History and Overview of the Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (IFSAC)

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IFSAC Introduction

- IFSAC was established in 2011 by:
  - the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC),
  - the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and
  - the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Guided by a Charter established in 2011
- Strategic Plan developed in 2012
- IFSAC's purpose is to improve coordination of federal food safety responsibilities with the initial objective to estimate the source attribution of infections associated with specific foods and settings
- Held first public meeting in 2012 to outline goals in the Strategic Plan, which included developing attribution estimates, improving data and methods for uncertainty, and engaging and communicating with stakeholders.

Importance of IFSAC

- IFSAC represents, for the first time, a shared vision amongst CDC, FDA, and FSIS to improve foodborne illness source attribution
- Since its inception, IFSAC has brought the leaders scientists, and analysts from the three agencies together to create, implement, and complete projects
- Projects are designed to complement one another to ensure maximum utility and efficiency
- IFSAC accomplishments build on each other and allow pursuit of new, ever-more challenging objectives and projects
- Project outputs are supported by all three agencies and can be used to promote a harmonized approach to attribution estimation
- Information presented at meeting today highlights these efforts

IFSAC Structure and Organization

IFSAC Charter: Describes overarching goals and objectives, organizational structure of IFSAC, and operational process.

- Steering Committee (SC): Provides oversight of analytic projects by defining the scope and outcomes, and ensuring that projects are coordinated and managed effectively in a timely manner.
  - The SC is composed of two representatives from each participating agency.
    - A chairperson is elected from the membership by the members, and the chair position rotates annually among the participating agencies.
- Technical Workgroup (TWG): Provides the analytic expertise to develop and execute IFSAC projects.
  - The workgroup is composed of two points of contact (POC) from each of the three agencies as well as other technical participants.
    - The POCs act as liaison between the SC and the technical workgroup.

IFSAC Process

- SC decides top priorities
- TWG proposes analytic projects to address priorities
  - Project plans are developed by TWG for each proposal approved by SC
    - Plans include deliverables, timeline, and milestones
    - All projects have a final report or manuscript (or both)
- SC tracks all projects and provides input on analyses
- All public documents and web pages undergo formal clearance by all three agencies (**http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/ifsac/index.html)**

IFSAC Strategic Plan and Vision

- Outlines objectives and project priorities for the five-year time period from 2012 through 2017.
- Identified four priority pathogens
  1. *Salmonella*
  2. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli)* O157
  3. *Listeria monocytogenes (Lm)*
  4. *Campylobacter*
- Primary objectives:
  1. Generate timely estimates of foodborne illness source attribution
  2. Identify data needs and determine how to acquire and improve attribution data
  3. Validate current methods and modeling approaches
  4. Obtain commitments for resources to support efforts
  5. Develop a collaborative communication plan between IFSAC and stakeholders

IFSAC Communications

- Developed and shared the IFSAC Charter and Strategic Plan
- Held a public meeting in 2012 to introduce IFSAC and its initial accomplishments
- Organized two webinars to present analysis project results
- Shared work at professional meetings/scientific conferences, including the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) and the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)
- Developed an IFSAC webpage with information about IFSAC's organizational structure, projects, and key information
- Interacted with other Federal committees with a shared interest in foodborne illness attribution
  - CDC Board of Scientific Counselors, Food Safety Modernization Act Surveillance Working Group (2014)
  - FDA Risk Communication Advisory Committee Meeting (2011)

IFSAC Accomplishments

- Brought together an interdisciplinary, interagency team of analysts
- Developed IFSAC Strategic Plan and Charter
- Organized a Steering Committee, Technical Workgroup and Project Teams
- Initiated 10 analysis projects; Completed 4 projects
- Collaborated on specific agency goals and initiatives
- Communicated IFSAC organization, projects and results

Summary

- IFSAC contributes to the food safety priorities of all three agencies
  - Shared priorities, data, analyses, and expertise
  - In-depth communication and coordination to further advance development of foodborne illness source attribution estimates
- IFSAC projects result in harmonized methods and interpretation of source attribution data and estimates by all three agencies
- IFSAC serves to increase transparency and understanding, both publicly and across agencies, about foodborne illness source attribution