



Outbreak of Food Borne Illness in a Miami-Dade County Country Club Private Party, December 2004
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Background
On December 22, 2004, the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control (OEDC) of the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) received a report regarding a number of individuals ill after participating in a private party at a local country club. The report stated that 39 of 40 attendees had experienced gastro enteric symptoms after eating at the party on December 15. The OEDC immediately initiated an investigation.

Investigation
Methods
The OEDC contacted the party organizer and obtained the food menu. A self-administered questionnaire was developed and faxed to the organizer to distribute to all the attendees. The questionnaire was returned by fax, mail or email. In addition, the attendees were offered the opportunity to call OEDC for interviews over the phone. The data was analyzed using Epi Info software. We asked the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), the state regulatory agency to conduct an inspection of the facility

that prepared the food.
Results-Epidemiology
Seventeen out of 40 attendees returned the questionnaires, received in our office over the following weeks by the various methods. Two of the ill individuals opted for a phone interview. All the respondents claimed symptoms of gastroenteritis. The median age of the respondents was 75 years with a minimum age of 58 and a maximum of 87 years. Nine (53%) of the respondents were female. The symptoms experienced by the ill individuals are presented in *Table 1*. Diarrhea was the predominant symptom, reported by 100% of the respondents. The median incubation period was 27 hours with a range of 7 to 45 hours. The duration of symptoms was from 12 hours to 4 days with a mean of 1.7 days.
The foods consumed at the party included a fixed menu. The ill respondents declared their consumption of meals as shown in *Table 2*. The lack of non-ill controls prevented us from calculating an implicated food; however, four foods were consumed by over 85% of the respondents with over 15 reporting for that food item.

Inside this issue:

Outbreak of Food Borne Illness in a Miami-Dade County Country Club Private Party, December 2004 1

Selected Notifiable Disease Reports, Miami-Dade County, Comparison with Historical Data, January 2005 3

Selected Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Miami-Dade County, January 2005 4



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Table 1. Symptoms reported by ill individuals (n=17)

| Symptom | Persons Ill | Percent of Total |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Diarrhea | 17 | 100 |
| Nausea | 14 | 82 |
| Vomiting | 12 | 71 |
| Weakness | 10 | 59 |
| Abdominal pain | 8 | 47 |
| Chills | 8 | 47 |
| Headache | 6 | 35 |
| Fever | 5 | 29 |
| Dizziness | 3 | 18 |

Table 2. Selected foods and beverages consumed by ill individuals at the party.

| Food or Beverage | Consumed | Reporting | Percent Who Ate |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Beef dish | 15 | 16 | 94 |
| Salad | 14 | 16 | 88 |
| Potatoes | 15 | 15 | 100 |
| Asparagus | 13 | 15 | 87 |
| Stuffed mushrooms | 11 | 16 | 69 |
| Fritters | 10 | 16 | 63 |
| Chicken tenders | 9 | 16 | 56 |
| Roasted peppers | 6 | 14 | 43 |
| Cake | 10 | 12 | 83 |
| Bread | 10 | 12 | 83 |
| Beverage | 10 | 12 | 83 |
| Ice | 9 | 12 | 75 |
| Water | 8 | 12 | 67 |
| Butter | 11 | 11 | 100 |
| Wine | 10 | 11 | 91 |



