

Food Safety



National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases

Foodborne illness in the U.S.

§ *Each year, 1 out of 6 Americans gets sick from foodborne disease and 3,000 die as a result*



§ *Reducing foodborne illness by just 10% would keep 5 million people a year from getting sick*

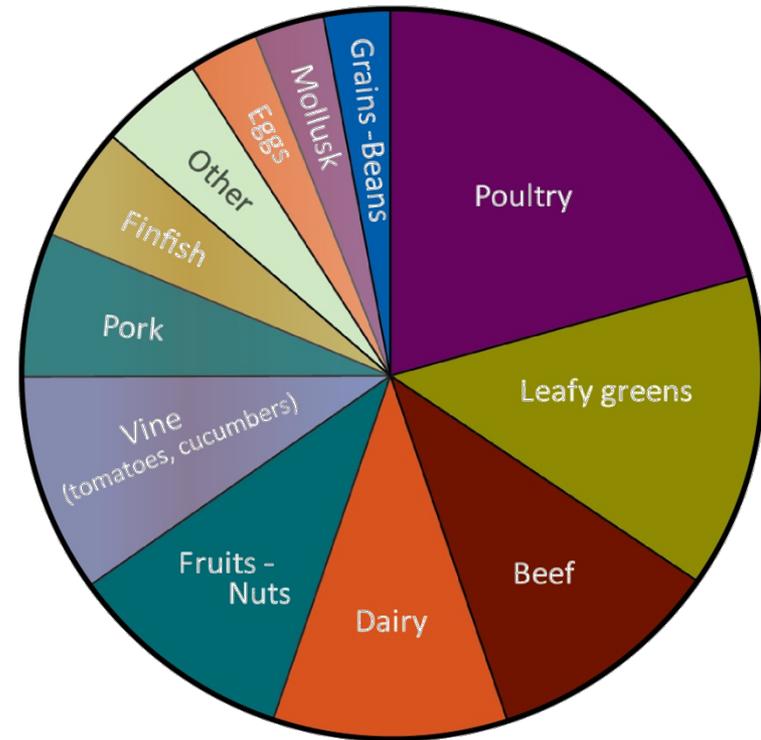
§ *Preventing a single fatal case of E. coli O157 infection would save an estimated \$7 million*

“That's an unacceptable price to pay for contaminations that are mostly preventable.”

– Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Almost any type of food can spread illness

Causes of illness in 1,565 outbreaks of single food commodities, 2003-2008



“I am the one asking you – on behalf of myself, my family, and the 1,500 others who were sickened – please make our food system safe.”

– Testimony from the congressional hearing, “The Outbreak of Salmonella in Eggs,” Sept. 22, 2010



“There are certain things only a government can do. And one of those things is ensuring that the foods we eat are safe and do not cause us harm.”

– President Barack Obama

Nonregulatory

CDC

- § *Disease surveillance*
- § *Outbreak detection and investigation*
- § *Analyzing burden, trends, and effectiveness of prevention efforts and policy change*
- § *Attribution to sources*
- § *Education and training*
- § *Problem identification*
- § *Information for policy*

Regulatory

FDA and USDA

- § *Inspection*
- § *Enforcement*
- § *Investigating farm and production facilities*
- § *Product recall*
- § *Product traceback*
- § *Risk assessment and management*
- § *Source assessment*

Providing the vital link

CDC provides the vital link between illness in people and the food safety systems of government agencies and food producers



CDC support for the Food Safety Modernization Act

- § *International expertise in foodborne illness*
- § *Strong partnerships with federal, state, and local public health agencies*
- § *Laboratory, epidemiologic, and environmental health networks*
- § *Systems and agreements for surveillance and data exchange*
- § *Communications with the public health community, industry, and consumers*



“This law represents a sea change for food safety in America, bringing a new focus on prevention.”

