

CSPI Outbreak Alert Data: INFO on PRODUCE OUTBREAKS

Figure 1. Trends in Outbreak Reporting, 1998-2004. Outbreak reporting has improved in recent years due to more intensive surveillance by state and local health departments and better reporting of outbreaks to CDC. Produce outbreaks with an identified hazard have in recent years surpassed the number of outbreaks in poultry, beef, pork, and eggs. Although there are generally more outbreaks reported in seafood, the number of cases of illness in produce outbreaks far exceeds those made ill in seafood outbreaks.

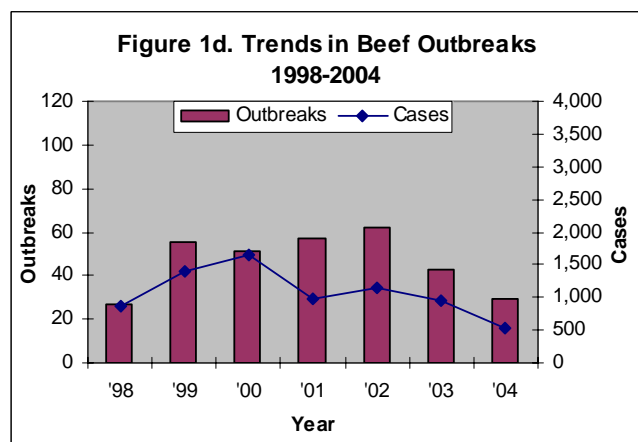
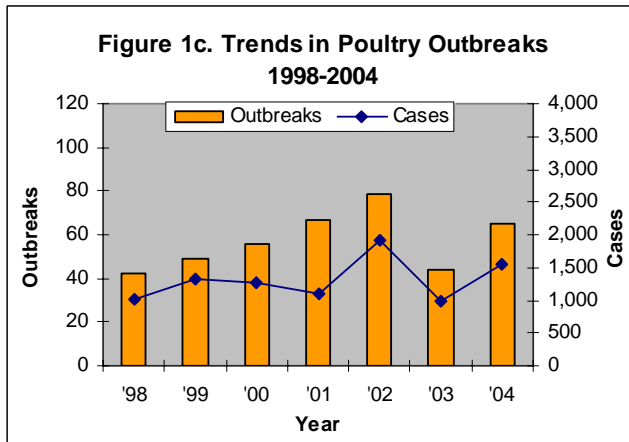
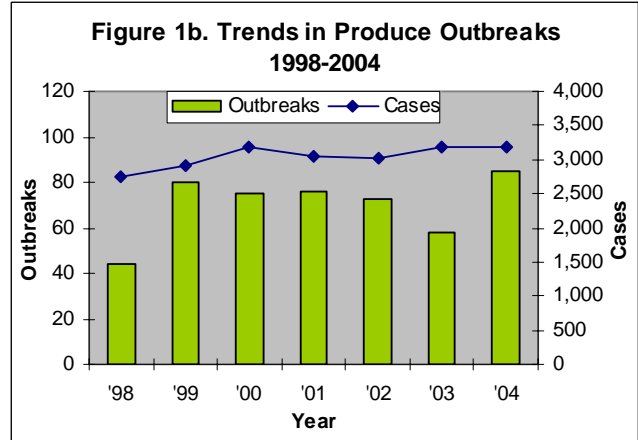
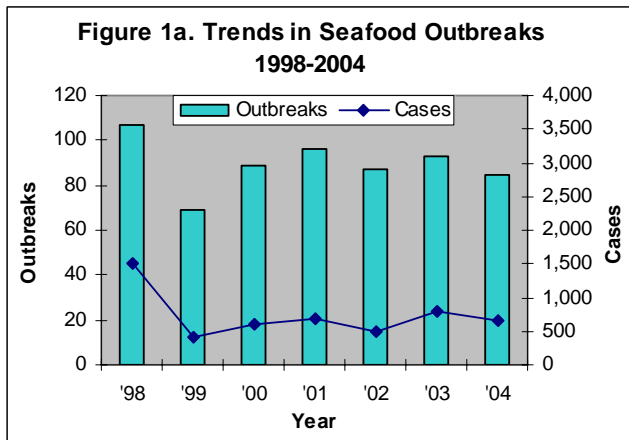


Figure 2. The average number of cases in produce outbreaks have an average of approximately 43 cases per outbreak, which is far greater than the average number of cases in beef, poultry, and seafood outbreaks.

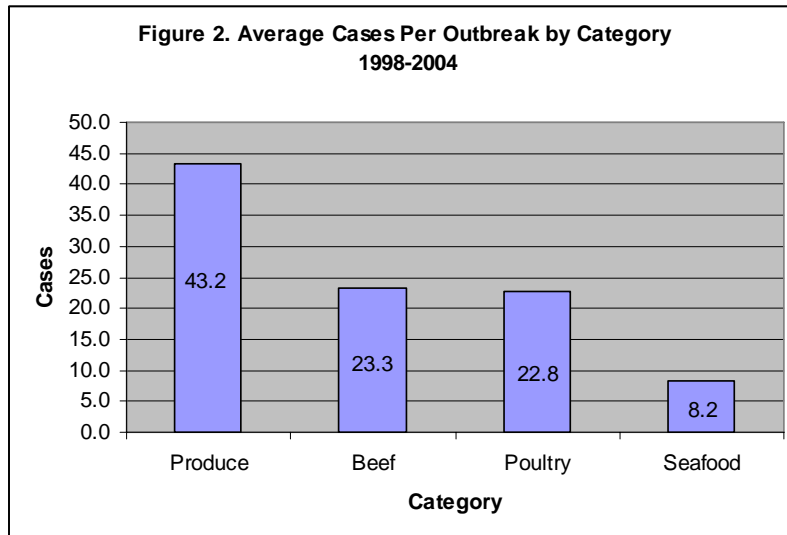


Figure 3. The average number of cases in produce outbreaks involving *E. coli* between 1998 and 2004 are greater than the average number of cases in beef, poultry, and seafood.

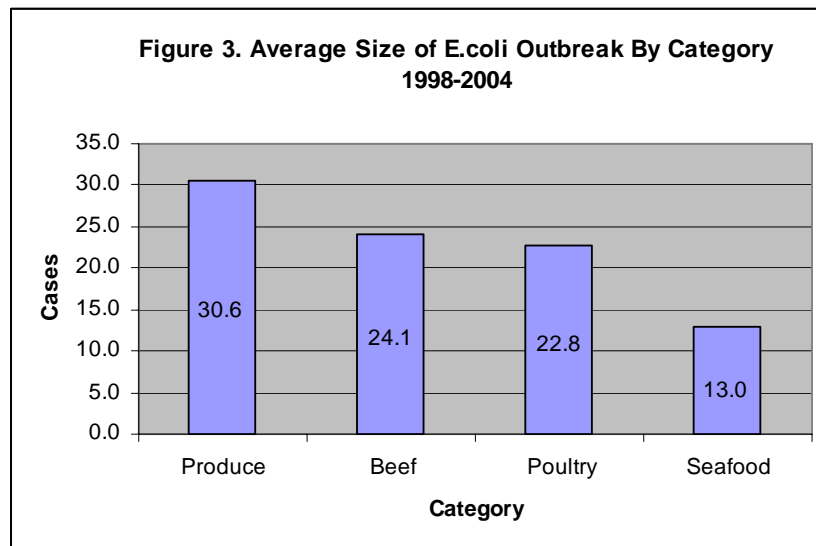


Figure 4. This figure shows the number of produce outbreaks due to *E. coli* 0157 between the years 1998 and 2004.

