CSPI: Nearly Four Decades of Consumer Advocacy

• Bi-national consumer advocacy organization founded in 1971 by Michael Jacobson, Ph.D.
  – Focuses on nutrition and health, and food safety
  – Publishes award-winning *Nutrition Action Healthletter*
  – Represents 900,000 subscriber/members in the United States and Canada
Information Needs

- What do outbreak investigations give us
- Drilling down into the data
- Future needs
Unique Data

- CSPI database contains over 6,000 outbreaks, with both known food source and etiology, which occurred in the U.S. between 1990-2007.

- Although the outbreak data was originally compiled from several different sources, for the last ten years, 98% has come from CDC.

- The database is updated and reports are published annually.
Online Searchable Database

http://www.cspinet.org/food safety
Top Single-Food Vehicles of Outbreaks

Source: Outbreak Alert!
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Outbreaks and Illnesses in Food (1998-2007)

Source: Outbreak Alert! Center for Science in the Public Interest, 2009
Locations of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks (1990-2007)

Outbreak Locations (1990-2007)

- Private Home: 22%
- Restaurant/Food Establishment: 41%
- Other: 37%

Source: Outbreak Alert! Center for Science in the Public Interest, 2009

Source: Outbreak Alert! Center for Science in the Public Interest, 2009
Outbreaks Reported to CDC: Most Have an Unknown Food or Pathogen

Source: The Center for Science in the Public Interest and CDC
Reported Outbreaks per Million Population (2007)
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Population and Geography Are Slight Indicators for Reporting

- **Population**
  - Largest states (18 to 36 million) ranged from 5 to 1 outbreaks per million
  - Next group (9 to 13 million) ranged from 8 to 1 outbreaks per million
  - States with less than one million ranged from 15 to 1 outbreaks per million

- **Geography**
  - Very low reporting states (1-3 outbreaks per million) were found in all regions
  - Northern states had better reporting than Southern states
Reported Outbreaks per Million Population in CDC FoodNet States (2007)
Improving Surveillance

Reform legislation requires FDA to:

• Coordinate federal, state and local surveillance systems

• Develop improved epidemiological tools to improve outbreak attribution

• Engage states to improve foodborne illness outbreak and response, and to accelerate investigations