

## Vibriosis

**2006 Case Total 1**  
**2005 Case Total 5**

**2006 Rate 0.03 per 100,000**  
**2005 Rate 0.14 per 100,000**

The *Vibrio* species that are pathogenic to humans include *V. cholerae* O1/O139, *V. cholerae* non-O1/O139, *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. vulnificus*. Symptoms of illness range in severity from gastroenteritis and wound infections to septicemia. *Vibrio* infections are reportable in Oklahoma and isolates of *Vibrio* species are required to be forwarded to the OSDH PHL for confirmation and speciation. Typically, less than ten cases are reported per year in Oklahoma. In 2006, the OSDH CDD identified and investigated one *Vibrio* case. A summary of that case follows.

A 33-year-old white female resident of Oklahoma County reported onset of severe gastrointestinal illness during November 2006. Symptoms included abdominal distention, dehydration, profuse watery diarrhea, headache, tenesmus, nausea, abdominal pain, and joint discomfort. The case had a history of gastric bypass. She was not hospitalized but described visiting the local emergency department on more than one occasion where she was treated with rehydration and antibiotics. Her diarrhea continued intermittently for at least 2 months until a stool specimen was obtained in early January 2007. The specimen was forwarded to the OSDH PHL where it was confirmed as *Vibrio fluvialis*. The case denied raw seafood consumption but described having eaten at a seafood buffet on multiple occasions near the time of her illness onset. The Oklahoma City County Health Department performed an inspection of the restaurant; no violations were identified regarding storage, preparation, and record keeping of seafood.

Those at highest risk of life-threatening illness due to *Vibrio* species (spp) include persons with liver disease, alcoholism, diabetes mellitus, malignancies, or immunosuppressive disorders. Healthcare providers should advise their patients with these conditions not to eat raw or undercooked seafood, particularly raw shellfish. When acute gastroenteritis occurs following consumption of raw or undercooked shellfish, obtaining a stool specimen to test for *Vibrio spp* is advised. *Vibrio spp* should also be suspected in individuals with a history of exposure to warm seawater and presenting with severe wound infections.

## Reported Number of *Vibrio* Cases by Species and Year, Oklahoma, 1995-2006

