

**Harvard Opinion Research Program
Harvard School of Public Health**

EGG RECALL SURVEY

August 27-30, 2010

Research Team:

Robert J. Blendon, Harvard School of Public Health, Project Director

John M. Benson, Harvard School of Public Health

Gillian K. SteelFisher, Harvard School of Public Health

Kathleen J. Weldon, Harvard School of Public Health

Melissa J. Herrmann, SSRS

Contact:

Robert J. Blendon, 617-432-4502

HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EGG RECALL SURVEY

The survey was conducted for the Harvard School of Public Health via telephone (both landline and cell phone) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted August 27-30, 2010, among a nationally representative sample of 1083 respondents age 18 and older. Of those, a total of 1001 are egg eaters (those who eat eggs often or occasionally or did so before the recall). The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.66 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error for egg eaters is +/- 3.80 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

1. In the past few weeks, have you heard or read about eggs being recalled, that is, returned to the store or not allowed to be sold due to potential contamination, or not?

	Yes, have heard	No, have not heard
Total	84	16
Egg Eaters	85	15

2. To the best of your knowledge, what are government officials concerned that these eggs may be contaminated with...? (Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters)

	Salmonella	E-coli	Listeria	Something else	Don't know/Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	69	5	1	1	8	16
Egg Eaters	71	5	1	1	7	15

3. To the best of your knowledge, have the following kinds of egg or egg products been recalled? How about (INSERT)? (Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters)

- a. Eggs in shells

	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	69	6	9	16
Egg Eaters	70	6	9	15

- b. Liquid eggs sold in cartons

	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	11	42	31	16
Egg Eaters	11	42	32	15

4. How worried are you about you or someone in your family getting ill from eating contaminated eggs during the next month? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

	Very	Somewhat	Not too	Not at all	Don't know/ Refused
Total	13	17	29	40	*
Egg Eaters	14	17	30	38	*

- 5/7. (Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall) Before the recent egg recall, how often did you eat eggs, **not** including eggs that may be an ingredient in baked goods? Did you eat them often, occasionally, or not at all?

(Asked of those who have not heard/read about the egg recall) How often do you eat eggs, **not** including eggs that may be an ingredient in baked goods. Do you eat them often, occasionally, or not at all?

(%s based on total sample)

	OFTEN/OCCASIONALLY			Not at all
	NET	Often	Occasionally	
Total	92	41	51	8

- 6/8. (Asked of egg eaters who have heard/read about the egg recall) Before the recent egg recall, how often did you eat eggs in restaurants? Did you eat them often, occasionally, or not at all?

(Asked of egg eaters who have not heard/read about the egg recall) How often do you eat eggs in restaurants? Do you eat them often, occasionally, or not at all?

(%s based on total sample)

	Total
Eat eggs or did before recall	92
Eat eggs in restaurants or did before recall	61
Often	9
Occasionally	52
Don't eat eggs in restaurants/do not go to restaurants	31
Not at all	29
Do not go to restaurants (vol.)	2
Don't eat eggs	8

- 9/9a. (Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall) Before the recent egg recall, how often did you eat products that may contain raw eggs, such as raw cookie dough, hollandaise sauce, Caesar salad dressing, or mayonnaise? Did you eat them often, occasionally, or not at all?

(Asked of those who have not heard/read about the egg recall) How often do you eat products that may contain raw eggs, such as raw cookie dough, hollandaise sauce, Caesar salad dressing, or mayonnaise? Do you eat them often, occasionally, or not at all?

(%s based on total sample and total egg eaters)

	OFTEN/OCCASIONALLY			Not at all	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Often	Occasionally			
Total	69	20	50	30	*	--
Egg Eaters	71	21	50	29	*	--

10. At any time in the past three weeks, have you had any eggs in your refrigerator or stored anywhere else in your home, or not?

