# Risk Behaviors of Target Audiences

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## Sensitive Populations in the U.S.

<u>Population</u>	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>% pop.</u>
Pregnancies	6.0 mil	2.1%
Neonates	4.0 mil	1.4%
Elderly (>65)	35 mil	12.5%
Nursing Care Residents	1.6 mil	0.6%
Cancer patients (non-hosp.)	8.9 mil	3.2%
Organ transplant patients	110,270	0.04%
AIDS patients	223,000	0.08%
Total	55.8 mil	19.9%

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2001, CDC, 1996, 1997, 2001

# Risk Behaviors of Target Audiences: Pregnant Women and Seniors

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## **Pregnant Women**





# Food Handling Behaviors of Special Importance to Pregnant Women

- Avoid eating soft cheeses, cold smoked fish, & cold deli salads (Lm)
- Avoid eating hot dogs & deli meats that have not been reheated to steaming hot or 165°F (Lm)
- Use cheese & yogurt made from pasteurized milk (Salmonella species & Lm)
- Avoid eating foods containing raw eggs & cook eggs until firm (SE)
- Do not clean cat litter boxes (Toxoplasma gondii)
- Do not handle pets when preparing foods (*Toxoplasma gondii*)
- Do not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel, or tilefish (methylmercury) (EPA/FDA)

# Consumption of At-risk Foods During Pregnancy

	% of Focus Group Participants	
Food	(n = 69)	
Cold deli meats served without reheating	65	
Alfalfa or other raw sprouts	56	
Soft cheeses	42	
Homemade raw cookie dough	40	
Eggs with runny yolks	36	
Smoked fish served cold without reheating	26	
Raw fish, such as ceviche or sushi	15	
Rare or medium-rare burgers	12	
Raw (unpasteurized) milk	9	

# Pregnant Women – Barriers to Adoption

- Lack of knowledge
  - Pregnancy increases risk
  - Specific recommendations during pregnancy
- Belief that ready-to-eat (RTE) foods are cooked and do not require reheating
- Personal preferences
- Loss of convenience foods
- Lack of control over food preparation when eating at restaurants

## Heard about Recommendation During Pregnancy

Recommendation	% of Respondents (n = 249)
Eliminate or limit caffeine intake	93
Do not smoke	91
Do not drink alcoholic beverages	90
Do not eat raw or undercooked meat	83
Do not eat fish that can contain high levels of mercury	78
Do not handle cat waste and litter boxes	77
Avoid soft cheeses made from unpasteurized milk	56
Reheat deli meats until steaming hot	47

RTI International, TSU, and KSU, Web Survey data, 2005.

# Pregnant Women – Motivators to Adoption

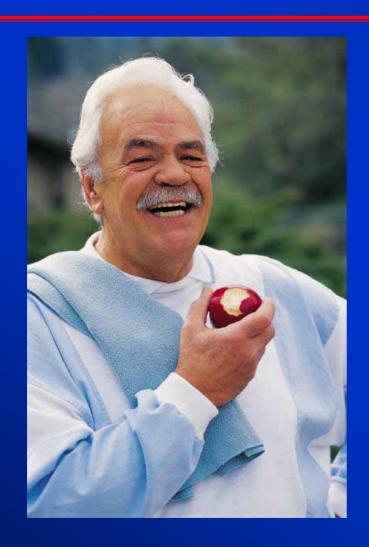
- Desire to protect health of fetus
- Changes are only temporary
- Need more information
  - Why pregnant women are at risk
  - Specific foods to avoid during pregnancy
  - Why RTE foods need to be reheated
- Receive information from credible sources



# Pregnant Women – Implications for Practice

- Emphasize risk to fetus and possible outcomes
- Provide detailed information on specific recommendations
- Disseminate information via OB or other health care provider
  - Written educational materials in information packet received at first prenatal visit
  - One-on-one basis
- Also disseminate information through prenatal care information sources

