FOOD SAFETY
DETECTING AND PREVENTING FOODBORNE ILLNESS NATIONWIDE

FOOD SAFETY OVERVIEW

Robust food safety surveillance systems are essential to assuring the safety of our food. State and local public health and agricultural laboratories help prevent foodborne illnesses in the US by

- Conducting specialized testing for disease-causing pathogens in food, such as Salmonella, Campylobacter, Shiga Toxin-producing Escherichia coli and Listeria.
- Detecting clusters of related illnesses that may later be identified as outbreaks.
- Performing routine food testing to prevent possible exposure to the many hazards that may contaminate the food supply.
- Testing food during incidents involving suspected microbial, chemical or radiological contamination of food products.
- Evaluating and implementing new technologies, such as Whole Genome Sequencing.

CURRENTLY FUNDED ACTIVITIES | FY FUNDING REQUESTS | INCREASED FUNDING WILL SAVE MORE LIVES BY:

| CDC | PulseNet Laboratory Data Network | Detect Outbreaks: Allows laboratories to compare bacterial DNA from human illness cases to detect foodborne outbreaks. | FY 2020 $63 MILLION* | Improving Testing Capabilities
| | Technology Modernization: Helps PulseNet laboratories transition to new, more effective techniques, enabling them to detect outbreaks more quickly and precisely. | FY 2021 $83.8 MILLION (necessary) | Enabling more states to implement modern sequencing techniques will expand critical testing and tracking of foodborne pathogens and prevent illness. |
| * $9.25 MILLION should be directed to state/local laboratories | |

| FDA | GenomeTrakr Laboratory Data Network | Track Outbreaks: Allows laboratories to compare genetic and geographic data from illness-causing organisms in food and the environment, helping to identify problems in the food supply. | FY 2020 $342 MILLION* | Bolstering Laboratory Accreditation
| | Outbreak Response and Prevention | Laboratory Accreditation: Supports governmental laboratory accreditation so data can be used for recalls faster and more efficiently. | FY 2021 $372 MILLION (necessary) | Increasing the number of accredited laboratories will allow for faster life-saving action in emergencies and allow FDA to operate more efficiently. |
| | | Collaboration: Works with USDA to respond to food emergencies via the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN). Works with CDC and USDA to track antimicrobial resistance (NARMS). | * $25 MILLION should be directed to state/local laboratories | Expanding FSMA Implementation
| | | Prevention: Implements the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to help ensure a safer food system. | | |

1 OUT OF 6 AMERICANS
is affected by foodborne illness each year¹

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