*– Margaret A. Hamburg, MD
Commissioner of Food and Drugs*

Strategies for increasing food safety

- § *Identify root causes of food contamination*
- § *Conduct program evaluation and prevention research*
- § *Share data and information*
- § *Education on following safe food handling guidelines*
- § *Implement best practices and measure performance*

Meeting the Target

Healthy People 2020

The *Healthy People* objectives help direct CDC's work to:

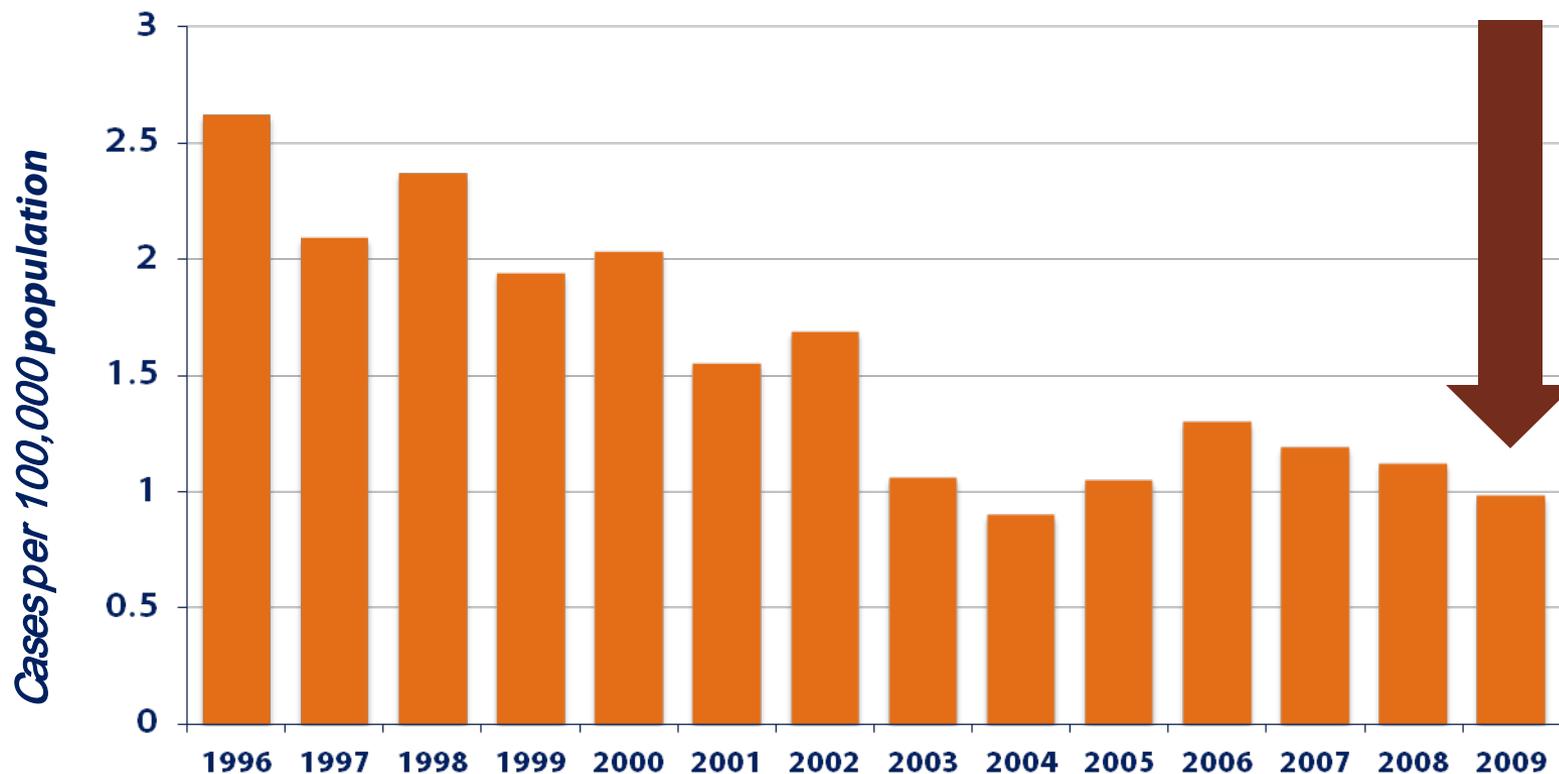
- § *Reduce infections caused by key foodborne pathogens*
- § *Reduce outbreak-associated infections associated with food commodity groups*
- § *Prevent increases in antimicrobial resistance*
- § *Increase the number of consumers who follow key food safety practices*
- § *Improve food safety preparation practices in food service and retail establishments*



