

Listeria infections stable but frequently reported among the elderly

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Listeriosis affected about 2,200 people in 2015, causing 270 deaths - the highest number ever reported in the EU. The proportion of cases in the over 64 age group steadily increased from 56% in 2008 to 64% in 2015. Additionally, in this period, the number of reported cases and their proportion has almost doubled in those over 84 years.

"It is concerning that there continues to be an increasing trend of *Listeria* cases which mostly occur in the elderly population. ECDC is working together with Member States to enhance surveillance for food- and waterborne diseases, starting with *Listeria*, as earlier detection of relevant clusters and [outbreaks](#) can help prevent further cases," said Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist at ECDC. "This is a [public health threat](#) that can and needs to be addressed", he added.

Dr. Marta Hugas, Head of Biological Hazards and Contaminants at EFSA, said: "*Listeria* seldom exceeded the legal safety limits in ready-to-eat foods, the most common foodborne source of human infections. However, it is important that consumers follow manufacturers' storage instructions and the guidelines given by national authorities on the consumption of foods."

In 2015, there were 229,213 reported cases of *Campylobacteriosis*. This disease remains the most commonly reported [foodborne disease](#) in the EU, showing an upward trend since 2008. *Campylobacter* is mostly found in chickens and chicken meat.

The number of cases of salmonellosis, the second most commonly reported foodborne disease in the EU, increased slightly - from 92,007 in 2014 to 94,625 in 2015. The increase observed in the past two years is partly due to improvements in surveillance and better diagnostic methods. However, the long-term trend is still declining and most Member States met their *Salmonella* reduction targets for poultry populations.

Salmonella is mainly found in meat (poultry) intended to be cooked before consumption.

Foodborne outbreaks

There were 4,362 reported [foodborne outbreaks](#) in 2015. The most common cause of outbreaks was *Salmonella* associated with consumption of eggs. However, the number of *Salmonella* outbreaks has fallen by 41 % since 2010.

More information: http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/press/news/_layouts/forms/News_DispForm.aspx?ID=1522&List=8db7286c-fe2d-476c-9133-18ff4cb1b568&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fecdc%2Eeuropa%2Eeu%2Fen%2FPages%2Fhome%2Easpx

Provided by European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

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