



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

## National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

### Botulism (*Clostridium botulinum*)

#### 2011 Case Definition

#### CSTE Position Statement(s)

10-ID-03

#### Subtype(s)

Botulism, Foodborne  
Botulism, Infant  
Botulism, Other  
Botulism, Wound

#### **Botulism, Foodborne (#)**

##### **Clinical Description**

Ingestion of botulinum toxin results in an illness of variable severity. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.

##### **Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis**

- Detection of botulinum toxin in serum, stool, or patient's food, OR
- Isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from stool

##### **Case Classification**

##### **Probable**

A clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link (e.g., ingestion of a home-canned food within the previous 48 hours)

##### **Confirmed**

A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed or that occurs among persons who ate the same food as persons who have laboratory-confirmed botulism

#### **Botulism, Infant (#)**

#### **Botulism, Other (#)**

#### **Botulism, Wound (#)**

##### **Clinical Description**