

Colorado Industry Perception of Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards

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Background

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) enrolled in the MFRPS in 2008.
- CDPHE's self assessment of its manufactured foods program identified gaps and inconsistencies with MFRPS, Standard 1, Regulatory Foundation.

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Problem Statement

- Colorado's wholesale food regulations are not equivalent to all parts of 21 CFR governing food manufacturing.
- There is expressed concern from CDPHE managers that non-equivalency and non-uniformity may adversely impact the quality of inspections.
- In addition, current education and outreach to Colorado food manufacturers may be inadequate and/or ineffective.

Research Questions

1. What are the perceptions of representatives of food manufacturing companies registered in Colorado regarding the uniformity of regulatory inspections conducted in Colorado?
2. What are the perceptions of representatives of food manufacturing companies registered in Colorado regarding the equivalency of regulatory inspections conducted by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to inspections conducted by the United States Food and Drug Administration?

Research Questions (continued)

3. What are the perceptions of representatives of food manufacturing companies registered in Colorado regarding the impacts of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment participation in the MFRPS on industry outreach and education?

Methodology

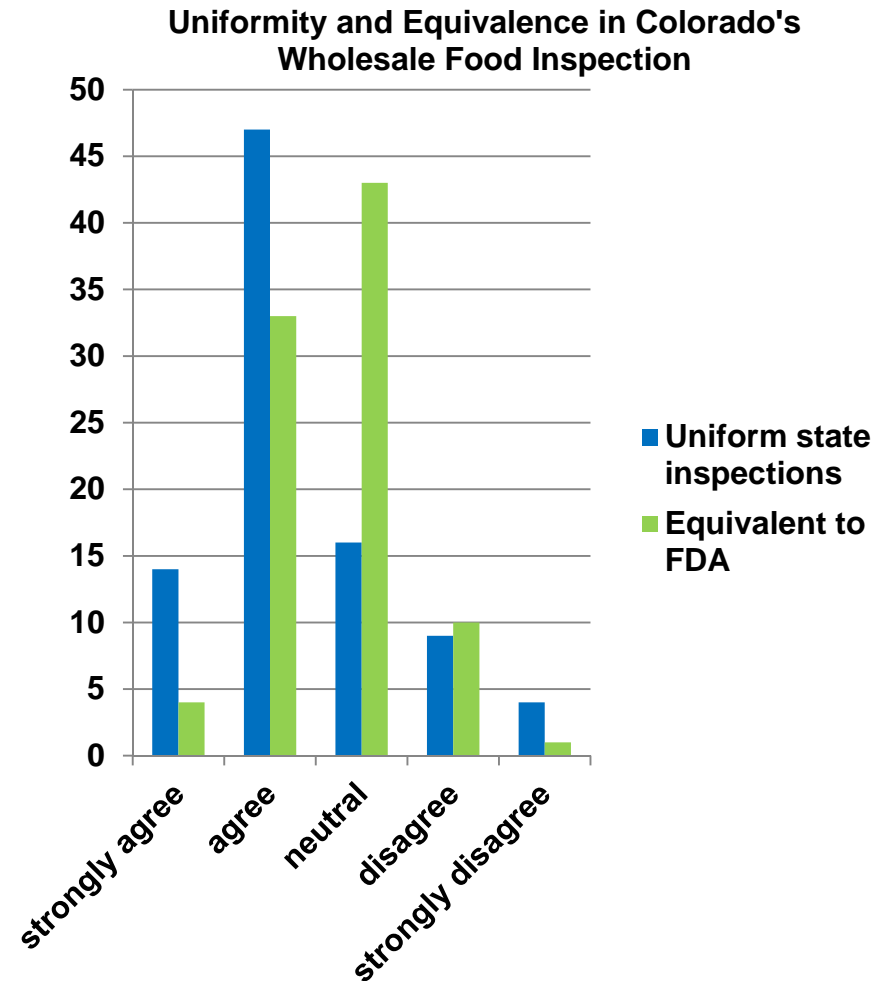
- A ten-item electronic survey was administered to a representative sample of Colorado food manufacturers using a web-based survey program.
- The purpose of the survey was to identify industry perceptions about the uniformity and equivalence of regulatory inspections.

Study Population

- The survey was sent to 711 wholesale manufacturers in the State of Colorado registered with CDPHE.
- Survey recipients had approximately two weeks to complete and submit the electronic survey.
- Responses to the survey were blind, so that no individual firm could be identified.

Results

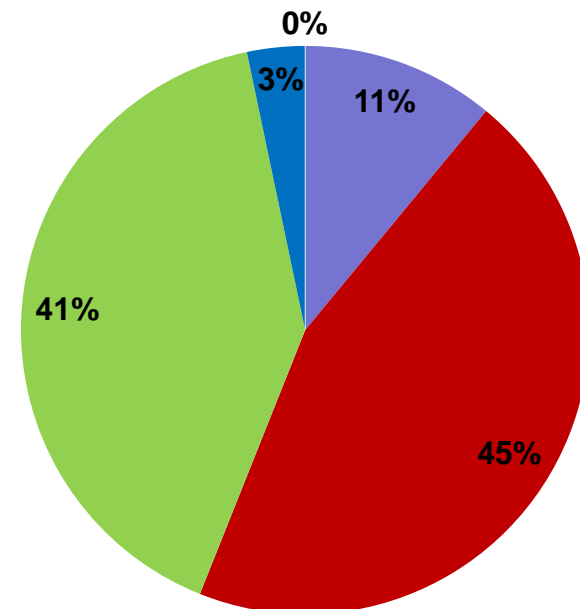
- Approximately 68% of the 91 respondents agreed or strongly agreed on inspection uniformity.
- Approximately 41% of industry agreed or strongly agreed that Colorado was equivalent to FDA.



Results

- Approximately 56% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that state involvement in the MFRPS would have a positive impact on education and outreach to stakeholders.

The MFRPS will positively impact regulatory and industry education and outreach?



Conclusions

- Food manufacturing industry in Colorado perceives uniformity in inspections.
- Food manufacturing industry in Colorado may perceive equivalence in inspections conducted by state inspectors and those conducted by FDA.
- Food manufacturing industry in Colorado perceived a positive impact on outreach and education due to involvement in the MFRPS.

Recommendations

- Improving Colorado's regulatory foundation to comply with standard 1 of the MFRPS may significantly change the laws, regulations, and authorities.
- Manufacturer perceptions about regulatory expectations and uniform and equivalent application of food safety requirements, may need to be reassessed after full implementation.
- Develop and implement a plan to actively engage larger representation of the food manufacturing industry in Colorado with education and outreach.

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Questions?

