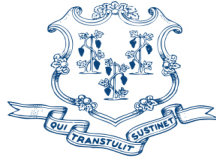


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Infectious Diseases Branch

January 7, 2025

Dear Local Director of Health:

The purpose of this letter is to request continued collaboration on follow-up interviews of foodborne/enteric disease cases and to provide an update on preliminary 2022/2023/2024 foodborne disease data. This is the 30th year that Connecticut is participating in the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), the principal foodborne disease component of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emerging Infections Program. It is also the 14th year that Connecticut is participating in the Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE), through which all participating centers work toward developing better methods to detect, investigate, and control local and multistate foodborne outbreaks. Additional information about these programs can be found at: www.cdc.gov/foodnet/ and www.cdc.gov/foodcore/.

In 2025, FoodNet/FoodCORE staff will continue to interview all cases of **cyclosporiasis, Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC), *E. coli* O157 and non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection, listeriosis, salmonellosis, shigellosis and vibriosis. New this year, cases of culture-confirmed campylobacteriosis** (those cases that have an isolate), will be interviewed by FoodNet/FoodCORE staff and indicated as such in the "Notes" field of the CT Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CTEDSS). These select campylobacteriosis cases will be interviewed as part of a FoodNet project focusing on antibiotic resistant foodborne/enteric infections. All data from *any* interview conducted by FoodNet/FoodCORE will be entered or attached to the patient's record in CTEDSS. When an ill person who works in a high-risk occupation (i.e. food handler, health-care worker, daycare attendee/staff) is identified, the relevant local health department (LHD) will be notified.

LHDs should continue to conduct interviews on all other foodborne/enteric disease cases. These include cases of campylobacteriosis that are not culture confirmed/isolated, and yersiniosis, using the appropriate pathogen-specific "**General Enteric Diseases Interview Form**" (GEDIF) (attached). Completed GEDIF information should be entered directly into CTEDSS using the GEDIF Wizard. Please share these documents with your staff responsible for foodborne disease surveillance and follow-up. If you have any questions about FoodNet or FoodCORE, please contact Tamara Rissman (tamara.rissman@yale.edu) at Yale School of Public Health or Christina Turner at DPH (christina.turner@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lynn Sosa in black ink.

Lynn Sosa, MD
State Epidemiologist

Handwritten signature of Tamara Rissman in black ink.

Tamara Rissman, MPH
FoodNet Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Christina Turner in black ink.

Christina Turner, MPH
FoodCORE Coordinator



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2022-2024* FoodNet/FoodCORE Data

(*2024 is preliminary as of 12/2024)

