INTERAGENCY FOOD SAFETY ANALYTICS COLLABORATION (IFSAC)
PUBLIC MEETING 2015

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST
U.S. Department of Agriculture (South Building, Jefferson Auditorium, Washington, D.C.) and via live webcasting

OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

Federal agencies and food safety experts rely on attribution studies to inform strategic planning and risk-based decision-making, support development of regulations, and conduct risk assessments, among other activities. By bringing together data from CDC, FDA, and FSIS, and other sources, and by developing sound analytical methods, IFSAC can improve estimates of the sources of foodborne illness.

Since its start in 2011, IFSAC has worked jointly on a number of analytic projects with the overall objective of advancing knowledge, methods, and data associated with foodborne illness attribution. In January 2012, IFSAC held its first public meeting and presented the IFSAC Strategic Plan. This included a variety of short and long-term goals, such as developing attribution estimates, improving data and methods for uncertainty, and engaging and communicating with stakeholders.

During the February 2015 public meeting, IFSAC will share our progress towards these goals and highlight recent accomplishments, including newly released attribution estimates for four priority pathogens, *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli)* O157*, Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Campylobacter.*

RECENT PROGRESS

- Improved the food categories used to estimate attribution
- Refined analyses of outbreak data used to assign implicated foods to food categories
- Determined sources of uncertainty and variability in estimated attribution fractions for IFSAC's four priority pathogens
- Compared the characteristics of ill people and foods linked to outbreaks of infections caused by the priority pathogens with those associated with sporadic illnesses and foods consumed by the general population
- Estimated the proportion of *Salmonella* serotype Enteritidis (SE) illnesses attributable to shell eggs and other major commodities
- Evaluated a pathogen subtype model to better estimate the number of *Salmonella* illnesses associated with different food sources

ABOUT IFSAC

- Tri-agency collaboration of
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Formed in 2011 with the goal to:
  - Improve coordination of federal food safety analytic efforts
  - Address cross cutting priorities for food-safety data collection, analysis, and use
- Current focus is **foodborne illness source attribution**
  - Defined as process of estimating the most common food sources responsible for specific foodborne illnesses
- Projects and studies aim to identify foods that are important sources of illnesses

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REDUCE FOODBORNE ILLNESSES THROUGH HARMONIZED ATTRIBUTION ESTIMATES

In addition to these recent efforts, IFSAC has also developed, for the first time, a single approach to produce harmonized attribution estimates from outbreak data for *Salmonella*, *E. coli* O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Campylobacter* that all three agencies may use in their food safety activities. These attribution estimates combined with additional data, can be used to inform agency priorities, support development of regulations and performance standards and measures, and conduct risk assessments, among other activities.

PURPOSE OF MEETING & FUTURE DIRECTION

This public meeting is an opportunity to:

- Share IFSAC's progress toward our goals.
- Engage with the public and our food safety partners on IFSAC work to improve foodborne illness source attribution.
- Solicit feedback on plans for future IFSAC endeavors.

LEARN MORE ABOUT IFSAC

Visit IFSAC online (http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/ifsac/index.html) to get information on purpose and goals, charter, strategic plan, past and current projects, as well as past and upcoming activities and events.