	Yes, have had eggs in home	No, haven't had any eggs in home	Don't know/ Refused
Total	87	13	*
Egg Eaters	90	9	*

11. Have you taken any of the following steps as a result of the **egg** recall? Have you (INSERT)?

a. Contacted relatives or friends to make sure they know about the recall (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Have not heard of recall
Total	22	62	16
Egg Eaters	22	63	15

b Thrown away eggs in your home that you think might be on the recall list (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall and have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks; %s based on those who have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	10	74	1	*	14
Egg Eaters	10	74	1	*	14

c. Returned to the store eggs that you think might be on the recall list (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall and have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks; %s based on those who have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Have not heard of recall
Total	2	83	1	14
Egg Eaters	2	83	1	14

d. Talked with someone at the food store about whether the eggs you might buy there are safe (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Have not heard of recall
Total	10	73	1	16
Egg Eaters	10	74	1	15

e. Checked the Food and Drug Administration's, or FDA's, online list of egg company brands that have been recalled (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Don't know/ Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	15	68	*	16

Egg Eaters	16	69	*	15
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f. Stopped buying products that have eggs as an ingredient (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	9	73	1	*	16
Egg Eaters	9	74	1	*	15

g. Bought pasteurized in-shell eggs (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	Haven't had eggs in home in past 3 weeks and heard of recall	Have not heard of recall
Total	17	51	1	5	9	16
Egg Eaters	18	53	1	5	7	15

h. Checked to see if eggs in your home were on the recall list (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall and have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks; %s based on those who have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	35	50	1	*	14
Egg Eaters	35	50	1	*	14

i. Checked the date stamp or Julian number on egg cartons in your home (*Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall and have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks; %s based on those who have had eggs in their home during the past 3 weeks*)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Does not apply/ never buy eggs (vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	39	46	1	*	14
Egg Eaters	39	46	1	*	14

12. Have you taken any of the following steps as a result of the **egg** recall? Have you (INSERT)? *(Asked of egg eaters who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total egg eaters)*

	Yes, have	No, have not	Don't know/Refused	Have not heard of recall
a. Stopped eating eggs that you have heard were involved in the recall	35	45	5	15
b. Stopped eating all eggs	14	71	*	15
c. Started eating only locally-produced or organic eggs	20	64	1	15
d. Started cooking eggs longer	24	61	*	15
e. Stopped ordering eggs in restaurants <i>(Among egg eaters who ever eat eggs at restaurants)</i>	17	68	1	14
f. Started eating only pasteurized in-shell eggs	12	70	3	15

13. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 living in your household?

	Yes	No
Total	33	67
Egg Eaters	34	66

14. As a result of the recall, have you stopped making eggs for your children, or not? *(Asked of those who are parents/guardians of children under 18 and have heard/read about the egg recall; based on total who are parents/guardians and egg eaters who are parents/guardians)*

	Yes	No	Not applicable/never make eggs/children allergic to eggs (vol.)	Have not heard of recall
Total	19	60	9	12
Egg Eaters	19	62	8	12

15. As a result of the recall, have you told your children not to eat eggs when they are not at home, or not? *(Asked of those who are parents/guardians of children under 18 and have heard/read about the egg recall; based on total who are parents/guardians and egg eaters who are parents/guardians)*

	Yes	No	Not applicable/never make eggs/children allergic to eggs (vol.)	Have not heard of recall
Total	21	60	6	12
Egg Eaters	22	60	6	12

16. In the past few weeks, have you seen any signs at the food stores you go to that say the eggs sold there are safe, or haven't you seen any signs like that?

	Yes, have seen signs like that	No, have not seen signs like that	Don't know/Refused
Total	12	86	2
Egg Eaters	11	87	2

17. In the past few weeks, have you seen any signs at the restaurants you go to that say the eggs sold or used there are safe, or haven't you seen any signs like that?

