



State and Local Roles on Food Safety

*"Stronger Partnerships for
Safer Food"*

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About the Project

- Support provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- GW School of Public Health partnered with ASTHO, NACCHO, and AFDO
- Engaged the food safety community
 - Kick-off symposium (June 17)
 - Surveillance and outbreak response workshop (July 1)
 - Inspection and regulation workshop (July 14-15)
 - Workshop on draft recommendations (December 5)



Current Reality

- State and local agencies are the **foundation of the food safety system**
- Federal, state and local agencies **interact extensively and are mutually dependent**
- Together, they have made **important progress** on collaboration, but they face many **obstacles to full partnership**



Need for System-wide Reform

“Food safety reform will not be complete—or successful—unless the efforts of state and local agencies are strengthened and integrated more fully into the national food safety system.”



Common Vision for Reform

- **The Vision:** *An integrated national food safety system that operates as a full partnership among federal, state, and local agencies.*
- Such a system would:
 - Place first priority on preventing foodborne illness
 - Address risks across the farm-to-table spectrum
 - Make efficient, science-based use of all government food safety resources
 - Seamlessly share information to improve food safety
 - Better integrate federal, state and local efforts to detect and contain outbreaks
 - Better integrate inspection and compliance programs to enforce food safety standards



Toward an Integrated System: What Needs to Be Done

- Make it a national priority
- Create mechanisms for planning and implementation
- Prioritize and fund capacity needs
- Sustain the effort

It's a system-building task.....

not a quick fix



Recommendations

The report makes 19 recommendations for:

- Strengthening Federal, State, and Local Leadership
- Strengthening Surveillance and Outbreak Response
- Strengthening Regulation and Inspection



Strengthening Federal, State and Local Leadership

- Create a congressional mandate to build an integrated national food safety system
- Establish an inter-governmental Food Safety Leadership Council
- Meet the shared federal-state-local funding responsibility for food safety
- Create state and local focal points for integration
- Develop model state and local food safety laws
- Establish a Food Safety Leadership and Training Institute



Strengthening Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- Create a National Foodborne Illness Data Program
- Establish a network of regional Foodborne Outbreak Response Centers
- Implement best practices and protocols for managing foodborne outbreaks (CIFOR Guidelines)



Strengthening Regulation and Inspection

- Establish and enforce nationally uniform, science-based food safety standards
- Integrate federal and state food manufacturing regulatory programs
 - Risk-based, public-health oriented inspection
 - Efficient leveraging of all resources
 - Consistent training and credentialing of inspectors
 - Seamless exchange of information
- Implement FDA's Retail and Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards to improve performance of state and local programs



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- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
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Questions

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