

U.S. Foodborne Outbreaks of Cyclosporiasis—2000–2017

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For information about U.S. outbreaks of cyclosporiasis since 2017, please visit CDC’s cyclosporiasis [Outbreak Investigations and Updates](#) page or CDC’s [National Outbreak Reporting System \(NORS\)](#).

Foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis have been reported in the United States since the mid-1990s and have been linked to various types of imported fresh produce, including raspberries, basil, snow peas, mesclun lettuce, and cilantro; no commercially frozen produce has been implicated to date. U.S. foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis that occurred before 2000 were [summarized](#) previously, as were the major documented outbreaks in [2013](#) and [2014](#). Foodborne outbreaks during the 18-year period of 2000–2017 are summarized here.

The table provides information about 39 reported foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis that occurred in the United States during 2000–2017; the total case count was 1,730. No outbreaks were reported in 2003, 2007, or 2010. Overall, a median of two outbreaks were reported per year, with a median of 19 cases per outbreak (range, 3 to 582 cases). Although the outbreaks occurred during 8 different months (December through July), the peak months were May, June, and July. As indicated in the table, a food vehicle of infection was identified (or suspected) for 17 of the 39 outbreaks.

Identifying the particular food item/ingredient that caused an outbreak of cyclosporiasis can be very challenging—for example, if fresh produce was served as a garnish or topping or if several types of produce were mixed together. CDC and other agencies are working to develop and validate molecular typing methods that could distinguish among different strains of the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis* that causes cyclosporiasis. In the future, such tools could help link cases of cyclosporiasis to each other and to particular types of produce, which could help public health officials investigate and prevent cases and outbreaks of *Cyclospora* infection.

Table: Summary of U.S. foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis, 2000–2017

Year(s)*	Month(s)*	Jurisdiction(s)*	No. of cases†	Food vehicle and source, if identified‡
2000	May	Georgia	19	Raspberries and/or blackberries (suspected)
2000	June	Pennsylvania	54	Raspberries
2001	January–February	Florida	39	
2001	January	New York City	3	
2001–02	December–January	Vermont	22	Raspberries (likely)
2002	April–May	Massachusetts	8	
2002	June	New York	14	
2004	February	Texas	38	

2004	February	Illinois	57	Basil (likely)
2004	May	Tennessee	12	
2004	May–June	Pennsylvania	96	Snow peas from Guatemala **
2005	March–May	Florida	582 ¶	Basil from Peru
2005	May	South Carolina	6	
2005	April	Massachusetts	58	
2005	May	Massachusetts	16	
2005	June	Connecticut	30	Basil (suspected)
2006	June	Minnesota	14	
2006	June	New York	20	
2006	July	Georgia	3	
2008	March	Wisconsin	4	Sugar snap peas (likely) **
2008	July	California	45 ¶	Raspberries and/or blackberries (likely)
2009	June	District of Columbia	34	
2011	June	Florida	12	
2011	July	Georgia	88**	
2012	June–July	Texas	16	
2013††	June	Iowa, Nebraska, and neighboring states	162	Bagged salad mix from Mexico
2013††	June–July	Texas	38	Cilantro from Mexico
2013	July	Wisconsin	8	Berry salad (suspected)
2014	June	Michigan	14	
2014‡‡	June–July	Texas	26	Cilantro from Mexico
2014	July	South Carolina	13	
2015	May–July	Georgia, Texas, and Wisconsin	90	Cilantro from Mexico
2016	June–July	Texas	6¶¶	Carrots or green cabbage (suspected)
2017	May	Florida	6	Berries (suspected)
2017	May–July	Texas	38***	Scallions (i.e., green onions)
2017	June	Michigan	29	

2017	June	Tennessee	4†††	
2017	June	Connecticut	3	
2017	July	Florida	3‡‡‡	

* The entries in the first three columns refer to the known or likely year(s), month(s), and jurisdiction(s) in which the exposure(s) to *Cyclospora* occurred.

† The case counts include laboratory-confirmed and probable cases of cyclosporiasis. By definition, each outbreak included at least two linked cases, at least one of which was laboratory confirmed.

‡ A food vehicle is specified only if a single ingredient or commodity was identified in an outbreak investigation.

¶ Cases that occurred in Canadian travelers to the United States were not included.

** An additional 10 probable cases were associated with this outbreak but were not counted in the table: nine of these cases were in residents of states in which cyclosporiasis was not a reportable condition, and the other case was in a patient whose state of residence was unknown.

†† For additional details, see [summary information about the outbreak investigations in 2013](#). For the purposes of this table, the exposure month(s) and case counts are limited to those explicitly linked in the investigations to the food item specified in the last column.

‡‡ For additional perspective, see [summary information about outbreak investigations in 2014](#). For the purposes of this table, the exposure months and the case count for the outbreak in Texas are limited to those explicitly linked in the investigations to the food item specified in the last column.

¶¶ An additional nine suspected cases were identified in persons associated with this outbreak but were not counted in the table because of reporting issues (e.g., insufficient case data).

*** An additional three probable cases were identified in persons associated with this outbreak but were not counted in the table because of reporting issues (e.g., insufficient case data).

††† An additional two probable cases were identified in persons associated with this outbreak but were not counted in the table because of reporting issues (e.g., insufficient case data).

‡‡‡ One additional probable case was identified in a person associated with this outbreak but was not counted in the table because of a reporting issue.

** More information to help distinguish among types of peas can be found [here](#) .