



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

E. coli

Multistate Outbreak of Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O145 Infections (Final Update)

Posted July 20, 2012 3:30 PM ET

This particular outbreak appears to be over. However, *E. coli* is still an important cause of human illness in the United States. More information about *E. coli*, and steps people can take to reduce their risk of infection, can be found on the [CDC *E. coli* Web Page \(/ecoli/general/index.\)](#) and the [CDC Vital Signs Web Page \(/VitalSigns/FoodSafety/\)](#).

At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 18** ([/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/epi.html](#))
- **States: 9** ([/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/map.html](#))
- **Deaths: 1**
- **Hospitalizations: 4**

More Information:

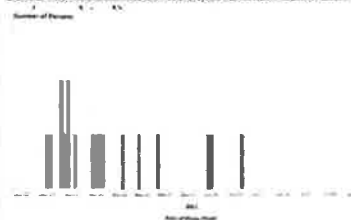
- [Advice to Consumers \(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/advice-consumers.html\)](#)
- [Signs & Symptoms \(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/signs-symptoms.html\)](#)
- [Key Resources \(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/key-resources.html\)](#)

Latest Case Count Map



[\(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/map.html\)](#)

Click map to view updated & previous case count maps. ([/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/map.html](#))



[\(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/epi.html\)](#)

[Click graph to view updated & previous
epidemic curves for STEC O145-06-12/epi.html](#)

Highlights

- **Read the Advice to Consumers » (</ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/advice-consumers.html>)**
- A total of 18 persons infected with the outbreak strain of STEC O145 infection were identified in 9 states.
 - The number of ill persons identified in each state was as follows: Alabama (2), California (1), Florida (1), Georgia (5), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (5), Maryland (1), Tennessee (1), and Virginia (1).
 - Four ill persons were hospitalized. One death was reported in Louisiana.
- Dates for patients' onset of illness ranged from April 15, 2012 to June 12, 2012.
- Based on interviews conducted, a source for these infections was not identified.

Outbreak Summary [↑ \(#top\)](#)

Introduction

CDC collaborated with public health officials in 9 states to investigate a multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) O145 infections. Public health investigators used DNA “fingerprints” of STEC bacteria obtained through diagnostic testing with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, or PFGE, to identify cases of illness that may have been part of this outbreak. They used data from [PulseNet \(/pulsenet/\)](/pulsenet/), the national subtyping network made up of state and local public health laboratories and federal food regulatory laboratories that performs molecular surveillance of foodborne infections.

A total of 18 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of STEC O145 were reported from 9 states. The number of ill persons identified in each state with the outbreak strain was as follows: Alabama (2), California (1), Florida (1), Georgia (5), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (5), Maryland (1), Tennessee (1), and Virginia (1).

Among 18 persons for whom information was available, illness onsets ranged from April 15, 2012 to June 12, 2012. Ill persons ranged in age from 1 to 79 years, and the median age was 33 years. Seventy-eight percent of patients were female. Four patients were hospitalized. One death was reported in Louisiana.

Investigation of the Outbreak

CDC initiated an investigation into this outbreak of illnesses on May 14, 2012 when six ill persons had been reported to CDC [PulseNet \(/pulsenet/\)](/pulsenet/) from two states. CDC and state public health officials interviewed ill persons to obtain information regarding foods they might have eaten and other exposures in the week before illness. Based on interviews of 15 ill persons, a source for these infections was not identified.

Progression of the Outbreak Investigation [↓ \(#t\)](#)

Page last reviewed: June 9, 2012

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Content source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\)](#)

[Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases \(DFWED\)](#)

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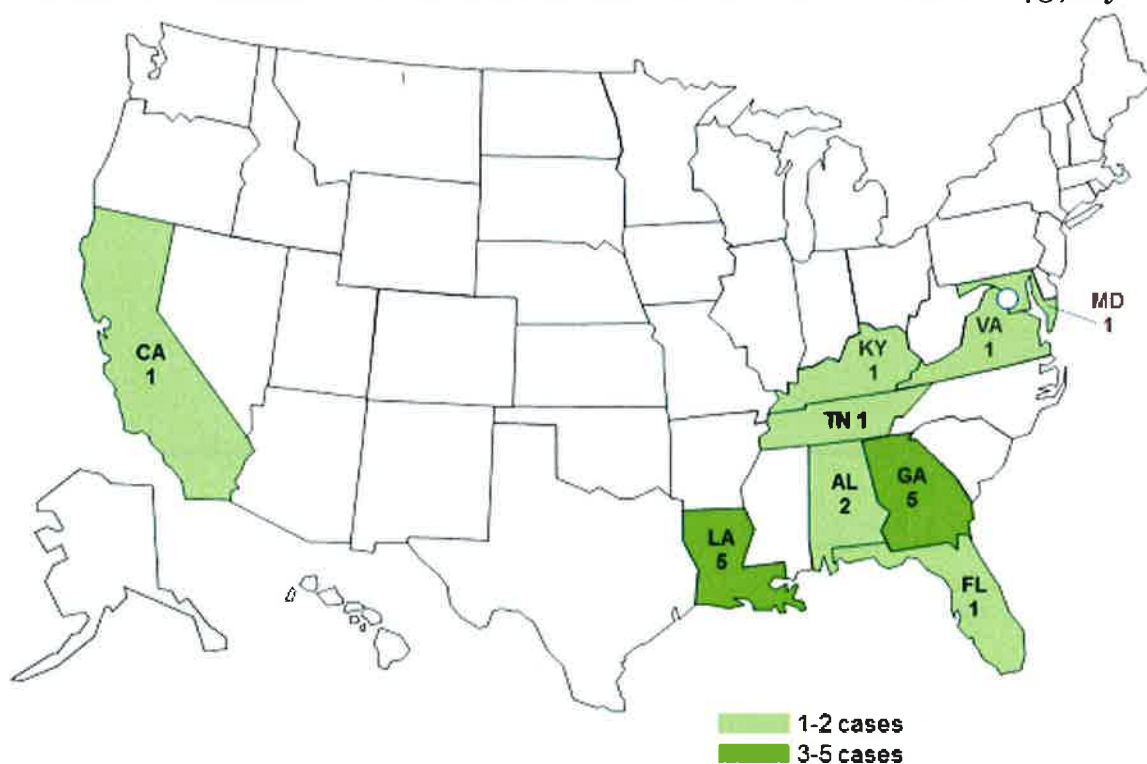
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Current Case Count Map

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O145, by state*



*n=18 for whom information was reported as of July 19, 2012

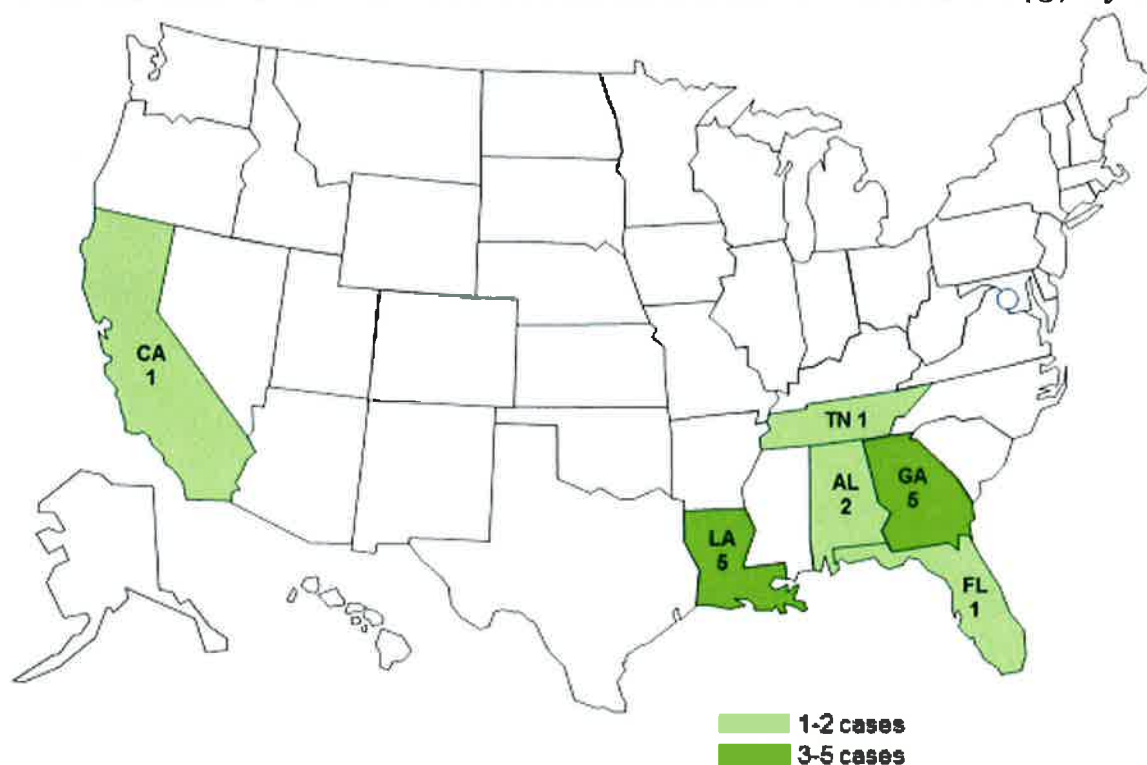
The number of ill persons identified in each state with the outbreak strain was as follows: Alabama (2), California (1), Florida (1), Georgia (5), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (5), Maryland (1), Tennessee (1), and Virginia (1).

