

YEAR 4 | ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUMMARY

July 2023 - June 2024

ABOUT LFFM

THE LFFM PROGRAM is a **comprehensive emergency response and surveillance cooperative agreement** between FDA and Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) partner laboratories, supporting a wide range of analytical activities



LFFM supports an **integrated national laboratory network** that operationalizes **domestic mutual reliance** in support of an integrated food safety system (IFSS)

There are a total of **55 grantees** in the program



ISO 17025 ACCREDITATION

44 LFFM laboratories maintained **ISO 17025 accreditation** or enhanced their accreditation scope

HARMONIZATION EFFORTS

31 scientists were trained in FDA micro, chemistry or radiochemistry methods
2 laboratories hosted LFFM-funded trainings for **STEC** and **PCR Fundamentals**

All chemistry laboratories testing for toxic elements in human foods **harmonized** sample collection with the **FDA's Toxic Element Compliance Program** (**12 subsamples per lot**)

PROJECT AREAS (TRACKS)



FOOD DEFENSE

41 laboratories maintained readiness and capacity for the **analysis of foods involving intentional contamination** with microbiological, chemical, and/or radiological contaminants of terrorist concern



CAPACITY/CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT and METHOD DEVELOPMENT / VALIDATION

5 LFFM Cyclospora testing laboratories participated in the MLV of the Mit1C PCR method.
1 laboratory provided surge capacity for Cyclospora during an **outbreak response**

4 LFFM chemistry laboratories developed the ability to test for **PFAS** in bottled water using EPA methods

Completed Listeria monocytogenes enumeration implementation efforts across M-HF labs.
All Listeria monocytogenes positive LFFM HF samples are enumerated



WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING (WGS)

31 laboratories submitted sequences for **6,354 enteric pathogen isolates** from food and environmental sources to NCBI

HUMAN AND ANIMAL FOOD PRODUCT TESTING TRACKS



MICROBIOLOGY

25 laboratories conducted **11,190 analyses** on **6,809 human food samples**, and

18 laboratories conducted **3,521 analyses** on **2,197 animal food samples**



CHEMISTRY

26 laboratories conducted **7,610 analyses** on **3,354 human food samples**, and

15 laboratories conducted **3,518 analyses** on **3,354 animal food samples**

RECALLS

35 recalls, 10 consumer advisories, and 2 outbreak advisories resulted from **positive samples**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM YEAR 4

Solving Outbreaks

2 labs provided results that stopped **2 ongoing outbreaks** and prevented further illnesses. One sample solved a **10-year mystery** by identifying the outbreak food vehicle.

Legionella Testing

2 laboratories assisted FDA for a Legionella assignment for testing water from domestic cruise lines, **State labs** tested **314** samples from this assignment and resulted in regulatory meeting with the firm

FERN Activated LFFM labs in Response to Lead in Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree Pouches

12 laboratories participated in the FERN activation. Within **4 business days**, LFFM SRPs and labs had collected **97 samples** and conducted XRF and ICP-MS toxic elemental analysis to confirm the scope and extent of the contamination. Samples from **3 states** who confirmed **high levels of lead** in fruit puree pouches were cited in the FDA warning letters and consumer advisories.

Pivoting LFFM to Respond to Lead in Cinnamon

LFFM states pivoted planned sampling to monitor ground cinnamon for lead, collecting **134 samples** in Year 4. **14 samples** from **5 states** resulted in **3 FDA consumer advisories** and **7 recalls** due to elevated levels of lead

STRATEGIC PLAN



In Year 4, the **Strategic Oversight Team** released the **LFFM 2024-2028 Strategic Plan**. The three strategic goals outlined for this 5-year period include: **furthering an IFSS, maximizing data stewardship, and supporting our state partners**.