

NOROVIRUS OUTBREAKS IN MONTANA

A viral trend continues

The majority of enteric outbreaks in Montana are most likely caused by norovirus, but only 61% were confirmed by laboratory testing. Even fewer, 60% of those with specimens submitted, have multiple specimens needed to perform genomic sequencing. Genomic sequencing identifies circulating or emerging strains and can help us predict the severity of a norovirus season. Since 2012, the most predominant strain has been GII.4 Sydney, which is consistent with U.S. trends.



33 Annual average number of enteric illness outbreaks reported that are suspected or confirmed to be caused by norovirus, comprising 87% of all enteric outbreaks.



61% of norovirus outbreaks have at least one laboratory specimen



60% of those had at least two specimens, enough to qualify for sequencing



53% of qualifying outbreaks sequenced to determine the strain.



77% of sequenced outbreaks were caused by GII.4 Sydney strain.