

Investigation Details

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CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) are collecting [different types of data](#) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* infections.

Epidemiologic and laboratory data now show that meats sliced at deli counters, including Boar’s Head brand liverwurst, are contaminated with *Listeria* and are making people sick.

Epidemiologic Data

As of July 26, 2024, a total of 34 people infected with the outbreak strain of *Listeria* have been reported from 13 states (see [map](#)). Sick people’s samples were collected from May 29, 2024, to July 12, 2024 (see [timeline](#)). Of 33 people with information available, all 33 have been hospitalized. One person got sick during their pregnancy and remained pregnant after recovering. Two deaths have been reported, 1 in Illinois and 1 in New Jersey.

The true number of sick people in this outbreak is likely higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not be limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because some people recover without medical care and are not tested for *Listeria*. In addition, recent illnesses may not yet be reported as it usually takes [3 to 4 weeks](#) to determine if a sick person is part of an outbreak.

Public health officials collect many different types of information from sick people, including their age, race, ethnicity, other demographics, and the foods they ate in the month before they got sick. This information provides clues to help investigators identify the source of the outbreak.

The table below has information about sick people in this outbreak (“n” is the number of people with information available for each demographic)

Table of demographic information (n is the number of people with information available)

Demographics	Information
Age (n=34)	Range from 32 to 94 years Median age of 74
Sex (n=34)	44% female 56% male
Race (n=31)	78% White 19% African American/Black 3% Asian

Table of demographic information (n is the number of people with information available)

Demographics	Information
Ethnicity (n=29)	97% non-Hispanic 3% Hispanic

State and local public health officials are interviewing people about the foods they ate in the month before they got sick. People are reporting eating a variety of meats sliced at deli counters. Of the 24 people able to be interviewed, 23 (96%) reported eating meats sliced at a deli. Of the 23 people who answered if they ate liverwurst, 13 (57%) reported deli-sliced liverwurst before getting sick, and seven reported Boar's Head brand. These deli meats were sliced at a variety of supermarket and grocery store delis.

CDC conducted an analysis comparing foods reported by people in this outbreak to foods reported by people who got sick with *Listeria* but were not part of an outbreak. The analysis showed that people in this outbreak were significantly more likely to eat liverwurst. This information suggests that liverwurst is a likely source of this outbreak. CDC continues to gather information to understand which deli meats are causing illness in this outbreak.

Laboratory and Traceback Data

The Maryland Department of Health and Baltimore City Health Department collected an unopened Boar's Head liverwurst product from a retail store and identified *Listeria monocytogenes*. WGS determined it is the same strain as the strain making people sick in this outbreak.

USDA-FSIS conducted traceback of deli meats purchased by sick people in this outbreak to identify producers of interest for further investigation.

Public Health Actions

On July 30, Boar's Head expanded their July 26 recall. Do not eat recalled deli meat products. CDC also advises people who are pregnant, aged 65 or older, or have a weakened immune system to avoid eating deli meats or to heat them before consuming.