

CDC's Emerging Infections Program
CDC/USDA/FDA Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network
FoodNet Steering Committee Conference Call
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Minutes

Attendance: CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, USDA-FSIS, FDA, San Francisco Department of Health, CDC.

A) Administrative

- a. Update on manuscripts
 - i. p.1 All manuscripts listed under status "10" have been posted to the website

B) Typhoid Fever Surveillance

- a. p. 6 A few changes have been made to the typhoid fever surveillance form.
 - i. Paratyphoid fever has been added.
 - ii. A state isolate ID number is now requested on the form.
 - 1. This number should match the NARMS ID number.
 - iii. It was noted that some sites do not have enough space to enter the state isolate ID number in the boxes provided on the form.
 - 1. Sites having this problem should contact Jazmin Vodjani.
 - iv. A question was raised about the case definition on the form.
 - 1. The current definition is "a new symptomatic, culture-proven case of typhoid and paratyphoid fever".
 - a. It was noted that this form is meant to be completed for acute infections, not chronic ones.
 - b. It was suggested that the definition be expanded to include enteric fever and javoid fever.
- b. p. 8 is an abstract from a study that was conducted by Sundeep Gupta.
 - i. Interesting findings:
 - 1. 151 of 164 of the cases were Paratyphi A, 12 cases were Paratyphi B, and 1 case was Paratyphi C.
 - ii. States are being asked to submit Paratyphi A and C isolates to NARMS.
 - iii. States are being asked to complete the typhoid and paratyphoid surveillance report form for paratyphi A and C cases.
 - iv. There are reservations regarding collection of Paratyphi B isolates due to questions about accuracy of identification.
- c. p. 7 illustrates a graph of the incidence of infections due to *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi A*, from 1968-2005.
 - i. During the given time period, the incidence of typhoid fever has been steadily decreasing.
 - a. This may be indicative of increased use of an effective vaccine for typhoid fever.

2. During the given time period, the incidence of paratyphoid fever has been steadily increasing.
 - a. It was noted that in some countries paratyphoid fever is more common than typhoid fever.
 - b. There is not vaccine currently available for paratyphoid infections.
 - c. It is for the aforementioned reasons that there is increased interest in capturing cases of paratyphoid fever.

C) Working Groups and Special Studies

a. Attribution

- i. USDA-ARD spoke about the “NEST” program (a national egg surveillance system) on the last Attribution working group call.
 1. This project will cost an estimated 2 million dollars.
 2. The model that is being constructed is intended to estimate the prevalence of *Salmonella* in shell eggs.
- ii. Attribution working group call will now take place quarterly.
 1. The next call will be on December 6th from 11am-12pm.
 2. There are three subgroups focusing on data analysis, manuscript preparation, and modeling.

b. HUS/STEC

- i. p. 9 is a summary of the status of HUS cases from 2000-2007.
 1. Sites need to collect both post and non-post diarrheal cases in order to effectively monitor trends over time.
- ii. Minutes from the last conference call about STEC variables can be found on p.10.
- iii. p. 11 indicates the agreed upon changes to the variable list.
 1. #49 was dropped completely.
 2. There were other minor changes to a few of the variable descriptions.

c. Select *Salmonella* serotypes

- i. The middle section of the top table indicates the number of actual cases interviewed.
 1. Only 20 interviews of *Infantis* have been conducted so far in 2007.
 2. This has raised some questions about the possibility of extending the study for a second year and whether this would be for all cases of *Infantis* only.
 - a. CDC will determine study power if extended for another year.
 - b. A quick, interim analysis will be conducted and presented on the next SSS conference call on October 31st.

D) Proposals for FoodNet Study

- a. Proposal for Pet Food Surveillance in Conjunction with the NARMS Retail Food Survey (Casey Barton-Behravesh).

