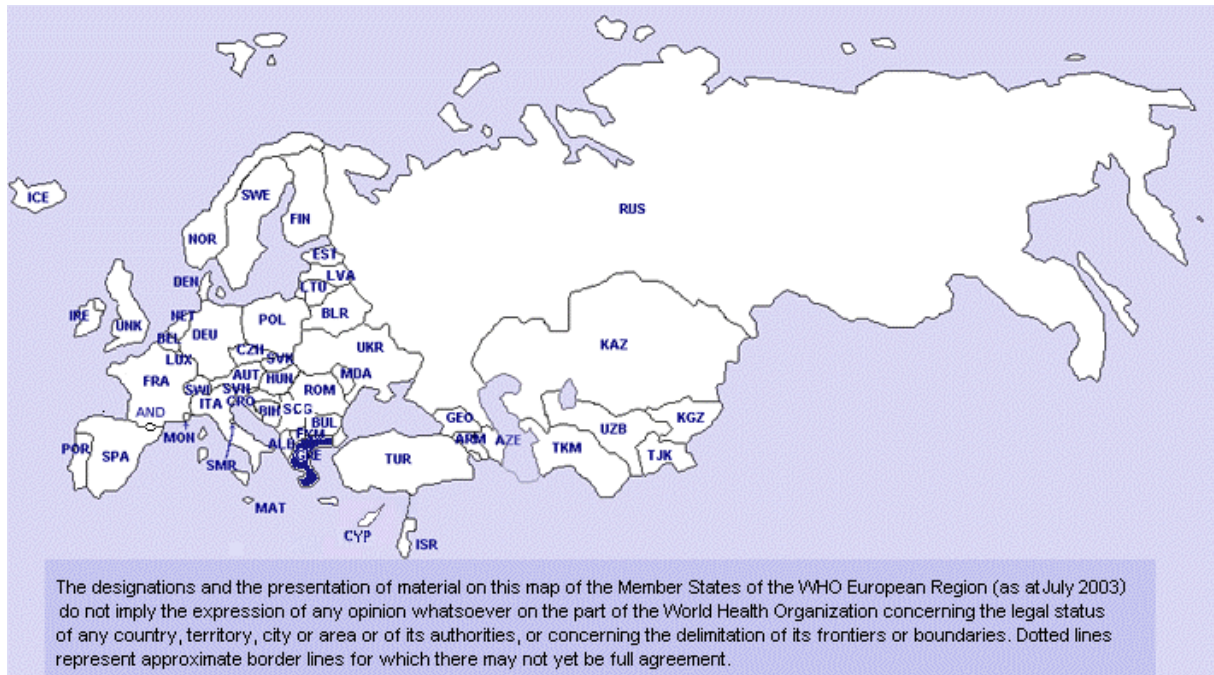


# GREECE

Population 1999: 10 521 669 (est. 1/1999)

Population 2000: 10 557 900 (prov. est.)

Area: 131 944 km<sup>2</sup>



## 1. General information

In Greece (country abbreviation: GR), the Department for Surveillance and Intervention (DSI) of the Hellenic Centre for Infectious Disease Control (HCIDC) is responsible for the surveillance and control of foodborne infections and intoxications. DSI collects, processes and analyses the data provided by the following centres:

- the 57 District Health Authorities in the country which are notified by hospitals or physicians
- the hospital microbiological laboratories
- the reference centres to which the hospital microbiological laboratories send the isolated salmonella strains for serotyping :
  - the National Salmonella and Shigella Reference Centre (National School of Public Health, Athens)
  - the Salmonella Reference Centre for Macedonia – Thrace (Infectious Diseases Hospital – Thessaloniki)
  - the National Reference Centre of Parasitology, Zoonoses and Geographical Medicine (University of Crete, Heraklion)