## **Seniors**



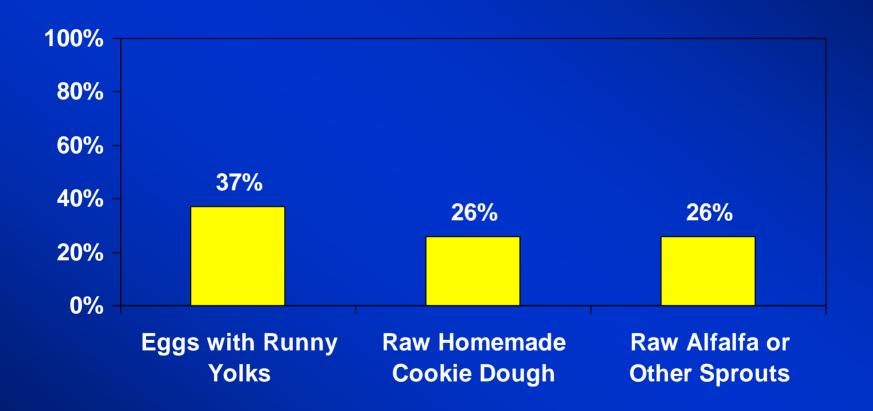


# Food Handling Behaviors of Special Importance to Seniors

- Avoid eating raw or undercooked seafood (Vibrio species)
- Avoid eating raw sprouts (*E. coli* O157:H7)
- Avoid eating soft cheeses, cold smoked fish, & cold deli salads (Lm)
- Avoid hot dogs & deli meats that have not been reheated to steaming hot or 165°F (Lm)
- Use cheese & yogurt made from pasteurized milk (Salmonella species & Lm)
- Avoid eating foods containing raw eggs & cook eggs until firm (SE)
- Properly cook shellfish & fish (Noroviruses)
- Drink only pasteurized milk & juices (E. coli O157:H7 & other pathogens)
- Wash utensils & surfaces after handling raw meat, poultry, seafood (Salmonella species & other pathogens)
- Thoroughly rinse fresh fruits & vegetables before eating (E. coli O157:H7)

Kendall et al., 2003, JADA.

## Seniors' Consumption of At-risk Foods



Gordon et al., AIAEE Conference, 2004.

## Seniors' Refrigeration and Storage Practices for RTE Foods

- 85% do not have a refrigerator thermometer
- 19% have their refrigerators at >40°F
- Store some RTE foods for longer than recommended time

Soft cheeses	69%	
	400/	

Deli meats 42%

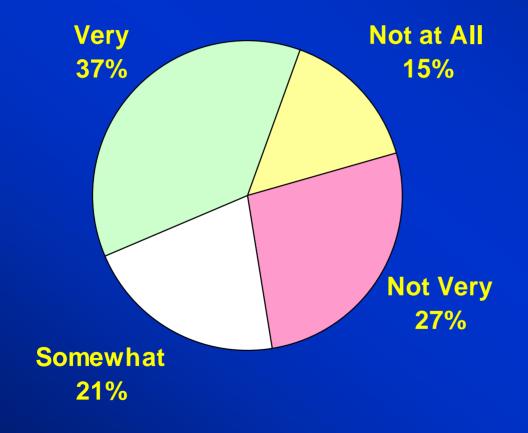
Deli salads
29%

RTI International, TSU, and KSU, Web Survey data, 2005.

# Seniors – Barriers to Adoption

- Lack of knowledge of recommended practices
- Belief that older adults, as a group, are more susceptible, but do not view themselves at increased risk
- Belief that seniors have safer practices compared to younger adults
- Lack of concern about contracting listeriosis
- Have not had foodborne illness in past
- Tradition—"I've always done it that way"
- Personal preferences

# Seniors' Likelihood of Reheating Deli Meats



- Unnecessary, inconvenient, and impractical
- Negatively alter taste, texture, and color

Cates et al., forthcoming, Food Protection Trends.

# Seniors – Motivators to Adoption

- Need more information
  - Why older adults are at risk
  - Why RTE foods need to be reheated
- Perceive themselves to be personally at risk
- Desire to take care of themselves and avoid illness
- Receive information from trusted and credible sources

# Seniors – Implications for Practice

- Communicate that all older adults are at risk
- Use qualitative and quantitative methods to convey risk
- Integrate food safety information with other healthcare information
- Use concise, easy-to-understand written materials
- Disseminate information via
  - AARP
  - Government sources
  - Retirement communities, senior centers, churches



# Risk Behaviors of Target Audiences: Cancer, Bone Marrow Transplants, and Solid Organ Transplants

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#### When communicating risk of foodborne illness...

