

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

10-2. Reduce outbreaks of infections caused by key foodborne bacteria.

10-2a. *Escherichia coli* O157:H7.

National Data Source	Foodborne Disease Outbreak Surveillance System, CDC, NCID.
State Data Source	State Health Department passive reports to CDC and sites participating in FoodNet active surveillance.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 12.2 (Food and Drug Safety)
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Number
Baseline (Year)	22 (1997)
Target	11
Target-Setting Method	50 percent improvement. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of outbreaks of infections caused by <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 in the U.S. resident population.
Denominator	Not applicable.
Population Targeted	Not applicable.
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not applicable.
Expected Periodicity	Annual
Comments	A foodborne disease outbreak (FBDO) is defined as the occurrence of two or more cases of a similar illness resulting from the ingestion of a common food. FBDOs are reported to CDC on a standard

reporting form. Outbreaks of known etiology are those for which laboratory evidence of a specific agent is obtained, and specified criteria are met. Most reports are received from State and local health departments; they also may be received from Federal agencies and, occasionally, from private physicians. Not included in this surveillance system are FBDOs on cruise ships; FBDOs when the food is eaten outside United States, even if the illness occurs within the United States; and when the route of transmission from the contaminated food to the infected person is indirect.

Many foods contain several ingredients, but only one food-vehicle category is chosen for categorizing each outbreak. Therefore, the reported number of outbreaks attributed to a particular food item may not include all the reported outbreaks caused by that item. For example, homemade ice cream containing milk and eggs is listed under "ice cream" rather than milk" or "eggs." The category "Mexican food" includes vehicles made from beef, cheese, lettuce, and other ingredients.

In March 2000, the study population at FoodNet sites represented 25.4 million persons (10 percent of the resident population) for active surveillance of bacterial pathogens. Baseline information for bacterial infections is based on 1997 active surveillance at FoodNet sites, which included areas of California, Connecticut, Georgia, Minnesota, Oregon, and New York. Since 1997, additional counties or additional sites (New York and Maryland in 1998, Tennessee in 2000, and Colorado in 2001, New Mexico in 2002, and Texas in 2003) have been added to the network. In 2003, the study population for the eleven sites represented approximately 36 million people (www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r031010.htm).

The data, received by CDC from the States, are based on isolates from human case specimens. The cause of the illness in many, but not all, of the cases is a contaminated food. The denominator is from Internet site <http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates.php> www.estimates/popest.html.

Objective 10-2 is similar to Healthy People 2000 objective 12.2, which tracked outbreaks from *Salmonella* Enteritidis. In addition, objective 10-2 tracks outbreaks from *Escherichia coli* O157:H7.

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.