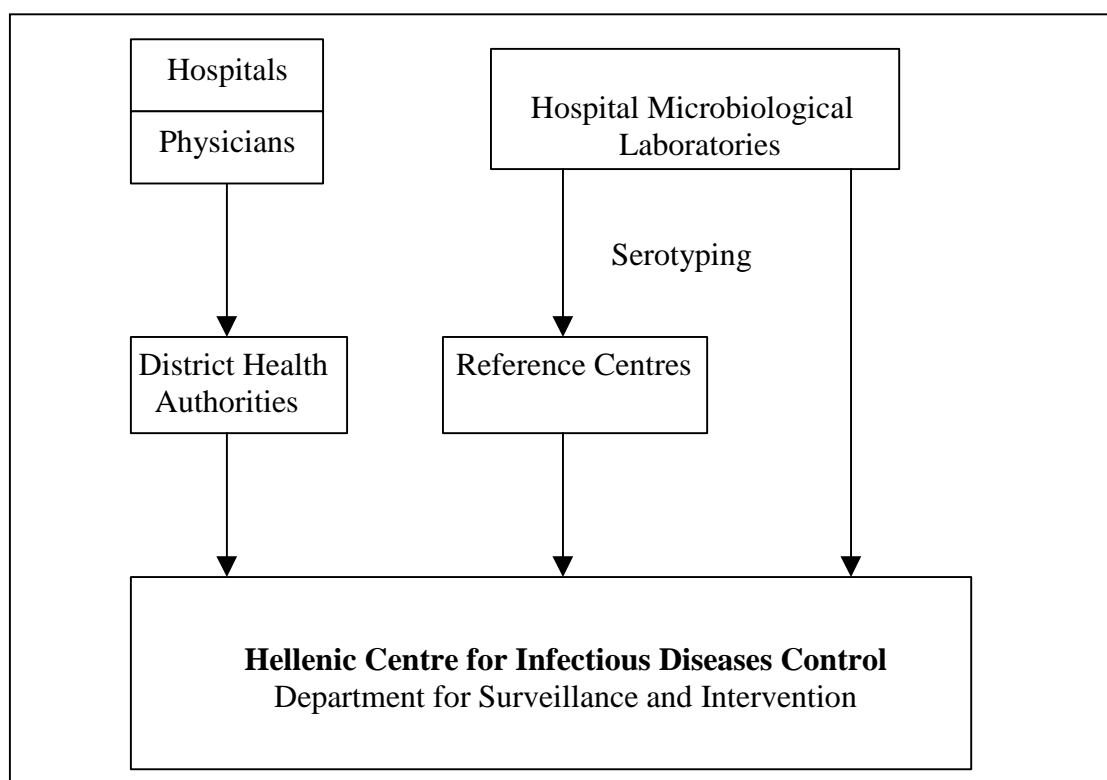
There is no statutory reporting of foodborne disease outbreaks in Greece.

Individual epidemiological forms are provided to the DSI by the district health authorities on a monthly basis. Aggregated data are sent to the DSI by the hospital laboratories on a weekly

basis and by the reference centres on a monthly basis. However, in the case of Hepatitis A or Brucellosis epidemics, epidemiological reporting forms are sent daily.

The Centre is responsible for the dissemination of information to the Ministry of Health and for immediate intervention if necessary.

Figure GR 1 **Foodborne disease surveillance in Greece – information flow**  
GREECE 1999-2000



## **2. Statutory notification**

A total number of 2366 and 2244 cases of foodborne diseases were notified by the district health authorities and the hospital microbiological laboratories in 1999 and 2000. Salmonellosis accounted for 40% of the notified cases in both years, followed by brucellosis (23% and 24% in 1999 and 2000) and campylobacteriosis (13% and 12% in 1999 and 2000). Table GR 1 shows the number of cases of different diseases notified in 1999 and 2000, while Figure GR 2 gives an overview of the foodborne diseases cases notified between 1993 and 2000.

**WHO Surveillance Programme for Control of Foodborne Infections and Intoxications in Europe**  
**8th Report 1999-2000**

