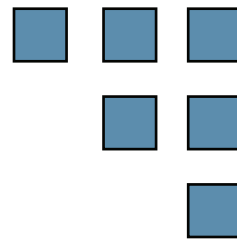




Safe Tables Our Priority's Food For Thought Summer 2008



Mission Statement

S.T.O.P. - Safe Tables Our Priority is a national, nonprofit, public health organization dedicated to preventing illness and death from foodborne pathogens.

In 2008, S.T.O.P. will achieve its mission by advocating changes in public policy, educating and doing outreach, providing victim assistance, and formalizing a victims of foodborne illness registry in order to study the long-term consequences of foodborne disease.

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Long-Term Consequences

S.T.O.P. Work Fills Public Health Gap

S.T.O.P. has been hearing about the possible after-effects of foodborne disease from victims through our toll-free helpline for years, and will now formalize this work in an ongoing program studying the long-term consequences and creating a victim registry. This summer we are starting to seek support for this program through grants and government funding and plan to engage public health and medical expert partners shortly in discussions and forums on the details of the program and registry design.

"Folks often assume once you're over the acute illness, that's it, you're back to normal and that's the end of it," said Dr. Robert Tauxe of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in a syndicated Associated Press article on 1/21/08, titled ***Years later; food poison can bite anew.*** He adds that ***"The long-term effects are an important but relatively poorly documented, poorly studied area of foodborne illness."***

S.T.O.P.'s Executive Director, Donna Rosenbaum, was quoted as saying ***"We're drastically underestimating the burden on society that foodborne illnesses represent"*** and that S.T.O.P. hears from ***"people who develop diabetes after food poisoning inflamed the pancreas, or parents who wonder if a child's learning problems stem from food-poisoning caused dialysis."***

After the AP article came out, S.T.O.P. received a flood of new stories. Here is one story from Phil in Texas that we thought we should share:

"Hi... I am a 59 yr old male.

In 1997 I was 48, working primarily outdoors.

Physically fit, I worked out 3 times a week, had low body fat, and no other health issues

My job required combined physical and mental abilities- I loved my job.

I had been working with the utility for nearly 30 years at that time.

One day I ate a lunch at a drive-inand later I got nauseous.

I started vomiting and having diarrhea and couldn't go to work the next day.

Three days later I became tired and listless, but worked until Friday morning.

When I awoke my right side was nearly paralyzed, my arm, leg and hand were barely functional.

Fearing a stroke I went to the doctor and was referred me to a neurologist.

He diagnosed Guillain-Barre Syndrome... I had never heard of it.

Within 1 week of admittance to the ICU I had lost 25 pounds and was functionally paralyzed... unable to walk, hold things or take care of my own hygiene.

After 3 weeks in ICU I was sent to a rehabilitation hospital.

To this day my right side is weaker than my left, my gait unsure, my strength low, as is my endurance.

My company retired me as unfit for service.

A bout of food poisoning has altered my life.

I had a very good paying career that I enjoyed, lost.

My physical abilities severely diminished

The depression of the loss and pain, great.

The resources for recovery, few.

The place where I chose to eat a casual lunch irrevocably changed my life, for the worse.

I hope no one else has to have this happen to them."

The basis for our starting discussions on long-term consequences with physicians and public health scientists will be the update questionnaires that we distributed to our entire database a few months ago. If you or a loved one has had a foodborne disease, please return the questionnaire now. To the hundreds of you we have already heard from, thank you.

If you need another copy of the questionnaire, or would like a copy of the Associated Press Long-term Consequences article that featured S.T.O.P. member Alyssa Chrobuck (see dedication, last page) call the office at 800-350-STOP or drop us a message at: mail@safetables.org.