[« Read the full Outbreak Investigation \(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/index.html\)](#)

Previous Case Count Map

Case Count Map: June 19, 2012

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O145, by state*

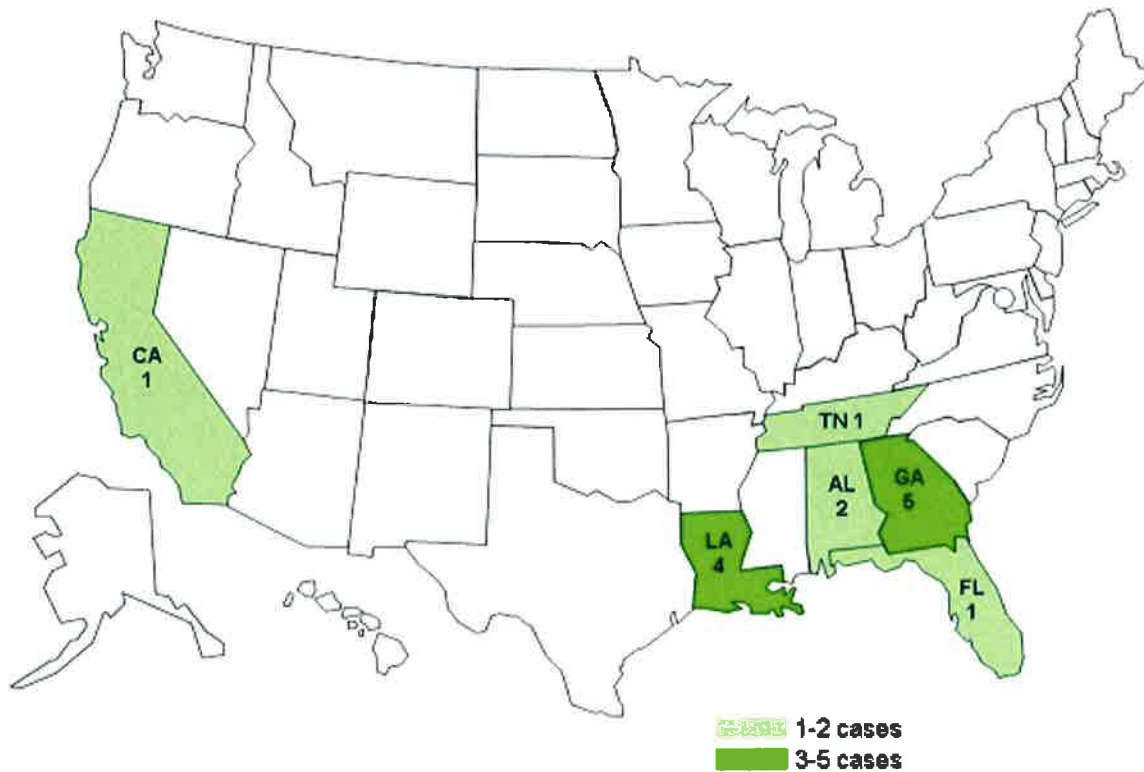


*n=15 for whom information was reported as of June 19, 2012

The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alabama (2), California (1), Florida (1), Georgia (5), Louisiana (5), and Tennessee (1).

Case Count Map: June 8, 2012

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O145, by state*



*n=14 for whom information was reported as of June 8, 2012

The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alabama (2), California (1), Florida (1), Georgia (5), Louisiana (4), and Tennessee (1).

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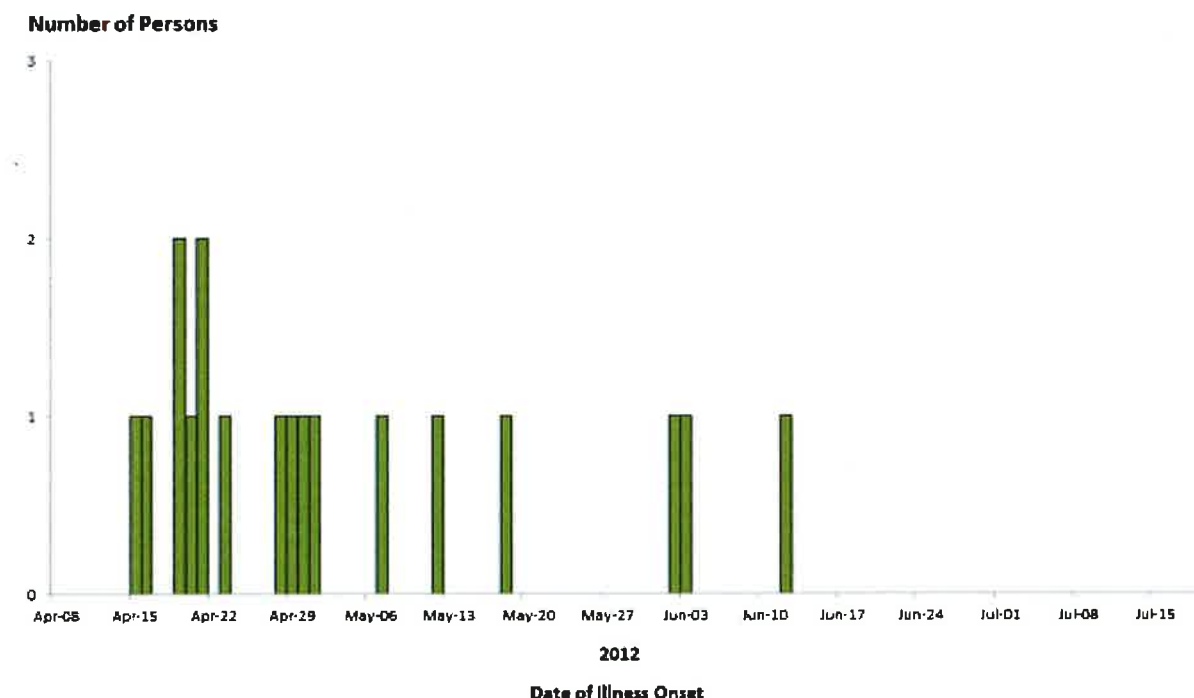
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Epi Curves

The outbreak can be visually described with a chart showing the number of people who became ill each day. Please see the [E. coli Outbreak Investigations: Timeline for Reporting Cases \(/ecoli/reportingtimeline.htm\)](http://ecoli/reportingtimeline.htm) for more details.

Current Epi Curve

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of STEC O145, by date of illness onset*



