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4 ***Campylobacter* decreases slightly, *Salmonella* down, *Listeria* up – EFSA and**
5 **ECDC say**

6 **Human cases of campylobacteriosis decreased slightly in 2012 for the first**
7 **time in five years, but campylobacteriosis remains the most commonly**
8 **reported zoonotic disease and it is premature to suggest that this is the**
9 **beginning of a downward trend. *Salmonella* cases in humans have**
10 **continued to fall, marking a decrease for the seventh consecutive year. The**
11 **trend in reported human cases of *Listeria* has been gradually increasing**
12 **over the past four years. These are some of the main findings of the annual**
13 **report on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks in the European Union for**
14 **2012.**

15 **Key findings**

16 **Campylobacteriosis** is still the most reported disease, accounting for 214,000
17 cases of infections. Typical symptoms include diarrhoea, fever and headache.
18 The bacterium that causes the disease, *Campylobacter*, is mostly found in
19 chicken meat.

20 *“It is encouraging to see that cases of campylobacteriosis have gone down in*
21 *2012. But more investigation and monitoring is needed to see if this is the*
22 *beginning of a trend”*, said Marta Hugas, Acting Head of EFSA’s Risk
23 Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department.

24 Over the years, **salmonellosis** has been decreasing- with 91,034 reported cases
25 in 2012. This is mainly due to the successful *Salmonella* control programmes
26 put in place by EU Member States and the European Commission in poultry, the
27 report said. Most Member States met their *Salmonella* reduction target for
28 poultry flocks. *Salmonella*, which typically causes fever, abdominal cramps and
29 vomiting, was most often found in poultry meat.

30 Johan Giesecke, Chief Scientist at ECDC, added: *“The decreasing trend of*
31 *salmonellosis is very encouraging. However our evidence shows that any*
32 *Salmonella serovar can cause human illness which requires continued*
33 *surveillance and vigilance.”*

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36 **Listeriosis** accounted for 1,642 reported cases, 10.5% more than in 2011 and
37 has been gradually increasing over the past five years. In infected people,
38 symptoms vary, ranging from mild flu-like symptoms to more serious infections
39 such as meningitis, septicaemia and other potentially life-threatening
40 complications. The EU surveillance focuses only on cases of severe infections
41 and therefore represents only a small proportion of all *Listeria* infections in
42 humans. The incidence of listeriosis is particularly high in elderly people, aged
43 over 74 years. Other risk groups include pregnant women and persons with
44 weakened immune systems. *Listeria monocytogenes*, the bacterium that causes
45 listeriosis in humans and animals, was mostly found in ready-to-eat fish and
46 meat products (for example smoked fish or sliced ham).

47 Zoonoses are diseases that can be transmitted directly or indirectly between
48 animals and humans, for instance by consuming contaminated foodstuffs or
49 through contact with infected animals. They are a common, costly- yet
50 preventable- public health problem.

51 This report provides an accurate overview of which microorganisms cause the
52 most cases of foodborne diseases in the European Union, and in which foods
53 and animals they are found. It helps the European Commission and EU Member
54 States to monitor, control and prevent zoonotic diseases. The European Food
55 Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and
56 Control (ECDC) produce it jointly every year, using data collected by EU
57 Member States.

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65 **Report:** The European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of
66 Zoonoses, Zoonotic agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2012

67 [http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/EU-summary-report-
68 zoonoses-food-borne-outbreaks-2012.pdf](http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/EU-summary-report-zoonoses-food-borne-outbreaks-2012.pdf)

69 **Infographic and additional information:**

70 [http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/food_and_waterborne_disease/pages
71 /index.aspx](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/food_and_waterborne_disease/pages/index.aspx)

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73 **Notes to editors:**

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- 75 • Food-borne outbreaks include two or more human cases in which the
76 same contaminated food has been consumed.
 - 77 • The report covers 11 zoonotic diseases or microorganisms in total,
78 amongst which are also included verocytotoxin-producing *Escherichia*
79 *coli*, *Mycobacterium bovis*, brucellosis, trichinellosis, *Toxoplasma*, rabies,
80 Q fever, and, for the first time, West Nile fever.
 - 81 • The report also gives information about **foodborne outbreaks**. The
82 number of reported foodborne outbreaks decreased compared with 2011.
83 *Salmonella* continued to be the most frequently reported cause of
84 foodborne outbreaks with known origin, although the largest outbreak in
2012 was caused by norovirus associated with frozen strawberries.

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