

Salmonella

Six Multistate Outbreaks of Human *Salmonella* Infections Linked to Small Turtles

At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 219** (</salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/epi.html>)
- **States: 34** (</salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/map.html>)
- **Deaths: 0**
- **Hospitalizations: 36**

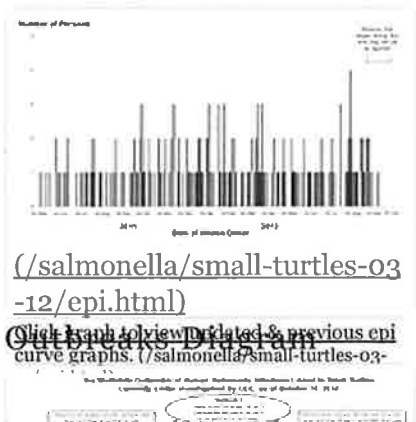
More Information:

- [Advice to Consumers \(/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/advice-consumers.html\)](/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/advice-consumers.html)
- [Signs & Symptoms \(/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/signs-symptoms.html\)](/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/signs-symptoms.html)
- [Key Resources \(/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/key-resources.html\)](/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/key-resources.html)

Latest Case Count Map



Latest Epi Curve





Highlights

- **Read the Advice to Consumers »** ([/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/outbreaks-diagram.html](/salmonella/small-turtles-03-12/advice-03-12/outbreaks-diagram.html))

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A total of 219 persons infected with outbreak strains of *Salmonella* Sandiego, *Salmonella* Poona, and *Salmonella* Newport have been reported from 34 states.

The number of ill persons identified in each state is as follows: Alabama (2), Alaska (2), Arizona (6), Arkansas (2), California (49), Colorado (5), Delaware (3), Georgia (5), Illinois (4), Indiana (1), Kansas (1), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (1), Maryland (6), Massachusetts (5), Michigan (3), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (1), Missouri (1), Nevada (9), New Jersey (10), New Mexico (6), New York (29), North Carolina (3), Ohio (2), Oregon (1), Pennsylvania (18), South Carolina (6), Tennessee (5), Texas (22), Vermont (1), Virginia (5), Wisconsin (1), and West Virginia (2).

- 36 ill persons have been hospitalized, and no deaths have been reported.

66% of ill persons are children 10 years of age or younger, and 30% of ill persons are children 1 year of age or younger.

40% of ill persons are of Hispanic ethnicity. Information about the association between reptiles and *Salmonella* is available in Spanish

(</spanish/EspecialesCDC/ReptilesAnfibiosSalmonella/>).

- Results of the epidemiologic and environmental investigations indicate exposure to turtles or their environments (e.g., water from a turtle habitat) is the cause of these outbreaks.

- 73% of ill persons reported exposure to turtles prior to their illness.
- 92% of ill persons with turtle exposure specifically reported exposure to small turtles (shell length less than 4 inches).

- Small turtles are a well-known source of human *Salmonella* infections, especially among young children. Because of this risk, the Food and Drug Administration has banned the sale and distribution of these turtles as pets since 1975

(<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfcfr/CFRSearch.cfm?fr=1240.62&SearchTerm=turtles%5d>)

& (http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html).

- Turtles with a shell length of less than 4 inches in size should not be purchased as pets or given as gifts.

October 19, 2012

Outbreak 1: *Salmonella* Sandiego, Strain A and *Salmonella* Newport, Strain A

Case Count Update

A total of 82 individuals infected with *Salmonella* Sandiego, strain A, and *Salmonella* Newport, strain A, have been reported from 15 states. The 6 new ill persons are from California (3), Georgia (1), and New York (2).

Illness onset dates range from August 3, 2011 to September 13, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 year to 86 years, with a median age of 7 years. Fifty-seven percent of patients are female. Ethnicity was reported for 32 ill persons, and of these, 22 (69%) are Hispanic. Among 54 persons with available information, 13 (24%) reported being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after August 12, 2012 might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

Outbreak 2: *Salmonella* Pomona, Strain A

Case Count Update

No new illnesses have been reported since the September 7, 2012 update.

Outbreak 3: *Salmonella* Poona, Strain A

Case Count Update

A total of 28 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Poona, strain A, have been reported from 16 states. The 3 new ill persons are from Arkansas (2) and Missouri (1).

Illness onset dates range from October 20, 2011 to August 28, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 year to 70 years, with a median age of 3 years. Sixty-five percent of patients are female. None of the 6 patients for whom ethnicity information is available are Hispanic. Among 18 persons with available information, 6 (33%) reported being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after August 31, 2012 might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

Outbreak 4: *Salmonella* Sandiego, Strain B

Case Count Update

No new illnesses have been reported since the May 10, 2012 update.

Outbreak 5: *Salmonella* Pomona, Strain B

Case Count Update

A total of 73 individuals infected with *Salmonella* Pomona, Strain B, have been reported from 21 states. The 6 new ill persons are from California (2), Michigan (1), New York (1), South Carolina (1), and Texas (1). One ill person in Outbreak 2 infected with *Salmonella* Pomona, Strain A, sought further medical care several weeks after the initial test result. Additional laboratory tests for this ill person yielded *Salmonella* Pomona Strain B, suggesting that Outbreak 2 and Outbreak 5 may be linked. This ill person is not included in the Outbreak 5 case count.

Illness onset dates range from May 23, 2011 to September 3, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 year to 94 years, with a median age of 2 years. Fifty-four percent of patients are female. Ethnicity information was reported for 23 patients; of these, 8 (35%) are Hispanic. Among 35 persons with available information, 11 (31%) reported being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after September 7, 2012 might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

Outbreak 6: *Salmonella* Poona, Strain B

Case Count Update

A total of 14 individuals infected with *Salmonella* Poona, Strain B, have been reported from 5 states. The 8 new ill persons are from California (6), Texas (1), and Wisconsin (1).

Illness onset dates range from April 1, 2012 to September 26, 2012. Ill persons range in age from less than 1 year to 83 years, with a median age of 2 years. Forty-three percent of patients are female. Ethnicity information was reported for 4 patients; of these, 1 (25%) is Hispanic. Among 4 persons with available information, 1 (25%) reported being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Illnesses that occurred after September 17, 2012 might not be reported yet due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported.

September 20, 2012

Outbreak 1: *Salmonella* Sandiego, Strain A and *Salmonella* Newport, Strain A

Case Count Update

A total of 76 individuals infected with *Salmonella* Sandiego, strain A, and *Salmonella* Newport, strain A, have been reported from 15 states. The 6 new cases are from California (1), New Jersey (2), New York (1), and Pennsylvania (2)... [\(show more »\)](#) (#)

Page last reviewed: March 30, 2012

Page last updated: October 19, 2012

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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