	Yes, have seen signs like that	No, have not seen signs like that	Do not go to restaurants (vol.)	Don't know/Refused
Total	3	89	7	1
Egg Eaters	4	89	7	1

18. Have you seen or read the following messages during the past few weeks? How about: *(Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters)*

- a. People who have recalled eggs in their homes should throw them out or take them back to the store

	Yes, have seen/read message	No, have not seen/read message	Don't know/Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	47	36	1	16
Egg Eaters	48	36	1	15

- b. It is safe to eat recalled eggs if they are thoroughly and completely cooked and not runny

	Yes, have seen/read message	No, have not seen/read message	Don't know/Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	30	52	2	16
Egg Eaters	30	53	2	15

19. Have you looked for information about the egg recall? *(Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters)*

	Yes	No	Have not heard of recall
Total	18	65	16
Egg Eaters	19	66	15

20. Were you able to get the information you needed, or not? *(Asked of and %s based on those who have heard/read about the egg recall and have looked for information)*

	Yes	No	Don't know/Refused
Total	93	6	*
Egg Eaters	93	7	*

1/19/20. Combo Table *(Based on total sample and total egg eaters)*

	Total	Egg Eaters
Have heard of recent egg recall	84	85
Looked up information about egg recall	18	19
Able to get information needed	17	18
Not able to get information needed	1	1
Did not look up information	65	66
Have not heard of recall	16	15

21. Have you gone to any of the following sources for further information? How about (INSERT)?
(Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall and have looked for information; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters)

1/19/21. Combo Table

	Total	Egg Eaters
Have heard of recent egg recall	84	85
Looked up information about egg recall	18	19
From the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA website	7	7
From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC website	2	2
From the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or USDA website	4	4
From news websites	11	11
From food company websites	2	2
From the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA telephone number	1	1
Fro your state department of health	1	1
From newspapers or television	15	15
From your local health department	1	1
From blog articles, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, podcast, or other social media sources	4	4
Did not look up information	65	66
Have not heard of recall	16	15

22. Do you feel like you have enough useful information to know how to protect yourself from getting sick from contaminated eggs involved in the recent recall, or not? *(Asked of those who have heard/read about the egg recall; %s based on total sample and total egg eaters)*

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused	Have not heard of recall
Total	68	15	1	16
Egg Eaters	69	15	1	15

23. How much confidence do you have in public health officials to resolve the problem of contaminated eggs involved in the recent recall? Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount, only a little, or none? *(Asked of and %s based on those who have heard/read about the egg recall)*

	A great deal	A fair amount	Only a little	None	Don't know/ Refused
Total	18	49	22	10	2
Egg Eaters	18	49	22	9	2

24. How much confidence do you have in public health officials to provide information about how to protect yourself from getting sick from contaminated eggs involved in the recent recall? Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount, only a little, or none? *(Asked of and %s based on those who have heard/read about the egg recall)*

	A great deal	A fair amount	Only a little	None	Don't know/ Refused

Total	22	51	19	6	2
Egg Eaters	22	51	20	6	2

25. How much confidence do you have in egg producers to do the right thing about the recent egg recall? Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount, only a little, or none? *(Asked of and %s based on those who have heard/read about the egg recall)*

	A great deal	A fair amount	Only a little	None	Don't know/ Refused
Total	16	39	34	10	1
Egg Eaters	15	39	34	10	1

26. Once public health officials say that this current egg problem is resolved, do you think you will go back to eating eggs in the same amount you did before the egg recall, or not? *(Asked of and %s based on those who have heard/read about egg recall and who ate eggs before the recall)*

	Yes, will	No, will not	Haven't stopped using eggs during the recall (vol.)	Don't know/ Refused
Total	74	13	12	2

- 1/5/26. Combo Table *(%s based on total sample)*

	Total
Have heard of recent egg recall	84
Ate eggs before recall	78
Will go back to eating eggs in the same amount as before recall	58
Will not go back to eating eggs in the same amount as before the recall	10
Haven't stopped using eggs during the recall	10
Did not eat eggs before the recall	6
Have not heard of recall	16

27. In the last few weeks, have you gotten sick from what you believe are contaminated eggs, or not?
(Asked of and %s based on egg eaters)

	Yes, have	No, have not	Don't know/ Refused
Egg Eaters	1	98	1

5/27. Combo Table (%s asked on total sample)

	-----EGG EATERS-----				Not an egg eater
	NET	Have gotten sick	Have not gotten sick	Don't know/ ref if gotten sick	
Total	92	1	90	1	8