# Who are the end users of greatest need?

Highest risk associated with anomalies of cell mediated immune system

- People on chemotherapy
- People with bone marrow transplants
- People with solid organ transplants
- People with HIV/AIDS

## Solid Organ Cancer Patients

#### Overall Message Learned

Aware of their immune suppression, but lack information to help them feel in control

#### Major Concerns

"I want to know which things are true and which are not, which things would apply if your [neutrophil] count is down."

"The cheese...is that a blood count factor, or is that an all-the-time kind of thing?"

## Bone Marrow Transplant

#### Overall Message Learned

Intensely managed patients in controlled environment

#### **Major Concern**

"... you know that since I've had the disease, I think we've gotten a complete education on how to prepare the food, what to do...."

## Solid Organ Transplant

#### Overall Message Learned

Avoid dietary restrictions unless absolutely necessary

#### **Major Concerns**

- Had many dietary restrictions, due to illness
- Overall health returned by transplant
- Unwilling to continue restrictions unless absolutely necessary
- Will make changes if it affects their health

### HIV/AIDS

#### Overall Message Learned

"If I enjoy the food I'm going to eat it. I'm on this earth once."

#### **Major Concerns**

No appetite

"Starving"

Loss of financial resources to buy/select food

"I eat what has appeal or available."

### **Threats**

- Misinformation
- Disbelief of risk
- Lack of information
- Self-guilt
- Lack of trust

### Motivators

- Chance of illness/death
- Research-based information
- Whether recommendation aligns with habitual behavior
- Clear/easy to implement advice
- Information from trusted/credible sources

### **Barriers**

- Personal preferences/ loss of food quality
- Whether recommendation aligns with habitual behavior
- Lack of knowledge/understanding
- Time/inconvenience
- Disbelief of risk

### Barriers - continued

- Cost
- Availability of safe products
- Overwhelmed by their disease
- Lack of trust
- Too limiting/already have limited diet
- Physical disabilities

### Cues to Action

- Specific information regarding high-risk foods
- Credible source of information
- Easy to access information
- Specific information regarding timing of concern
- Explain risks/consequences to patient
- Easy to implement information

# When is *need* for the message the greatest?

At the point of greatest physiological susceptibility to infection

## Solid Tumor Cancer

- Susceptibility greatest when neutropenic associated with myelosuppressive therapy
- Susceptibility occurs 1-2 weeks following cytotoxic agent administration – circulating PMN <1000 cells/µL
- Susceptibility similar to general population when neutropenia corrected, if other complicating condition absent

## Bone Marrow Transplant

- Greatest susceptibility 2 4 wks before engraftment until 2 - 4 wks after engraftment
- Susceptibility diminished when absolute neutrophil count > 500/mm<sup>3</sup>
- Susceptibility continues for 6 18 mo post transplant until CD4/ CD8 ratio normalized
- Without complicating conditions, no longer susceptible once t-cell ratio normalized

## Solid Organ Transplant

- Potential for susceptibility lifelong because of long-term immunosuppressive therapy
- Greatest risk for Listeria monocytogenes 1 mo post transplant
- Continued susceptibility if absolute neutrophil count < 500/ mm<sup>3</sup>

### HIV/AIDS

- Potential for susceptibility lifelong
- Progressive susceptibility
- Asymptomatic Opportunistic infection rare unless CD4 count <200 cells/mm3</li>
- Symptomatic CD4 count <200 cells/mm3, total lymphocyte count <14%</p>

## Implications for Practice

### The preferred delivery format is:

- Written brochures/ pamphlets/ fact sheets
- Videos in clinics/treatment facilities

### Information should be provided:

At first visit to oncologist/specialist

## Implications for Practice

- Food safety information should be accurate, credible, efficacious and related to the patient
- Should contain sufficient information for individual to make the message operational
- No vague terms open to individual interpretation
- Health providers should provide information

# Design and Evaluation of Food Safety Education Materials for At-Risk Audiences

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### Design and Evaluation of Food Safety Education Materials for At-Risk Audiences

#### Project Team

- Lydia Medeiros, Ohio State University
- Val Hillers, Washington State University
- Pat Kendall, Colorado State University

