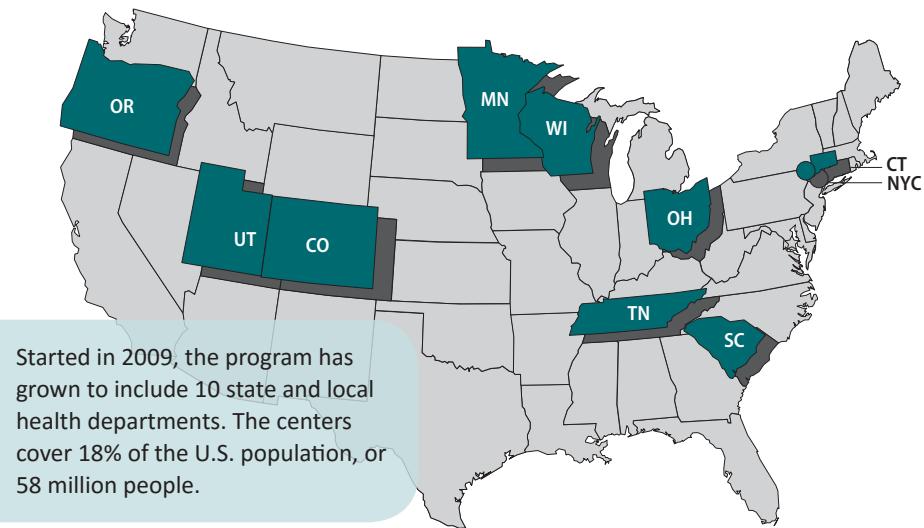


FoodCORE Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement

Improving foodborne disease investigation and response in state and local health departments

FoodCORE is a program managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance the ability of state and local health departments to respond to enteric disease outbreaks.



FoodCORE centers work together to develop new and better methods to detect, investigate, respond to, and control multistate outbreaks of enteric diseases.

“FoodCORE improves our capacity to interview ill persons sooner and more comprehensively about what they ate, conduct faster DNA fingerprinting [PFGE] of the bacteria that made them sick, and pool information swiftly to determine sources of more contaminated foods, so solutions can be found more rapidly.”

*Dr. Robert Tauxe, Director
CDC’s Division of Foodborne,
Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases*



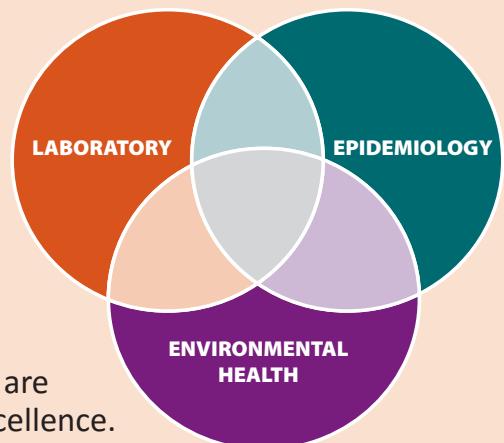
Increasing Collaboration Translates Into Greater Capacity

FoodCORE centers work to increase collaboration across laboratory, epidemiology, and environmental health within their health department. Staff from each area play a critical role in ongoing enteric surveillance and outbreak response including finding what sick people ate, determining the DNA fingerprint or genetic sequence of the bacteria that made them sick, and collecting samples of contaminated foods or environments.

With increased coordination between these three areas, the centers are able to:

- Detect more outbreaks
- Conduct thorough investigations
- Control outbreaks faster
- Protect other people from getting sick

FoodCORE centers collaborate with other federal food safety programs. All ten FoodCORE centers participate in PulseNet, five are FoodNet sites, and four are Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence. Cross-program collaborations enhance and complement FoodCORE’s internal capacity building.



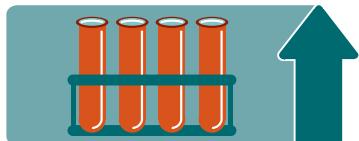
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases

Measuring Process Demonstrates Impact of FoodCORE Resources

Performance metrics were developed and tested by FoodCORE centers to measure the burden, timeliness, and completeness of foodborne disease activities. Metrics span from outbreak surveillance and detection through investigation, response, control, and prevention measures.

FoodCORE centers report data for *Salmonella*, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), and *Listeria* (SSL); and norovirus, other enteric disease pathogens, and outbreaks of unknown etiology (NOU).

Metric data is published online to show the impact of the changes that the FoodCORE centers have implemented in their health departments.



Complete PFGE for more isolates

14% increase in PFGE for SSL from 83% to 97% (Year 5)



Complete PFGE faster

>50% faster for SSL from 12 days to 5 days



Attempt more interviews

11% increase in outreach to cases with SSL from 88% to 99%

Note: FoodCORE centers did not collect performance metrics before joining the program, so actual improvements may be larger than can be shown.

Sharing Experiences Helps Others Solve Outbreaks

FoodCORE centers are test kitchens for new ideas to investigate and respond to outbreaks of enteric illness. When they find something that works, a success story or model practice is written and published to the FoodCORE website so others can learn and implement successful practices in their health departments.

Success Stories

Success stories highlight outbreak investigations or projects that were particularly successful in a FoodCORE center.

Topics of success stories include:

- Contributions to solving large multi-state outbreaks
- Adaptation to changing laboratory methods
- Collaboration within a FoodCORE center and across centers
- Use of novel strategies to detect more cases and interview them more thoroughly

Model Practices

Model practices describe what's been successful in FoodCORE centers. When a practice works across centers with varying sizes, structure, and burden it's likely to work in other jurisdictions too. These practices are documented so that others can learn from FoodCORE centers and replicate what's worked.

Topics of published model practices include:

- Initial Case-patient Interviewing
- Laboratory Timeliness and Completeness
- Student Interview Teams
- Team Communication and Collaboration

What's Next for FoodCORE?

FoodCORE centers are at the forefront of enteric disease surveillance and outbreak response. They will continue to innovate and share their experiences with others on topics such as whole genome sequencing, texting case-patients for interviews, and online illness complaint systems. Their successes and lessons learned will be shared online and at conferences and meetings.



Please visit us at
www.cdc.gov/FoodCORE