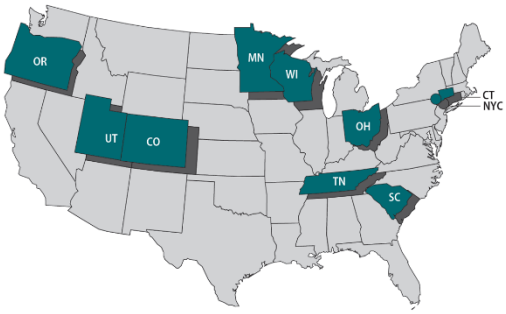
FoodCORE: Year Four Summary

Foodborne Disease Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement

January 1 – December 31, 2014

Background

Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE) centers address gaps in foodborne disease response through enhanced capacity in laboratory, epidemiology, and environmental health to improve timeliness and completeness of outbreak response activities. The FoodCORE centers during Year Four (January 1 – December 31, 2014) were: Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota, New York City, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin.



Program Highlights

One of the most significant programmatic events of Year Four was an expansion to an additional three FoodCORE centers in August 2014. These newest centers are Colorado, Minnesota, and Oregon. The year was spent bringing these new centers on-board and promoting the program and the accomplishments of the FoodCORE centers. Program overviews were presented at scientific conferences, programmatic meetings, and invited talks. This includes presentations at:

- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE) Annual Meeting
- American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting
- Food Safety Modernization Act Surveillance Working Group Biannual Meetings

Continuing the theme of promoting the program and participant accomplishments, there were many updates to the FoodCORE website in Year Four.

- Webpages were added for each of the new Centers to highlight their programs and accomplishments in laboratory, epidemiology, and environmental health
- A video was developed and published to the FoodCORE website covering the structure, accomplishments, and processes behind the FoodCORE program
- A **FoodCORE Success Story** was added to showcase the work of several FoodCORE centers in a multistate *Salmonella* outbreak linked to chia seed powder
- A **FoodCORE Model Practice** on Laboratory Timeliness and Completeness was added to the website

During 2014, FoodCORE was recognized with the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases' Annual Honors Award for **Excellence in Domestic Surveillance and Health Monitoring**.

During Year Four, FoodCORE participants interacted monthly on program conference calls and at one in-person meeting. The 2014 FoodCORE Vision Meeting was held jointly with the Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence and took place in Denver, Colorado in October. With the recent FoodCORE expansion, four centers participate in both programs, and the joint vision meeting was an opportunity to network and discuss future directions and collaborations between the programs. FoodCORE centers also used this meeting to discuss future goals and to make revisions to the performance measures.

FoodCORE Web Resources:

FoodCORE program website:
http://www.cdc.gov/foodcore/index.html

FoodCORE Success Stories and Highlights:
http://www.cdc.gov/foodcore/successes.html

FoodCORE Model Practices:
http://www.cdc.gov/foodcore/resources.html

Program Performance

Centers report metrics twice a year to evaluate changes resulting from the targeted FoodCORE resources. Metrics for *Salmonella*, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), and *Listeria* have been collected since baseline in late 2010. Metrics for norovirus, other etiologies, and unknown etiology investigations have been collected since 2012. The metrics collected by FoodCORE centers are continually revised to best meet program needs. Updates made to the metrics at the 2014 Vision Meeting are reflected on the FoodCORE website. See page 2 for figures and graphs for select metrics. Information on all of the metrics and complete data tables are available on the FoodCORE website.

