

Learning from Outbreaks

Outbreaks provide important data on how germs (including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and chemicals and toxins) spread, which foods cause illness, and how to prevent people from getting sick. CDC collects data about outbreaks, such as what germ was the cause, what food was implicated, number of people who became ill and their symptoms, and date and location.

People are exposed to a germ, get sick, and seek treatment.



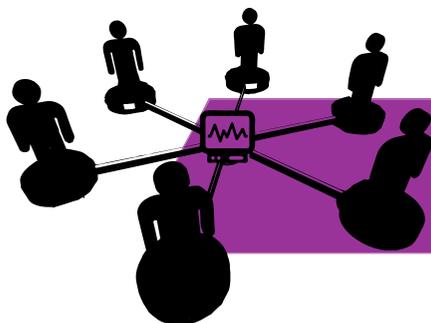
State and local health departments conduct an investigation and submit their data to CDC.

Health departments investigate and submit data

CDC downloads and verifies outbreak data with state and local health departments, then analyzes and summarizes it.



CDC downloads, verifies, and analyzes data



CDC analysts publish and make outbreak data available for stakeholders at

www.cdc.gov/foodborneoutbreaks/.