

## Food Safety

The Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services (DEEHS) within the CDC National Center for Environmental Health helps state and local food safety programs to identify and prevent environmental factors contributing to foodborne illness outbreaks.

CDC's Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch (ORPB) collaborates with epidemiologists and other public health officials who investigate foodborne, waterborne, zoonotic, and other enteric (gastrointestinal) illnesses in the United States. ORPB works to ensure rapid and coordinated surveillance, detection, and response to multistate outbreaks caused by enteric bacteria, including Salmonella and Escherichia coli.

In 2013, ORPB monitored between 29 and 41 potential food poisoning or related clusters each week, and investigated more than 220 multistate clusters. These investigations led to the identification of 50 confirmed or suspected vehicles of transmission and the recalls of a variety of foods including [frozen pizza snacks](#), [salads](#), [chicken](#), [ground beef](#), and [tahini sesame paste](#). These investigations inform improvements in industry practices and regulatory changes that make our food safer.

Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch activities include:

Coordinating the national network of public health officials who investigate foodborne, waterborne, zoonotic, and other enteric disease outbreaks.

Coordinating the Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE) Program: Work with health departments to improve detection of and response to foodborne, waterborne, zoonotic, and other enteric disease outbreaks.

Providing outbreak assistance to state and local health departments and oversee Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) field investigations of enteric disease outbreaks.

Developing, evaluating, and supplying outbreak investigation tools and training materials for use by CDC and by local and state health departments.

Developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies for the prevention and control of foodborne, waterborne, zoonotic, and other enteric disease outbreaks.

For more information on the [ORPB](#) and its services visit:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dfwed/orpb/>.

Environmental Health Services Branch resources include:

[National Voluntary Environmental Information System \(NVEAIS\)](#) – Surveillance system for state and local public health officials to capture environmental assessment data from foodborne illness outbreak investigations. Public health officials can use NVEAIS to collect their own environmental data to manage current and prevent future outbreaks.

[e-Learning on Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks](#) - free, interactive, web-based training on how to use a systems approach in foodborne illness outbreak environmental assessments. This course provides users with knowledge to help enhance the quality of outbreak investigation data and better understand outbreak investigation agency roles and responsibilities, and the connection of the environment to foodborne illness.

[Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response](#) – Free course for public health responders addressing the environmental health impacts of emergencies and disasters. The course has modules on several topics, including food safety.

For more information on [EHSB's food safety work](#), visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/nears/index.htm>

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