



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Idaho Public Health Districts

# Idaho Public Health Districts

November 2013

## WHY IS A FOOD LICENSE FEE NECESSARY?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that roughly one in six Americans, or 48 million people, get sick each year from food-borne illnesses. Of these, approximately 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die. The annual dollar costs associated with these illnesses pose a \$51 billion to \$77.7 billion economic burden in the U.S., according to a 2012 study published in the *Journal of Food Protection*. These costs include medical expenses, productivity losses, and illness-related death.

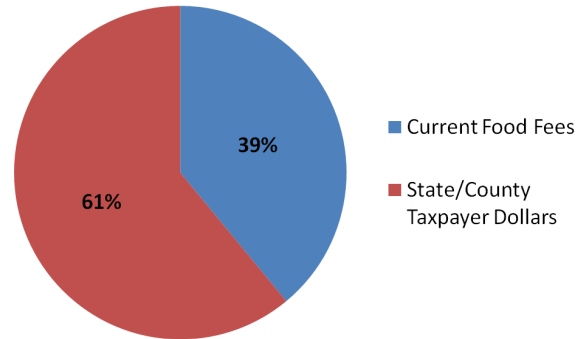
Idaho's Food Safety Program began in the early 1970's. Title 39, Chapter 16, Food Establishment Act, provides the Director of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) with the statutory authority for Idaho's Food Protection Program. In turn, the seven public health districts have been designated as the "regulatory authority" for Idaho's food establishments in a Memorandum of Agreement between IDHW and the public health districts. The public health districts seek to establish partnerships with the food establishments to promote safe food-handling and to guard Idaho's consumers against food-borne illnesses.

## CURRENT FEES

Under the Idaho Food Code public health districts are required to perform at least one food safety inspection per year for each licensed food establishment. Food establishment license fees are set by the Legislature. Idaho Code 39-1607, last updated in 2009, sets the most current licensing fees at \$65 for temporary, intermittent, and mobiles not associated with a restaurant; \$85 for a mobile food establishment with a commissary; \$125 for all other food establishments; and \$150 for a food establishment with more than two licenses on one premise, such as a supermarket with multiple departments.

The costs to provide the inspections and associated services have increased since the program was first implemented and fees have not kept pace with inflation. Current fees cover only a portion of the cost. The total number of food establishment inspections conducted for fiscal year 2013 was 10,932. These inspections cost public health districts \$2,738,548. Fees collected for the

Cost of Food Establishment Inspections



inspections were \$1,062,572, or approximately 39% of actual costs. The difference of \$1,675,976 was covered by state and county taxpayer dollars. This reduces funding available for other important preventive health programs.

On June 5, 2013, the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health passed a resolution in support of food establishment license fees equivalent to the actual costs and uniform between all health districts. There is no plan to ask for a code update in the 2014 legislative session; however, it is possible in 2015.

## HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT (1)	PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (2)	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH (3)	CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH (4)	SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (5)	SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (6)	EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (7)
Director: Lora Whalen 208-415-5102 www.phd1.idaho.gov	Director: Carol Moehrle 208-799-0344 www.idahopublichealth.com	Director: Bruce Krosch 208-455-5315 www.publichealthidaho.com	Director: Russell Duke 208-327-8501 www.cdhd.idaho.gov	Director: Rene LeBlanc 208-737-5902 www.phd5.idaho.gov	Director: Maggie Mann 208-239-5258 www.siphidaho.org	Director: Geri Rackow 208-533-3163 www.phd7.idaho.gov