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## Bacterial Enteric Infections Among Older Adults in the United States: Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, 1996–2012

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### Abstract

**Background**—A growing segment of the population—adults aged 65 years—is more susceptible than younger adults to certain enteric (including foodborne) infections and experience more severe disease.

**Materials and Methods**—Using data on laboratory-confirmed infections from the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), we describe trends in the incidence of *Campylobacter* spp., *Escherichia coli* O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and nontyphoidal *Salmonella* infections in adults aged 65 years over time and by age group and sex. We used data from FoodNet and other sources to estimate the total number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths in the United States caused by these infections each year using a statistical model to adjust for underdiagnosis (taking into account medical care-seeking, stool sample submission, laboratory practices, and test sensitivity).

**Results**—From 1996 to 2012, 4 pathogens caused 21,405 laboratory-confirmed infections among older adults residing in the FoodNet surveillance area; 49.3% were hospitalized, and 2.6% died. The average annual rate of infection was highest for *Salmonella* (12.8/100,000) and *Campylobacter* (12.1/100,000). *Salmonella* and *Listeria* led as causes of death. Among older adults, rates of laboratory-confirmed infection and the percentage of patients who were hospitalized and who died generally increased with age. A notable exception was the rate of *Campylobacter* infections, which decreased with increasing age. Adjusting for underdiagnosis, we estimated that these pathogens caused about 226,000 illnesses (~600/100,000) annually among U.S. adults aged 65 years, resulting in ~9700 hospitalizations and ~500 deaths.

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**Disclosures:** None

**Conclusion**—*Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157, *Listeria*, and *Salmonella* are major contributors to illness in older adults, highlighting the value of effective and targeted intervention.

### Keywords

*Campylobacter*; *E. coli* O157; *Listeria*; *Salmonella*; elderly

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## INTRODUCTION

Adults aged ≥ 65 years are more susceptible than younger adults to certain enteric (including foodborne) infections such as listeriosis and *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* bacteremia (Lund and O'Brien, 2011; Crim *et al.*, 2014). Older adults are also more likely to die of enteric infections (Barton Behravesh *et al.*, 2011). Several age-related factors may contribute to their increased susceptibility and disease severity, including weakening of the immune system, changes to the gastrointestinal tract, higher prevalence of other conditions, and more frequent use of antacids and immunosuppressants (Smith, 1998; Lund and O'Brien, 2011). Although laboratory-confirmed infections are a substantial health burden, diagnosed and reported illnesses represent but a fraction of total illnesses (Scallan *et al.*, 2011).

Reducing the incidence of foodborne disease in older adults is a pressing public health challenge, especially because older adults are a rapidly growing segment of the population. The percentage of the U.S. population ≥ 65 years is expected to increase from 13% in 2010 to 19% by 2030 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). To better inform public policy and effectively target interventions, we need to know more about the incidence of and trends in infection from pathogens transmitted commonly through food. The aim of this study was to describe trends in the incidence of laboratory-confirmed infections caused *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli* O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and nontyphoidal *Salmonella* in adults aged ≥ 65 years and to estimate the total number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths annually (both diagnosed and undiagnosed).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Incidence of Laboratory-Confirmed Infections

We describe the incidence of laboratory-confirmed infections using data obtained from the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), a collaborative program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 10 state health departments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FoodNet conducts active, population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed illnesses caused by pathogens transmitted commonly through food, including *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157, *Listeria*, and nontyphoidal *Salmonella*. When established in 1996, the FoodNet surveillance area included Minnesota, Oregon, and selected counties in California, Connecticut, and Georgia. During 1997–2004, the surveillance area expanded to 10 states (Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, and Tennessee, and select counties in California, Colorado and New York)

and has been stable since then. In 2012, the FoodNet surveillance area accounted for 15% of the U.S. population (~48 million people).

FoodNet defines “case” as *isolation of a pathogen by culture from a clinical specimen obtained from a resident of the surveillance area*. FoodNet routinely contacts and audits ~650 clinical laboratories serving the surveillance area to learn about laboratory-confirmed infections. For *Listeria*, only invasive cases, defined as isolation of the pathogen from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood, cerebrospinal fluid) were counted. We considered nontyphoidal *Salmonella* (hereafter, *Salmonella*) to include all serotypes other than Typhi. For each patient, we sought information on age, sex, date of specimen collection, specimen source, hospitalization, outcome (alive or dead), and, for infections during 2004–2012, whether the illness was part of a recognized outbreak. We defined hospitalization as admission within 7 days of specimen collection date. Patient outcome was determined by interview or medical chart review and was recorded 7 days after specimen collection or at hospital discharge, whichever was later.

