CSPI Outbreak Alert Data: INFO on PRODUCE OUTBREAKS

Figure 1. Trends in Outbreak Reporting, 1998-2006. 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 1a. Trends in Seafood Outbreaks 1998-2006

Figure 1b. Trends in Produce Outbreaks 1998-2006

Figure 1c. Trends in Poultry Outbreaks 1998-2006

Figure 1d. Trends in Beef Outbreaks 1998-2006
Figure 2: The average number of illnesses in produce outbreaks has an average of approximately 40 illnesses per outbreak, which is far greater than the average number of cases in beef, poultry, and seafood outbreaks.

Figure 3: The average number of illnesses in produce outbreaks involving *E. coli* between 1998 and 2006 are greater than the average number of illnesses in beef, poultry, and seafood.
**Figure 4:** This figure shows the number of produce outbreaks due to *E. coli* O157 between the years 1998 and 2006. There is an increase in 2005 and 2006.

**Figure 5:** Produce-Linked Outbreak Vehicles 1998-2006*

*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 2006. 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.)