Country Reports: *GREECE*

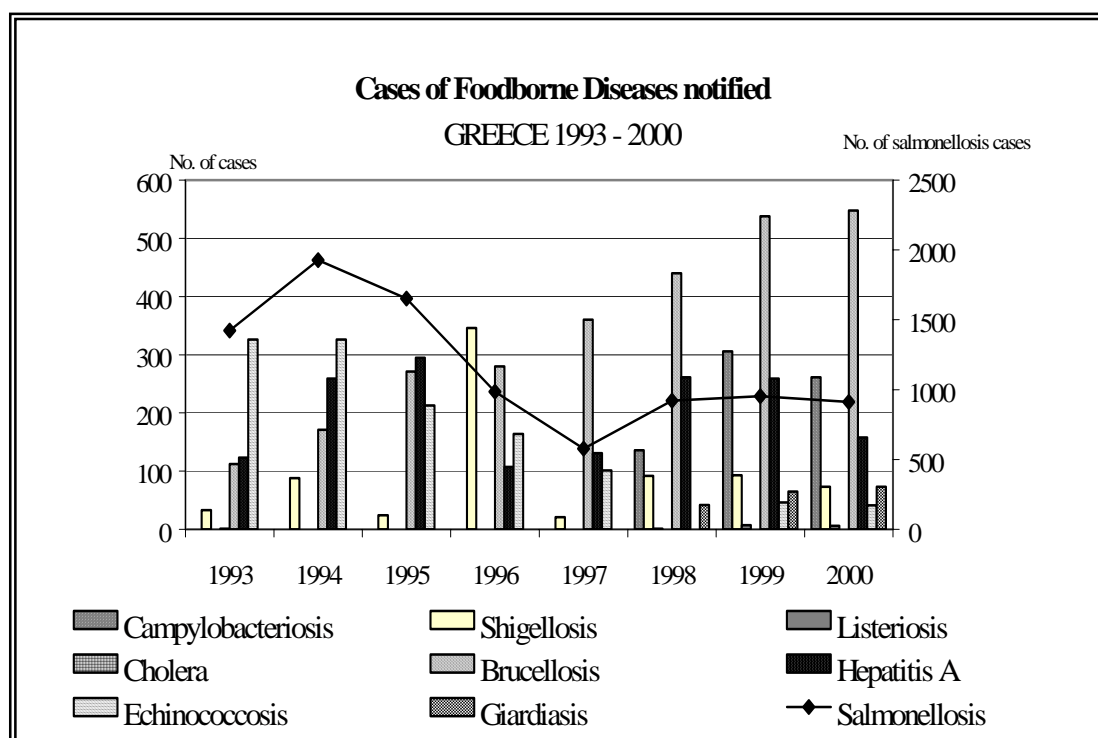
Table GR 1

**Cases of foodborne diseases notified**  
**GREECE 1999-2000**

Disease	1999		2000	
	No. of cases*	Incidence rate	No. of cases*	Incidence rate
Salmonellosis	954	9,1	912	8,6
Staphylococcosis	0	0,0	0	0,0
Botulisms	0	0,0	0	0,0
Campylobacteriosis	306	2,9	261	2,5
Shigellosis	93	0,9	73	0,7
<i>E. coli</i>	98	0,9	172	1,6
Listeriosis	7	0,1	6	0,1
Cholera	0**	0,0	0**	0,0
Brucellosis	538**	5,1	548**	5,2
Other bacterial foodborne infections & intoxications	0	0,0	0	0,0
Hepatitis A	259**	2,5	158**	1,5
Other viral enteritis	0	0,0	0	0,0
Echinococcosis	46**	0,4	41**	0,4
Trichinellosis	0	0,0	0	0,0
Giardiasis	65	0,6	73	0,7
Amoebiasis	0	0,0	0	0,0
Infectious enteritis of unknown origin	0	0,0	0	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2366</b>	<b>22,5</b>	<b>2244</b>	<b>21,3</b>

\* cases notified by hospital microbiological laboratories except for \*\*, which were notified by district health authorities

Figure GR 2



## 2.1 Salmonellosis

In 45% of all salmonellosis cases notified in 1999 and in 65% of all salmonellosis cases notified in 2000, the serotype was identified by the national reference centers (Table GR 2). In both years, the most frequent serotype was *S. Enteritidis*, which accounted for 61% of all isolates serotyped in both 1999 and 2000, followed by *S. Typhimurium*, found in 31% of cases in 1999 and 26% in 2000. Figure GR 3 gives an overview of the *Salmonella* serotypes most frequently identified between 1993 and 2000.

