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Reducing the Burden of Norovirus in Lane County Long-Term Care Facilities

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Reducing the Burden of Norovirus in Lane County Long-Term Care Facilities

Stacey McGarr and Isabelle Simpson



Objectives

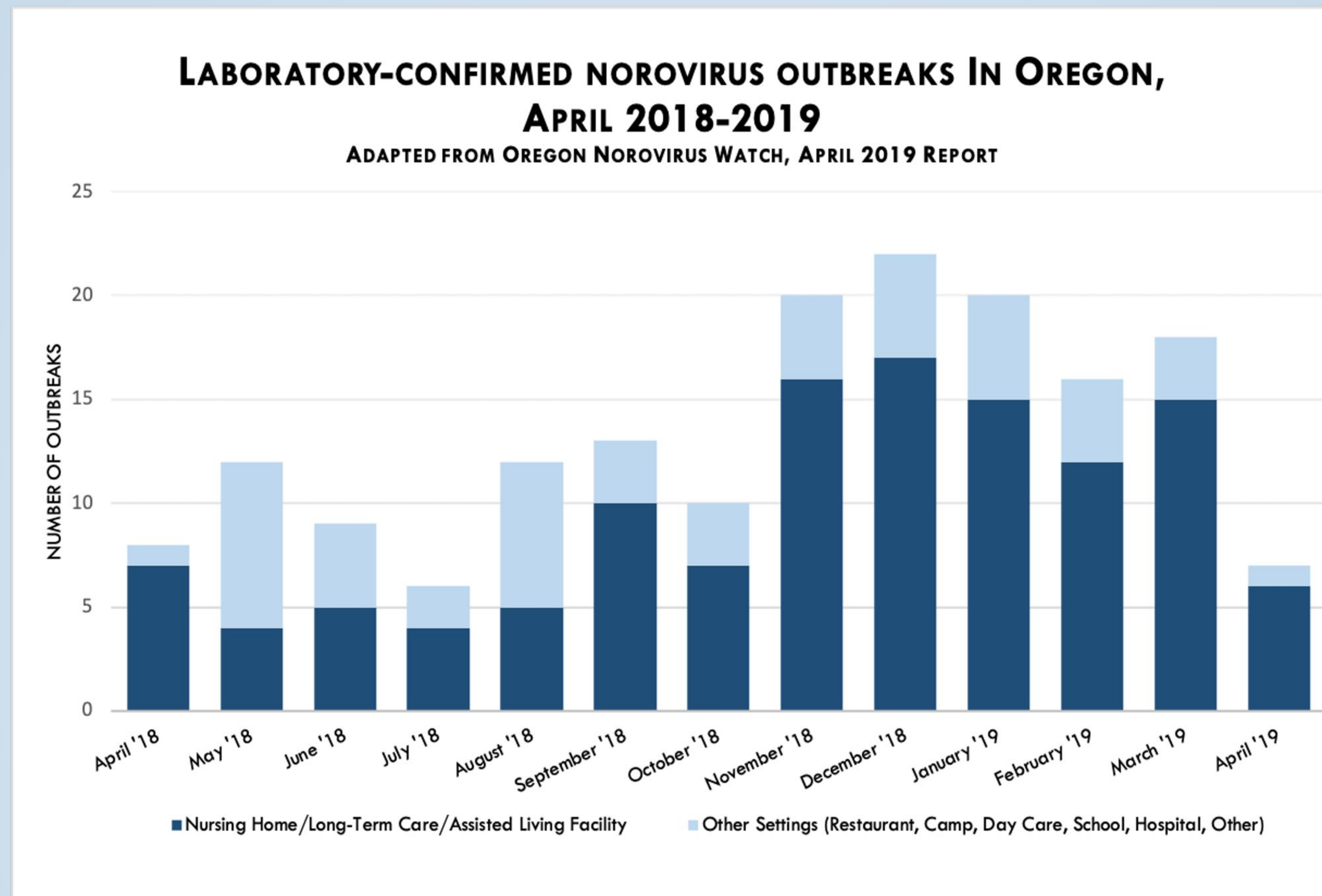
- To develop resources related to norovirus outbreaks for long-term care facilities (LTCF)
- To increase knowledge of LTCF administrators about norovirus resources
- To increase prompt reporting of norovirus outbreaks by LTCFs to Lane County Public Health

Methodology

- Collaborated with Lane County Public Health to determine trial LTCFs and needs of the population
- Adapted Oregon Health Authority Norovirus Toolkit
- Developed a norovirus educational webinar
- Collected contact information of trial LTCFs
- Conducted in-person visits to educate trial LTCFs about norovirus resources, identify barriers to reporting, and establish rapport
- Consulted Communicable Disease nurse from a separate county health department in Oregon to identify barriers to reporting outbreaks

Results

- Sample of adapted Norovirus Toolkit to be printed and distributed to LTCFs in the future
- Norovirus webinar supplied to Lane County Public Health for future education of LTCFs
- Directory of updated trial LTCF contact information
- List of barriers to reporting outbreaks based on feedback from LTCFs and Communicable Disease nurse from separate county



Discussion

- Trial LTCFs chosen based on their history of cooperation and prompt reporting
- Updating LTCF contact information will be challenging due to high number of LTCFs in Lane County
- Lane County Public Health stakeholders have observed a correlation between rapport with LTCFs and prompt reporting of outbreaks

Limitations

- Unable to assess whether education to LTCF administrators during in-person visits was passed on to LTCF staff
- Limited capability for feedback from a pre-recorded webinar
- High turnover rates at LTCFs interferes with proper communication with Lane County Public Health
- Unable to measure changes in prompt reporting by LTCFs

Looking Forward

- Establish standards for norovirus training at LTCFs throughout Lane County
- Offer continuing education units (CEUs) as an incentive for LTCF staff to view webinar
- Distribute adapted norovirus toolkits to all Lane County LTCFs
- Update LTCF contact information bi-annually
- Develop a process for measuring prompt reporting of norovirus outbreaks by LTCFs

Logic Model

Situation

- Between April 2018 and April 2019, 71% of norovirus outbreaks occurred in Oregon LTCFs resulting in poor health outcomes for this medically vulnerable population (Oregon Health Authority, 2019)
- Norovirus outbreaks cause substantial financial burdens to LTCFs related to healthcare costs, loss of productivity, and resource allocation (National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Division of Viral Diseases, 2018)

Inputs

- Oregon Health Authority norovirus outbreak data
- LTCF Norovirus Toolkit from Oregon Health Authority
- Collaboration from stakeholders regarding needs of the population and expertise about norovirus outbreak protocol
- Cooperation from LTCFs in Lane County

Outputs

- Educational webinar about norovirus in LTCFs
- Norovirus Toolkit adapted specifically for Lane County Public Health
- LTCF visits to educate administrators on norovirus outbreak response
- Contact information of trial LTCFs

Short-Term Outcomes

- Increased knowledge among LTCF staff of norovirus resources and response
- Improved communication between LTCFs and Lane County Public Health

Long-Term Outcomes

- Prompt reporting of norovirus outbreaks by LTCFs to Lane County Public Health
- Decreased number of norovirus outbreaks in LTCFs in Lane County