28. When you got sick, did you do any of the following: Did you (INSERT)? *(Asked of egg eaters who got who have gotten sick from what they thought were contaminated eggs)*

- Seek medical attention
- Go to an emergency room
- Call your state or local health department
- Search for more information on a government website
- Contact the store or restaurant where you bought the food you thought made you sick
- Provide a stool sample for laboratory testing

Not enough cases for analysis (n=8)

29. Would you say the symptoms of your illness were very severe or not very severe? *(Asked of egg eaters who got who have gotten sick from what they thought were contaminated eggs)*

Not enough cases for analysis (n=8)

30. How much would you say you know about salmonella? Would you say you know a lot, some, only a little, or nothing?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	Nothing	Don't know/ Refused
Total	18	37	33	10	1
Egg Eaters	18	38	33	10	1

31. How worried are you about you or someone in your family getting ill from salmonella in the next 12 months? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried? (Asked of and %s based on those who said they knew at least a little about salmonella)

	Very	Somewhat	Not too	Not at all	Don't know/ Refused
Total	8	19	41	32	--
Egg Eaters	9	19	42	31	--

30/31.Combo Table (%s based on total sample)

	Total	Egg Eaters
Know at least a little about salmonella	89	89
Worried someone in family will get ill from salmonella	24	24
Very worried	7	8
Somewhat worried	17	17
Not worried someone in family will get ill from salmonella	65	64
Not too worried	36	37
Not at all worried	28	27
Know nothing about salmonella	10	10
Don't know/Refused	1	1

32. If a person gets sick from salmonella, which of the following symptoms do you think they would usually have? Do you think they would usually have (INSERT), or not? (Asked of and %s based on those who said they knew at least a little about salmonella)

Total	Yes, would have	No, would not have	Don't know
a. Diarrhea	92	4	4
b. Fever	75	18	7
c. Abdominal cramps	93	4	4
d. A rash	18	70	12
e. A cough	8	82	11

Egg Eaters	Yes, would have	No, would not have	Don't know
a. Diarrhea	93	3	3
b. Fever	76	18	7
c. Abdominal cramps	94	3	3
d. A rash	19	69	12
e. A cough	8	82	10

30/32.Combo Table (%s based on total sample)

	Total	Egg Eaters
Know at least a little about salmonella	89	89
Would have diarrhea	82	83
Would have fever	66	67
Would have abdominal cramps	82	83
Would have a rash	16	17
Would have a cough	7	7
Know nothing about salmonella	10	10
Don't know/Refused	1	1

33. To the best of your knowledge, if a person gets ill from salmonella, do they usually get symptoms right after eating a food contaminated with salmonella, several hours to a few days after, or up to a week after? *(Asked of and %s based on those who said they knew at least a little about salmonella)*

	Right after	Several hours to a few days after	Up to a week after	Don't know/Refused
Total	7	78	10	5
Egg Eaters	7	78	10	5

30/33.Combo Table (%s based on total sample)

	Total	Egg Eaters
Know at least a little about salmonella	89	89
Usually get symptoms right after eating food contaminated with salmonella	6	6
Usually get symptoms several hours to a few days after eating food contaminated with salmonella	69	69
Usually get symptoms up to a week after eating food contaminated with salmonella	9	9
Know nothing about salmonella	10	10
Don't know/Refused	1	1

34. Do you believe that organic eggs or eggs from free-range chickens are more likely, less likely, or equally likely as regular eggs to contain salmonella?

	More likely	Less likely	Equally likely	Don't know/Refused
Total	6	38	46	10
Egg Eaters	5	38	47	9

35. Have you shopped for groceries at any time during the past week, or not?

	Yes, have	No, have not	Don't know/ Refused
Total	69	30	*
Egg Eaters	69	30	*

36. Have you been told by a doctor or health professional that you have any of the following medical conditions: heart or lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, diabetes, or a disease that causes decreased immunity such as cancer or HIV/AIDS?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
Total	20	79	1
Egg Eaters	21	79	*