

Economic Measures of Interventions

Workshop Overview

University of Massachusetts Amherst
December 2-3, 2004

This workshop is the second in a series organized in 2004-2005 by the Food Safety Research Consortium (<http://www.rff.org/fsrc/>) with funding from the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture under its National Integrated Food Safety Initiative. The overall project is titled *Prioritizing Opportunities to Reduce Foodborne Disease*. Its goal is to develop a conceptual framework for identifying and prioritizing opportunities in the food system (production and consumption) to intervene and reduce the burden of foodborne illness. It is also developing information and decision tools for use in decision making by food safety and public health officials, commercial participants, and individual consumers. The Consortium is already completing development of one of these decision tools in the form of the Foodborne Illness Risk Ranking Model (<http://www.rff.org/fsrc/riskrankingconference.htm>).

The series of workshops includes:

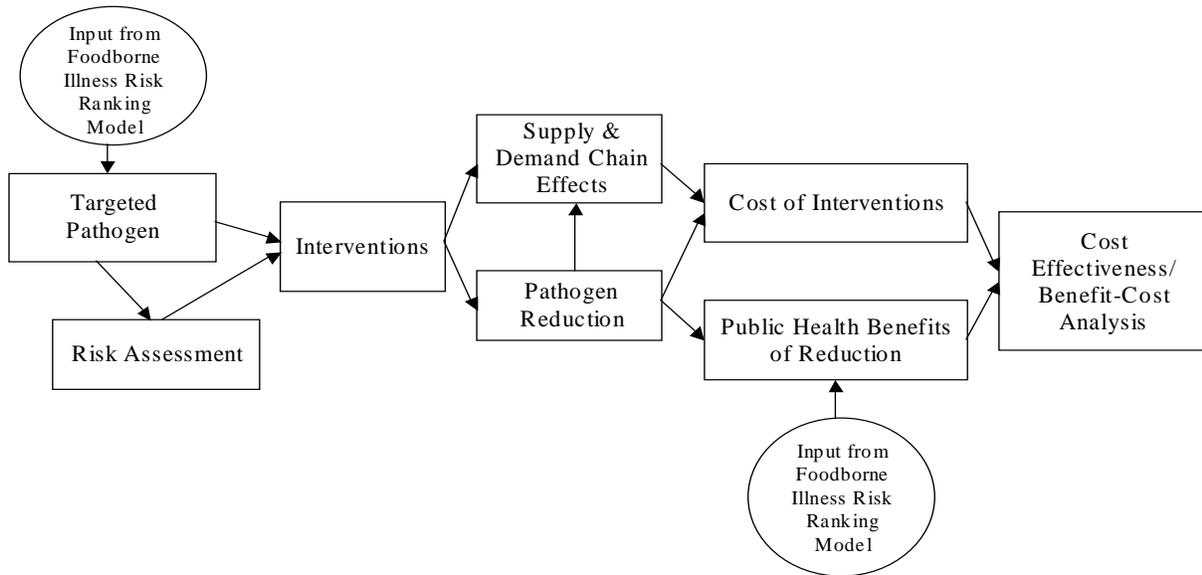
1. Approaches to Predictive Modeling (held at Iowa State University in June 2004)
2. Economic Measures of Interventions (to be held at the University of Massachusetts in December 2004)
3. Evaluation of the Efficacy of Food Safety Interventions (to be held in Atlanta in April 2005)
4. Wrap-Up Conference (to be held in Washington, DC in summer 2005)

The first workshop focused on the modeling of where risk enters the food supply and how it is amplified and reduced. In shorthand, we can refer to this as modeling the physical transmission of risk through the supply chain to consumers and the resulting public health impacts. Prioritizing opportunities to reduce foodborne illness requires a focus on the impact of interventions (e.g., regulatory standards, private quality assurance programs, information programs) on this physical transmission of risk *and* on the economic forces that influence the ultimate impacts of interventions. The second workshop in the series will focus on these economic measures of interventions including:

1. Methodologies for measuring the economic impacts (benefits and costs) of current public and private intervention efforts.
2. Methodologies for identifying the range of potential intervention options that could be used to control foodborne illness.
3. Methodologies to measure the effectiveness of alternative intervention options in economics terms (e.g., cost effectiveness, benefit/cost analysis).

Our working conceptualization for what is needed for this analysis is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Steps Needed to Model the Effectiveness and Cost of Interventions



The workshop is designed to bring together a small group of researchers and users of economic analysis in order to compare approaches to modeling the economics of food safety interventions and develop a conceptual framework for using these analyses in priority setting to reduce foodborne disease. Workshop participants will receive a briefing book prior to their arrival in Amherst with key papers reflecting the state of the art at this point in time. Our goal at the conference will be to move the state of the art forward in terms of understanding how the methodologies link to each other, how well they answer questions about the effectiveness of specific interventions and the overall targeting of intervention resources, and where the research agenda should move to improve the usefulness of economic analyses in setting priorities for reducing foodborne disease.

The output of the workshop will be a consensus report, paper(s) to be presented at the national wrap-up conference to be held in summer 2005, and issue briefs.

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