Figure 1. Number of Cases Reported 2022-2024

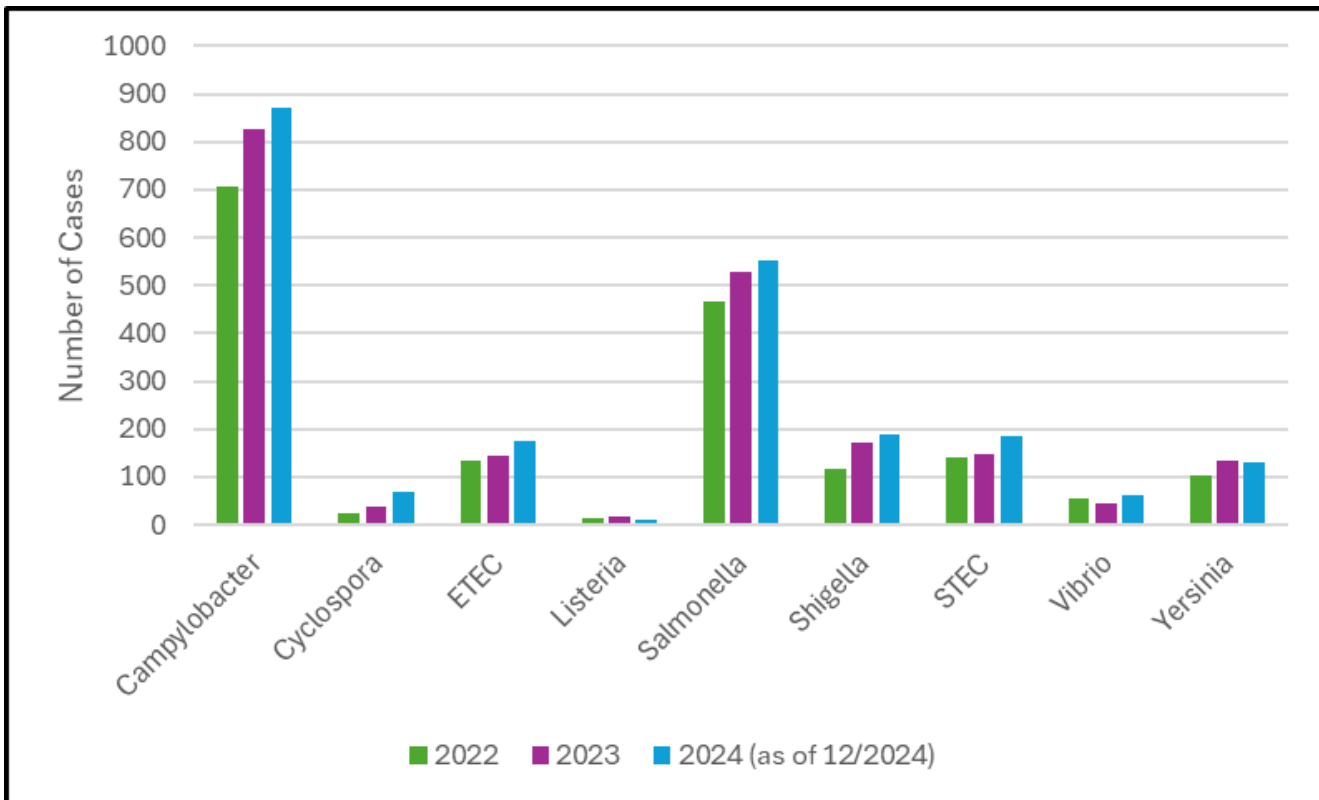


Figure 2. Interview Rates 2022-2024

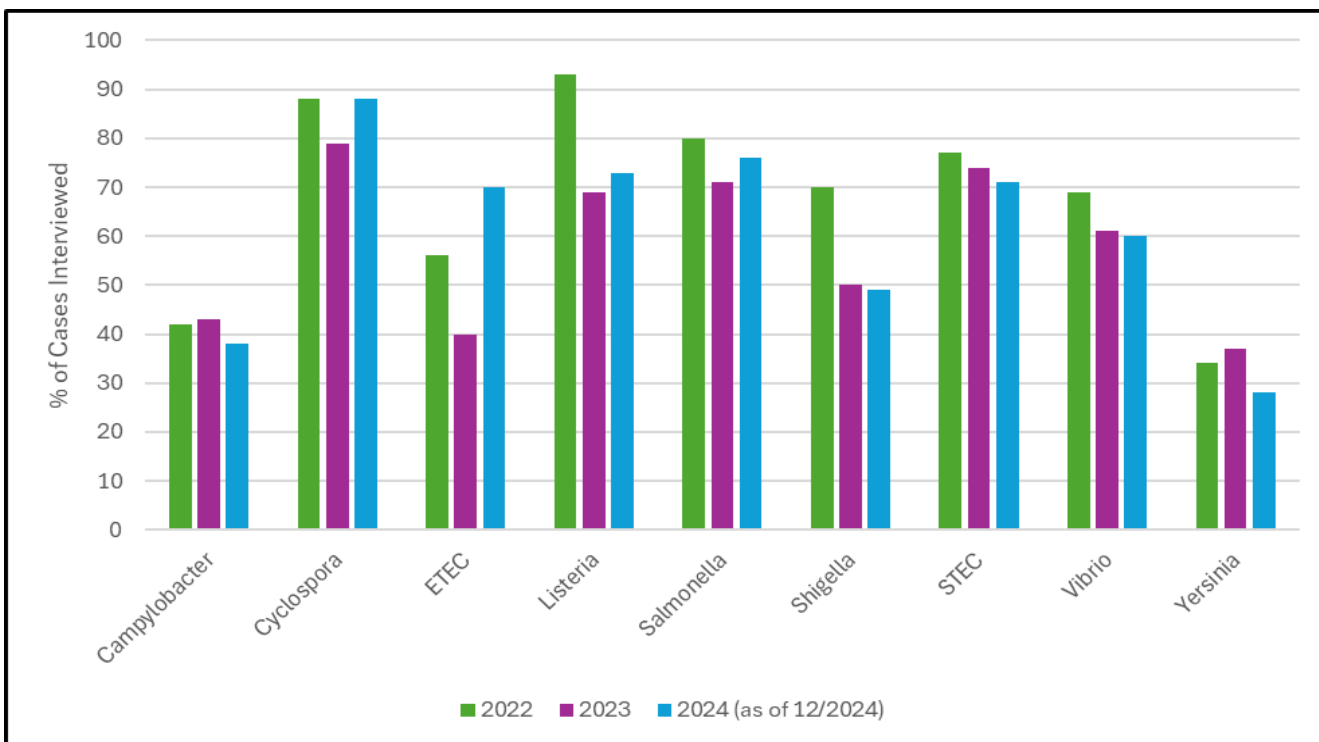


