

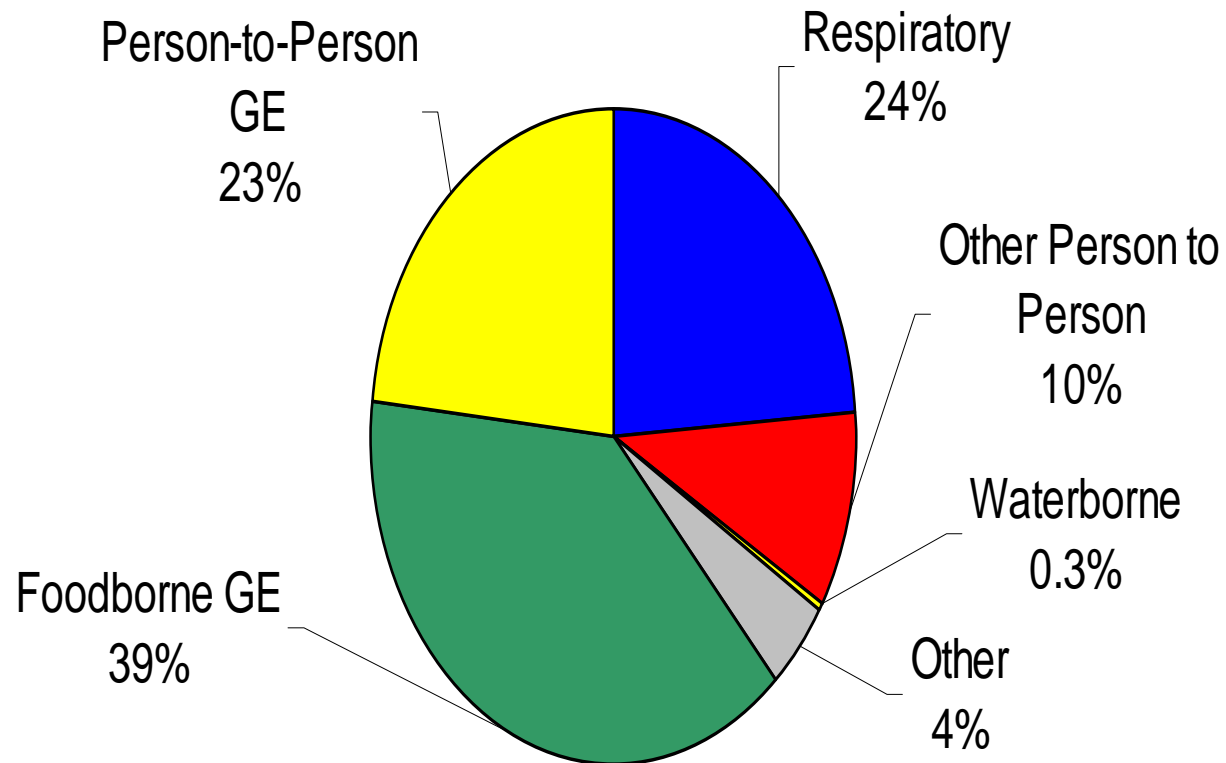
# Testing for Norwalk-like viruses at the State Health Department Level: A Valuable Tool for Identifying the Agent for Gastroenteritis Outbreaks