### Data Analysis

We identified cases of infection during 1996–2012 in adults aged ≥65 years. We assumed patients with an unknown outcome were alive (Manikonda *et al.*, 2012). Incidence rates per 100,000 were calculated using U.S. census population estimates for the corresponding years. When examining changes in incidence over time, we used a negative binomial regression model to account for the changing surveillance area and site-to-site variation in incidence (Henao *et al.*, 2010). We compared incidence rates and percentage hospitalized/died among adults ≥65 years with children <5 years and people aged 5–64 years. Analyses were conducted using SAS version 9.3 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

### Estimates of Annual Illness, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

For an illness to be diagnosed, someone must seek medical care and submit a stool sample, and the clinical laboratory must confirm the cause. If these steps do not occur, the cause will not be laboratory confirmed (underdiagnosis). Therefore, to estimate total illnesses in adults aged ≥65 years, we used a statistical model that scaled counts of laboratory-confirmed illnesses up to an estimated number of total illnesses, adjusting for underdiagnosis. Because FoodNet conducts active surveillance, we assumed that all laboratory-confirmed illnesses were reported. A similar model has estimated illnesses in the general population (Scallan *et al.*, 2011) and among children aged <5 years (Scallan *et al.*, 2012). For comparability with these estimates, we used FoodNet data from 2005 to 2008, basing our estimates on the 2006 U.S. population. Because FoodNet is limited to 10 states, we estimated laboratory-confirmed illnesses by applying pathogen-specific incidence rates among adults aged ≥65 years from FoodNet to the 2006 U.S. population estimate for adults ≥65 years (37.2 million people).

To adjust for underdiagnosis for *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157, and *Salmonella*, we estimated how often adults aged ≥65 years with a diarrheal illness sought medical care and submitted stool samples. We used data from the surveys of the general FoodNet population in 2000–2001, 2002–2003 (Jones *et al.*, 2007), and 2006–2007 (CDC, 2012), where diarrheal illness was defined as an illness with ≥3 loose stools in 24 h and a duration of >1

day or resulting in restricted daily activities. People with more severe diarrheal illness are likely to seek medical care (Scallan *et al.*, 2005a), so we adjusted separately for medical care-seeking and stool sample submission among people with mild or severe illness. For *E. coli* O157, "severe" was the percentage of laboratory-confirmed case-patients  $\geq 65$  years enrolled in FoodNet case-control studies who reported bloody diarrhea (Kassenborg *et al.*, 2004; Voetsch *et al.*, 2007) (Supplementary Appendix Table A1; Supplementary Data are available online at [www.liebertpub.com/fpd](http://www.liebertpub.com/fpd)). For *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella*, the percentage of laboratory-confirmed case-patients aged  $\geq 65$  years enrolled in FoodNet case-control studies who reported bloody diarrhea (15% and 22%, respectively) (Friedman *et al.*, 2004; Hennessy *et al.*, 2004; Kimura *et al.*, 2004; Mermin *et al.*, 2004; Marcus *et al.*, 2007) was lower than that reported among all ages (45% and 45%, respectively) (Scallan *et al.*, 2011) despite higher hospitalization rates among older adults (Table 1). Therefore, we concluded the percentage of older adults categorized "severe" with a laboratory-confirmed *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* infection tracked with the general population (Supplementary Appendix Table A1). For *Listeria*, because only invasive illnesses were counted, we assumed high rates of medical care-seeking (90%) and specimen submission (80%), as done for similar analyses (Scallan *et al.*, 2011). We adjusted for laboratory testing practices and test sensitivity using FoodNet surveys and other sources (Supplementary Appendix Table A1).

To estimate total hospitalizations and deaths, we determined the pathogen-specific percentage of adults aged  $\geq 65$  years with a laboratory-confirmed illness who were hospitalized and died. Then we applied these percentages to the estimated number of laboratory-confirmed illnesses in the United States. Some people with undiagnosed illnesses would have been hospitalized and died. For this reason, we doubled the number of hospitalizations and deaths to account for underdiagnosis, similar to previous analyses (Scallan *et al.*, 2011).

### Uncertainty Analysis

We used probability distributions to describe a range of plausible values for model inputs and described the uncertainty in our estimates by generating a point estimate and upper and lower 5% limits for 90% credible intervals (CrI) (Supplementary Appendix Table A1). Analyses were conducted using SAS version 9.3 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

## RESULTS

### Incidence of Laboratory-Confirmed Infections

During 1996–2012, FoodNet identified 21,405 laboratory-confirmed infections among adults aged  $\geq 65$  years caused by *Salmonella* (10,413 infections; 48.7%), *Campylobacter* (9229; 43.1%), *Listeria* (1007; 4.7%), and *E. coli* O157 (756; 3.5%). Among infections with a known specimen source, 11.0% (1129/10,309) of *Salmonella*, 2.7% (248/9048) of *Campylobacter*, and 0.3% (2/753) of *E. coli* O157 infections were isolated from a normally sterile site. (All *Listeria* infections were invasive, by definition.) From 2004 to 2012, 3.9% (575/14,881) of infections with information available were identified as outbreak-associated:

*E. coli* O157 (18.1%; 72/398), *Salmonella* (5.9%; 448/7554), *Listeria* (5.8%; 36/621), and *Campylobacter* (0.3%; 19/6308).

The average annual rate of infection was highest for *Salmonella* (12.8/100,000) and *Campylobacter* (12.1/100,000), followed by *Listeria* (1.4/100,000) and *E. coli* O157 (1.1/100,000). For *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, rates were significantly higher in 2012 than in 1996–1998 or 2006–2008: for *Salmonella*, 35% (95% CI, 18–56) and 12% higher (95% CI, 1–24), respectively; for *Campylobacter*, 17% (95% CI, 3–32) and 29% higher (95% CI, 17–43), respectively (Fig. 1). Rates in 2012 were significantly lower for *E. coli* O157 (45%; 95% CI, 20–62) and *Listeria* (41%; 95% CI, 18–58), compared with 1996–1998. Compared with children aged <5 years and people aged 5–64 years, adults aged ≥65 years had the highest average annual rate of *Listeria* infection, the lowest rates of *Campylobacter* and *E. coli* O157 infection, and the second highest rate of *Salmonella* infection (Table 1).

Among adults aged ≥65 years, the rate of infection increased with age for *Listeria* and *Salmonella* and decreased with age for *Campylobacter* (Fig. 2). Incidence of *E. coli* O157 infection was highest among adults aged 75–79 years. Average annual rates of *Campylobacter* and *Listeria* infection were higher among older men than older women, whereas the rate of *Salmonella* infection was higher in older women (Fig. 2). This disparity among cases of *Salmonella* infection was driven solely by the higher rate of urinary tract infections among older women. After excluding cases listing urine as the specimen source, the higher rate of infection in older women disappears. Conversely, the rate is slightly higher among males aged >70 years (data not shown). Overall, the rate of *E. coli* O157 infection was slightly higher among women than men. However, this varied by age group.

Overall, 49.3% of ill adults aged ≥65 years with available data were hospitalized (Table 2). Most hospitalizations were due to *Salmonella* infection, although the percentage of patients hospitalized was higher for *Listeria* and *E. coli* O157. Hospitalization rates increased with increasing age, except for *Listeria*, which had a high hospitalization rate in all age groups. At least 2.6% of adults aged ≥65 years died (Table 2). *Salmonella* and *Listeria* were the leading causes of death, though the percentage who died was almost 10-fold higher for *Listeria*. For all pathogens, the percentage who died was lowest among older adults in the youngest age group. The percentage hospitalized for *Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157, and *Salmonella* and the percentage who died for each of the 4 pathogens was higher among adults aged ≥65 years than among children aged <5 years or people aged 5–64 years (Table 1).

### Estimated Illnesses, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

After adjusting for medical care-seeking, stool sample submission, laboratory practices, and test sensitivity, we estimated that each year *Campylobacter* caused 110,200 illnesses and *Salmonella* caused 110,100 among adults aged ≥65 years in the United States (296 illness per 100,000 older adults for each pathogen). Thus, for every laboratory-confirmed case of *Campylobacter* or *Salmonella* among adults aged ≥65 years, we estimated there were

actually 24 and 23 illnesses, respectively. *E. coli* O157 caused an estimated 4700 illnesses and *Listeria* an estimated 990 illnesses annually.

Of the 4 pathogens, we estimated that *Salmonella* caused the most hospitalizations (5100) and deaths (220) among adults aged  $\geq 65$  years. *Listeria* was estimated to be the third leading cause of hospitalizations (890), after *Campylobacter* (3200), and the second leading cause of death (180) (Table 3).

Considering people of all ages, those aged  $\geq 65$  years accounted for 9% of estimated illnesses but 24% of estimated hospitalizations and 55% of estimated deaths caused by these enteric pathogens. Older adults accounted for 58% of estimated illnesses, 59% of hospitalizations, and 67% of deaths for *Listeria*. (Supplementary Appendix Table A2).

## DISCUSSION

*Campylobacter*, *E. coli* O157, *Listeria*, and *Salmonella* infections disproportionately harm older adults, and as they age, that harm is more likely to result in hospital stays or death. After adjusting for underdiagnosis, we estimated that 4 pathogens caused about 226,000 illnesses, 9700 hospitalizations, and 480 deaths annually among older adults. Because these pathogens often spread through food, effective measures to improve food safety could go a long way toward improving the health of older adults.