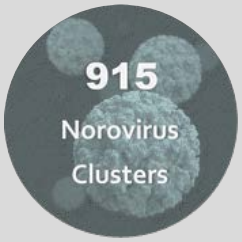
Graphs for Select Metrics – Year Four

In Year Four, FoodCORE centers investigated…

▲ **2.2%** more clusters had confirmed vehicles than Y_3

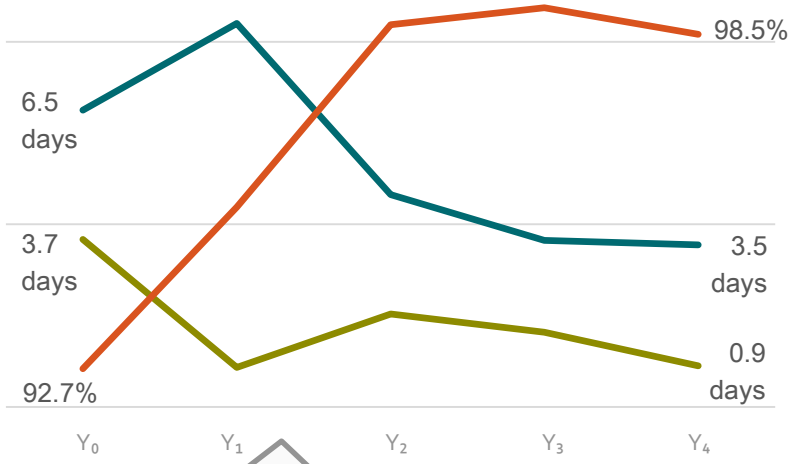
▲ **35.1%** more clusters had confirmed vehicles than Y_3

▲ **5.4%** more clusters had confirmed vehicles than Y_3



▼ **10.4%** fewer clusters had confirmed vehicles than Y_3

Salmonella, STEC, and *Listeria* serotype* and interview timeliness and proportion of case-patients with attempted interviews

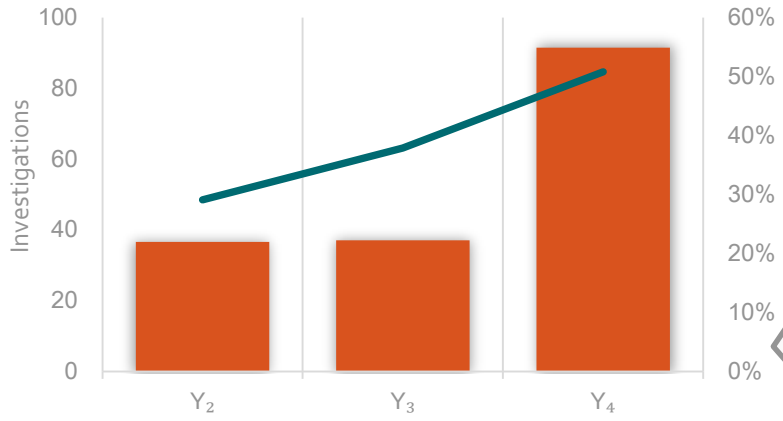


The average turnaround time for **serotyping isolates** and **attempting interviews of case-patients** for *Salmonella*, STEC, and *Listeria* have decreased since baseline to 3.5 and less than one day, respectively.

*Serotyping not conducted for *Listeria*

More Interviews, More Quickly: While interviews were attempted sooner, they were also attempted more often. The **proportion of case-patients with attempted interviews** has increased dramatically since baseline.

The average number of norovirus investigations per FoodCORE center and proportion with analytic studies across all centers



Consistent Performance: FoodCORE centers were able to increase the **proportion of norovirus investigations with analytic studies** despite a large increase in the **number of investigations**.

Between Year Three and Year Four, the **average number of norovirus investigations** per FoodCORE site increased from 37 to 92. Even with a greater workload, FoodCORE centers conducted **analytic studies** for 51% of foodborne or point-source norovirus investigations, nearly 13% more than Year Three.

FoodCORE centers have demonstrated that targeted investments can improve the completeness and timeliness of outbreak response activities. They have strengthened their outbreak response programs to conduct faster, better, and more complete investigations, to ultimately help stop the spread of foodborne disease.

Baseline (Y_0) = October 2010 – March 2011 Y_1 = October 2010 – September 2011 Y_2 = October 2011 – December 2012
Y_3 = January 2013 – December 2013 Y_4 = January 2014 – December 2014