ATTACK RATE TABLE

Food or Beverage	Group A Persons Who Ate Specified Foods				Group B Persons Who Did Note Eat Specified Foods			
	Ill	Not Ill	Total	Attack Rate %	Ill	Not Ill	Total	Attack Rate %
Baked ham.....	29	17	46	63	17	12	29	59
Spinach.....	26	17	43	60	20	12	32	62
Mashed potato.....	23	14	37	62	23	14	37	62
Cabbage salad	18	10	28	64	28	19	47	60
Jell-O.....	16	7	23	70	30	22	52	58
Rolls	21	16	37	57	25	13	38	66
Brown bread.....	18	9	27	67	28	20	48	58
Milk.....	2	2	4	50	44	27	71	62
Coffee.....	19	12	31	61	27	17	44	61
Water.....	13	11	24	54	33	18	51	65
Cakes.....	27	13	40	67	19	16	35	54
Ice cream (van.)....	43	11	54	(80)	3	18	21	(14)
Ice cream (choc.)..	25	22	47	53	20	7	27	74
Fruit salad.....	4	2	6	67	42	27	69	61

To compute the attack rate in per cent, divide the number who became ill by the number who ate the food item and multiply by 100. (In the above example, baked ham 29 ÷ 46 x 100 = 63%). The offending food will show the greatest difference between the two attack rate percentages. The offending food should have a higher attack rate in “Group A” and a lower attack rate in “Group B”. For example, in the table above, the attack rate for persons who ate vanilla ice cream (the offending food in the outbreak cited) was 80% while the attack rate for persons who did not eat vanilla ice cream was 14%. The disparity between the persons in “Group A” and “Group B” is the important point.