As one would suspect, rates of illness, hospitalization, and death generally increased with age among older adults, but we found the rate of laboratory-confirmed *Campylobacter* infection decreased with age. This is consistent with data from other industrialized countries that show campylobacteriosis peaks in childhood and, after a steep decline, peaks again in young adulthood before gradually declining. Some studies indicate that frequent exposure induces protective immunity to *Campylobacter* (Cawthraw *et al.*, 2000). However, rates of hospitalization and death among older adults who become infected with *Campylobacter* continued to increase with age, similar to other enteric pathogens in this study. The percentage of outbreak-associated infections among older adults was similar to that of the general population except for *Listeria*, for which the outbreak-associated percentage was higher in older adults (Scallan *et al.*, 2011). This difference was driven by a large outbreak of listeriosis that involved many older adults in 2011.

Not surprisingly, infections in older adults are more often invasive. In our study, 11% of *Salmonella* isolates were from blood, compared with just 5–6% for the overall population (Olsen *et al.*, 2001; Jones *et al.*, 2008). *Campylobacter* was also more likely to be isolated from blood in older adults (3% versus 1%) (Ailes *et al.*, 2008; Nielsen *et al.*, 2010). The increased risk of death in older adult patients hospitalized with *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter* infection may be partly due to the higher prevalence of comorbidities. This is one reason residents of long-term care facilities (LTCF), who are among the most frail elderly, are thought to experience a higher incidence of gastroenteritis and to be at higher risk for foodborne illness (Garibaldi, 1999).

The rate of laboratory-confirmed *Campylobacter* infections among older adults was higher for men than women, similar to findings in other age groups (Ailes *et al.*, 2008). The rate of

laboratory-confirmed *Listeria* infections was also higher among older men, suggesting sex-specific risk factors for these infections. In contrast, laboratory-confirmed *Salmonella* infections occurred more often in women, which is due to their higher rate of urinary tract infections. The higher rate of *Salmonella* urinary tract infections in older women is well documented (Sivapalasingam *et al.*, 2004).

Our point estimates for every laboratory-confirmed case of *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, and *E. coli* O157 illness among adults aged ≥ 65 years were lower than for the general population (24 versus 30 for *Campylobacter*, 23 versus 29 for *Salmonella*, and 14 versus 26 for *E. coli* O157) but were higher than for children aged < 5 years (14, 12, and 9, respectively) (Scallan *et al.*, 2011, 2012). Our method assigned the same percentage of severe illnesses for older adults as that assigned to the general population for *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, and *E. coli* O157 infection. The lower rate of underdiagnosis among older adults compared with the general population was due mostly to their higher rate of medical care-seeking (56% versus 35% among those reporting severe [bloody] and 22% versus 18% among those reporting mild [non-bloody] diarrhea, respectively). These data are consistent with studies in other countries that have found slightly higher rates of medical care-seeking for gastrointestinal illnesses among older adults (Scallan *et al.*, 2005b; Kirk *et al.*, 2012).

Estimating the percentage of laboratory-confirmed *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter* infection to categorize as “severe illness” is a critical and challenging part of estimating the overall burden of disease and has considerable influence on the resulting estimates. In previous analyses, we used bloody diarrhea as an indicator of severe illness and estimated the proportion of laboratory-confirmed illnesses with bloody diarrhea using case series data from FoodNet case-control studies (Scallan *et al.*, 2011, 2012). However, the proportion of older people with *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infections reporting bloody diarrhea in FoodNet case-control studies was low (15% and 22%, respectively) (Friedman *et al.*, 2004; Hennessy *et al.*, 2004; Kimura *et al.*, 2004; Mermin *et al.*, 2004; Marcus *et al.*, 2007) for the percentage hospitalized. Therefore, when estimating total *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* illnesses among older people, we assumed the percentage of severe illness was similar to that of the general population. Other choices would have resulted in different estimates for these pathogens. For example, using the percentage of case-patients hospitalized would have resulted in estimates similar to those we reported in the Results section for *Campylobacter* (121,080 versus 110,200) and *Salmonella* (99,800 versus 110,100). However, using the percentage of case-patients with bloody diarrhea as an indicator of the percentage of severe illness would have resulted in much higher estimates for *Campylobacter* (268,600) and *Salmonella* (285,600) (Supplementary Appendix Tables A3 and A4).