Figure 3. Number of Clusters Identified and Investigated 2022-2024

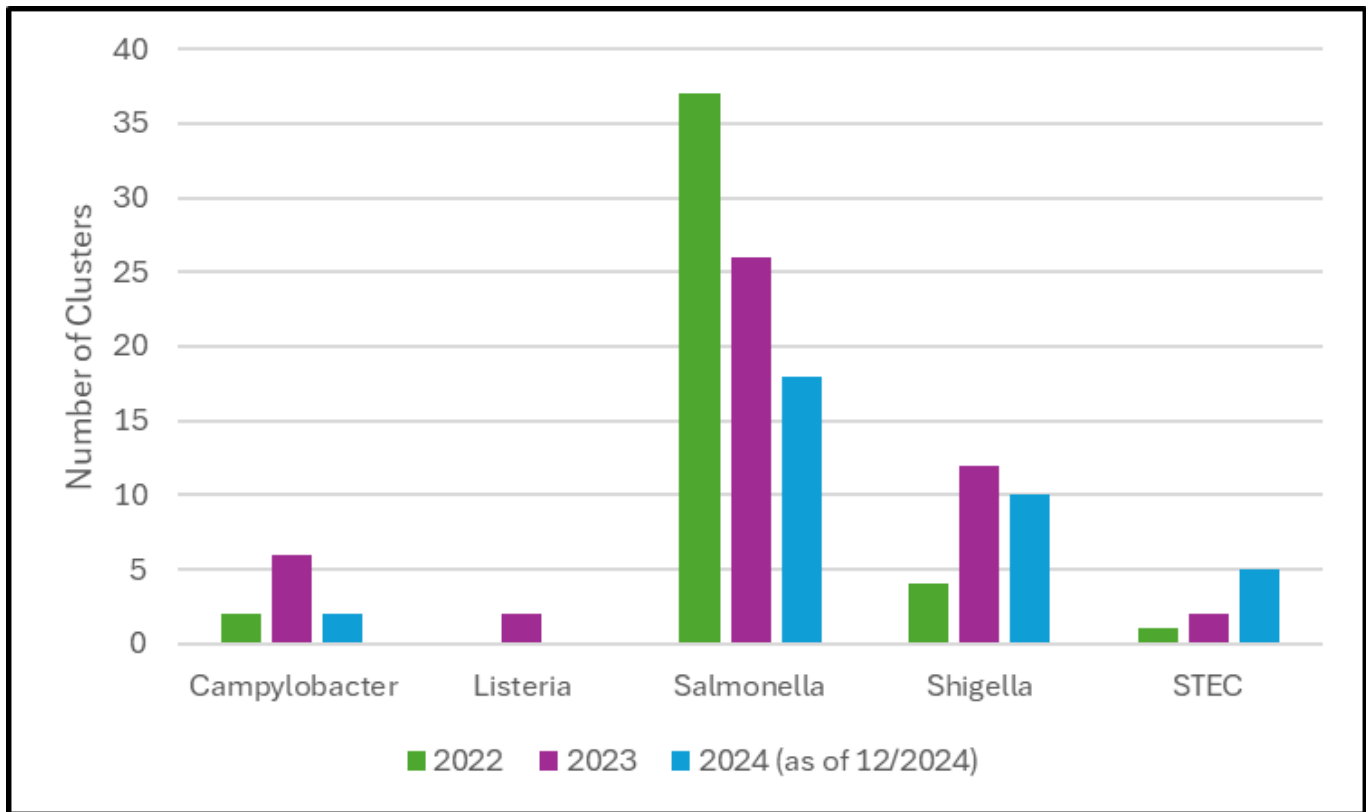
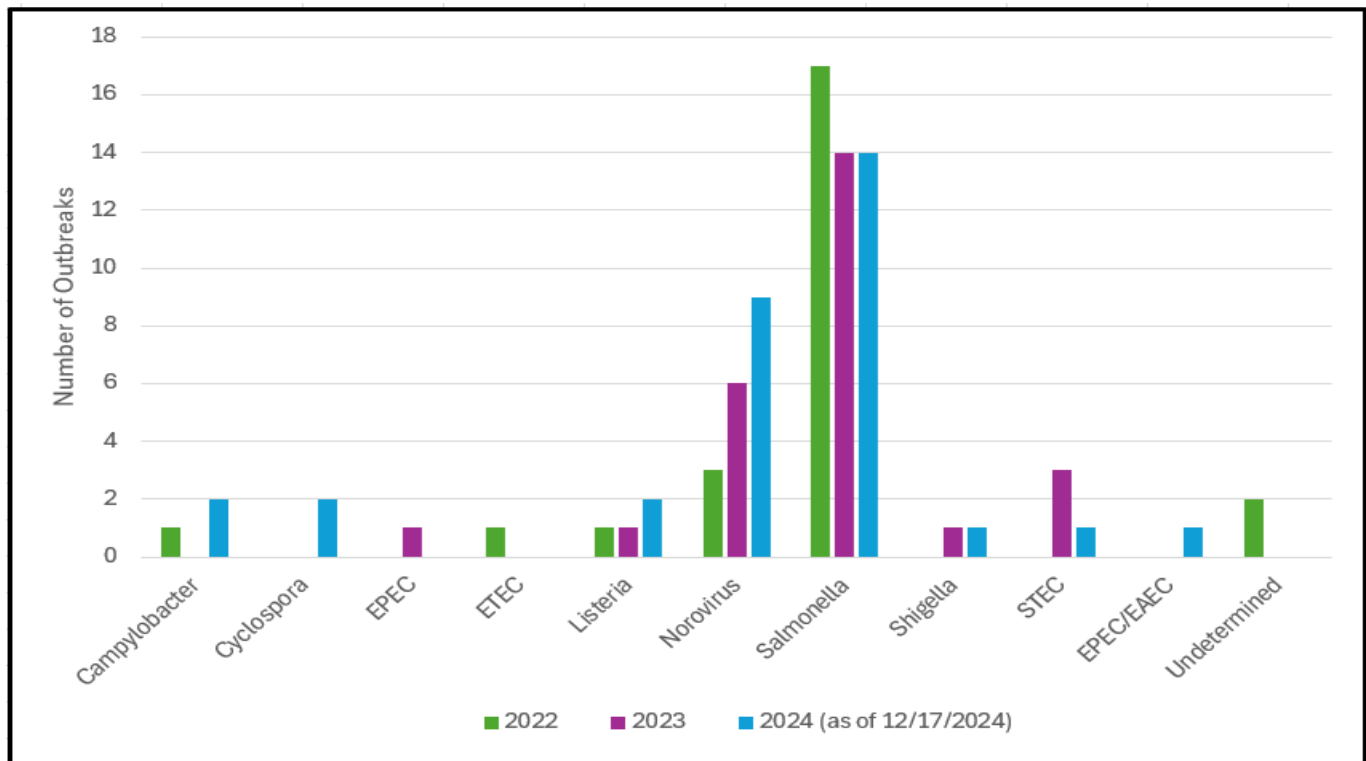


