

CDC's Emerging Infections Program
CDC/USDA/FDA Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network
FoodNet Steering Committee Conference Call
Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2007 (2:00-3:00pm)

Attendance: CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, TN, FSIS, FDA, CDC

A. Administrative

1. Update on manuscripts

- Manuscript #600: "Sporadic Salmonella enterica serotype Javiana Infections in Georgia and Tennessee: An Emerging Zoonotic Disease?" by Lydia Clarkson, et al., is in NCID/CDC clearance.
- Manuscript # 607: "Antimotility and Antimicrobial Use in Persons with Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O157 Infection in FoodNet Sites," by Jennifer Nelson, is currently being reviewed by co-authors. This manuscript was approved at the last Steering Committee Call. Tim Jones from TN agreed to be a co-author. If anyone else is interested in being a co-author please contact Mary or Elaine.

2. Vision Meeting

- The Vision Meeting will take place on March 6-7, 2008 in Denver, Colorado.
- A half day coordinators meeting was suggested for March 5, 2008, prior to the Vision Meeting.
- A half day PI meeting was suggested for March 5th in order to set FoodNet 5-year goals.
 - It was suggested that there be a limit to how many people attend this meeting because a smaller group will be more productive.
 - It was suggested that a representative from FSIS and FDA be allowed to attend this meeting to give their input on 5-year goals.
- It was decided that there would be a Coordinators meeting and a PI meeting on the 5th.
- It was decided that there will be no working group meetings on the 5th.

3. FSIS update

- Elisabeth Hagan gave birth to her second child, Baby Nora, born, Sept. 4th, 9:36am, 7.2 lbs, 19.5". Both are doing very well.
- Elisabeth was also recently promoted (July 2007) from Director of the FSIS, Office of Public Health Science, Human Health Sciences Division, to a FSIS senior executive service (SES) position, Executive Associate for Public Health in the FSIS Office of Public Health Science.
- McKenzie Andre, acting FSIS, OPHS, Human Health Services Division Director will be filling the vacancy that Elisabeth's promotion created.
- FSIS, CDC, and FDA will host a public meeting, The Public Health Significance of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) that will take place in Arlington, VA on October 17, 2007.

B. Working Groups and Special Studies

1. Population Survey

- The Population Survey working group has begun meeting again to review the final data set, to see how many surveys have been completed, etc.
- Laura is currently working with the contractor from Clearwater Research to the final, state-specific data sets so that they can then be distributed to the states.
- The working group is currently discussing the route for future analysis and will be meeting every other month beginning on October 25th.
- If anyone else is interested in participating in the working group please let Olga know.

2. Trends

a. Validating trends on *E. coli* O157

- An uptake in *E. coli* O157 has been observed since 2004.
- Olga, Hannah, and Liane did some analyses to help validate if the observed increase is real.
 - p. 8 depicts the crude incidence of FoodNet *E. coli* O157 and HUS for cases <18 year old in all sites.
- p. 9 illustrates the negative binomial model to compare the trends between *E. coli* O157 and HUS.
 - It was noted that HUS and O157 are behaving in a similar manner.
 - The question was raised, how much of the increase that is observed can be attributed to outbreaks.
 - The incidence rates do decrease, but the rates are still higher in 2005 and 2006.
 - A question was asked about where any analyses has been conducted looking at the age group distribution of the cases.
 - Olga has begun looking at the age distribution.
 - Olga also mentioned that she had begun looking at the distribution by state but has run into a few problems. In addition, she has begun looking at Northern states vs. Southern states.
 - So far, there has been a consistent decrease in the Northern states.
 - Olga will send out additional analyses if people are interested.
- p. 10 illustrates the Shiga-toxin profiles.
 - These profiles only include isolates from PulseNet.
 - In 2003 there was a rise in Stx2, yet there was an overall decline in O157.
- p. 11 is a selected literature review on Shiga-toxin types seen internationally
 - It is hoped that this will be useful when making international comparisons.

b. Trends in *Salmonella* by serotype

- On the last Steering Call it was noted that there was an increase in *Salmonella* “other”.

- The table on p. 6 examines all different serogroups of *Salmonella* and illustrates the incidence rates for 2004, 2005, and 2006.
- The second table on p. 6 is an attempt to determine what the effects of outbreaks are on the serotypes that are increasing in incidence.
- Some serotypes are influenced by outbreaks.
 - E.g. the rate of increase for serotype Tennessee is not as dramatic when the outbreak cases are excluded.
- p. 7 highlights the top 20 serotypes from 2006 and 2007.
- Salmonella “all others” does include missing and unknown serotypes
- The following observations were made:
 - A significant decrease in Typhimurium was observed.
 - A significant decrease in Mississippi was observed.
 - A significant decrease in Infantis was observed.
 - A significant increase in Tennessee was observed
- The overall summary table illustrates how many isolates aren’t serotyped.

C. Proposals for ICEID

- The following abstract proposals were presented:
 - 1) **A review of contributing factors as reported to eFORS by FoodNet sites; 2005-2006** (Ida Rosenblum)
 - 2) **Travel Associated Salmonellosis in FoodNet** (Liane Ong)
 - 3) **Trends in incidence of frequently identified non-typhoidal *Salmonella* serotypes, Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network 1996-2006** (Cherie Long, Xin Tong, Olga Henao)
 - 4) **Epidemiology of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* in FoodNet sites** (Hannah Gould)
 - 5) **Prevalence of exposures to meat and poultry products among children riding in shopping carts: increased risk of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* infection** (Mary Patrick)
 - 6) **Patterns in incidence of diarrheal illness and associated symptoms, FoodNet Population Survey 1996-2006** (Olga Henao).
 - 7) **Associated costs of gastrointestinal illness in the United States, FoodNet population survey, 2006-2007** (Laura Moyer)
 - 8) **Are there gender differences in food consumption?** (Beletshachew Shiferaw)
 - 9) **FoodNet *Listeria* Case Report Proposal** (Michelle Soeters, Ruthanne Marcus, Sharon Hurd)
 - 10) ***E.coli* O157 and non-O157 Shiga Toxin-producing *E.coli* (STEC) testing among laboratories serving the FoodNet catchment area** (Dina Hoefler, Sharon Hurd, Carlota Medus, Samir Hanna, Hannah Gould)
 - 11) **O157 STEC versus non O157 STEC, comparison of exposures and clinical variables** (Melissa Tobin-D’Angelo)
- All of the proposals were approved by the Steering Committee.

D. Proposal for FoodNet Study

- The following proposals were presented:
 - 1) **Incidence and Trends of Foodborne Pathogens in FoodNet and non-FoodNet sites** (Marcy McMillian)
 - **Are there gender differences in food consumption?** (Beletshachew Shiferaw)
- Both of the proposals were approved by the Steering Committee.

***Due to time constraints, the other items on the agenda were not discussed.