Leslie Edwards, MHS

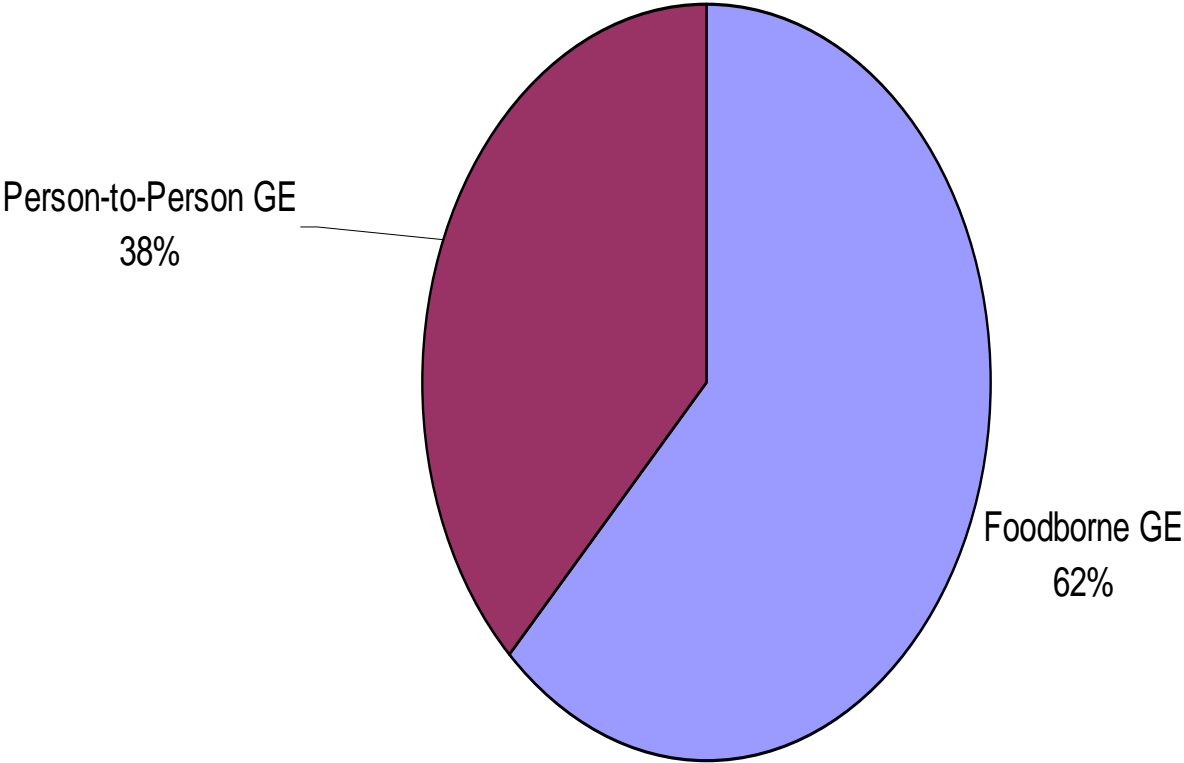
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Poster Presentation at the Infectious Disease Society  
of America Annual Meeting, October 2002