This analysis is subject to limitations beyond those already discussed. First, much of the data came from FoodNet sites, which were not selected to represent the U.S. population. However, a comparison of data from FoodNet and the 2005 U.S. census showed minimal demographic differences (Scallan, 2007). Second, FoodNet determines outcome at 7 days after the specimen collection date or at hospital discharge. When death occurs, however, FoodNet does not consider whether the reported infection contributed, and some reported deaths may not be related to the infection. Determining cause of death among older people is especially difficult because of comorbidities. Third, although FoodNet surveillance includes

laboratory-confirmed cases of infection among residents of LTCF, FoodNet does not survey these residents when estimating how often they seek medical care. The incidence of foodborne pathogens and medical care-seeking practices may differ between older people living in LTCF and those living in the community. Also, the proportion of older adults living in LTCF varies by age. Fourth, estimates of the rates of medical care-seeking and stool sample submission from FoodNet population surveys increased each survey cycle, with the largest increase occurring between 2002 and 2003, and 2006 and 2007. The questionnaire used in 2006–2007 differed from earlier studies in the order and wording of questions, perhaps explaining at least some of this increase. Fifth, our adjustment for underdiagnosis by doubling the number of hospitalizations and deaths, although consistent with previous studies (Scallan *et al.*, 2011), has not been validated. These sources of potential bias, along with the uncertainties reflected in our credible intervals, point to the need for additional studies to improve estimates of the total number of illnesses, hospitalization, and deaths. In our view, developing a more data-driven approach to adjusting for underdiagnosis for hospitalizations and deaths and being better able to classify severe illness in older adults are the most important questions to be addressed.

