

Collaborating to IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH in Connecticut

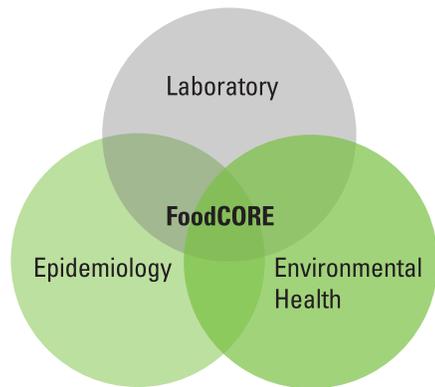
CDC helps speed up response
to foodborne outbreaks

Finding the **FOOD** culprit

Each year, about 48 million people get food poisoning—illness caused by eating contaminated food. During a foodborne outbreak, it's key for public health workers to interview the people who got sick about what they ate while they can still remember. More interviews can

lead to more quickly finding the food culprit. These interviews take time and resources, but Connecticut came up with a new way to interview more people during an outbreak and, as a result, improve their outbreak response.

How did they do it?



Down to the **CORE**

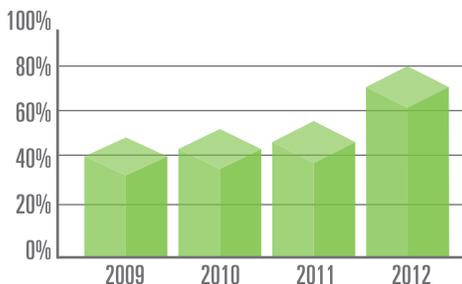
In 2012, Connecticut received CDC funding through the **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC)** to become a FoodCORE center. The Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (**FoodCORE**) is a CDC-coordinated program

that provides resources to Connecticut and six other centers in the United States to develop new ways to detect, investigate, respond to, and control multistate outbreaks of foodborne diseases.

Summoning student **SLEUTHS**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health collaborated with the Yale School of Public Health to hire, train, and launch an **interview team of graduate public health students** that provides added capacity for outbreak detection and investigation. This team works

closely with the state and local health departments, and their rapid, coordinated, and standardized interviews have helped improved Connecticut's response to foodborne disease outbreaks.



Percentage of people in Connecticut with *Salmonella* infections interviewed by year, 2009–2012

A **WIN-WIN** solution

Connecticut's FoodCORE interview team has contributed to several in-state and multistate outbreak investigations. In 2012, the team contributed to a **30% increase in interviews** of people with *Salmonella* infections.

The benefits of the FoodCORE interview team are twofold:

- Data collected by the student team help identify patterns and prevent illness from spreading.
- Student interviewers are trained as future epidemiologists with field experience.

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Office of the Director

