

**12<sup>th</sup> Richard J. Duma/NFID News Conference and Symposium on Infectious Diseases**

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**FACT SHEET**

***Foodborne and Water-Related Diseases: A National and Global Update***

Foodborne Diseases, United States

Annual burden estimated to be 76 million illnesses; 325,000 hospitalizations; and 5,200 deaths in 1999.

Between 1998 and 2002, 6,647 foodborne disease outbreaks affecting >128,000 persons were reported to CDC.

Proportion of outbreaks associated with fresh produce (from both domestic and foreign sources) has increased.

Surveillance is critically important, and systems have been strengthened; molecular-based fingerprinting approaches (PulseNet) are essential to detection of regional, national, and international outbreaks.

Water-Related Diseases, United States

Burden of disease associated with public drinking water systems is uncertain; estimates have ranged from 4 million to 33 million cases of acute gastrointestinal illness per year.

During 2003-04, 30 outbreaks associated with drinking water affecting >2,700 persons, with 4 deaths, were reported to CDC and EPA.

During 2003-04, 62 outbreaks associated with recreational water exposure affecting nearly 2,700 persons, with 1 death, were reported.

Water-Related Diseases, Global Perspective

>1.1 billion people lack access to an improved water source.

~2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.

An estimated 4 billion cases of diarrhea occur annually; nearly 90% are attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and/or poor personal hygiene.

~1.8 million deaths result from diarrhea annually; the vast majority occur in children aged <5 years.

An estimated 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases.

Millions of women and girls spend up to 4 hours/day collecting water.

To achieve the Millennium Development Goal targets for water and sanitation, global leadership, coordinated efforts, and sustained political will are critically important during the International Decade for Action, Water for Life, 2005-15.

### Suggested Reading

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