

## **CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS**

Cryptosporidiosis is an illness caused by the coccidian protozoa *Cryptosporidium parvum* characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons. Transmission is fecal-oral and includes person to person, animal to person, waterborne, and foodborne routes. *Cryptosporidia* parasites occur worldwide affecting humans, cattle, poultry, reptiles and many other vertebrate species.

### **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in stool, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* in small bowel biopsy or other clinical specimens, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* antigen in stool by a specific immunodiagnostic test such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA).

### **Case Classification**

*Confirmed:* A case that is laboratory confirmed.

*Probable:* A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

---

### **Epidemiology**

<b>Kentucky 2003</b>	<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>U.S. Rate (2002) per 100,000</b>
Cases 27	0.65	1.07
Male 16	0.80	
Female 11	0.52	

In 2003, the ages of the reported cases ranged from 1 to 63 years of age. The mean age of cases was 24.4 and the median age was 21.0. Confirmed cases were reported from 16 different counties in eight districts. Buffalo Trace District reported 26% of the cases and the Bluegrass district reported 22% of the cases.