The burden of bacterial enteric infection among adults 65 years of age is high. Moreover, older adults are at an increased risk for severe outcomes. Because these four bacterial pathogens are transmitted commonly through food, this study highlights the need for effective food safety interventions that target older adults, especially given anticipated increases in the population of people over 65 years of age.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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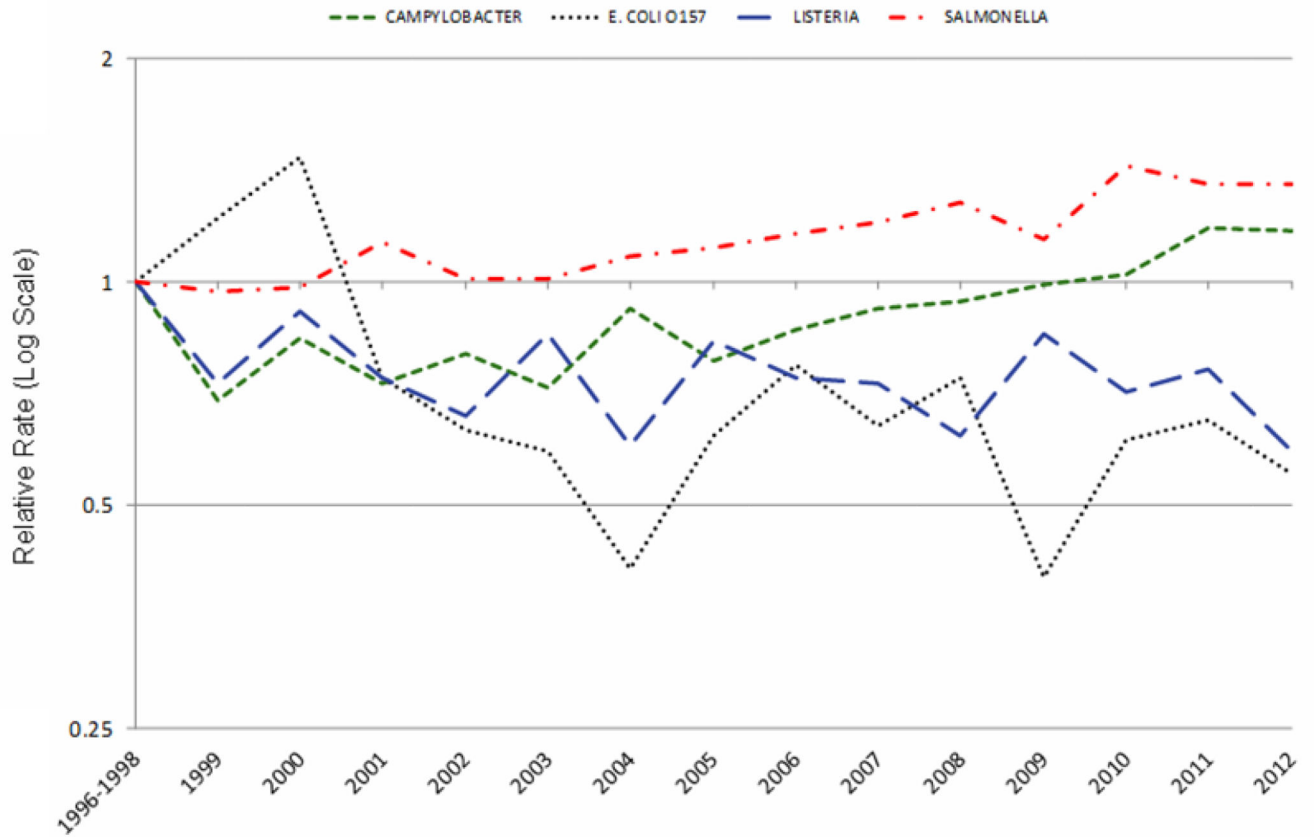
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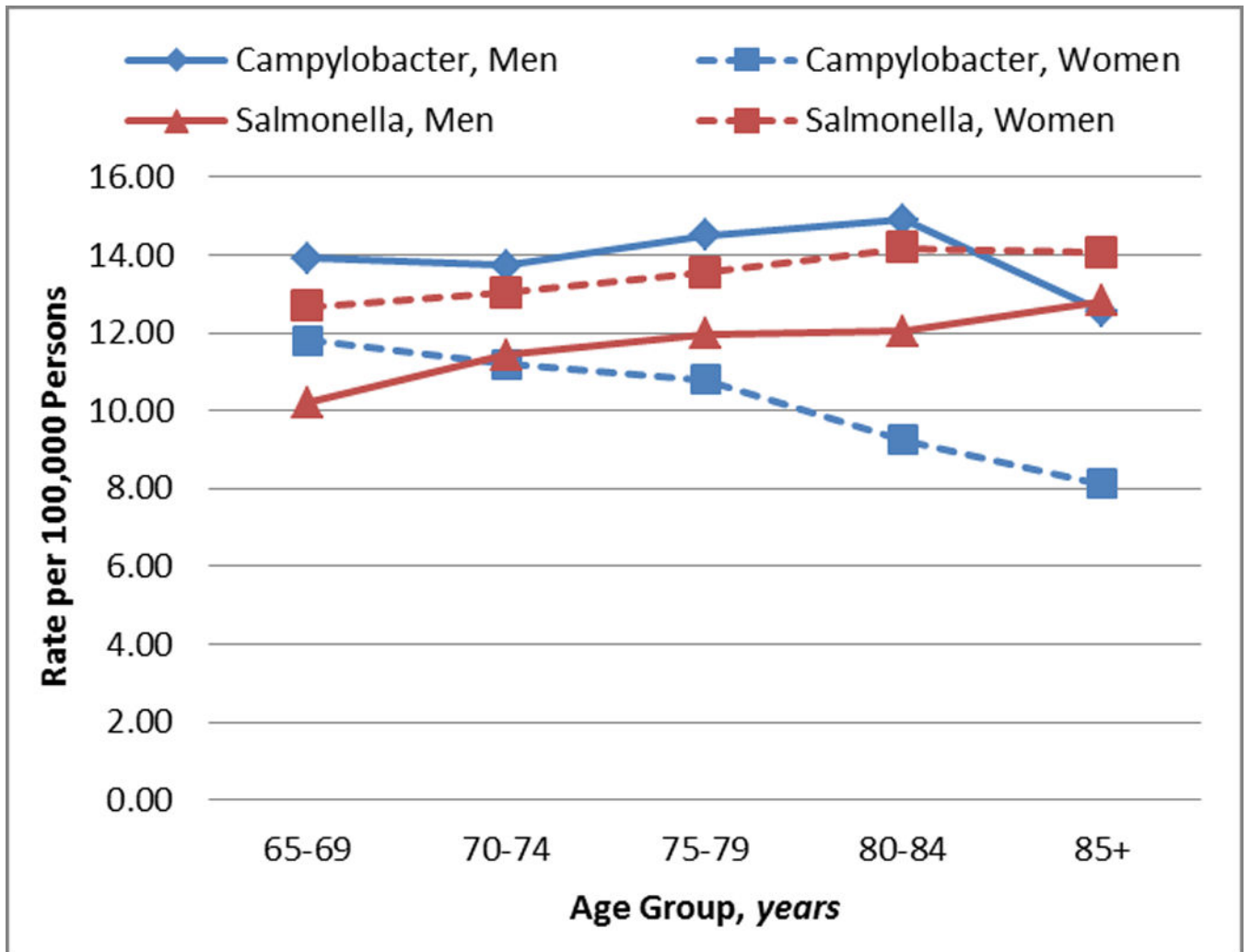


