Workgroup Description

NACCHO’s well-established food safety program engages partners from the local to the federal level. With support from the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at the CDC and from the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration, NACCHO aims to strengthen and enhance local food protection programs by providing financial resources, technical assistance, and educational resources to those working to ensure an effective system for safe food.

NACCHO established the Food Safety Workgroup to advise and guide the improvement of foodborne disease prevention, surveillance, outbreak response, reporting, and control at the local level. The workgroup has provided guidance and feedback on the following:

- Promoting and adopting the Food and Drug Administration’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards;
- Identifying and sharing model practices related to food safety; and
- Promoting and adopting the Council for Foodborne Outbreak and Response (CIFOR) guideline, and associated tools and resources.
- Provide input on and guidance for NACCHO’s food safety programs and projects.
- Dissemination of food safety tools, resources, and data to LHDs.
- Developing food safety policies.
- Gaining insight into fostering better partnerships on food safety between local, state, and federal agencies.

Background

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that foodborne illness in the United States causes 48 million cases of illnesses, over 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths annually.
- Hospitalizations due to foodborne illnesses are estimated to cost over $3 billion dollars and lost productivity is estimated to cost between $20 billion and $40 billion each year.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that foodborne illnesses are costing the United States economy more than $15.6 billion annually.
References


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