Figure 4. Number of Outbreaks Identified and Investigated 2022-2024



2022: 18 outbreaks were multistate

2023: 16 outbreaks were multistate

2024: 18 outbreaks were multistate

Connecticut Emerging Infections Program

Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) Foodborne Diseases Centers for Outbreak Response Enhancement (FoodCORE)

FoodNet/FoodCORE is interviewing the following cases in 2025:

- All cases of listeriosis
- All cases of cyclosporiasis
- All cases of *E. coli* O157 and non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infection
- All cases of Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) infection
- All cases of vibriosis
- All cases of shigellosis
- All cases of salmonellosis
- Selected cases of campylobacteriosis (cases that have isolate/positive culture)

Local health departments are responsible for interviewing all other cases of foodborne/enteric diseases with the appropriate General Enteric Diseases Interview Form (GEDIF) (unless otherwise noted):

- All cases of campylobacteriosis **without** an isolate/positive culture
- All cases of yersiniosis

Completed GEDIFs should be entered directly into CTEDSS, using the GEDIF Wizard.

Ideally, all interviews should be attempted within 24-48 hours and completed within 1 week of receipt of report. The following attempts are recommended:

- At least 3 telephone calls during normal working hours on multiple days
- If possible, at least 1 call outside normal working hours (i.e. evening and/or weekend)
- Consider sending a text message if phone number is associated with a cell phone
- Consider sending a letter requesting a call back

The FoodCORE team is available to provide assistance with interviewing. To request assistance, please contact FoodCORE: tamara.rissman@yale.edu

^Special Note on *Campylobacter*: *Campylobacter* cases **with an isolate/positive culture will be interviewed by FoodNet/FoodCORE.** LHDs must check CTEDSS in order to know which cases will be interviewed by FoodNet/FoodCORE. A message indicating “CASE TO BE INTERVIEWED BY FoodNet/FoodCORE” will be entered into the “Notes” field in CTEDSS for selected *Campylobacter* cases targeted interviews. LHDs should interview all other *Campylobacter* cases.

^Special Note on Co-infections: All cases **Campylobacter and/or any Yersinia co-infected with Salmonella, STEC, Shigella, Listeria, Vibrio, and ETEC will be interviewed by FoodNet/FoodCORE.** A message indicating “CASE TO BE INTERVIEWED BY FoodNet/FoodCORE” will be entered into the ‘Notes’ field in CTEDSS for these co-infected cases.

For more information regarding FoodNet or FoodCORE, please contact:

Tamara Rissman, FoodNet Coordinator 203-737-6803 tamara.rissman@yale.edu

Christina Turner, FoodCORE Coordinator 860-509-7994 christina.turner@ct.gov