

Coordinated Food Surveillance and Response Systems in the United States

United States Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
Senior Regional Food Safety Authority
Response Coordination Roundtable
Cairo, Egypt
7 November 2007

Robert E. Brackett, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Food Safety: A Constantly Evolving System

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 - FDA's food law was established in 1906
- Over the past 100 years, the FDA foods program has evolved to meet new challenges and responsibilities



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- Same regulations, guidance, policies and procedures apply to both domestic and imported food



Public Health Concern

- Foodborne Illness in the United States
 - 76 Million Foodborne Illness
 - 325,000 Hospitalizations
 - 5,000 Deaths



Confirmed Outbreaks and Cases

Year	Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases
2006	18	1617
2005	26	1749
2004	35	1841
2003	40	2305
2002	34	1653
2001	44	1830
2000	45	1806
1999	56	1939
1998	41	2096
1997	49	3609

Prevention

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Prevention

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- Stopping outbreaks before they affect large numbers of people is a major goal



Intervention

- Surveillance -

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- Surveillance systems help public health authorities recognize when cases of foodborne illness are occurring
- Surveillance systems help define the magnitude or scope of product recalls



Response

- Communications and Outreach -

- Open communication can lessen the public health impact of contaminated food



Response

- Communications and Outreach -

- Open communication can lessen the public health impact of contaminated food
- Dealing with contaminated food events requires rapid access and exchange of food safety information at both the national and international level



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- Investigation discovered that the product had been shipped to three countries
- U.S. FDA immediately relayed this information to our food safety and human health counterparts in the three countries



2006 Spinach Outbreak

- International Impact -

- U.S. FDA also relayed the information to INFOSAN and because of the possibility of secondary and tertiary distribution of the implicate product an INFOSAN Emergency Alert was issued



2006 Spinach Outbreak

- International Impact -

- Canada and Mexico restricted imports of U.S spinach



Conclusion

- Surveillance and Response Systems are critical components of an effective food safety system
- Critical Elements for Effective Surveillance and Response
 - Outbreak detection systems
 - Coordination among public health and regulatory officials from the outset
 - Rapid access and exchange of food safety information at both the national and international level

