

TITLE: OVERVIEW OF FOODBORNE OUTBREAKS IN BRAZIL FROM 2000 TO 2015

AUTHORS: FINGER, J.A.F.F.^{1,2}; MAFFEI, D.F.³; PINTO, U.M.²; BASTOS, D.H.M.¹.

INSTITUTION: ¹FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH - UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO (AV. DOUTOR ARNALDO, 715, CEP 01246-904, SAO PAULO, SP, BRAZIL).

²FOOD RESEARCH CENTER, FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES - UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO (AV. PROFESSOR LINEU PRESTES, 580, B14, CEP 05508-000, SAO PAULO, SP, BRAZIL).

³LUIZ DE QUEIROZ COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (ESALQ) – UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO (AV. PÁDUA DIAS - AGRONOMIA, CEP 13418-900, PIRACICABA, SP, BRAZIL).

ABSTRACT:

Foodborne diseases (FBD) are considered an important and growing public health issue and represent a relevant cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. They are a result of the ingestion of contaminated foods or beverages, mainly by a variety of bacteria, viruses and parasites. In Brazil, the National Epidemiological Surveillance System for Foodborne Diseases of the Ministry of Health has published reports about FBD outbreaks that have occurred in the country since 2000. The present study aimed to map the FBD outbreaks that occurred in Brazil between 2000 and 2015, based on data from the Ministry of Health. In this period, a total of 11,524 FBD outbreaks were reported in the country, resulting in 219,909 cases of individuals falling ill and 167 deaths. The largest prevalence of FBD outbreaks was observed in the Southeast and South regions of the country, 39.6% and 35.3%, respectively. Mixed foods were the most frequently involved in the outbreaks (12.4%), followed by those prepared with eggs and egg products (8.7%). In most cases, the etiologic agent was not identified (57.8%). Among those identified, *Salmonella* spp. was the most frequent (14.4%), followed by *Staphylococcus aureus* (7.4%) and *Escherichia coli* (6.1%), while homes were the main site of occurrence (36.6%). Although these reported cases might represent a small portion of those that have actually occurred since many are not reported to health authorities because some individuals have relatively mild discomfort and do not seek medical attention, they are still show a large number of affected individuals, nonetheless. Overall, the notification of FBD outbreaks is one of the fundamental duties to facilitate public health action, supporting plans for food safety prevention and control and aiming to reduce the risks to the health of the community.

Keywords: Foodborne illnesses, food contamination, food safety, public health.

Development Agency: