



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

Food Safety



Foodborne diseases affect tens of millions of people and kill thousands in the United States each year. They also cause billions of dollars in healthcare-related and industry costs annually.

CDC has identified reducing foodborne diseases as a winnable battle. With additional effort and support for evidence-based, cost-effective strategies that we can implement now, we will have a significant impact on our nation's health.

This food safety briefing folder provides a snapshot of the context and background for this priority area, as well as descriptions of some of the systems, policy, and programmatic interventions pursued by CDC and our public health partners at the federal, state and local levels. This information will be updated periodically as new data or relevant information becomes available.














For more information or if you have questions about the materials provided here, please contact adprogram@cdc.gov (<mailto:adprogram@cdc.gov>)

Food Safety Briefing Materials:

- [Introduction letter from CDC Director Dr. Thomas R. Frieden](/winnablebattles/foodsafety/pdf/foodsafety_wb_letter.pdf) [PDF - 50KB]
- [PowerPoint slides, which can be tailored for your use by adding specific data, case studies, and other useful information](/winnablebattles/foodsafety/ppt/wb_foodsafety_presentation.pptx) [PPT - 4.8MB]
- [At-a-glance, which provides an overview of the major issues, CDC's role in reducing foodborne diseases, and future directions and opportunities](/winnablebattles/foodsafety/pdf/foodsafety_wb_at_a_glance.pdf) [PDF - 1000KB]
- [Vital Signs \(/vitalsigns/FoodSafety\)](/vitalsigns/FoodSafety), which provides the latest findings about what can be done to reduce foodborne illness and why it is a public health priority.
- [Foodborne Illness Surveillance Systems \(/foodborneburden/surveillance-systems.html\)](/foodborneburden/surveillance-systems.html)
- [Summary of major related published articles](/winnablebattles/foodsafety/pdf/foodsafety_wb_key_scientific_articles.pdf) [PDF - 210KB]

Supplemental materials include:

- [CDC Works for You 24/7 – Deadly Listeria Outbreak Halted in Record Time](http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/SavingLives/listeria/)
- [Foodborne Disease Outbreak Surveillance Resources \(/outbreaknet/surveillance_data.html\)](/outbreaknet/surveillance_data.html)

- **Food Safety Policy Issues**  [PDF - 206KB]
(/winnablebattles/foodsafety/pdf/foodsafety_wb_policy_brief.pdf)
- **Snapshot of major media coverage**  [PDF - 267KB]
(/winnablebattles/foodsafety/pdf/foodsafety_wb_media_snapshot.pdf)
- **Select bibliography**  [PDF - 194KB]
(/winnablebattles/foodsafety/pdf/foodsafety_wb_selectbibliography.pdf)
- **Scientific articles**
 - **MMWR: Surveillance for Foodborne Disease Outbreaks – United States, 2008**
(http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6035a3.htm?s_cid=mm6035a3_w)
 - **Foodborne Illness—Major Pathogens**  [PDF - 212KB]
(<http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/17/1/pdfs/09-1101p1.pdf>)
 - **Foodborne Illness—Unspecified Agents**  [PDF - 236KB]
(<http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/17/1/pdfs/09-1101p2.pdf>)
 - **MMWR: Preliminary FoodNet Data on the Incidence of Infection with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food – 10 States, 2009**
(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5914a2.htm>)
 - **Salmonella enteric Serotype Enteridis and Eggs: A National Epidemic in the United States**  [PDF - 135KB] (<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/43/4/512.full.pdf>) 
(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html>)
 - **Factors Associated with Food Workers Working while Experiencing Vomiting or Diarrhea**  [PDF - 189KB] (/nceh/ehs/EHSNet/Docs/JFP_ill_food_workers.pdf)
- **Fact sheets**
 - **Foodborne Illness Surveillance Systems**  [PDF - 102KB]
(/foodborneburden/PDFs/FACTSHEET_G_SURVEILLANCE.pdf)
 - **2011 Estimates of Foodborne Illness Fact Sheets**
 - **CDC 2011 Estimates: Findings** (/foodborneburden/2011-foodborne-estimates.html)
 - **Improvements in 2011 Estimates** (/foodborneburden/improvements-in-estimates.html)
 - **Data and Methodological Differences, 2011 and 1999** (/foodborneburden/differences-in-estimates.html)
 - **Trends in Foodborne Illness in the United States, 1996–2010**  [PDF - 378KB]
(http://www.cdc.gov/winnablebattles/FoodSafety/pdf/Trends_in_Foodborne_Illness.pdf)
 - **Norovirus** (/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/norovirus.htm)
 - **Norovirus Illness: Key Facts** (/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/norovirus-keyfacts.htm)
 - **Norovirus: Facts for Food Handlers** (/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/norovirus-foodhandlers.htm)
 - **Surveillance & Disease Burden**  [PDF - 1.80MB]
(/ncidod/dvrd/revb/gastro/downloads/norovirus-surv-disease-burden.pdf)
 - **Environmental Health Services**  [PDF - 155 KB]
(/nceh/ehs/Docs/Factsheets/EHSB_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
 - **Ill Food Worker Study**  [PDF - 110KB]
(/nceh/ehs/EHSNet/Docs/EHS_Net_Ill_Worker.pdf)

Page last reviewed: November 17, 2011

Page last updated: September 13, 2012

Content source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Rd. Atlanta, GA 30333, USA





January 14, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Foodborne diseases affect tens of millions of people and kill thousands in the United States each year. They also cause billions of dollars in healthcare-related and industry costs annually. In 2010, just one foodborne outbreak sickened thousands of people throughout the country and led to the recall of approximately a half-billion eggs.

We need to ensure that all Americans have access to foods that are both healthy and safe. Reducing the adverse health and economic consequences of foodborne illnesses is a key goal of the new Food Safety Modernization Act, the first major change to food safety laws in the United States since 1938. The legislation lays the foundation for a prevention-based, 21st-century food safety system that makes everyone in the global food chain responsible for safety. The act requires CDC to strengthen the capacity of state and local health departments to respond to foodborne outbreaks and improve the coordination and integration of surveillance systems and laboratory networks. In addition to developing a national strategy for food safety, CDC will support the Food and Drug Administration as it implements new hazard analysis, prevention, performance, and training activities required by the law.

CDC has had a successful history of tracking, rapidly detecting, and investigating foodborne diseases and outbreaks through national networks such as FoodNet and PulseNet. As a result, several foodborne diseases have declined since 1998. Most notably, by 2010, *E. coli* O157 infections were reduced by almost 50%, reaching the *Healthy People 2010* objective one year ahead of schedule. *Salmonella* infections, however, had not declined at all, confirming that much more needs to be done to reduce foodborne illnesses.

Our two primary food safety goals are to decrease the number of *Salmonella* and other food-related illnesses, and to accelerate the public health response to foodborne illness at the local, national, and global levels. CDC is taking action to achieve these goals in the following ways:

- Developing new methods in epidemiology, laboratory science, and environmental health;
- Supporting local, state, federal, and global partners;
- Improving communications with the public health community, industry, and consumers; and
- Targeting information to guide food safety policy.

Through effective leadership and innovation, support from our partners, and targeted information to drive public health policies, we can substantially decrease foodborne diseases.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention