

## From the European zoonoses report Agents involved in foodborne outbreaks in the European Union in 2006

*Salmonella* is still the chief cause of foodborne outbreaks within the European Union: Of 5,807 outbreaks reported in 2006 by the EU-Member States plus Norway, Romania and Switzerland, 3,131 outbreaks (54%) were caused by this organism. Second and third were viruses (primarily norovirus) and *Campylobacter* with 10 and 7% respectively. These data were published in the EFSA-report on Zoonoses in the EU-Member States in 2006. A summary of the results is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Agents involved in foodborne outbreaks<sup>1)</sup> in 2006 in the EU-Member States plus Norway, Romania and Switzerland

Agent	Number of outbreaks		Persons involved in 2006
	2006	2005	
<i>Salmonella</i>	3,131	3,406	22,705
Viruses	587	312	13,345
<i>Campylobacter</i>	400	494	2,478
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	236	164	2,057
Toxins	86	-	834
<i>Clostridium</i>	81	79	1,651
<i>Bacillus</i>	78	74	964
Histamin	71	40	370
Pathogenic <i>E. coli</i>	48	60	103
<i>Shigella</i>	33	47	138
<i>Yersinia</i>	26	-	604
<i>Giardia</i>	18	16	44
<i>Trichinella</i>	18	12	202
<i>Listeria</i>	9	-	89
Other agents <sup>2)</sup>	33	-	504
Unknown	952	-	9,437
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,807</b>		<b>55,029</b>

<sup>1)</sup> An outbreak involves at least two persons

<sup>2)</sup> Including: *Aeromonas*, *Anisakis*, *Diphyllobothrium*, *Proteus*, *Vibrio* and wax esters (in fish)

Of the patients suffering from a *Salmonella* infection, 14% were hospitalized. Of the patients suffering from an infection with viruses, *Campylobacter*, *Staphylococcus* or *Listeria*, 4%, 5%, 13% and 74% respectively were hospitalized.

In 16% of the reported outbreaks the causative agent was unknown.

The agents involved in food intoxications were not specified.

Source:

*The Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents, Antimicrobial Resistance and Foodborne Outbreaks in the European Union in 2006, The EFSA Journal (2007) 130*