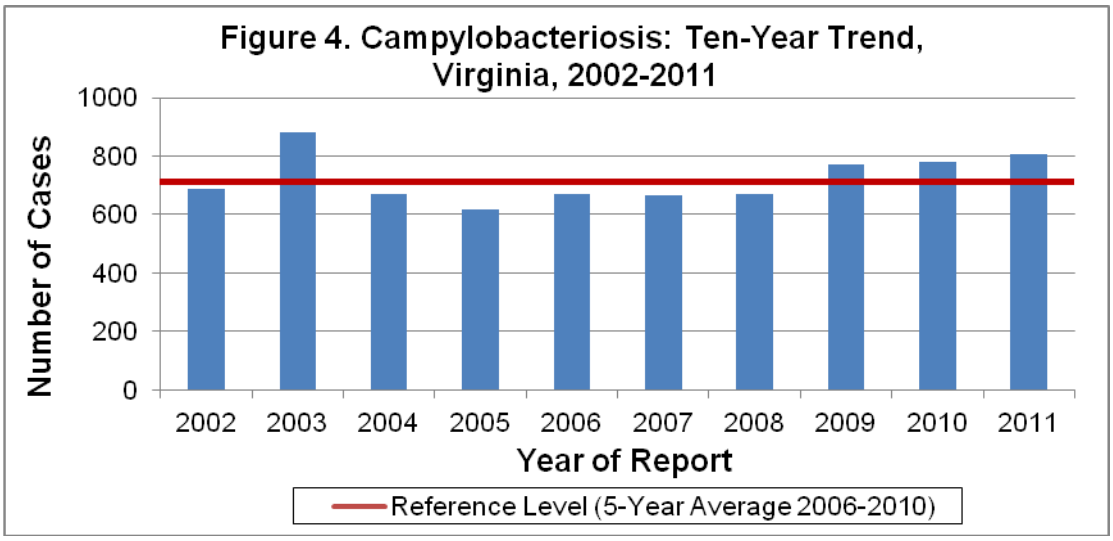
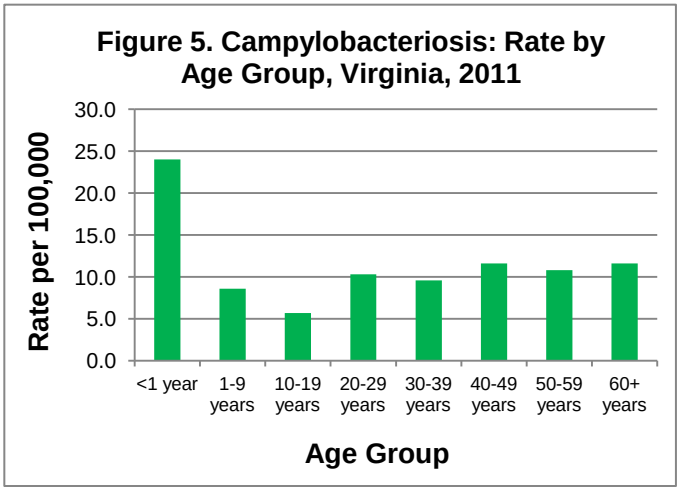
Campylobacteriosis

Agent: *Campylobacter* species (bacteria)
Mode of Transmission: Ingestion of undercooked meat, particularly poultry; ingestion of contaminated food, water or raw milk; and direct contact with fecal material from infected animals or people.
Signs/Symptoms: Include diarrhea (frequently with bloody stools), abdominal pain, malaise, fever, nausea or vomiting. In neonates and young infants, bloody diarrhea without fever may be the only manifestation of illness. Many infections are asymptomatic. Rarely, complications that can develop include reactive arthritis, febrile convulsions or Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
Prevention: Hands should be washed carefully after using the bathroom, after changing diapers or cleaning a child who has used the bathroom, after handling animals or their feces, and before preparing and eating food. Pasteurization of milk and chlorination of water supplies are also important. All foods containing eggs and meats, particularly poultry, should be thoroughly cooked.



There were 805 cases of campylobacteriosis reported in Virginia in 2011. This is a 3% increase from the 778 cases reported in 2010, and a 13% increase from the five-year average of 710.2 cases per year (Figure 4).

In 2011, the highest incidence of campylobacteriosis occurred in the <1 year age group (24.0 per 100,000), which is similar to the incidence rate observed in this age group in 2010 (23.4 per 100,000). In general, rates of *Campylobacter* infections are highest in children younger than five years of age. In Virginia, the highest rates are



consistently seen in the <1 year age group (Figure 5). The incidence rates among the other age groups ranged between 5.7 per 100,000 (10-19 year age group) and 11.6 per 100,000 (40-49 and 60 year and older age groups). Race information was missing for 43% of reported cases. For cases in which race information was available, incidence in the white population (7.5 per 100,000) was more than three times the rate in the black and "other" race populations (2.3 and 1.2 per 100,000, respectively). Incidence among males was higher than among females (11.0 and 8.8 per 100,000, respectively).

By region, the highest incidence of campylobacteriosis occurred in the southwest region (14.3 per 100,000), followed closely by the northwest region (14.0 per 100,000). Rates among the other regions ranged between 7.2 and 9.0 per 100,000, with the eastern region having the lowest rate.

While cases occurred throughout the year, onset peaked during the summer months of June, July, and August (Figure 6). One outbreak attributed to *Campylobacter* was reported during 2011. The outbreak occurred in the central region and involved eight individuals who had attended an event serving poultry in a private home during the last quarter of the year.

Figure 6. Campylobacteriosis: Month of Onset, Virginia, 2011