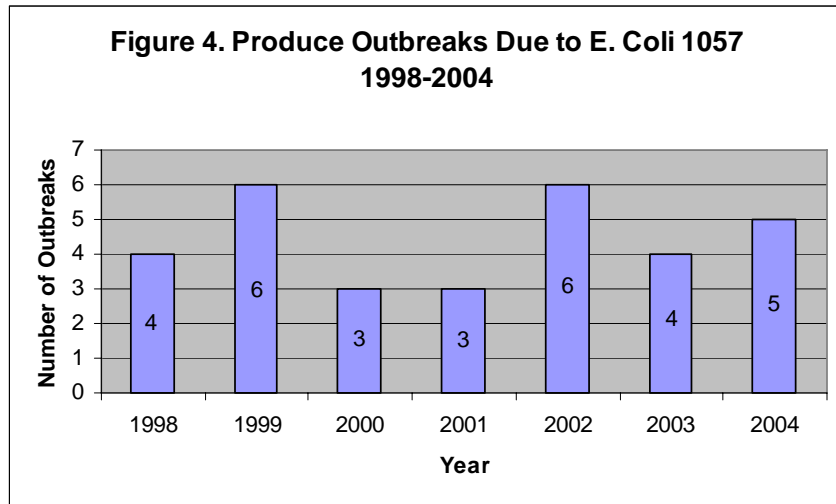
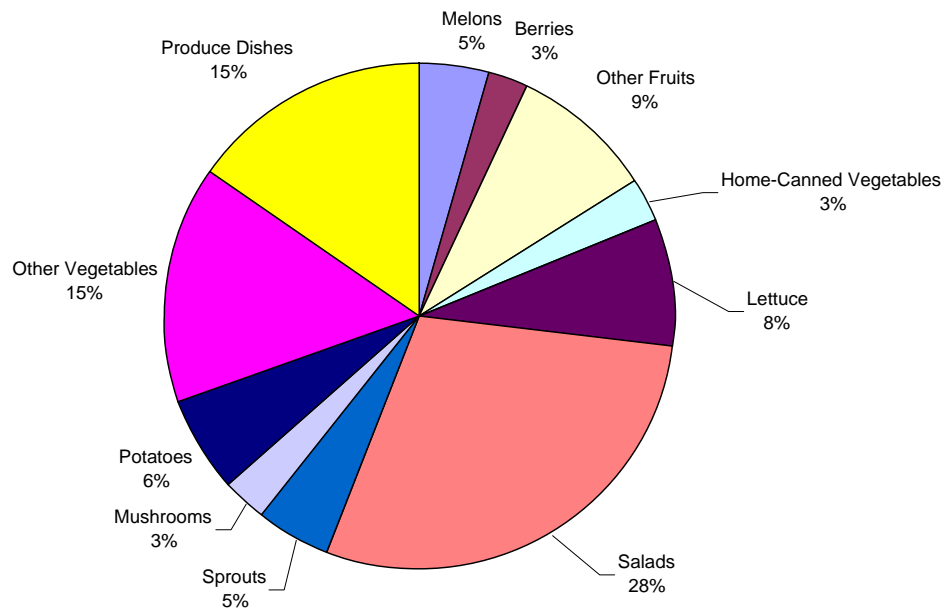


Figure 5. Produce-Linked Outbreak Vehicles 1990-2004*

*Slices Represent Percent of Total Outbreaks Attributed to Vehicle



SOURCE: OUTBREAK ALERT! Database maintained by the Center for Science in the Public Interest. We use CDC data and other highly reliable sources (e.g. medical journal articles) to track food borne illness outbreaks by food source. Our database contains 5000 outbreaks with both food and hazard identified spanning the 15 years from 1990 to 2004. A peer reviewed article describing the database was recently published in Food Protection Trends (June 2006), a journal of the International Association of Food Protection. (Principle author, Caroline Smith DeWaal, food safety director at the Center for Science in the Public Interest.)