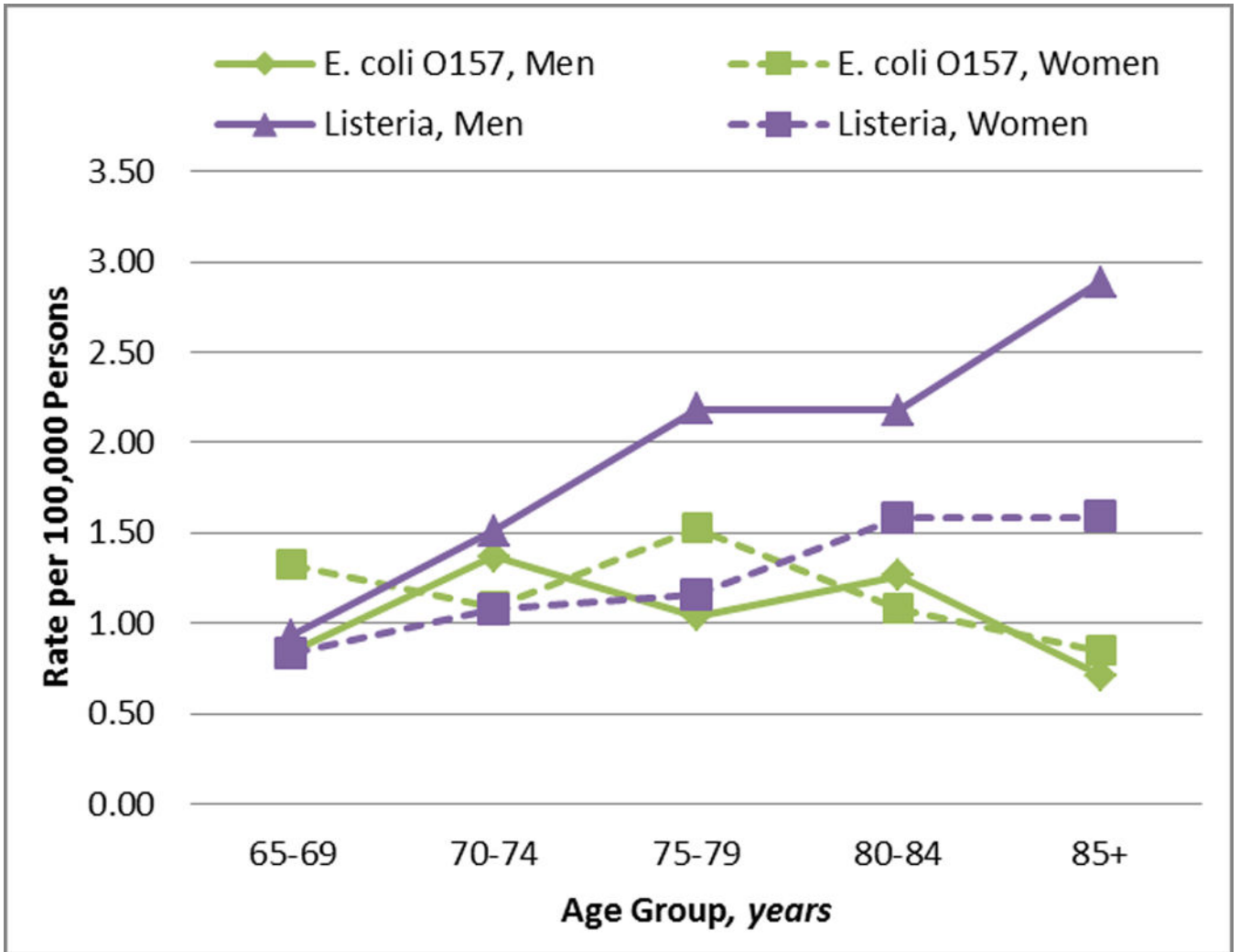
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**Figure 1.** Relative rates of laboratory-confirmed infections with *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli* O157, *Listeria*, and nontyphoidal *Salmonella* compared with 1996–1998 rates, by year, among adults aged ≥ 65 years, Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), 1996–2012





**Figure 2.** Incidence of laboratory-confirmed infections with *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* (A) and *E. coli* O157 and *Listeria* (B) among adults aged  $\geq 65$  years by sex, Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), 1996–2012.

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**Table 1**  
Average Annual Rate of Laboratory-Confirmed Infections, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Pathogen, 1996–2012<sup>a</sup>

| Pathogen             | Average Annual Rate of Infection, per 100000 population |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |            |
|----------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|                      | <5  | 5–64        | 65          | <5          | 5–64        | 65          | <5          | 5–64        | 65         |
| <i>Salmonella</i>    | 64.7  | 11.2        | 12.8        | 22.0        | 25.2        | 54.5        | 0.1         | 0.3         | 2.4        |
| <i>Campylobacter</i> | 29.2  | 14.3        | 12.1        | 9.3         | 13.6        | 35.8        | 0.04        | 0.08        | 0.5        |
| <i>Listeria</i>      | 0.5   | 0.1         | 1.4         | 98.3        | 91.3        | 95.4        | 5.4         | 11.1        | 21.9       |
| <i>E. coli</i> O157  | 5.5   | 1.2         | 1.1         | 33.5        | 39.8        | 69.4        | 0.7         | 0.1         | 4.2        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>99.9</b>   | <b>26.9</b> | <b>27.4</b> | <b>19.6</b> | <b>20.5</b> | <b>49.3</b> | <b>0.13</b> | <b>0.22</b> | <b>2.6</b> |

<sup>a</sup>Data are from the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet).

