

Food Safety & Environmental Services

FY 2003 Activity Summary

**Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control
Office of Environmental Health
Food Safety & Environmental Services Section**

November 2003





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State of Arizona

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

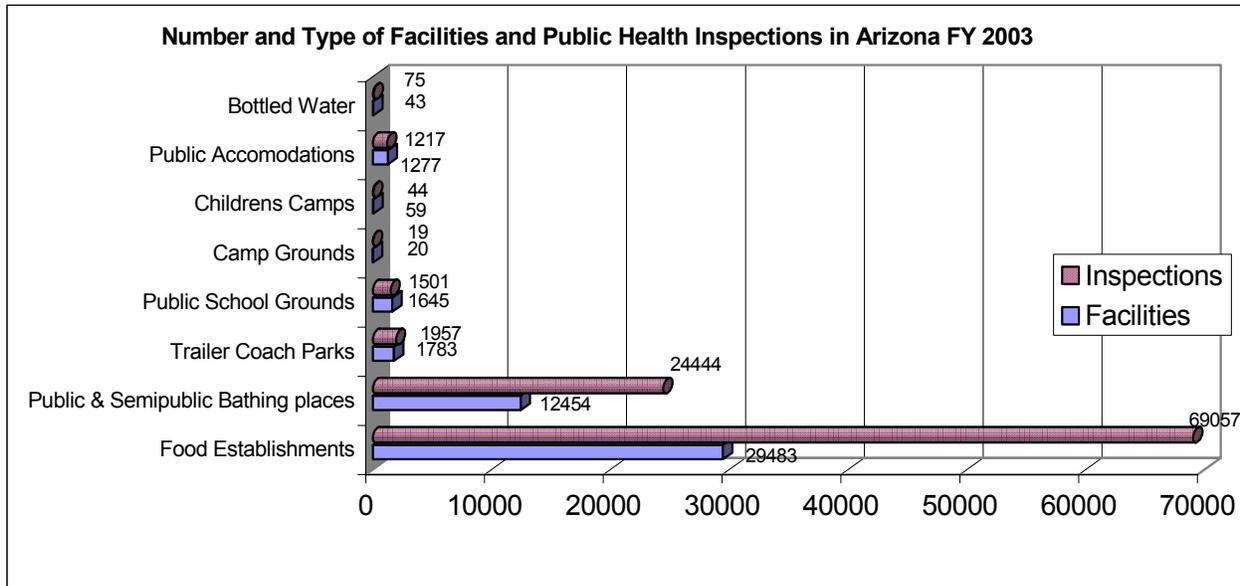
Executive Summary.....	1
Section 1.0 – Introduction.....	2
Section 2.0 – FY2003 Activities.....	2
Section 2.1 – Food Safety.....	2
Section 2.1.1 – Inspection Programs.....	2
Section 2.1.2 – Enforcement.....	4
Section 2.1.3 – Food Safety Accomplishments In Arizona.....	4
Section 2.1.4 --Food Biosecurity.....	5
Section 2.1.5- Reports of Foodborne Illness.....	6
Section 2.2 – Bottled Water.....	8
Section 2.3 – Bathing Places.....	9
Section 2.4 – Public Accommodations.....	10
Section 2.5 – Trailer Coach Parks.....	10
Section 2.6 – School Grounds.....	11
Section 2.7 – Children’s Camps.....	12
Section 2.8- Environmental Health Points of Interest.....	12
Section 3.0 – Registration and Training of Sanitarians.....	12
Section 4.0 – Conclusions.....	14
Appendix.....	15

Executive Summary

The Arizona Department of Health Services organizes and directs the statewide public health sanitation programs for food safety, bottled water, hotels and motels, trailer parks, children’s camps, public schools, and swimming pool maintenance.

Staff that implement the inspection programs must be licensed as a Registered Sanitarian. Statewide, there were 165 Registered Sanitarians employed at the 15 county health departments and the Arizona Department of Health Services. The Arizona Department of Health Services and the 15 local county health departments met the state inspection goals during FY 2003. The following bullets highlight FY 2003 accomplishments and findings.

- One hundred sixty five sanitarians at the 15 county health departments and the Arizona Department of Health Services conducted more than 98,300 inspections at the approximately 46,764 regulated facilities in Arizona.
- In FY 2003, there were more than 29,400 food establishments in Arizona. State and county sanitarians conducted approximately 69,057 food safety inspections at these establishments.
- A total of 2,307 cases of foodborne organisms were reported in 2002.
- Inspection goals were achieved for food establishments, bottled water facilities, bathing places, and trailer coach parks.



1.0 Introduction

The Food Safety and Environmental Services Section is located within the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health. The program exercises general supervision of food safety and environmental sanitation monitoring and enforcement in the State of Arizona in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes 36-136. The mission of the FS&ES section is:

To prevent and control human illness related to the transmission of infectious agents or toxic substances in food and water, and to prevent disease transmission due to unsanitary conditions in hotels and motels, trailer coach parks, bathing places, group homes, behavioral health centers, adult foster care homes and children's camps.

In accordance with our mission, the program plans, organizes and directs a statewide public health sanitation program which includes food safety, institutional sanitation, children's camps, recreational sanitation, bottled water, produce warehouses, and swimming pool maintenance. The program also conducts epidemiological investigations, interprets sanitation laws for local health departments and establishes and maintains liaisons with federal agencies and local health departments.

2.0 FY 2003 Activities

The Arizona Department of Health Services delegates many of the program activities to the 15 county health departments in order to most effectively accomplish mission objectives. The delegation of responsibilities allows local governments to decide the level and cost of the services they wish to provide. Local control makes it easy for the public to interact with their government.

Counties accepting delegated responsibilities are required to perform duties in accordance with conditions outlined within the delegation agreements. As part of the agreement, the county health department must submit annual reports summarizing their activities.

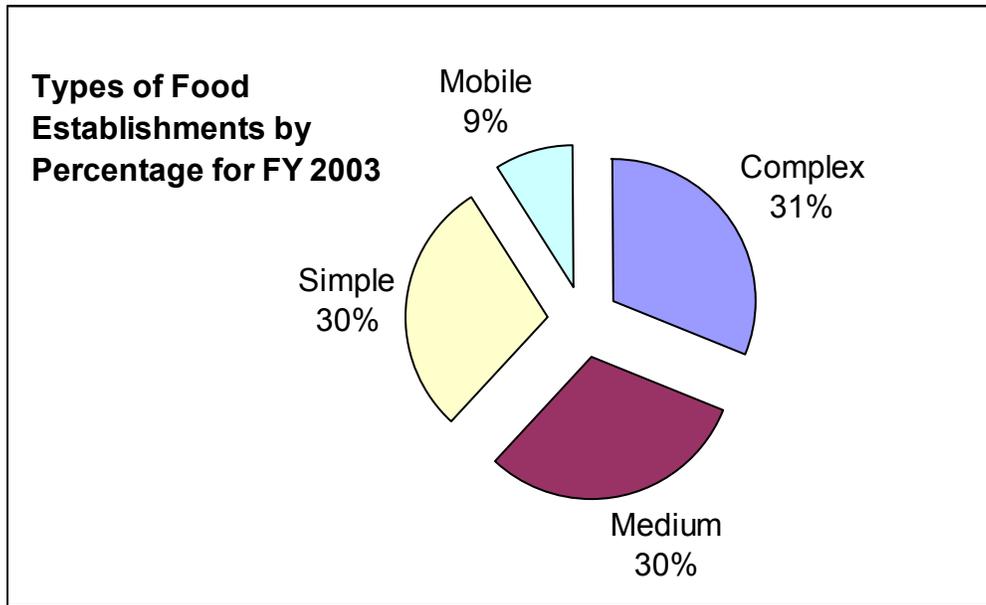
Facilities regulated by the state and county programs include various food establishments, bottled water facilities, swimming pools, hotels and motels, trailer parks, public schools, and children's camps. One hundred sixty five Registered Sanitarians at the 15 county health departments and the Arizona Department of Health Services conducted more than 98,300 inspections at the 46,764 regulated facilities in Arizona.

2.1 Food Safety

2.1.1 Inspection Programs

Registered Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the 15 county health departments routinely inspect restaurants, food processors, prisons and jails, food warehouses, bakeries, and school cafeterias to evaluate the food safety practices in these establishments.

There were more than 29,400 food establishments in Arizona during FY 2003, an increase of 10% from FY 2002. State and county sanitarians conducted approximately 69,057 inspections in these facilities. The statewide goal is to inspect each of the 29,400 food establishments at least twice per year. The statewide goal was achieved, with an average of 2.3 inspections per food establishment.



The classification scheme categorizes food establishments by the complexity of the food service operations. More complex operations conduct a greater variety of food service operations and may require more frequent inspections in order to ensure that all food safety measures are being observed. The classification scheme is as follows:

Complex Food Preparation Facilities

- The facility prepares and holds hot or cold food for more than 12 hours before serving; and/or
- The facility cooks and cools a significant number of foods during the food handling process; and/or
- The facility prepares food for off-site service; and/or
- The facility vacuum packs food; and/or
- The facility serves a highly susceptible population.

Moderate Complexity Food Preparation Facilities

- The food prepared in the facility from raw ingredients requires minimal assembly; and/or
- Hot or cold food preparation in the facility is restricted to same day service; and/or
- Foods requiring preparation in the facility are from approved processing facilities.

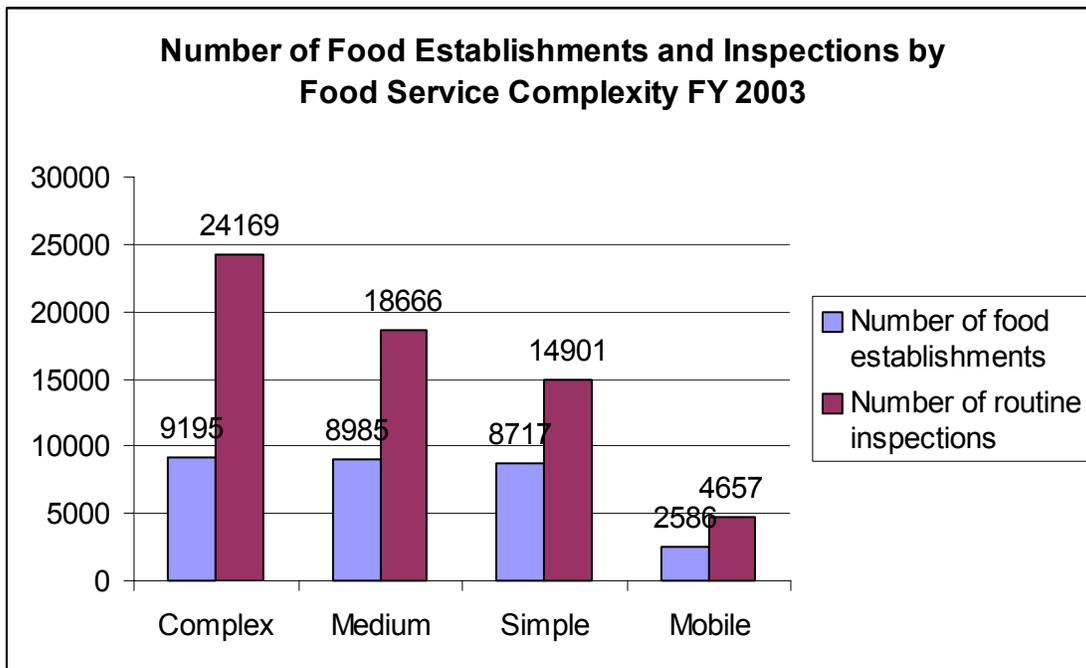
Simple Food Preparation Facilities

- Only pre-packaged potentially hazardous foods are available or sold; and/or
- The potentially hazardous foods served are commercially pre-packaged in an approved food processing facility; and/or
- The facility only has limited preparation of potentially hazardous foods and beverages; and/or
- The facility only serves beverages.

Mobile Food Establishments

- The establishment is not a fixed establishment, and has the ability to be moved by motor vehicle or by a person.