*n=18 for whom information was reported as of July 19, 2012

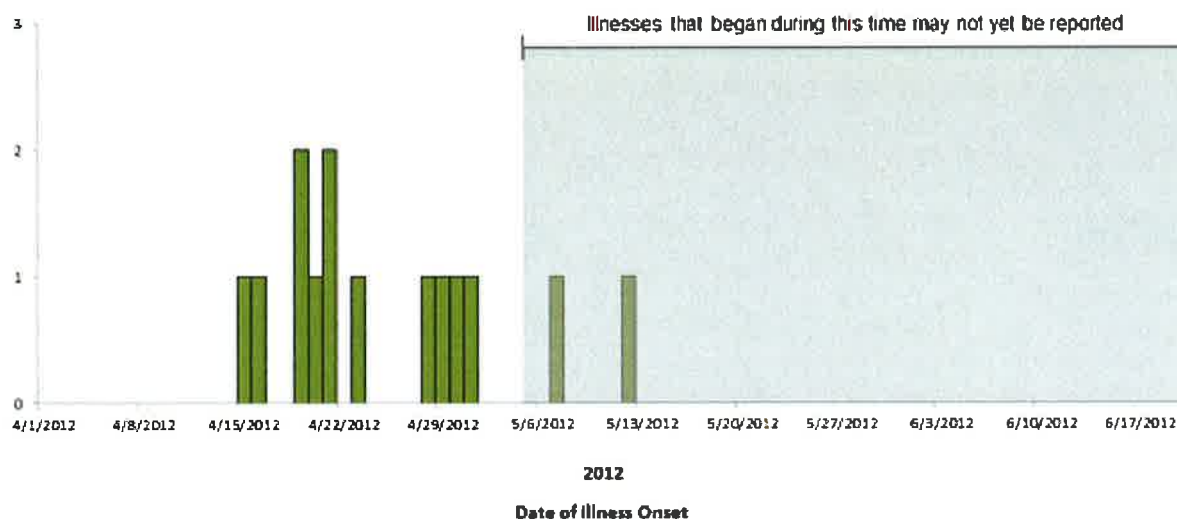
[« Read the full Outbreak Investigation \(/ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/index.html\)](http://ecoli/2012/O145-06-12/index.html)

Previous Epi Curve

Epi Curve: June 19, 2012

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of STEC O145, by date of illness onset*

Number of Persons



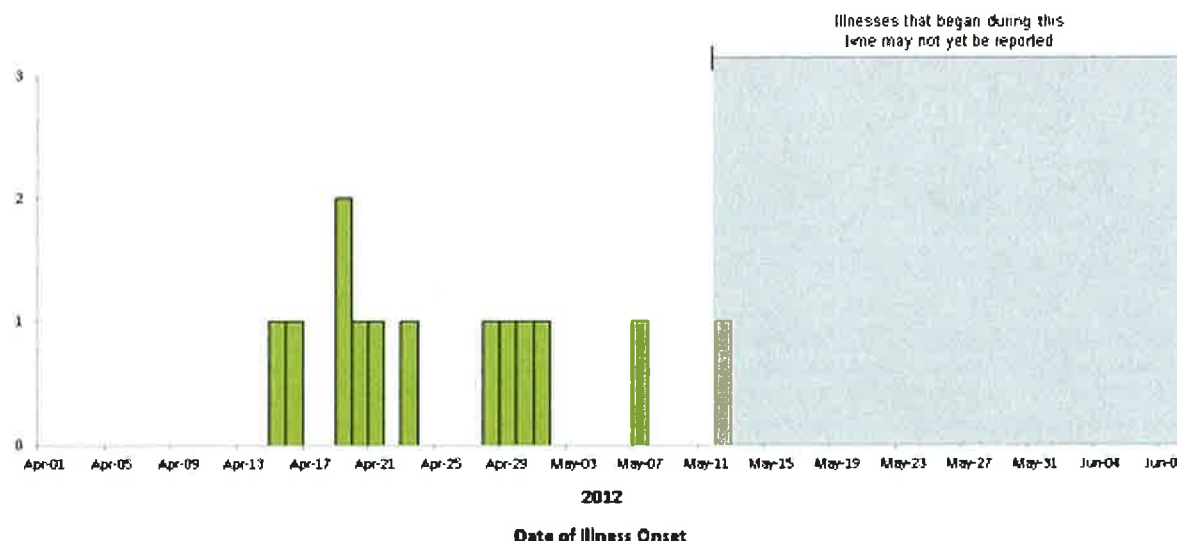
Onset data not currently available for all persons with reported illness.

*n=14 for whom information was reported as of June 19, 2012. Illnesses that occurred after May 5, 2012 might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. This takes an average of 2 to 3 weeks.

Epi Curve: June 8, 2012

Persons infected with the outbreak strain of STEC O145, by date of known or estimated illness onset*

Number of Persons



Onset data not currently available for all persons with reported illness.

*n=13 for whom information was reported as of June 8, 2012

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