**Table 2**

Hospitalizations<sup>a</sup> and Deaths by Pathogen and Patient Age, 1996–2012<sup>b</sup>

| Pathogen                       | Age Group, years |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                | 65–69            |             | 70–74        |             | 75–79        |             | 80–84        |             | 85+          |             | Overall      |             |
|                                | N                | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           |
| <b>Hospitalizations</b>        |                  |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |
| <i>Salmonella</i> <sup>c</sup> | 1,219            | 46.5        | 1,191        | 52.4        | 1,072        | 55.6        | 935          | 63.6        | 837          | 62.1        | 5,254        | 54.5        |
| <i>Campylobacter</i>           | 621              | 23.9        | 619          | 31.5        | 634          | 39.4        | 559          | 48.9        | 510          | 56.6        | 2,943        | 35.8        |
| <i>Listeria</i>                | 179              | 95.2        | 183          | 92.0        | 202          | 96.2        | 181          | 97.3        | 195          | 96.5        | 940          | 95.4        |
| <i>E. coli</i> O157            | 130              | 62.8        | 111          | 60.3        | 128          | 75.3        | 84           | 79.2        | 61           | 82.4        | 514          | 69.4        |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>2,149</b>     | <b>38.3</b> | <b>2,104</b> | <b>45.5</b> | <b>2,036</b> | <b>52.0</b> | <b>1,759</b> | <b>60.6</b> | <b>1,603</b> | <b>63.5</b> | <b>9,651</b> | <b>49.3</b> |
| <b>Deaths</b>                  |                  |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |             |
|                                | N                | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           | N            | %           |
| <i>Salmonella</i> <sup>c</sup> | 43               | 1.5         | 50           | 2.0         | 39           | 1.9         | 55           | 3.5         | 63           | 4.3         | 250          | 2.4         |
| <i>Campylobacter</i>           | 5                | 0.2         | 6            | 0.3         | 13           | 0.7         | 7            | 0.6         | 12           | 1.2         | 43           | 0.5         |
| <i>Listeria</i>                | 28               | 14.7        | 46           | 22.4        | 49           | 22.3        | 45           | 23.6        | 52           | 25.2        | 220          | 21.9        |
| <i>E. coli</i> O157            | 4                | 1.9         | 5            | 2.7         | 13           | 7.4         | 3            | 2.8         | 7            | 9.3         | 32           | 4.2         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>80</b>        | <b>1.3</b>  | <b>107</b>   | <b>2.1</b>  | <b>114</b>   | <b>2.7</b>  | <b>110</b>   | <b>3.5</b>  | <b>134</b>   | <b>4.9</b>  | <b>545</b>   | <b>2.6</b>  |

<sup>a</sup> Among 17,586 (91%) of 19,311 laboratory-confirmed case-patients with known hospitalization status.

<sup>b</sup> Data are from the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet).

<sup>c</sup> Nontyphoidal; includes serotypes other than Typhi.

**Table 3**  
 Estimated Annual Illnesses of *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli* O157, *Listeria*, and Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* Among Adults Aged 65 Years, United States<sup>a</sup>

| Pathogen                       | Laboratory-Confirmed Illnesses <sup>b</sup> |             | Multiplier |         | Total Illnesses <sup>c</sup> |         | Hospitalizations |         | Deaths |         |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------|------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|--------|---------|
|                                | Mean  | 90% CrI     | Mean       | 90% CrI | Mean                         | 90% CrI | Mean             | 90% CrI | Mean   | 90% CrI |
| <i>Campylobacter</i>           | 4700  | 1400–10,400 | 23.5       | 110,200 | 29,700–255,900               | 3200    | 1200–6600        | 60      | 0–270  |         |
| <i>Salmonella</i> <sup>d</sup> | 4900  | 3300–7900   | 22.6       | 110,100 | 51,800–213,800               | 5100    | 2500–9700        | 220     | 0–620  |         |
| <i>Listeria</i>                | 480   | 150–910     | 2          | 990     | 290–1900                     | 890     | 240–1800         | 180     | 0–570  |         |
| <i>E. coli</i> O157            | 340   | 0–870       | 13.8       | 4700    | 340–13,200                   | 470     | 0–1200           | 20      | 0–130  |         |

<sup>a</sup> Modal or mean value shown; numbers >1000 rounded to nearest hundred, numbers from 10 to 1000 rounded to nearest 10, numbers <10 not rounded.

<sup>b</sup> Laboratory-confirmed cases were extrapolated from FoodNet surveillance data.

<sup>c</sup> Adjusted for medical care sought, stool sample submitted, bacterial culture performed, laboratory testing for pathogen, and laboratory test sensitivity (Supplementary Appendix Table A1).

<sup>d</sup> Nontyphoidal; includes serotypes other than Typhi.

CrI = credible interval.