

Significant Statistics

In a recent FSA (Food Standards Agency) Board paper on food safety it was reported that the UK incidence rates for E.coli O157 from 2000-06 are as follows (cases per 100,000 population). It was stressed that because of the low number of annual cases, incidence in Northern Ireland and Scotland show considerable year-to-year variation due at least in part to the occurrence of large outbreaks.

E.coli O157	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change 2005-06
UK	1.75	1.57	1.37	1.30	1.36	1.70	1.88	+10.8%
England and Wales	1.51	1.32	1.13	1.12	1.16	1.56	1.64	+5.0%
Scotland	3.87	3.96	3.88	2.60	3.63	2.79	4.24	+51.7%
Northern Ireland	2.90	2.30	1.59	2.92	0.99	2.77	2.53	-8.8%

The following table shows the estimated economic costs (£ millions) of foodborne diseases in England and Wales:

Year	NHS	Lost earnings and other expenses	Pain and suffering	Total cost
2000	36	167	1,541	1,744
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	25	111	1,232	1,368
2004	30	125	1,505	1,660
2005	26	111	1,274	1,411
2006	28	125	1,332	1,484

Calculations showed that the estimated economic savings (£ millions) resulting from the decline in the burden of foodborne diseases in England and Wales (over the same timescale) would have been:

Year	NHS	Lost earnings and other expenses	Pain and suffering	Total cost
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	11	57	309	376
2004	6	42	37	85
2005	10	57	267	333
2006	8	43	209	260
Cumulative 2001-06	34	198	822	1,055

Estimates for the total burden of disease in 2001 and 2002 are not available. In estimating the cumulative changes from 2000-05 it was assumed that the number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths remained at 2000 levels for these years.

HUSH, PO Box 159, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 8XE

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