

Assessment of the FDA Rapid Response Team's Implementation

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Background

- Increased national focus on emergency preparedness after 9/11
- The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 funded programs to enhance safety and defense of the U.S. food supply.
- The Rapid Response Team (RRT) pilot program introduced states selected to participate: CA, FL, MA, MI, MN, NC, TX, VA, and WA.
- Pilot states agree to work towards an integrated food safety system as required by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
- Pilot states agree to conduct self-assessments and audits to measure deliverables.
- Pilot states agree to develop replicable model RRT concepts to be used by other states.



Problem Statement

To gain a greater understanding of the progress and advances made by the RRTs as they strengthen and develop their states' infrastructure and response to food and feed emergencies.



Research Questions

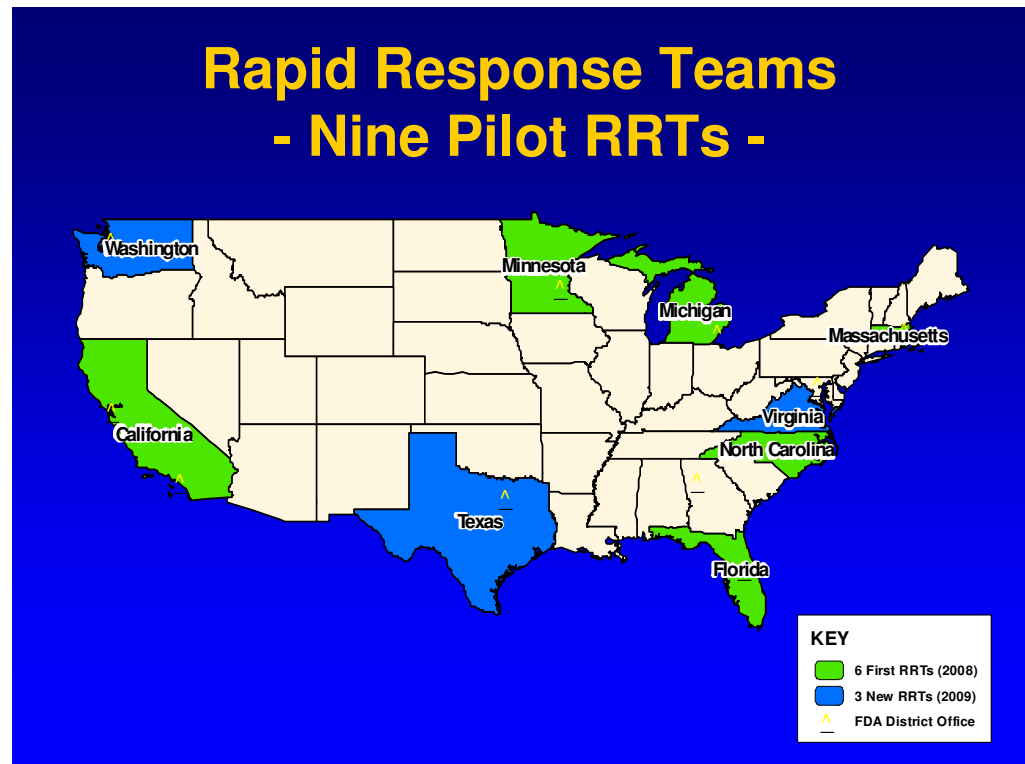
1. What progress has been made by the pilot RRT programs since the original Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) assessment?
2. What are the challenges of the state RRT programs?
3. What are the achievements resulting from implementing the RRT program?

Methodology

- WIFSS Assessment provided for baseline information.
- Eleven survey questions through collaboration with subject matter experts.
- Phone interviews conducted with the RRT Program Managers.

Study Population

- 100% of the pilot states (total of 9) participating in the RRT program were interviewed:
 - California
 - Florida
 - Massachusetts
 - Michigan
 - Minnesota
 - North Carolina
 - Texas
 - Virginia
 - Washington



Source: FDA.gov

Results—Q1

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Held a planned training exercise in both 2010 and 2011	22%
After Action Review (AAR) reviewed and discussed	44%
Quarterly meetings of the RRT Core Members	78%
Implemented ICS	89%
Increase in transparent and more effective communication	100%

Results—Q2

TOP CHALLENGES OF AN RRT STATE

1. Lack of adequate and sustainable funding.
2. Lack of adequate manpower to cover routine work and emergency response work and training.

Results—Q3

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS OF AN RRT STATE

1. Accelerated response and activation response time for emergencies.
2. Fostered better relationships and improved collaboration with RRT partners.

Conclusions

- Sustainable and continued funding is necessary.
- Required deliverables are program priorities with a low priority on recommendations.
- Written plans and strategies increased faster responses.
- Real world incidences as exercises combined with AAR's are very effective.

Recommendations

- Assure sustainable federal funding for long term planning and continued development.
- Need a designated state program manager and RRT coordinator.
- Program components expected of states should be required deliverables.
- Count actual incidences as a training event when an AAR is conducted.
- Schedule quarterly meetings 1 year in advance and require minimum of one face to face per year.
- Include in the RRT Playbook a chapter called “Getting Started...The Basics.”

References

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Questions?

