

The European Union summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2010

Eurosurveillance editorial team (eurosurveillance@ecdc.europa.eu)¹

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

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On 8 March 2012, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) launched their annual report on zoonoses and food-borne outbreaks for 2010, the 'European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2010' [1]. The report provides a comprehensive overview of zoonotic infections and disease outbreaks caused by consuming contaminated food. According to the report, 5,262 food-borne outbreaks were recorded in the European Union (EU), a slight reduction from 2009. *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella* and viruses such as norovirus were the most frequently reported causes of food-borne outbreaks.

In 2010, campylobacteriosis was the most commonly reported zoonosis. A total of 212,064 human cases were reported which constitutes an increase of 7 % compared with the figures reported in 2009. This is an increase for the fifth year running. *Campylobacter* was most often detected in fresh broiler meat.

A total of 99,020 salmonellosis cases in humans were reported in 2010 and the decreasing trend in case numbers continued from previous years – 108,618 cases were reported in 2009 [2]. This is a drop of nearly 9 % and marks a decrease for the sixth consecutive year. Most Member States met their *Salmonella* reduction targets for poultry, and *Salmonella* is declining in these populations. The report states that the most likely reason for the decrease is the successful adherence of Member States to the EU *Salmonella* control programmes for reducing the prevalence of the bacteria in poultry populations, especially in laying hens [3]. In foodstuffs, *Salmonella* was most often detected in fresh broiler and turkey meat.

The report also presents data on other food-borne diseases such as Shiga toxin/verotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC/VTEC). Human cases of STEC/VTEC have been increasing since 2008 - a total of 4,000 confirmed VTEC infections were reported in 2010.

The number of human listeriosis cases decreased slightly to 1,601.

The full version of the report covers a total of 15 zoonotic diseases including Q fever, brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, rabies and the parasitic zoonosis echinococcosis.

References

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2. European Food Safety Authority. The European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2009. EFSA Journal 2011;9(3):2090. Available from: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2090.pdf>
3. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of Salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents, Official Journal L 325/1, 12 Dec 2003, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:325:0001:0015:EN:PDF> these control programmes aim at reaching the Salmonella reduction target set by Regulations (EC) No 1003/2005, No 1168/2006 and No 646/2007 covering the following Salmonella types: *S. Enteritidis*, *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Infantis*, *S. Virchow* and *S. Hadar* in breeding flocks, and *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* in laying hen flocks, chickens and turkeys.