

CDC/USDA/FDA Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network
FoodNet Steering Committee Conference Call
Thursday, December 13th, 2007

Minutes

Attendees: CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, FSIS, FDA, EHS-Net.

A. Administrative

1. Staffing changes
 - a. MD-Welcome Amanda Palmer and Maya Monroe
 - b. TN- Congratulations Tim Jones appointed State Epidemiologist and John Dunn appointed FoodNet Director.
 - c. CA-Sam Shin has left FoodNet.
2. Vision Meeting: March 6-7th, 2008 in Denver, Colorado.
 - a. Details on accommodation will be up on the FoodNet secure website soon; the Steering Committee will be notified by email. Letter of invitation will be sent out early in the new year.
 - b. PI Meeting: Thursday March 5th, 12pm-5pm.
 - i. 1-2 representatives per site, include PI. Will keep meeting small (<30 persons).
 - ii. The purpose is to examine the overall vision for FoodNet over the next five years.
 - iii. Tom Chapel (CDC employee) will facilitate this meeting.
3. Update on manuscripts and abstracts
 - a. Please review list included in the packet.

B. Working groups and special studies

- a. Trends
 - i. Overview of current trends
 1. Consistent decreases in *Campylobacter*, *Listeria*, *Shigella* and *Yersinia*. Increase in *Cryptosporidium*.
 2. Decreases in STEC O157; rates similar to 2005.
 3. Decrease in *Vibrio*.
 - a. Will compare data with information from COVIS and investigate changes in lab practices. Will examine changes by state.
 - ii. MMWR 2008
 1. Will include age-specific rates. Preliminary findings will be shared on Jan steering call.
 2. HUS will be included in model.
 - a. All information will be used; will compare data from states with and without hospital discharge data review.
 3. Will examine effect of outbreak cases on incidence rates over time.
 - iii. Facts and figures webpage
 1. Mock-up will be available on January steering call for review; will include 2007 data and add additional years as time allows.

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- iv. A session on trends is being planned for the first day of vision meeting.
- v. Next working group call scheduled for Wed, Dec 19th.
- b. Attribution
 - i. On the last working group call:
 - 1. Nehal Patel (CDC PulseNet) presented her master's thesis about PFGE patterns and *Salmonella* Newport.
 - 2. Sarah Pires (PhD candidate from Denmark) presented her work on the Danish attribution model. Sarah will be at CDC for the first 6 months of 2008 and will be participating in the Attributions WG.
 - 3. Summarized three years of travel data.
 - 4. Next call will be in February.
 - a. Susan Van Duyne (CDC PulseNet) will present on *E.coli*. Group will stay informed about PFGE attribution work in order to decide how FoodNet might be able to assist.
- c. HUS/STEC
 - i. The *E. coli* cohort study database will be split into multiple databases and distributed to sites end Jan/early Feb.
 - 1. Explored option of re-building database, but not feasible due to time and budget constraints. CDC IT team will be available to assist with errors in split databases.
- d. Outbreak
 - i. The contributing factors form and the ill food worker form will be discontinued at the end of 2007.
 - 1. There will be two years of data to analyze (2006-2007).
 - 2. Please send in any remaining 2006 and 2007 forms.
 - ii. A new form pertaining to the role of PFGE is currently being created and will be implemented beginning with 2008 cases.
 - iii. The main supplemental form will be modified to include adapted versions of the CIFOR performance standards for outbreaks.
 - 1. Will be used as FoodNet performance indicators.
 - iv. The working group is reviewing the protocol for submitting specimens of undetermined etiology.
 - 1. Need an email response from each site stating that they have read and approve of the protocol.
 - 2. Will present final protocol on Jan Steering Committee call.
- e. Data Transmission
 - i. Call held last week to facilitate changes to test files and variable names.
 - ii. Deadline for test files in Dec 14th.
 - 1. Have received test files from 7 sites; are addressing problems with files from remaining 3 sites.

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- iii. Will resume calls as needed in 2008 to discuss FoodNet 2.0 Phase II – implementation of PHIN messaging.
- f. *C. difficile*
 - i. FoodNet conducted 3-month pilot study last year.
 - ii. At EIP steering committee meeting, discussed as a topic of interest; EIP working group established.
 - 1. Plan for how to address surveillance.
 - 2. Provided funding for 2008.
 - 3. Decision to conduct surveillance in conjunction with existing program; FoodNet most appropriate fit.
 - 4. Working group will continue in Jan led by CDC DHQP; opportunity for new members.
 - iii. Funding for CT and NY pilot study.
 - iv. Will be regular update on steering calls; there will be time allocated for discussion at vision meeting.
- C. Proposals for abstracts
 - a. Melissa Viray's (EIS officer-CDC) will analyze HUS surveillance system for EIS conference abstract – *approved*
 - i. Email Hannah Gould by 12/14 if you would like to be a co-author.
 - b. Rakee Palekar's (EIS officer-MD) will analyze raw shellfish consumption questions from the most recent cycle of the Population Survey for abstract at the APHA conference – *approved*
 - i. Email Rakee if you would like to be a coauthor (ggj1@cdc.gov).
 - c. Hannah Gould's abstract, "Genetic predictors of hemolytic uremic syndrome among persons infected with *Escherichia coli* O157," will be presented at the internal CDC meeting on genomics.
- D. Proposals for manuscripts
 - a. Sharon Hurd is requesting authors for her manuscript entitled, "Clinical laboratory practices for isolation and identification of *Campylobacter* in FoodNet sites".
 - i. Previously presented as abstract to ICEID. Please contact her if you would like to participate in analytic working group (Sharon.hurd@yale.edu).
 - ii. Mary Patrick's abstract, "Prevalence of exposures to raw meat and poultry products among children riding in shopping carts: increased risk of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infection?" will be submitted to IAFP conference.
 - iii. Requesting co-authors for short manuscript to be submitted to JFP.
 - b. Hannah Gould would like to update the manuscript on geographic variations in STEC O157 with the most recent cycle of data from the Population Survey.

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- E. Special studies tables
 - a. Contact Liane Ong or Laura Moyer with questions.

- F. Surveillance data (see pg 15-16):
 - a. Active (see pgs 15-16)
 - i. Reminder: preliminary close-out for MMWR starts Dec 14th.
 - ii. Highlights: Decreases in *Salmonella* (*S. Typhimurium*, *S. Mississippi*, *S. Paratyphi B* var L (+) Tartrate +), *Vibrio*, *Cyclospora*. Increases in *Shigella*, *S. Tennessee*, *Cryptosporidium*.
 - b. Outbreak (pgs 39-40)
 - i. Will include table for outbreaks of undetermined etiology in Jan steering call packet.
 - c. HUS (pg 41-42)
 - i. Majority of cases 1-4 years. Of 69 cases, 93% with diarrhea, 83% submitted stool specimen.

- G. The next Steering Committee Call will be on **Thursday, January 10th 2-3pm EST.**