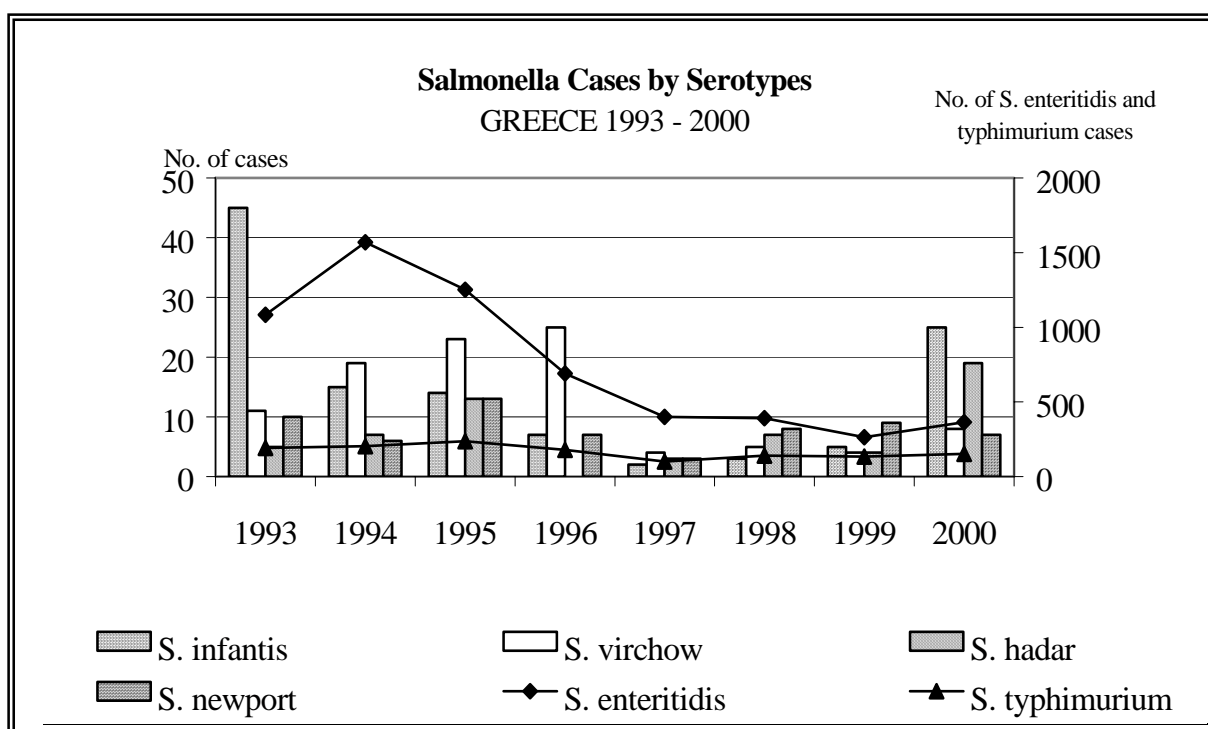
Table GR 2

**Salmonellosis cases notified by serotype**

GREECE 1999-2000

	1999	2000
	No. of cases	No. of cases
S. Enteritidis	263	365
S. Typhimurium	133	151
S. Infantis	5	25
S. Agona	0	5
S. Bredeney	1	2
S. Derby	0	0
S. Virchow	4	8
S. Hadar	4	19
S. Tennessee	1	0
S. Panama	0	1
S. Saintpaul	0	0
S. Montevideo	7	2
S. Newport	9	7
S. anatum	1	0
S. London	0	1
S. Ohio	0	0
S. Muenchen	0	0
S. Arizona	0	0
S. Bareilly	0	0
S. Oranienburg	0	5
Total	428	591

Figure GR 3



**3. Epidemiologically investigated outbreaks**

Four outbreaks of food- and/or waterborne diseases were investigated in 2000. Details on each outbreak are shown in Table GR 3.

Table GR 3

**Foodborne disease outbreaks investigated**

GREECE 2000

Causative Agent	Outbreak 1 Salmonella sp.	Outbreak 2 Unknown agent	Outbreak 3 S. ball	Outbreak 4 Unknown agent
Number of persons ill	272	200	5	> 12
Number of persons hospitalised	22	5	0	12
Number of persons dead	0	0	0	0
Duration of outbreak (d)	6	5	12	2
Ways of Transmission	Food	Food/Water	Food	Water
Incriminated Food	Meat	Unknown	Unknown	Drinking water
Marketing of Food	Non-packaged	Unknown	Unknown	Non-packaged
Served and Eaten	Kept warm	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Place of Contamination	Mass catering for special groups	Other	Unknown	Other
Place of Acquisition/ Consumption	Mass catering for special groups	Other	Other	Other
Contributing Factor	Inadequate refrigeration	Other	Unknown	Other

**4. Additional information**

Greece is a participant of Enter-Net.

For further reference on national and international data on foodborne diseases, please visit the web page [http://www.euro.who.int/foodsafety/Surveillance/20020904\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/foodsafety/Surveillance/20020904_1)