#### Three High Risk Populations

- Pregnant Women
- Persons infected with HIV
- Persons with Cancer, Organ or Bone Marrow Transplants
- Support for work provided through a grant from the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative (NIFSI agreement 2001-51110-11364) and the National Research Initiative (NRI agreement 2002-35201-11700) of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

#### Five Step Development Process

- Define issues
- Develop initial food safety recommendations
- Assess target audience's willingness to follow recommendations, motivators and barriers
- Develop educational materials; fine-tune message
- Assess acceptability of educational materials developed for target audience

Borra et al., JADA, 2001

# Theoretical Framework: Health Belief Model

- Set of beliefs contribute to motivation to engage in a health-related behavior (Chapman et al., 1995)
- Three principal components:
  - Perceived threat
    - Perceived susceptibility
    - Perceived severity
  - Outcome expectations
    - Perceived Benefits/Motivators
    - Perceived Barriers
  - Efficacy expectations
    - Cues to Action
    - Self-Efficacy

### Use of Health Belief Model in Developing Materials on Food Safety during Pregnancy

#### Perceived threat

- Perceived susceptibility Pregnant women must believe at greater risk of foodborne illness (FBI)
- Perceived severity Must believe a FBI during pregnancy can result in severe consequences

#### Outcome expectations

- Perceived benefits Following recommendations will help prevent FBI and result in a healthy baby
- Perceived barriers Following rec's may involve making changes in food handling behaviors or temporarily giving up foods they enjoy

#### **Efficacy expectations**

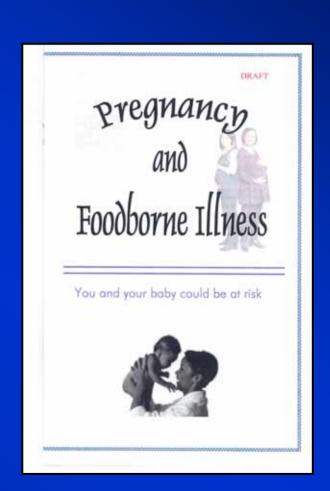
- Cues to action Include practical tips and "how-to" information regarding safe food handling
- Self-efficacy After reading the materials, women confident can follow the recommendations and prevent FBI

#### Material Prototypes for Materials for Pregnant Women

- Numerous prototypes developed using Microsoft Word
- Five prototypes selected for further development and evaluation. Each used different approach in addressing food safety concerns and varied in content and format features:
  - Length
  - Complexity of information
  - Format
  - Writing style

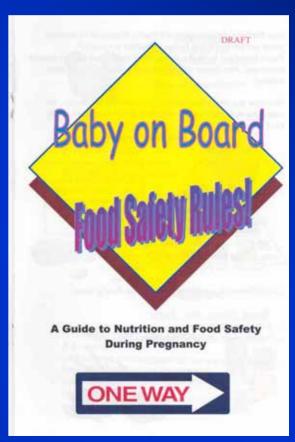
# Prototype #1: "Pregnancy and Foodborne Illness: You and Your Baby Could Be at Risk"

- "Pathogen approach"
  - Detailed information regarding specific pathogens including statistics, outbreaks, symptoms and complications
- Lengthy
- In-depth, technical information
- Question and answer style
- Booklet format
- Readability = 10<sup>th</sup> grade (SMOG Readability Formula; McLaughlin, 1969)



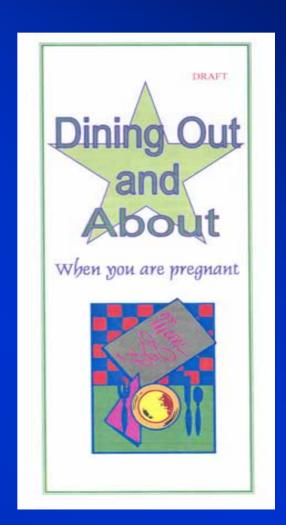
### Prototype #2: "Baby on Board"

- "Food Safety and Nutrition" approach
  - Combined food safety recommendations with general nutrition information, including the Food Guide Pyramid
- Moderate in length
- Simple information
- Narrative style
- Booklet format
- Readability = 9<sup>th</sup> grade