- i. The aim of this study is to provide an enhanced understanding of the prevalence of *Salmonella* in dry pet food.
 - ii. It was noted that this study is intended to be a rapid survey to do a quick assessment of the prevalence of *Salmonella* in dry pet food.
 - iii. This study would function as a voluntary pilot in interested FoodNet sites.
 - iv. A question was raised about whether or not *Salmonella* causes symptoms in dogs.
 - 1. Dogs are commonly asymptomatic, but they can shed *Salmonella* and indirectly contaminate humans.
 - v. A question was raised about how dog food was identified as the vehicle during the outbreak.
 - 1. The state health departments used hypothesis-generating interviews which indicated that approximately 80% of the cases interviewed acknowledged having some contact with dogs.
 - a. This led to further investigation of dog exposure, which eventually led to dog food.
 - 2. There are currently 66 reported cases, most recent isolation dates are in September.
 - vi. A question was raised about trying to implicate specific brands with this study.
 - 1. It was noted that the intent is not to implicate particular brands, but to provide a snapshot of the prevalence of *Salmonella* in dry pet food.
 - vii. The Retail Food Study will help to develop a specific protocol at their next meeting in two weeks.
 - viii. There were no objections to this proposal.
- b. Proposal for Quantification of *Campylobacter* on Retail Chickens: Extension of Pilot Study (Mary Patrick).
- i. Proposal to extend the pilot study that was already conducted in two sites.
 - 1. The low levels of *Campylobacter* that were isolated were surprising.
 - 2. The hypothesis is that the sampling occurred during the colder months when *Campylobacter* is not as prevalent.
 - ii. Study would focus on samples from whole chickens during the summer months.
 - iii. The burden on the sites would be to purchase the chickens, do a rinsate, and mail the rinsate to FSIS lab for isolation and quantification.
 - iv. There were no objections from the Steering Committee to taking this proposal to the *Campylobacter* working group.
- c. *E. coli* manuscript proposal (Hannah Gould)
- i. The analysis for this manuscript was started by Nicole Steinmuller, and was presented at IDSA last year.

- ii. Hannah will now take the lead.
 - iii. Everyone should take a look at the current co-author list and see if they still want to contribute.
 - iv. There were no objections to this proposal.
 - d. Population Survey Data Request, San Francisco Department of Health
 - i. *Campylobacter* rates are 3x higher in San Francisco than the other FoodNet sites.
 - ii. San Francisco has conducted hypothesis generating interviews to try to account for the difference.
 - iii. Proposal to compare information obtained from case interviews to prevalence on Population Survey.
 - iv. San Francisco Department of Health will work closely with CA EIP on this project.
 - v. There were no objections to this proposal.
 - e. Population Survey Data Request, New York State Department of Health
 - i. The New York State Department of Health will lead the analysis of pregnancy health-related questions recently added to the Population Survey.
 - ii. There were no objections to this proposal.
- E) Special study tables
 - a. Clinical outcomes
 - i. There are no updates on enrollment at this time.
 - b. *E. coli* Cohort study
 - i. There are no updates on enrollment at this time.
 - ii. The databases have been posted to the FTP site.
- F) Surveillance data
 - a. Active
 - i. Points of interest
 - 1. There have been increases in *S. Newport*, *S. Heidelberg*, *Shigella sonnei*, and *Salmonella* all other serotypes.
 - 2. There have been decreases in *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Javiana*, *Vibrio*, and *Cyclospora*.
 - ii. If there are any questions about the active surveillance data, please contact Cherie Long.
 - b. Outbreak
 - i. p. 44 is a summary of foodborne outbreaks with more than two persons ill.
 - 1. There have been a total of 122 outbreaks reported to eFORS so far in 2007.
 - ii. p. 45 is a summary of foodborne outbreaks with more than 10 persons ill
 - 1. There have been a total of 57 outbreaks reported to eFORS so far in 2007.
 - c. HUS
 - i. Tables are located on pgs. 46-47 of the packet.
 - ii. Please contact Liane if you have any questions.

G) The next Steering Committee Call will be on Thursday, November 8th from 2-3pm EST.