

## Food involved in disease outbreaks in Germany in 2007

BfR Information No. 010/2009, 31 March 2009

Since 2005 the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has collected data on foods involved in disease outbreaks. This encompasses for instance foodborne disease outbreaks in community facilities like hospitals or kindergarten. Against this backdrop BfR has now published information on 105 disease outbreaks in 2007 that were reported to it on a voluntary basis by 12 federal states and the Bundeswehr (German armed forces). The reported outbreaks were mainly caused by *Salmonella*. The pathogens were detected in all kinds of food for instance meat and meat products, desserts and bakery goods. These foods were primarily consumed in community catering facilities and in private households. According to the competent authorities, the factors that may have contributed to the contamination of the foods involved were frequently the handling of food by infected individuals and the use of contaminated ingredients like raw eggs or raw meat.

Over the next few years BfR expects to see a major increase in the willingness to report foodborne disease outbreaks as the legal foundations for a nationwide reporting system entered into force in the summer of 2008.

The full version of the Information in German is available on

[http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/208/an\\_krankheitsausbruechen\\_beteiligte\\_lebensmittel\\_in\\_deutschland\\_im\\_jahr\\_2007.pdf](http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/208/an_krankheitsausbruechen_beteiligte_lebensmittel_in_deutschland_im_jahr_2007.pdf)