Statewide, food establishments that are of high and medium complexity were inspected more frequently than simple facilities. There were 3.0 inspections per complex facility, 2.3 inspections per medium facility and 2.1 per simple facility. This pattern is consistent with Arizona Department of Health Services' recommendations to inspect complex food service operations more frequently than simple food service facilities.



2.1.2 Enforcement

The goal of food safety inspection programs is to encourage compliance with the state food safety requirements without resorting to compliance proceedings and enforcement actions. Unfortunately, these actions are sometimes necessary to achieve compliance with the minimum requirements. In FY 2003, approximately 847 enforcement actions were taken at food establishments in Arizona. Statewide, compliance proceedings or enforcement actions were taken at approximately 2% of food establishments.

2.13 Food Safety Accomplishments In Arizona

- An FDA grant for Innovative Food Safety was awarded to Maricopa County. A cooperative agreement was established with La Paz, Pinal and Yavapai counties in order to study the length of time required for food safety activities such as inspections, re-inspections and citizen complaints.
- Maricopa County also received a USDA Cooperative grant to compile training materials covering how to safely prepare various ethnic foods.

- Five Arizona counties are participating in the FDA's National Program to conduct an extensive self-assessment on their food safety programs. When the assessment is completed a baseline will be established from which future program activities are compared. There are 11 program areas to be assessed, with a goal to attain 9 of the 11 standards within 5 years. This program is highly ambitious and forward thinking. The five counties participating are La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yavapai.

2.1.4 Food Biosecurity

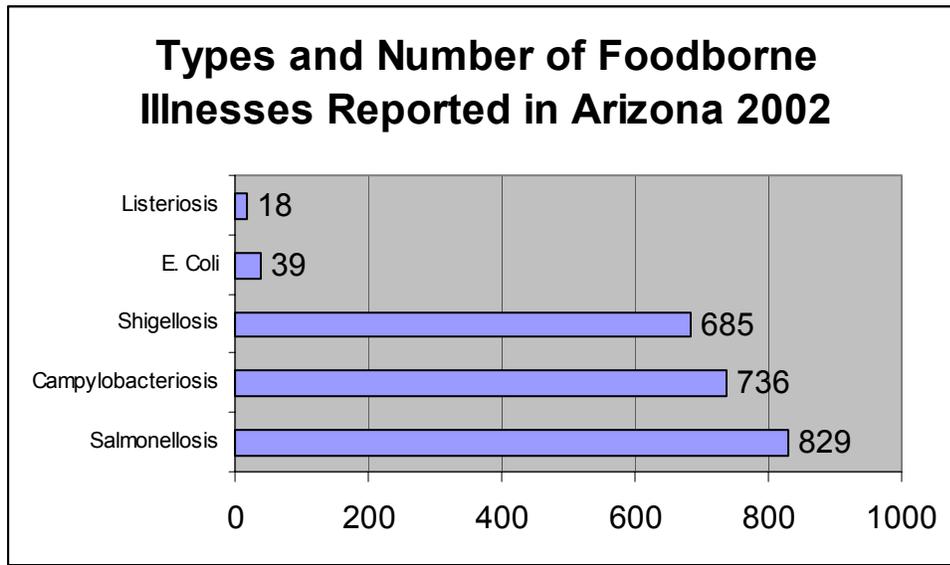
The Arizona Department of Health Services Food Biosecurity Specialist attended training and in turn created and made presentations to the 15 Arizona Counties covering basic food security concepts as well as how to conduct a vulnerability assessment. Tools such as a vulnerability assessment (VA), corresponding brochures and fact sheets were created to serve as models and accompany this process. Since the food security program is non-regulatory in nature, the concept behind the program in Arizona is that counties would be able to choose their level of involvement. Five Arizona counties have decided to conduct food security activities using their own staff. These are, Graham, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima and Pinal. This represents over 80% of the state's population. The Food Biosecurity Specialist is assisting the remaining ten counties.

Goals for the counties and the program as a whole for the coming year include focusing upon, (1) Communications Methods: Creation and implementation of VAs, fact sheets, brochures, mini-checklists, surveys, presentations, etc. (2) Meetings: Education and outreach conducted for industry and other interested parties, or discussions of food security in the local area to engage industry in undertaking a joint food security assessment. (3) Assessments: Those food establishments that have undergone and completed a joint food security vulnerability assessment. and (4) Other Activities: Any other activity that the county or state considers worthy of its attention to foster greater awareness and interest in the area of food security.

2.1.5 Reports of Foodborne Illnesses

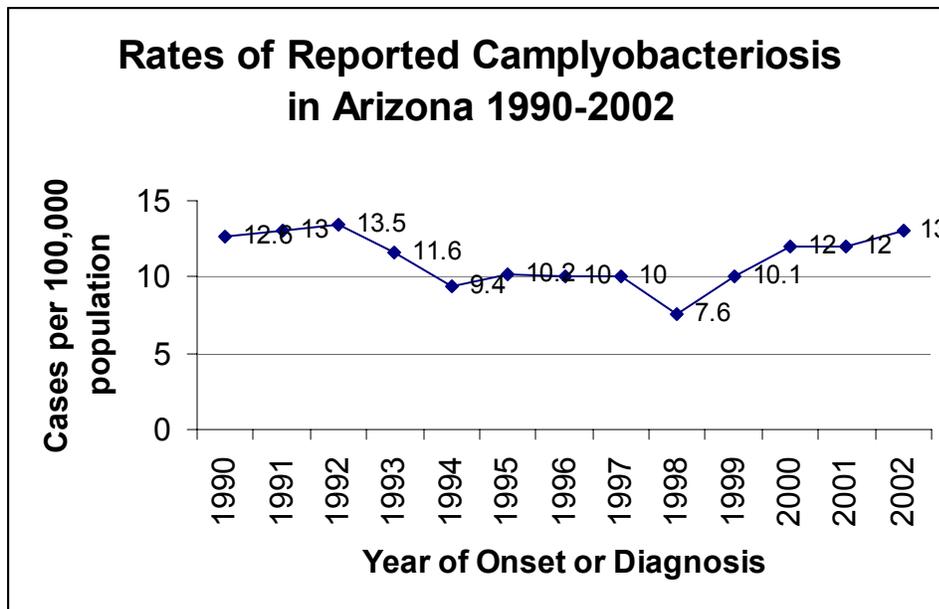
The Arizona Department of Health Services conducts surveillance for foodborne illnesses and other enteric diseases and helps the county health departments to conduct additional investigations of disease outbreaks. Environmental investigations, including a focused inspection, are conducted when gastrointestinal diseases are suspected to be associated with a foodborne illness. When a link between foodborne illness and a food establishment is made a detailed investigation is conducted to determine the source.

The following sections provide a foodborne illness epidemiology update for 2002.



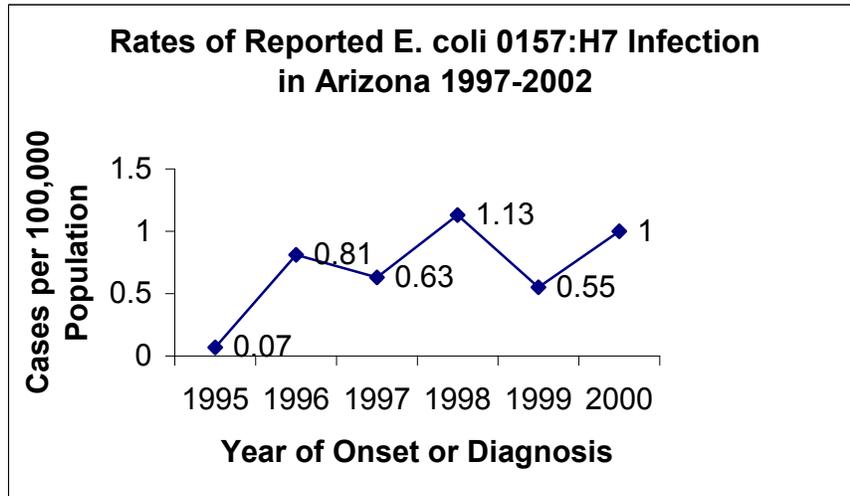
Campylobacteriosis

There were 736 cases of Campylobacteriosis reported in 2002, equalling approximately 13 cases per 100,000 population.



E. coli

There were 39 reported cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 infection in Arizona in 2002. *E. coli* O157:H7 became reportable in Arizona in April 1997 thus trend data is still limited. National rates have increased steadily from .82 per 100,000 in 1994 to 1.77 in 1999.

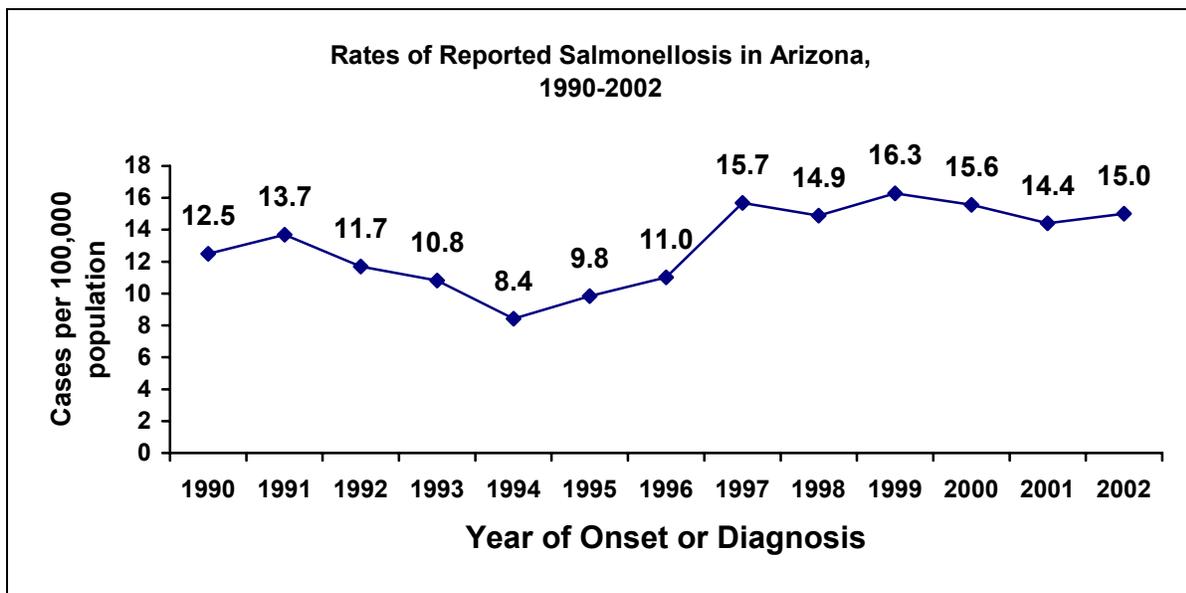


Listeriosis

There were 18 cases of Listeriosis reported in 2001 at a rate of 0.3 per 100,000 population.

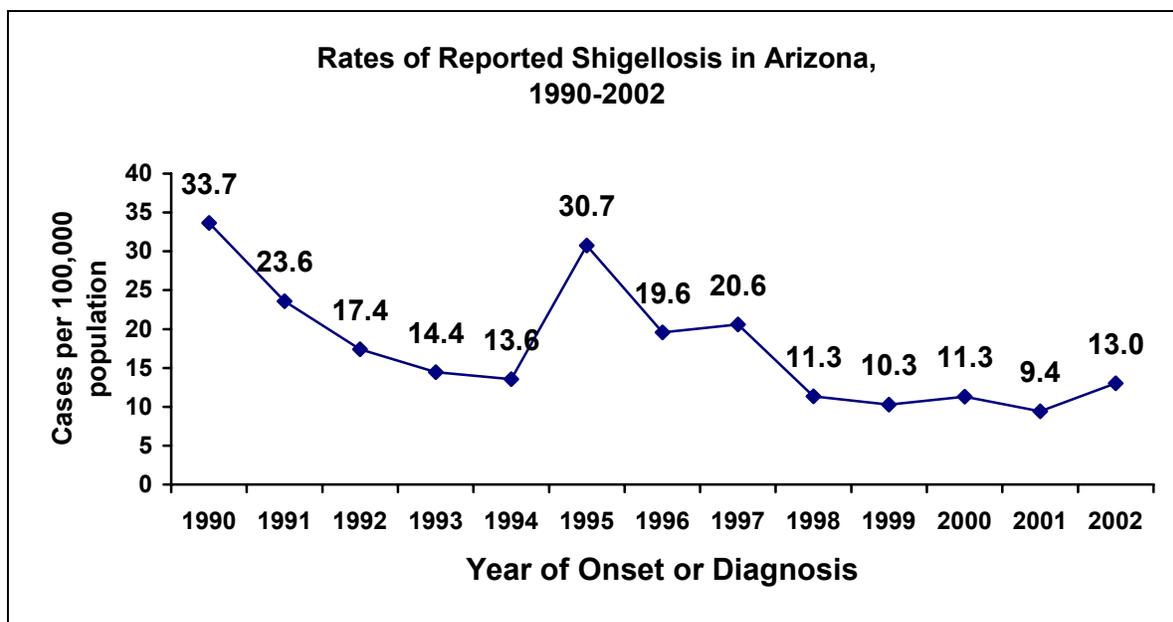
Salmonellosis

There were 829 cases of Salmonellosis reported in 2002, reflecting a case rate of 15 per 100,000 population.



Shigellosis

There were 685 cases of Shigellosis reported, representing a rate of 13 cases per 100,000, reported in 2002.

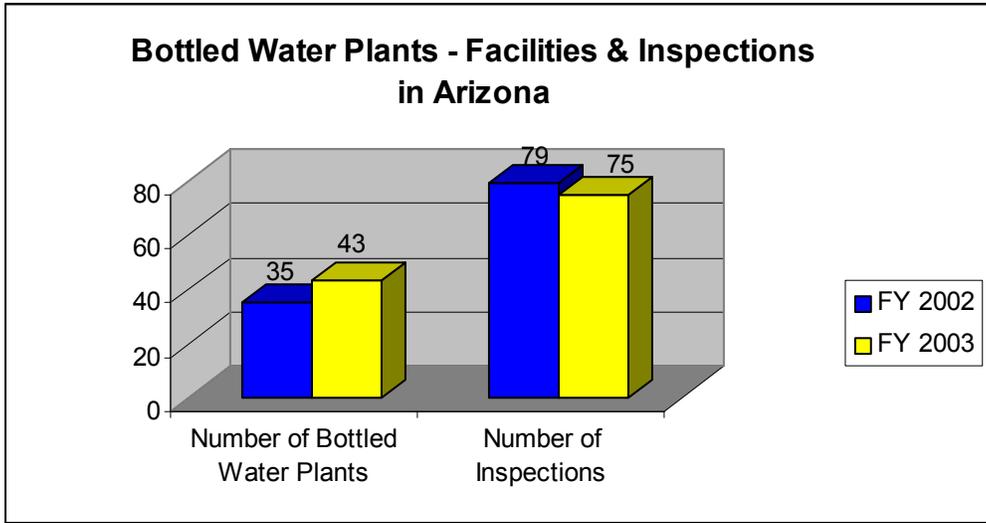


2.2 Bottled Water

Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments routinely inspect facilities that bottle water for distribution within Arizona to evaluate the practices in these establishments. In FY 2003, there were 43 bottled water facilities in Arizona. State and county sanitarians conducted 75 inspections in these facilities.

Updating of Bottled Water Rules

In FY 2003 the Arizona Department of Health Services began the preparation of a new rule package for bottled water. The update is necessary to provide a current standard of water quality consistent with the Code of Federal Regulations. The current rules also reference sections of the Code of Federal Regulations that have been changed and re-numbered.

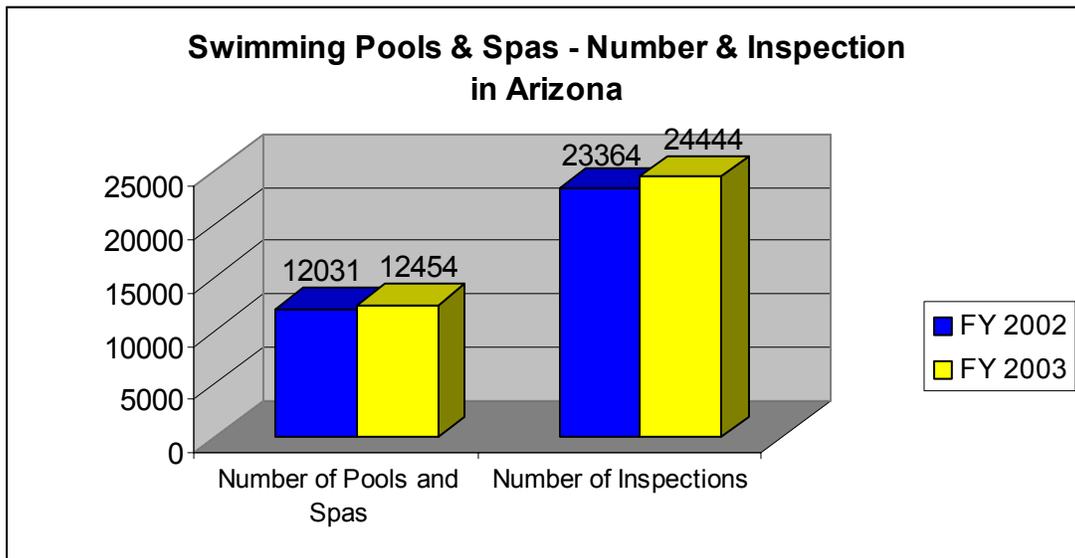


2.3 Bathing Places

Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments routinely inspect public and semipublic swimming pools and spas, as well as a few natural bathing places to evaluate whether these facilities are operated so that they prevent the spread of disease.

The rules apply only to the sanitary conditions of public and semipublic swimming pools and bathing places. A swimming pool or bathing place is “public” if it is open to members of the general public, regardless of whether a fee is charged for admission. A swimming pool or bathing place is “semipublic” if it is operated in conjunction with a lodging such as a hotel, motel, resort, apartment, townhouse or condominium complex, trailer court, mobile home park, or recreational vehicle park.

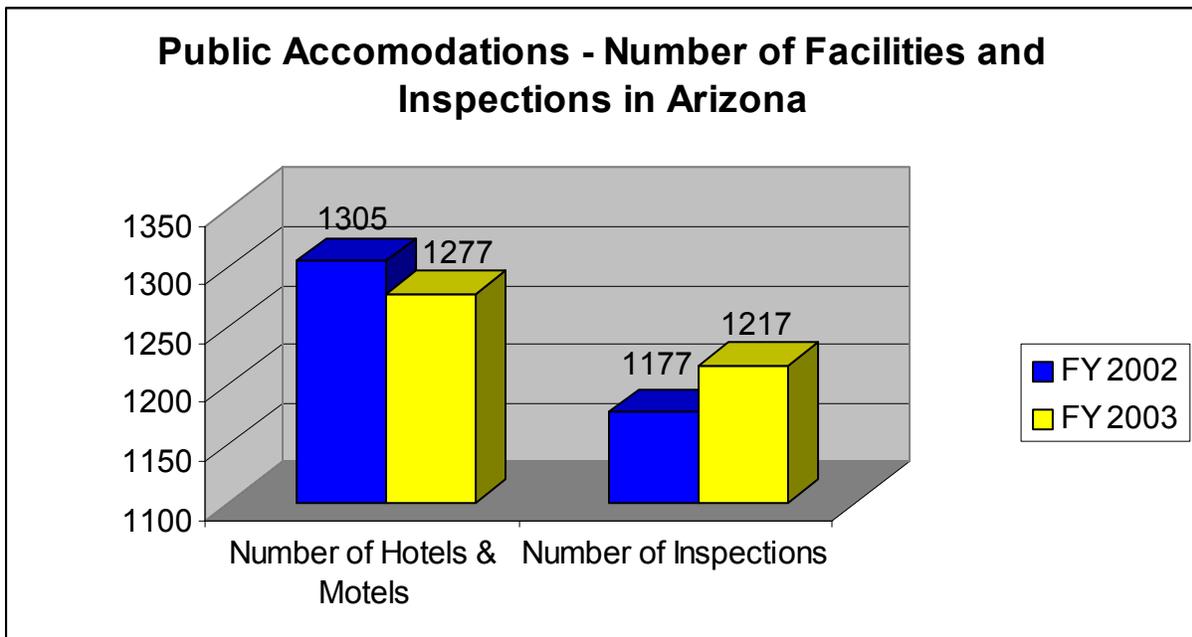
There were more than 12,450 public and semipublic swimming pools and spas in Arizona in FY 2003. State and county officials conducted more than 24,400 bathing place inspections. State and county health departments implemented 268 enforcement actions at bathing places in FY 2003.



2.4 Public Accommodations

Registered Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments routinely inspect public accommodations such as hotels, motels, and boarding houses. The inspections focus primarily on general sanitation.

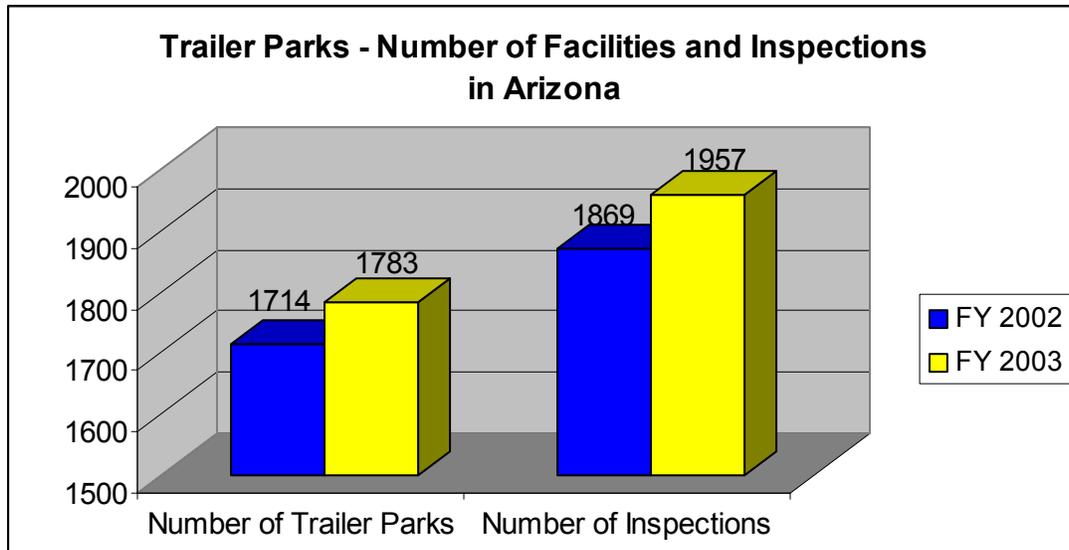
In FY 2003, there were 1,277 public accommodations in Arizona. State and county sanitarians conducted 1,217 inspections in these facilities. The statewide goal is to inspect each of the public accommodations once per year. In FY 2003, 95% of the public accommodation facilities were inspected at least once. State and county health departments implemented 5 enforcement actions at public accommodations in FY 2003.



2.5 Trailer Coach Parks

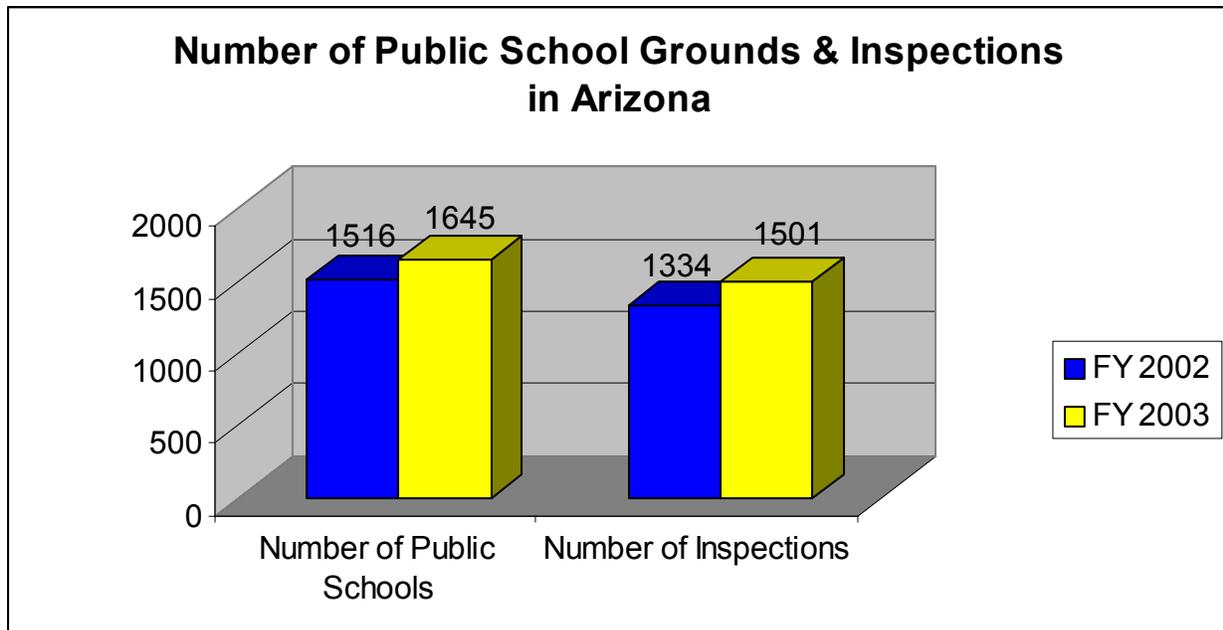
Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments routinely inspect trailer coach parks. The inspections focus primarily on general sanitation including garbage and trash removal, sewerage connections, and water and wastewater.

In FY 2003, there were 1,783 trailer parks in Arizona. State and county sanitarians conducted 1,957 inspections in these facilities. The statewide goal is to inspect each of the trailer parks once per year. The statewide goal was achieved, with an average of 1.1 inspections per year. State and county health departments implemented 16 enforcement actions at trailer coach parks in FY 2003.



2.6 School Grounds

Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments routinely inspect public schools (including charter schools) to determine whether they are in compliance with sanitation requirements. The inspections focus primarily on general sanitation including garbage and trash removal, drinking fountains, locker rooms, and restrooms. Cafeterias at the schools are considered food establishments and inspections are made under the food safety program (Section 2.1).



In FY 2003, there were 1,645 public schools in Arizona. State and county sanitarians conducted approximately 1,501 inspections in the schools. The statewide goal is to inspect each of the schools grounds once per year. In FY 2003, 91% of the public schools were inspected at least once. State and county health departments implemented 7 enforcement actions at public schools in FY 2003.

2.7 Children's Camps

Registered Sanitarians from the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments permit and routinely visit children's camps to determine whether they are in compliance with sanitation and food safety requirements. The inspections focus primarily on general sanitation including garbage and trash removal, locker rooms, restrooms, and sleeping quarters. Inspections are also conducted at the food service kitchens. Inspections for children's camps are tracked by annual year rather than by fiscal year since the camps are open seasonally in the summer months of June to September. Tracking by annual year allows for more effective management of children's camp inspections.

In 2003 there were 59 children's camps that applied for an annual permit in Arizona. Most of the camps are located in Yavapai and Gila counties. Some of the camps operate for several months during the summer, while others may operate for only a few days.

Arizona Sanitarians conducted 44 inspections at children's camps. No enforcement actions were necessary at a children's camp in FY 2003.

2.8 Environmental Health Points of Interest

Environmental Health personnel were put to a task during the Kinishba fire in Navajo county during the summer of FY 2003.

3.0 Registration and Training of Sanitarians

Inspectors that implement the inspection programs for the statewide public health sanitation program must be licensed as a Registered Sanitarian. Registration as a sanitarian requires that an applicant meet the statutory requirements in ARS 36-136.01 and pass an exam. Sanitarians are also required to submit annual renewal applications. These requirements ensure that a trained and competent work force is implementing the inspection programs.

Statewide, there were 165 Registered Sanitarians employed at the 15 county health departments and the Arizona Department of Health Services. Twelve sanitarians have been standardized in the new food code requirements. Standardization is a process by which experienced sanitarians can be trained to focus on critical factors and to maintain consistency. The updated standardization procedure is far more complex and time consuming than previous standardization requirements, reflecting the increased professional nature of the work involved.

Update of Sanitarian Statute

A state statute was passed in June that provides for continuing education units (CEU's) and reciprocity for sanitarians registered with the state of Arizona.

Trainings Offered

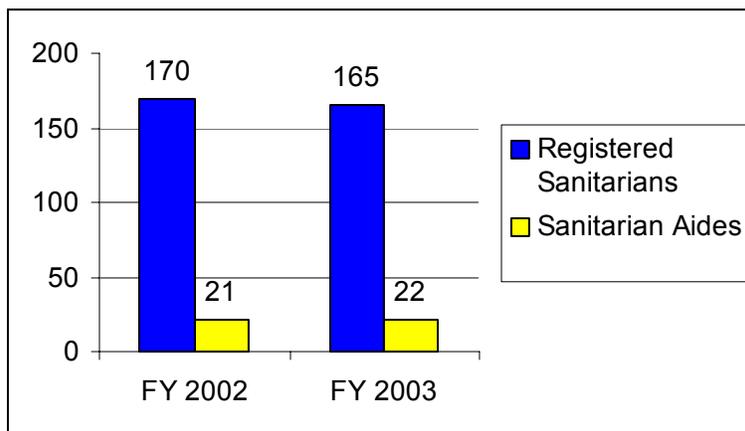
During the course of the year, the sanitarians from the state's food safety program offered opportunities to obtain training in the aspects of retail meat processing, acidified foods and Chinese restaurant food handling to the rest of the 15 Arizona counties.

Annual Data Tracking

A computer-based tracking aid has been developed to assist interested counties with their annual reporting requirements. This tool will continue to be offered in the coming year.

Number of Sanitarians Employed by Jurisdiction in FY 2003

Jurisdiction	Sanitarians	Sanitarian Aides
ADHS/ASU	8	0
Apache	2	1
Cochise	8	2
Coconino	5	2
Gila	3	0
Graham	1	0
Greenlee	0	0
La Paz	2	2
Maricopa	90	5
Mohave	6	2
Navajo	3	0
Pima	16	1
Pinal	9	5
Santa Cruz	4	2
Yavapai	3	0
Yuma	5	0
Total	165	22



Sanitarian Module Training

The Arizona Department of Health Services sent each County a CD-Rom with a total of 12 training modules covering everything from basic principles of food microbiology to plan review. Each module is self-paced and once completed an assessment can be taken. The assessments can be mailed into the department for grading. Once completed, the sanitarian can receive a certificate for the training. The training is based upon the Michigan State program and was used with their permission.

4.0 Conclusions

- More than 98,314 inspections at the approximately 46,764 regulated facilities in Arizona were conducted by the 165 sanitarians at the 15 county health departments and the Arizona Department of Health Services.
- There were more than 29,480 food establishments in Arizona, a 10% increase over FY 2002. State and county sanitarians conducted approximately 69,057 food safety inspections at these establishments.
- A total of 2,307 cases of foodborne organisms were reported in 2002.
- Inspection goals were achieved for food establishments, bottled water facilities, bathing places, and trailer coach parks.

Appendix

	Apache	Cochise	Coconino	Gila	Graham	Greenlee	La Paz	Maricopa
Jurisdiction activity by type								
Food Establishments								
Current number of food establishments	129	561	1208	352	159	63	216	17734
Mobile	0	39	28	0	0	0	11	2263
Simple	40	177	257	117	25	22	90	5948
Medium	35	116	236	106	44	0	26	4569
Complex	54	229	582	129	80	41	89	4954
Number of routine inspections	173	1777	1103	332	218	126	381	43273
Number of reinspections	4	290	541	76	1	2	76	4057
Number of pre-operational inspections	0	257	236	52	4	3	116	3659
Number of foodborne illness complaints	0	7	42	36	0	1	15	377
Number of non-foodborne illness complaints	3	122	179	19	0	1	7	2372
Number of compliance proceedings	0	2	6	0	0	2	0	788
Number of temporary food establishment inspections	27	404	236	110	40	5	358	2527
Outreach								
Number of presentations	67	62	108	25	5	48	0	73
Number of consultations/counseling provided	117	70	845	35	25	607	0	1608
Number of media contacts	0	8	2	4	2	0	0	75
Non-food related activities								
Public & semi-public bathing places	2	102	219	25	16	NR	22	8628
Routine inspections	3	406	92	39	14	NR	45	17650
Complaint inspections	0	28	9	0	0	0	2	328
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	37
Trailer coach parks	NR	96	86	NR	11	2	196	538
Routine inspections	NR	95	65	NR	13	2	203	600
Complaint inspections	0	12	7	0	0	1	5	93
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Public school grounds	0*	0*	55	0*	0*	0*	11	975
Routine inspections	0*	0*	17	0*	0*	0*	11	934
Complaint inspections	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	56
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Camp grounds	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	0
Routine inspections	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	0
Complaint inspections	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children's camps	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	0
Routine inspections	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Complaint inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public accommodations	34	73	187	41	NR	2	25	452
Routine inspections	39	91	67	45	NR	3	28	483
Complaint inspections	1	6	20	1	0	1	0	24
Enforcement actions	0	0	19	1	0	0	0	1
Bottled water	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	29
Routine inspections	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	60
Complaint inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NR = Not Reported

* = Performed by ADHS, and not within County reports

Appendix

Jurisdiction activity by type	Mohave	Navajo	Pima	Pinal	Santa Cruz	Yavapai	Yuma	ADHS
Food Establishments								
Current number of food establishments	1128	691	3989	699	315	986	559	694
Mobile	77	47	0	33	47	53	0	2
Simple	281	192	824	204	107	162	98	118
Medium	494	180	1846	244	46	358	248	339
Complex	276	272	1319	218	115	413	213	235
Number of routine inspections	1420	515	7278	1283	455	1833	1172	1044
Number of reinspections	836	47	333	105	97	96	32	71
Number of pre-operational inspections	19	41	245	222	16	111	85	28
Number of foodborne illness complaints	0	25	176	29	7	9	11	4
Number of non-foodborne illness complaints	25	7	696	71	19	92	38	8
Number of compliance proceedings	0	21	30	0	0	0	0	0
Number of temporary food establishment inspections	232	142	1076	288	0	121	47	65
Outreach								
Number of presentations	0	NR	36	0	18	339	12	0
Number of consultations/counseling provided	0	NR	500	0	2	162	19	0
Number of media contacts	0	NR	40	1	0	0	9	0
Non-food related activities								
Public & semi-public bathing places	260	11	2508	221	36	174	212	18
Routine inspections	435	31	3809	635	32	362	847	44
Complaint inspections	27	4	195	4	0	5	26	0
Enforcement actions	0	0	226	0	0	0	0	0
Trailer coach parks	105	13	434	69	21	NR	212	0
Routine inspections	80	2	391	52	21	NR	433	0
Complaint inspections	11	2	56	3	4	0	14	0
Enforcement actions	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0
Public school grounds	42	14	233	50	27	45	48	145
Routine inspections	42	14	205	0	27	16	90	145
Complaint inspections	4	1	25	0	1	3	2	1
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Camp grounds	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Routine inspections	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Complaint inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children's camps	2	5	0	2	1	15	0	24
Routine inspections	2	3	0	2	0	15	0	18
Complaint inspections	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public accommodations	92	NR	192	10	19	112	38	0
Routine inspections	71	7	155	6	21	130	71	0
Complaint inspections	13	7	25	0	0	4	3	0
Enforcement actions	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottled water	4	2	2	1	1	2	0	0
Routine inspections	5	0	4	0	1	3	0	0
Complaint inspections	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement actions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NR = Not Reported

* = Performed by ADHS, and not within County reports