



Integrated Food Safety
Centers of Excellence

Spring 2022 Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTING PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INTEGRATED FOOD SAFETY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

CDC has designated five Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence (CoEs) each comprising a state health department and affiliated university partners. The Centers are Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee and Washington. The Centers work together to identify model practices in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response and to serve as resources to assist other state and local public health professionals in implementing these practices.

Piloting the Outbreak Response Costing Application

Colorado CoE

Understanding the costs associated with investigating enteric disease outbreaks is important for allocating public health resources. However, collecting comprehensive cost data is challenging. To address this need, the Colorado CoE partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and pilot the Outbreak Response Costing Application (ORCA), a tool to estimate the economic costs to public health agencies during enteric disease outbreak investigations.

To evaluate this tool, we piloted its use during three outbreak investigations in Colorado: a *Salmonella* Thompson outbreak associated with commercially distributed seafood, a *Salmonella* 14,[5],12:i:- outbreak associated with beef in an Ethiopian community, and a person-to-person *Shigella* outbreak impacting men who have sex with men. We found investigators preferred flexibility in the methods used to track time (e.g., time tracking app, sticky notes, spreadsheet), and they reported that prospective data collection (tracking hours during the outbreak investigation) was slightly more work than retrospective data collection (reporting hours after the outbreak investigation was over) but believed it was a more accurate estimate of their time. We were unable to collect many of the costs incurred during the investigations, including costs to other states and agencies, as well as most laboratory and courier costs (due to COVID-19 pandemic response), so costs were underestimated. We plan to develop ORCA into a set of online tools available to other jurisdictions for outbreak costing. If you are interested in learning more, contact alice.white@cuanschutz.edu

On average, how many hours **per week** have you assisted with this outbreak investigation?

What was the minimum and maximum hours you assisted with this outbreak in a week?

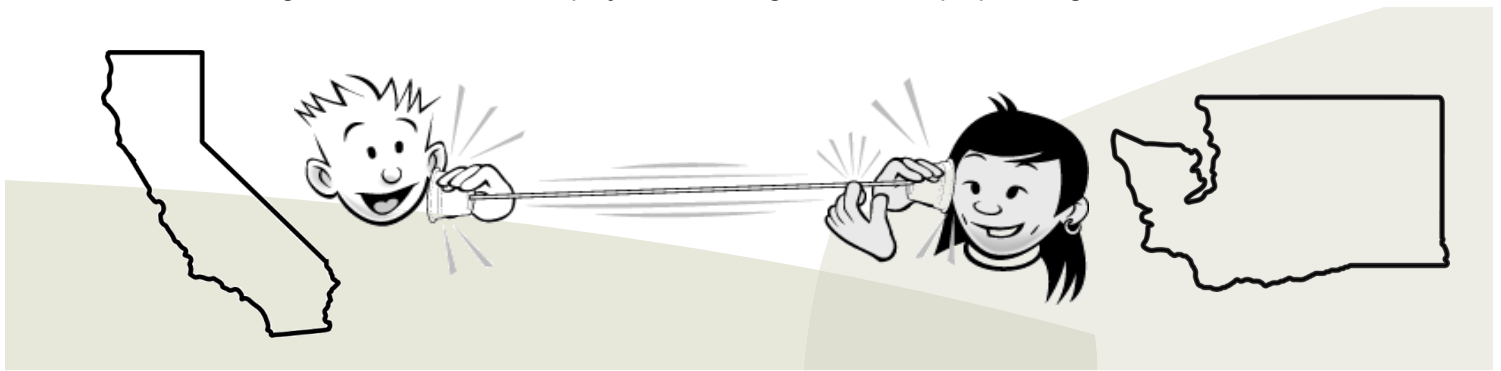
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New Training and Resource Opportunities

WA CoE

Working across state lines to offer interviewing help for CA Department of Public Health

After a successful pilot of an inter-state deployment of student interviewers to the California Department of Public Health, we are thrilled to be kicking off another year! When conducting our annual needs assessment in early 2021, we heard from several states that the ongoing COVID-19 demands were creating significant barriers to routine foodborne outbreak interviewing. Recognizing this need, and the potential capacity in Washington CoE co-director Janet Baseman's Student Epidemic Action Leaders (SEAL) Team, we collaborated with CDPH and piloted a model in which University of Washington students conduct interviews for California residents. Our pilot went well--with many learnings along the way--and we are thrilled to be welcoming two new SEALs to the project as the original students prepare to graduate in June.



NY CoE

In March 2022, the New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence (NY CoE) hosted a live learning series for CoE regional network partners with a focus on how to use SEDRIC and allele codes for surveillance, cluster detection, and cluster management. For the first session, NY CoE demonstrated a variety of SEDRIC functionalities utilized to detect potential clusters for further investigation and considerations to prioritize their investigation. For the second session, colleagues from the Maine and Delaware Departments of Health and Human Services delivered presentations to share their experiences with managing local outbreaks using SEDRIC, including what specific functionalities within SEDRIC proved beneficial. All presentations were followed by a moderated question and answer portion. Each live session was attended by over 40 staff from 12 NY CoE/OBNE partner states and jurisdictions. Presentations from both sessions have been recorded and the link to the recording and the transcript may be accessed through [SEDRIC](#).

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Colorado	http://www.cofoodsafety.org/
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