

2019-2020

Nutrition, Food Safety and Health Program Focus Team

ServSafe

The Situation

Food safety is an important public health priority. Foodborne illness is a common, costly—yet preventable—public health problem. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that roughly one in six people in the U.S. (about 48 million) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die of foodborne illness each year. Most cases of foodborne illness can be prevented through proper hygiene practices, including hand washing and following proper food handling and preparation recommendations.

Short-Term (Knowledge)

Increase knowledge and awareness of safe food handling practices

Indicators

Participants:

- Identify proper hand washing procedures
- Identify proper cooking and holding temperatures
- Identify proper storage procedures

Medium-Term (Behavior)

Food is prep, served and stored at proper temperatures

Food handlers use proper hand washing procedures

Indicators

- Food handlers self report using thermometer to check food and storage temperatures
- Safe hand washing practices are observed and reported

Long-Term (Change in Condition)

Safer food supply

Decline in consumer food borne illnesses

Decline in health care cost and loss wages due to food borne illness

Public Value

The value of food safety education and training programs is that Kansans are provided a safer dining environment, as well as the potential for fewer hospitalizations, reduced medical costs, and fewer days of work missed due to illness.

Outputs

- Increase number of KSRE agents offering ServSafe Food Handler Course
- Increase number of KSRE agents offering ServSafe Manager Certification Course
- Partner with Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA) to implement and evaluate ServSafe
- Evaluate and report using the post survey in PEARS and instructor/agent summary report.
- Specialist technical support to ServSafe instructors
- Agents/Instructors participate in state-wide ServSafe training and updates when offered