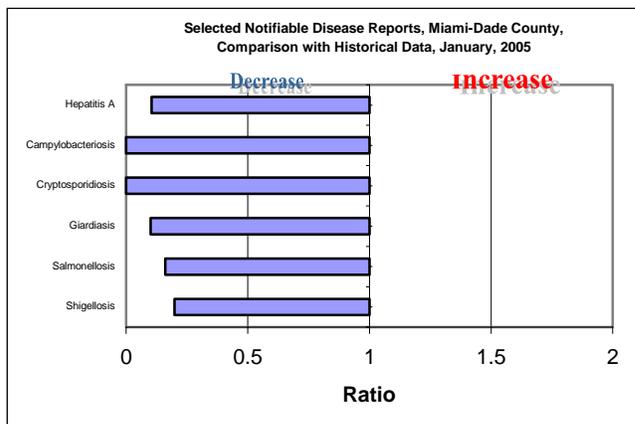
Results-Environmental

The DBPR conducted an inspection of the facility's three kitchens on December 23, 2004. The banquet kitchen was used in the preparation of the food for the party. There were none of the original food items left at the facility at the time of inspection. The facility received a warning from DBPR mainly for operating without a state license, a prepared food item out of holding temperature, no hot water at hand wash sink, raw product stored over precooked food, no dates on ready to eat foods, and some cleaning and safety violations.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This food borne outbreak occurred at the same time as another large outbreak in Miami-Dade County, however a relationship between the two was not found. The report of this outbreak to OEDC was delayed because ill individuals were unaware of other cases until they met again days later. A pathogen was not identified for this outbreak, as the clients did not seek medical evaluation. Food items served were not available for testing at time of inspection. Some food items consumed by most of the respondents could be the suspected vehicles but epidemiological association was elusive due to the lack of non-ill controls. Attendees to the party had no other jointly exposures in days prior to this dinner. It is suspected that as many as 39 individuals were ill but only 17 responded to the questionnaire. DBPR set a re-inspection date to evaluate the facility's full compliance with correcting all the violations and securing a state food service license. The importance of this required license resides in the fact that a number of quarterly inspections are performed by DBPR on facilities that are registered with the agency. These inspections find food safety issues that when addressed on time may prevent food borne outbreaks.

The Miami-Dade County Health Department's Office of Epidemiology strongly recommends that all facilities providing food service in the county must comply with the licensing requirements by filing an application with the agency that regulates their type of facility. Restaurants and hotels must apply to DBPR; the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Health regulate other facilities.



*Ratio of current month total to mean of 15 month totals (from previous, comparable, and subsequent month periods for the past 5 years).

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TO REPORT ANY DISEASE AND FOR
INFORMATION CALL:



**Office of Epidemiology and
Disease Control**

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program | (305) 470-6877 |
| Hepatitis | (305) 470-5536 |
| Other diseases and outbreaks | (305) 470-5660 |
| HIV/AIDS Program | (305) 470-6999 |
| STD Program | (305) 325-3242 |
| Tuberculosis Program | (305) 324-2470 |
| Special Immunization Program | (786) 845-0550 |



**Volume 6, Issue 2
February 2005
Page-3**

Monthly Report

Selected Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Miami-Dade County, January 2005

| Diseases/Conditions | 2005 this Month | 2005 Year to Date | 2004 Year to Date | 2003 Year to Date | 2002 Year to Date | 2001 Year to Date |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| AIDS ^{Provisional} | 113 | 113 | 130 | 109 | 93 | 95 |
| Animal Rabies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campylobacteriosis | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> | 344 | 344 | 210 | 296 | 472 | 177 |
| Ciguatera Poisoning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cryptosporidiosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cyclosporiasis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>E. coli</i> , O157:H7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>E. coli</i> , Non-O157 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>E. coli</i> , Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Encephalitis (except WNV) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Encephalitis, West Nile Virus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Nile Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Giardiasis, Acute | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Gonorrhea | 142 | 142 | 86 | 143 | 229 | 94 |
| Hepatitis A | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Hepatitis B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| HIV ^{Provisional} | 143 | 143 | 159 | 127 | 178 | 167 |
| Lead Poisoning | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| Legionnaire's Disease | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Leptospirosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lyme disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Malaria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meningitis (except aseptic) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meningococcal Disease | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Mumps | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pertussis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rubella | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rubella, Congenital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salmonellosis | 4 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| Shigellosis | 4 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 6 | 5 |
| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Drug Resistant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Syphilis, Infectious | 18 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 18 | 10 |
| Syphilis, Other | 46 | 46 | 54 | 89 | 87 | 29 |
| Tetanus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Toxoplasmosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis ^{Provisional} | 14 | 14 | 12 | 24 | 13 | 11 |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Vibrio cholera</i> Type O1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Vibrio cholera</i> Non-O1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Vibrio</i> , Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

* Data on AIDS are provisional at the county level and are subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

** Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.

