

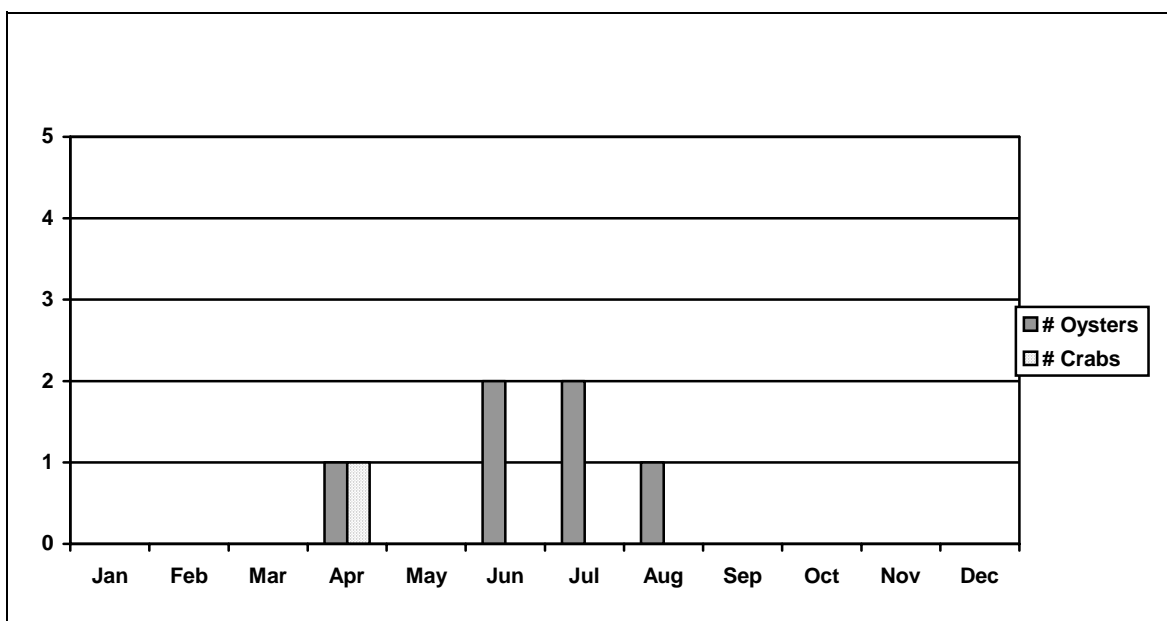
An Overview of Foodborne *Vibrio vulnificus*, Florida, 2006

For 2006, there was a total of 24 *Vibrio vulnificus* cases reported in the State of Florida, less than the previous year. Of these, the largest number included 13 wound-related cases. The other 11 cases were associated with the consumption of raw oysters (7), unknown (3) and crab (1).¹ There were 2 oyster-consumption-related deaths (one in May (exposure in April) and one in August (exposure in July), 2 deaths from wound infections, and 2 deaths from unknown exposures (see Table 1 and Figure 2). In 2005 there were 30 wound-related cases of *Vibrio vulnificus* (2 deaths), 2 from unknown exposures (2 deaths), 6 cases associated with the consumption of raw oysters (2 deaths) and 1 each from clam (1 death) and crab.

Table 1: Reported Cases of Food-related *Vibrio vulnificus*, Florida 2006

Exposure	# Cases
Wound	13 (2 death)
Oysters	7 (2 deaths)
Unknown	3 (2 deaths)
Crab	1
Total	24 (6 deaths)

Figure 1: Reported Cases of *Vibrio vulnificus* by Month from Shellfish Consumption, Florida, 2006



The Florida Department of Health is collaborating in a statewide *Vibrio vulnificus* Education Project with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference. Targeted audiences include high risk groups, health care practitioners and the general public. Project elements included poster displays in the public areas of several County Health Departments and presentations to County Health Departments, professional associations and community groups on request along with sections on *Vibrio vulnificus* during university lectures on foodborne disease. Press releases

¹ *Vibrio vulnificus* cases are also counted as outbreaks because of the virulence of the disease.

emphasizing the risk of raw oyster consumption by high risk groups were distributed in May and in November. *Vibrio vulnificus* displays and educational brochures were present at the annual meeting of the Florida Dietetic Association and the Florida Student Nurse Association. Figure 2 shows related *Vibrio vulnificus* cases and deaths in Florida, from 1988-2006.

Figure 2: *Vibrio vulnificus* Cases and Deaths Associated With Molluscan Shellfish Consumption, Florida, 1988-2006

