

**Persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Agona, United States, by state, January 1 to April 11, 2008. (N=21)**

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in multiple states across the United States and with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* Agona infections. An investigation that includes interviews of persons with *Salmonella* Agona infections and comparison of the DNA fingerprints suggests that cereal from Malt-O-Malt unsweetened Puffed Rice Cereals and unsweetened Puffed Wheat Cereals is likely related to these illnesses.

As of April 11, 2008, state and city health departments from 13 states identified 21 ill persons infected with *Salmonella* Agona with the same genetic fingerprint. Ill persons with the outbreak strain have been reported from California (1), Colorado (1), Delaware (1), Maine (3), Massachusetts (2), Minnesota (1), North Dakota (1), New Hampshire (2), New Jersey (3), New York (3), Pennsylvania (1), Rhode Island (1), and Vermont (1). Onset dates, which are known for 9 patients, ranged from January 22 to March 2, 2008. Their ages range from 1 to 95 years; 62% are female. Three hospitalizations and no deaths have been reported.

**Investigation**

On April 5, 2008 Malt-O-Meal Company initiated a recall after the company's routine food testing detected the presence of *Salmonella* on March 24, 2008 in a Minnesota plant that produces and packages dry cereals. Malt-O-Meal issued a recall of unsweetened Puffed Rice Cereals and unsweetened Puffed Wheat Cereals produced during the past 12 months at the plant in Minnesota. The recall products have "Best If Used By" dates of April 8, 2008 to March 18, 2009. On April 11, the Minnesota State Public Health Department confirmed that the *Salmonella* isolate isolated from the Minnesota plant was *Salmonella* Agona and had the same indistinguishable PFGE pattern as the isolates from ill humans. CDC, multiple state health departments, and FDA are working collaboratively to identify additional cases and determine the source and factors that contribute to this outbreak. Information about this recall can be found at <http://www.malt-o-meal.com/recallinfo/>.

The recalled product was distributed nationally, marketed under the Malt-O-Meal brand and as some private label brands including Acme, America's Choice, Food Club, Giant, Hannaford, Jewel, Laura Lynn, Pathmark, Shaw's, ShopRite, Tops and Weis Quality. A comprehensive listing of impacted products can be found at [www.malt-o-meal.com/recallinfo](http://www.malt-o-meal.com/recallinfo). Consumers who have unsweetened Puffed Rice and unsweetened Puffed Wheat cereals should check the "Best If Used By" dates printed on the product. Any cereals with a "Best If Used By" date of April 8, 2008 to March 29, 2009 should not be consumed.