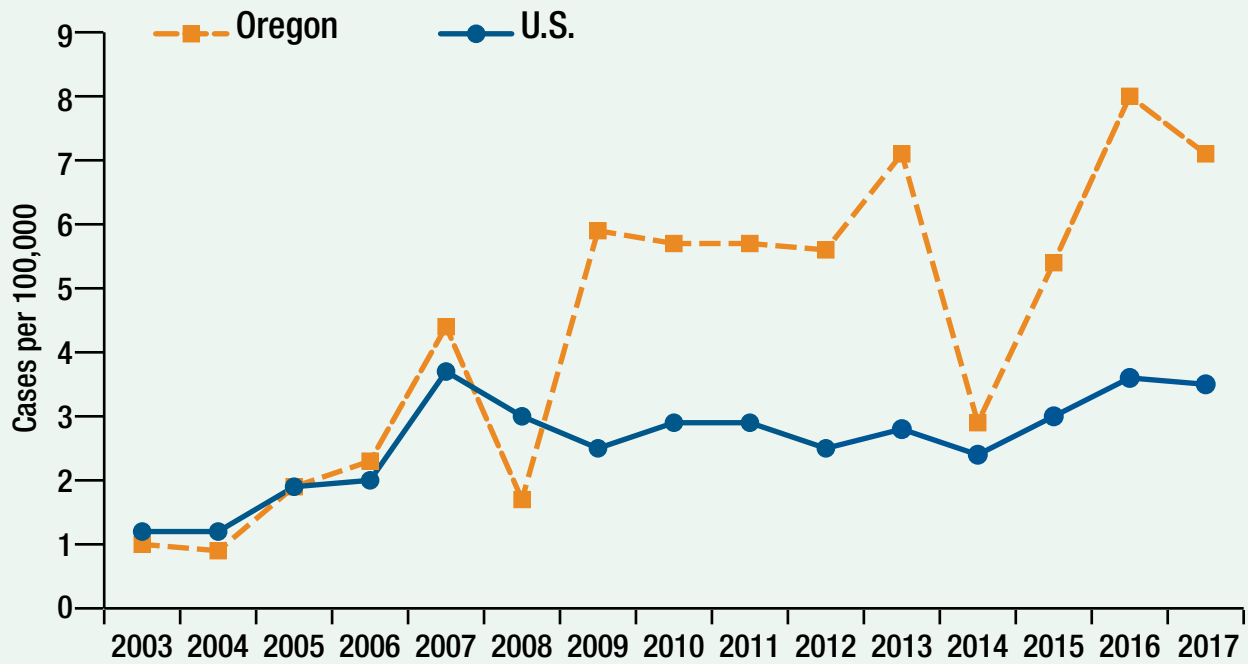
Cryptosporidiosis by onset month: Oregon, 2017



Incidence of cryptosporidiosis by age and sex: Oregon, 2017

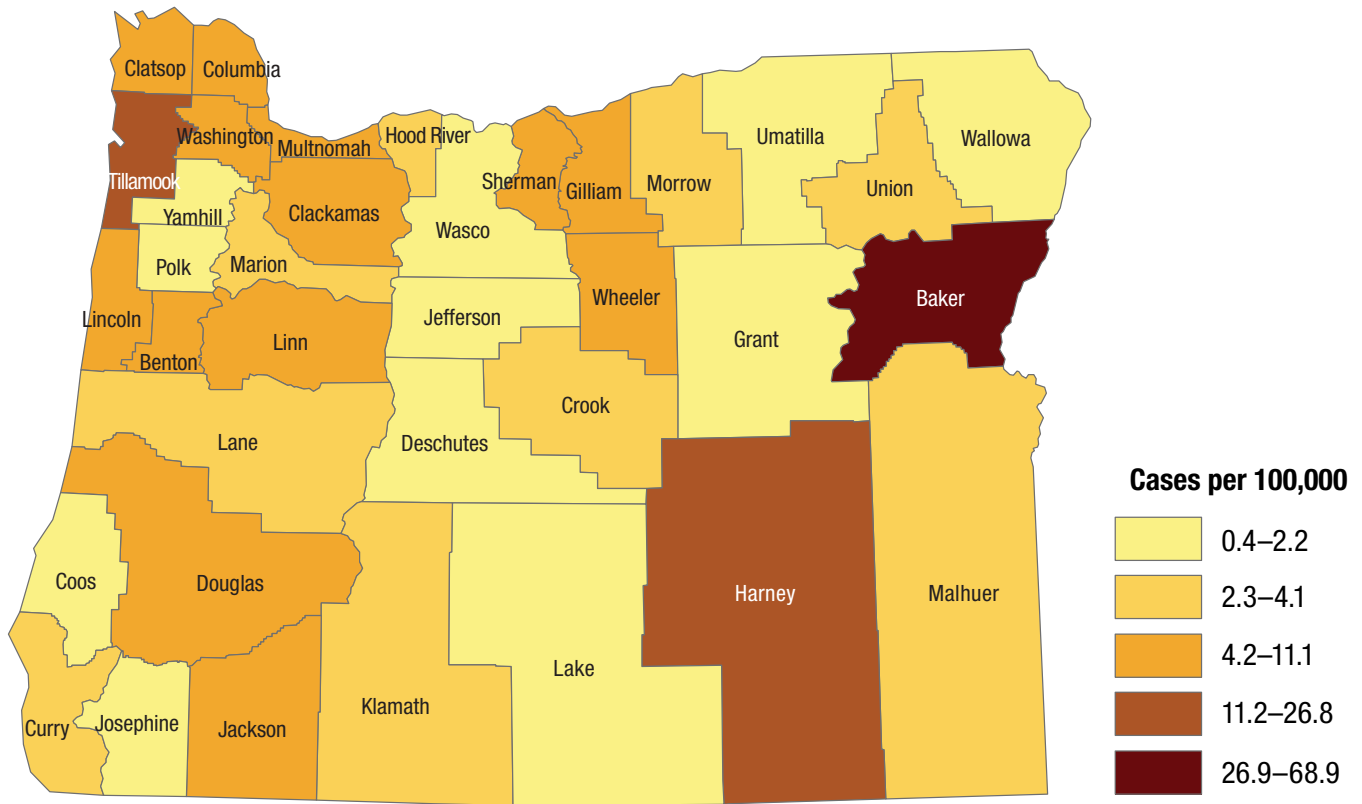


Incidence of cryptosporidiosis: Oregon vs. nationwide, 2003–2017



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|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Oregon | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 4.4 | 1.7 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 7.1 | 2.9 | 5.4 | 8.0 | 7.1 |
| U.S. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 3.5 |

Incidence of cryptosporidiosis by county of residence: Oregon, 2008–2017



Prevention

- Wash hands carefully and frequently with soap and warm water especially after going to the bathroom, changing diapers or touching livestock. Supervise hand washing of toddlers and small children after they use the toilet.
- Do not work or attend daycare, serve or prepare food, or work in health care while ill with diarrhea.
- Refrain from recreational water activities (pools, hot tubs, splash pads) for two weeks after symptoms from a bout of cryptosporidiosis subside.
- Do not drink untreated surface water.