## Types of Outbreaks Reported in Maryland, 1997-2001

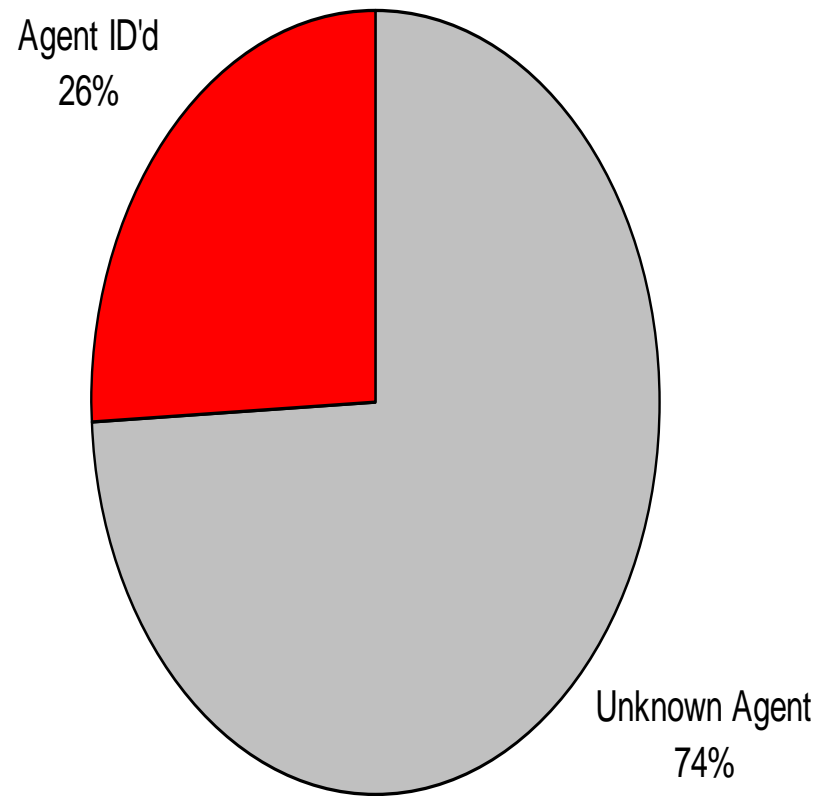


total % of Gastroenteritis Outbreaks = 62%

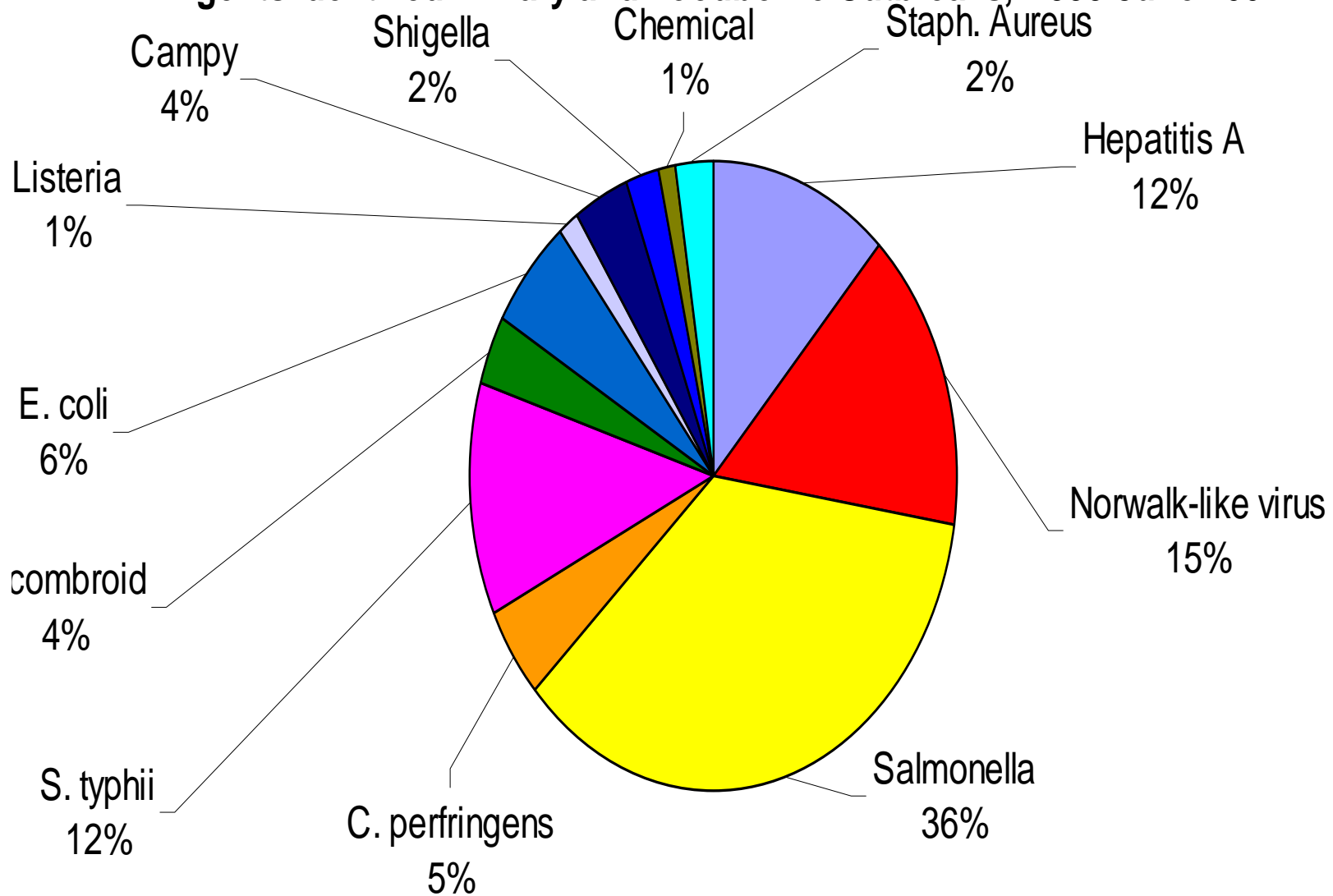
# Mode of Transmission for Gastroenteritis (GE) Outbreaks Reported in Maryland, 1997-2001



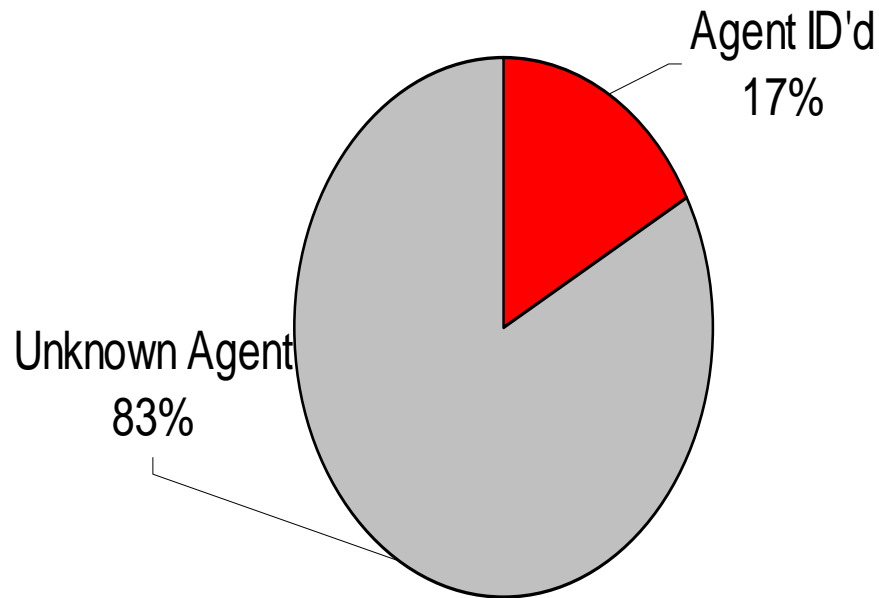
**Proportion of time a Causative Agent was Identified in a Maryland Foodborne  
Outbreak,  
January 1999-June 2001**



# Agents Identified in Maryland Foodborne Outbreaks, 1999-June 2001



**Proportion of time a Causative Agent was Identified in a Maryland  
Person-to-Person Gastroenteritis Outbreak,  
January 1999-June 2001**

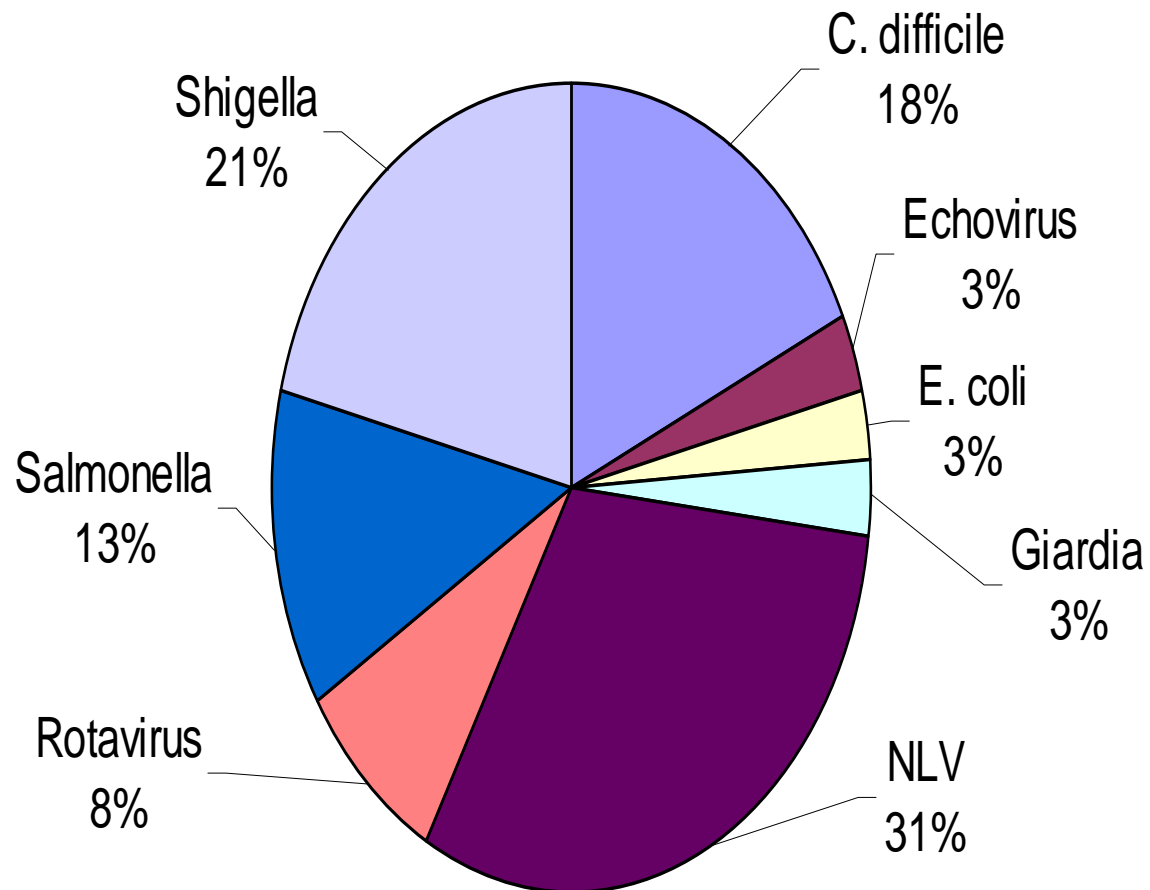


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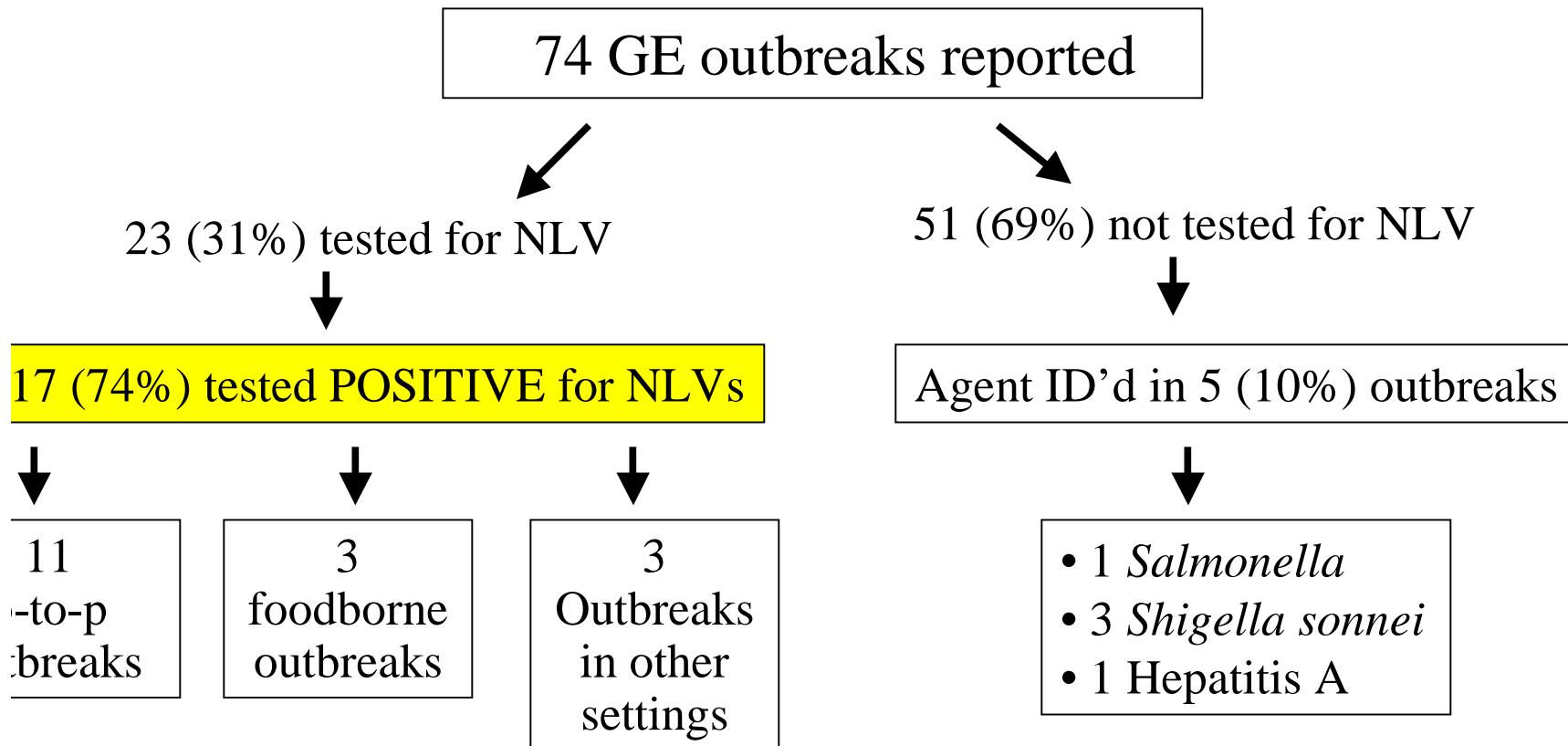
# Agents Identified in Maryland Person-to-Person Gastroenteritis Outbreaks, 1999-June 2001



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Baltimore, Maryland



# NLV Testing, Jan-Mar 2002



# Conclusions

- It is almost always the case that “*when you look for Norwalk-like viruses, you find them*”
- *States who do not test for NLVs should consider offering this testing capability in order to help identify the agent in foodborne and person-to-person transmitted gastroenteritis outbreaks*



# Acknowledgements

- Thanks to the nurses and epidemiologists at Maryland's local health departments who helped investigate gastroenteritis outbreaks
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*Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Baltimore, Maryland*  
*Division of Outbreak Investigation*

