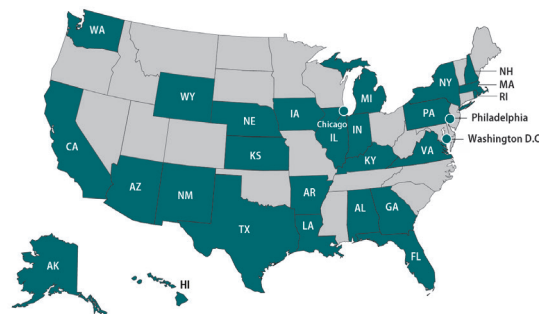


# OutbreakNet Enhanced 2022 Summary

## Background

OutbreakNet Enhanced (OBNE) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program that provides support to state and local health departments to improve their capacity to detect, investigate, control, and respond to enteric disease outbreaks. OBNE started in August 2015 with 11 sites. The program expanded and now comprises of 29 participating sites.



## Program Highlights

In 2022, state and local health departments transitioned towards their “new normal” after being substantially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020. Many OBNE projects and activities were resumed after being paused or scaled back for multiple years. As OBNE staff resumed normal duties, they also faced new challenges that stemmed from the pandemic, such as training a new and returning workforce, many of whose members were new to enteric disease investigation.

### OBNE Web Resources:

#### OBNE Program Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaknetenhanced>

#### OBNE Successes and Highlights:

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaknetenhanced/success-stories>

#### OBNE Metrics Data and Summaries:

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaknetenhanced/metrics.html>

OBNE sites partnered with [Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence \(Food Safety CoEs\)](#) on projects and trainings to improve their outbreak surveillance and investigation capacity. OBNE sites were also able to showcase their annual work and provide updates at national meetings and conferences, including the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Conference and the virtual Integrated Foodborne Outbreak Response and Management (InFORM)

Conference. Additionally, OBNE sites shared their accomplishments with each other during monthly conference calls to learn about the strategies sites have used to improve their processes for enteric disease outbreak response. Program activities were also shared through success stories, such as the [Student Interviewers Build Capacity in Pennsylvania during COVID-19 Pandemic Response](#), that were published to the OBNE website.

## Program Performance



OBNE performance metrics have been collected since 2016 to document the burden, timeliness, and completeness of enteric disease outbreak activities. Sites report metrics annually on both laboratory and epidemiologic aspects of outbreak investigations for *Salmonella*, Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), and *Listeria* (collectively referred to as SSL metrics), as well as optional metrics for *Shigella* and *Campylobacter*.

The metrics are analyzed and revised as needed to best meet program needs.

Page two includes figures and graphs of highlighted metrics for 2022. Information on all of the metrics, including complete data tables, is available on the [OBNE website](#).



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## Select 2022 Metrics for *Salmonella*, STEC, and *Listeria* (SSL)

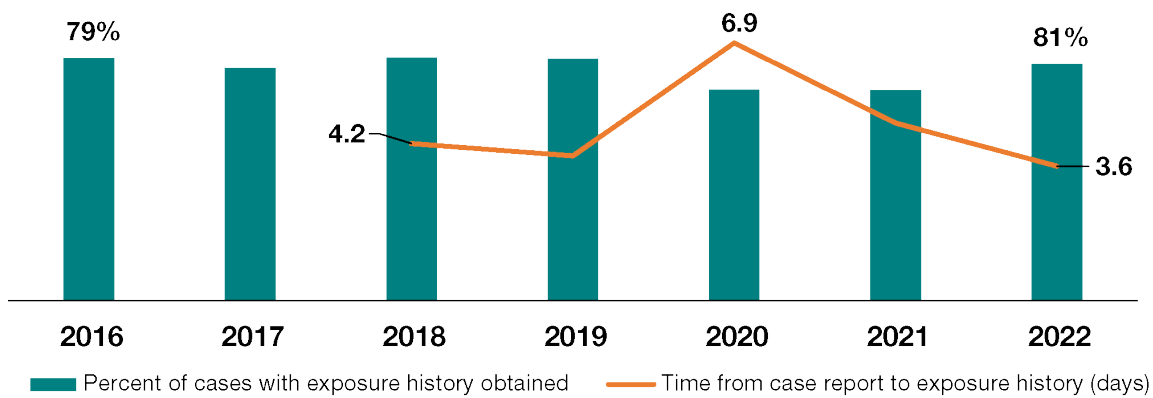


From **2016** to **2022**, OBNE sites decreased the **number of days** from case report to initial interview attempt for SSL cases.



**In 2022, OBNE sites conducted routine interviews of cases in 95% of cluster and outbreak investigations.**

From 2016 to 2022, OBNE sites **maintained the percent of cases with exposure history obtained**. Additionally, sites documented a return to pre-COVID turnaround times for obtaining an exposure history\*, from **6.9 days in 2020** to **3.6 days in 2022**.



\*Reporting for this metric began in 2018.

From 2016 to 2022, OBNE sites **increased the percentage of *Salmonella* and STEC primary isolates with WGS testing and maintained testing for *Listeria***.



OBNE sites continue to improve the timeliness and completeness of enteric disease outbreak surveillance and response activities. They will continue to strengthen their outbreak response programs to conduct faster, better, and more complete investigations, to help limit the spread of foodborne diseases.