

# SALMONELLA OUTBREAK MAY BE LINKED TO PEANUT BUTTER

Peanut Butter  
Lawsuits Spread

Peanut Butter is  
the new spinach



20% of the 288  
infected have been  
hospitalized, but no  
deaths have been  
reported

## 288 ILLNESSES IN 39 STATES SINCE AUGUST 2006

974 million pounds of peanut butter is sold each year and a jar of peanut butter is sold every second in the U.S.  
From: Boston Herald, FDA, Associated Press



The FDA has announced that peanut butter is the likely source of a recent investigation into *Salmonella* linked illnesses across the U.S. Most cases have originated in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri. The peanut butter brands affected are jars of Peter Pan and Great Value and were produced at a plant in Sylvester, Georgia. The plant has since been closed for testing. ConAgra has re-

called all Peter Pan peanut butter and Great Value peanut butter with a date code beginning with 2111. Although there were no reports of illnesses until August of 2006, jars purchased as far back as May 2006 may be at risk.

Contamination may have come from equipment, jars or raw peanuts. Lawsuits in Washington Illinois, New York, Missouri, Texas have already been filed.

**“It’s alarming that it’s something like peanut butter,”** said 23-year-old Katie Kuba, who looked skeptically at the peanut butter shelf at her neighborhood store after learning about the outbreak and recall. **“You wouldn’t think peanut butter, it’s mostly spinach.”**



- In 1996 over 500 people in Australia were stricken with *Salmonella* from PB
- After a 6 month investigation, machinery contaminated with mouse feces was found to be the source
- *Salmonella* is common in bird and animal feces
- The high fat content in PB can protect bacteria during heating, and when eaten
- Pets can become ill with *Salmonella* as well