Tracking progress

Met Healthy People 2010 goal 1 year early

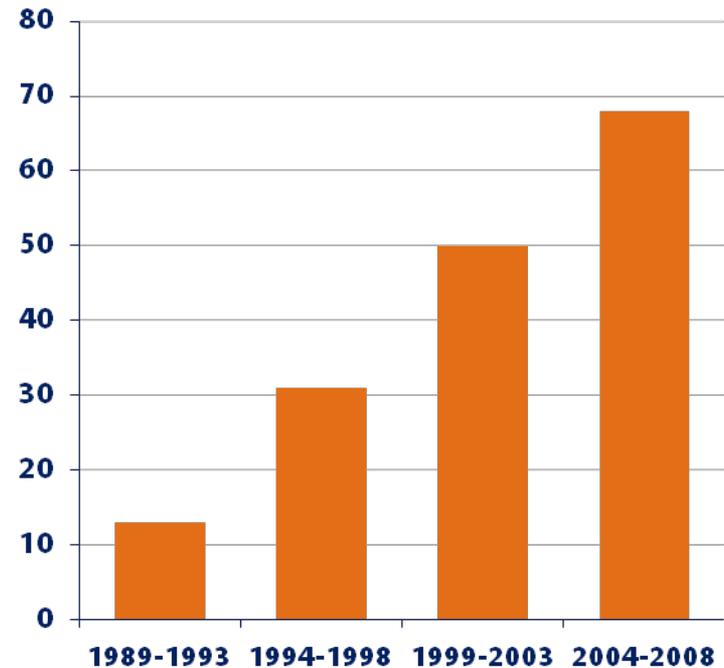
Incidence rate of E. coli O157:H7 infections by year, 1996–2009, FoodNet



Better detection of widespread outbreaks

- § *Multistate outbreaks detected more frequently*
- § *In 2010, >200 investigations and 14 recalls*
- § *New food vehicles identified in multistate outbreaks: 12 since 2006*
 - *E.g., bagged spinach, peanut butter, raw cookie dough*

Multistate foodborne disease outbreaks, 1989-2008



Refine our priorities

- § *Decrease Salmonellosis and other food-related infections*
- § *Accelerate the public health response to foodborne illness at the local, national, and global levels*



Focus action in three areas

- § **Discovery** – *Tracking trends and risk factors, defining the burden, finding new pathogens and drug resistance, and attributing illness to specific foods*
- § **Innovation** – *Developing new tools, methods, and analytics in epidemiology, laboratory science, and environmental health*
- § **Implementation** – *Sharing new technology and information with local, state, and federal partners; improving communications; and targeting information to guide policy*



Take action



- § **Sentinel sites** that are faster at processing and reporting multiple sources of information during an outbreak
- § **Quicker methods** to identify, characterize, and fingerprint *Salmonella* and other food-related infections in public health laboratories
- § **Integration of foodborne illness surveillance systems** and expand data sharing called for in the new food safety bill

Reach out to state and local partners

- § *Expand and improve national surveillance for foodborne illness with state and federal partners*
- § *Share data through new approaches for messaging (RSS feeds, Twitter)*
- § *Support and enhance PulseNet capacity at state and national levels*
- § *Increase the number OutbreakNet sentinel sites to build investigative capacity*
- § *Support the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response*



Thank You

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30333

Telephone, 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)/TTY: 1-888-232-6348

E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov Web: www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



*National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases*