

1995 Ground Turkey Microbiological Baseline Study Dictionary

Overview

This datafile accompanies FSIS' *Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment for Salmonella in Raw Turkey and Raw Turkey Products* (referred to here as the turkey risk assessment).

The CSV file **1995_GroundTurkey_Baseline_Serotypes.csv** contains the sample-level data from the FSIS Ground Turkey Microbiological Baseline Study from January through March and September through November 1995. It contains only those variables and data that are used in the turkey risk assessment and specifics of the data analyses are described in that document.

This dataset is available in an open, non-proprietary, publicly accessible CSV format instead of XLSX, consistent with requirements set by the [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018](#). For further description of the sample collection, laboratory methods used, and data summaries for all collected variables see [Nationwide Microbiological Baseline Data Collection Program: Ground Turkey Survey](#).

Data Dictionary

- DATE
 - The date the sample was received by the laboratory.
- Salm_Qual
 - Qualitative result of the analysis to estimate the population density of viable *Salmonella*.
 - Positive = observed growth responses in at least one culture tube of a standard dilution series of the sample inoculum.
 - Negative = no growth observed.
- Salm_Quan
 - Result of the analysis to estimate the population density of viable *Salmonella*. Results are reported as an estimate of the most probable number (MPN/g) of observed positive growth responses in a standard dilution series of sample inoculum. Samples with no observed growth are reported as NA.
- Salm_Serotype
 - The name of the distinct variation of the tested species of *Salmonella*. A list of the serotypes that are more commonly associated with human illness can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web site on their [National Salmonella Surveillance](#) web page.

Notes and Limitations

Data elements with the same or similar names across baseline data sets should not be considered comparable. Data users should reference the collection methods described in [the baseline reports](#) to verify if and when elements are comparable.

Any data elements with the same or similar names as data in current data postings should not be considered comparable. These baseline data are historical, and data users should consider changes in FSIS laboratory technologies, sampling methods, and policy changes to contextualize them.

Information about current FSIS sampling laboratories and procedures can be found on the FSIS website on the [Laboratories & Procedures](#) web page and the [Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook](#) (MLG) web page.

These data can be used to provide insight into *Salmonella* contamination in FSIS regulated poultry industry. These data cannot and should not be used to describe any single establishment. Rather, by fitting appropriate distributions to these historical *Salmonella* concentration data and the current FSIS *Salmonella* prevalence estimates, a cohesive understanding of the overall industry can be developed. FSIS utilized such methods in the turkey risk assessment and recommends these additional references as guidance: [ref \(1\)](#), [ref \(2\)](#), [ref \(3\)](#), [ref \(4\)](#), [ref \(5\)](#). *Salmonella* serotypes in poultry products have changed over time, and as such, these serotype data cannot be used to describe the current industry and should only be used to give insight into those changes. FSIS recommends using [compositional data analysis methods](#) for treatment of *Salmonella* serotype data, as [demonstrated here](#).

Data contained in this dataset on tested product from establishments are not sufficient to determine an association with human illnesses. Further epidemiologic information is needed to determine if there is an association among the non-clinical isolates and human illnesses.