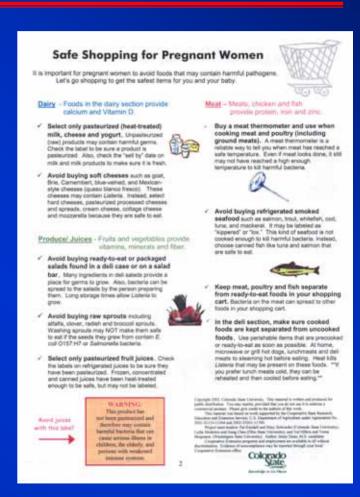
### Prototype #3: "Dining Out and About"

- "Dining Out" approach
  - Provided practical application of the recommendations in a dining away from home setting
- Moderate in length
- Moderate complexity
- Bulleted lists
- Trifold booklet
- Readability = 9<sup>th</sup> grade



### Prototype #4: "Safe Shopping"

- "Shopping" approach
  - Gave practical applications of the recommendations such as safe foods to look for in grocery stores and supermarkets
- Moderate in length
- Moderate complexity
- Narrative style and bulleted lists
- One-page handout
- Readability = 10<sup>th</sup> grade



### Prototype #5: "Keep Your Baby Safe During Pregnancy" magnet

- "Magnet" approach
  - Categorized risky foods in an "Instead of...Choose" table
- Short in length
- Simple information
- "Instead of...Choose" table
- Magnet
- Readability = 7<sup>th</sup> grade

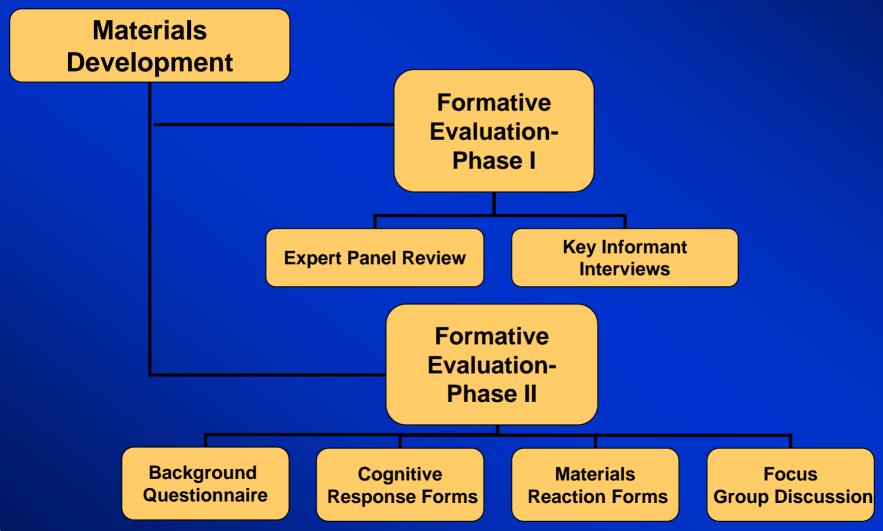


Some foods may not be safe for you to eat because they may contain pathogens that can harm your unborn boby.

Skip risky foods\_learn what to choosel

Instead of_	Choose
Cold hat dogs, deli meats and luncheon meats	Hot dogs, luncheon meats and deli meats <u>reheated</u> to steaming hot
Undercooked meat and poultry	To use a food thermometer when cooking
Raw or undercooked seafood	Fully cooked seafood
Refrigerated smaked fish	Canned tuna or salmon
Deli salads	Salads prepared at home
Raw sprouts	Fresh vegetables (well-cleaned) or cooked sprouts
Soft cheeses such as goat, Brie, Camembert, blue-veined, and Mexican-style	Hard cheeses, pasteurized processed cheeses, cream cheese, cottage cheese, mozzarella
Raw or undercooked eggs	Eggs that are cooked until the white and yolk are firm
Row milk	Pasteurized milk
Unposteurized juice (May be called "fresh squeezed" or "chilled")	Frozen concentrate or canned juices OR refrigerated juices that are labeled as pasteurized

# Materials Development and Evaluation Process



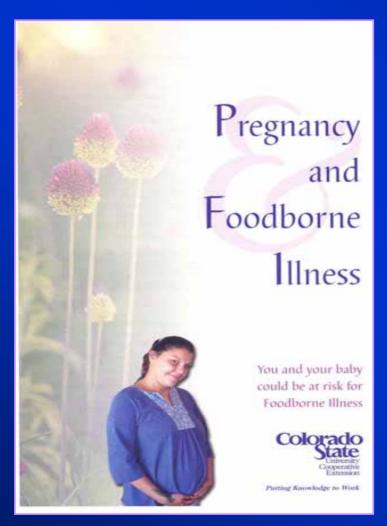
### Focus Group Results with Pregnant Women

- All groups (5/5) preferred the "Pregnancy and Foodborne Illness" booklet because it contained the most information
- "Safe Shopping" handout well received by 3/5 groups due to its practicality and usefulness
- "Dining Out" booklet OK, but limited information
- "Baby on Board" booklet least liked by participants because not as informative (4/5) and information too basic (2/5)
- Magnet was considered a good reminder card (5/5)

# Confidence in Preventing Foodborne Illness

- Focus Group Results with Pregnant Women:
  - All groups felt more confident and expressed willingness to follow recommendations
  - Many mentioned they would have liked to receive this information earlier in their pregnancy
  - "I wish I would have known this earlier, a long time ago."
- Results were similar for other target audiences

#### Materials for Pregnant Women



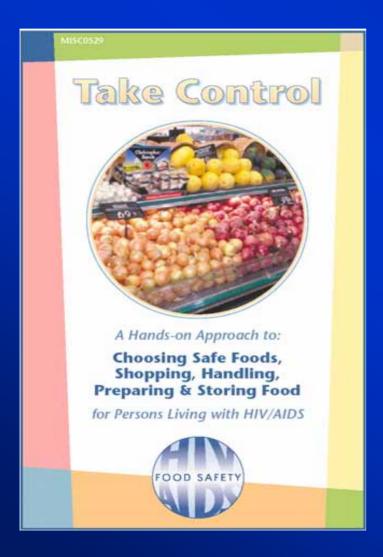


Pregnancy and Foodborne Illness

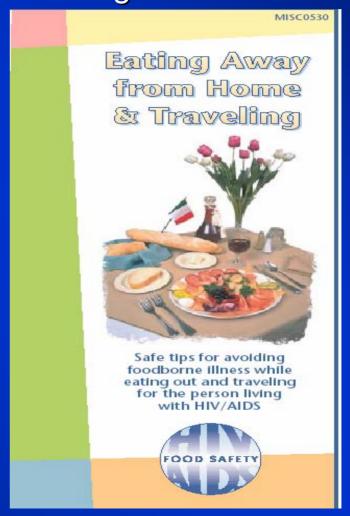
Pregnant Women: Keep You and Your Baby Safe from Foodborne Illness

#### Materials for HIV Infected Persons

Take Control



Eating Away from Home & Traveling



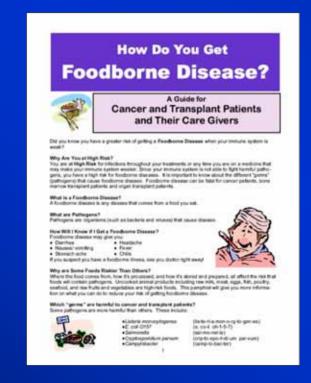
# Materials for Cancer/Transplant Patients

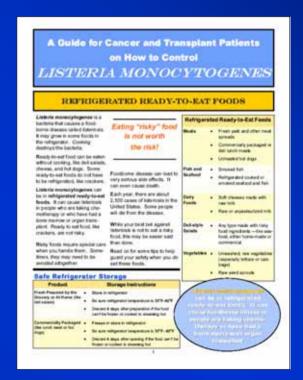
Preventing Foodborne
Disease - Patient Group

Pathogen Approach

Refrigerated, RTE Foods - *Listeria* 







#### Availability of Educational Materials

Copies are available as PDF copies at:

http://hec.osu.edu/highriskfoodsafety/resources.htm

OR

http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/safefood/foodsafety/menuhr.html

# Summary of Materials Evaluation

- Participants preferred materials with in-depth, practical information
- Participants more willing to follow recommendations if supported with detailed explanation
- Health Belief Model useful tool for message communication to high risk populations regarding foodborne illness
- Systematic development and evaluation process ensured that specific needs of target audiences met

#### Acknowledgements

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### Questions