



For release: February 13, 2007  
6:30 P.M. EST

**CONCERNS ABOUT FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS**

February 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Two-thirds of Americans express some confidence in the government's ability to protect consumers from food illness - though only 15% have a great deal of confidence. One in four Americans are very concerned about food-borne illnesses, and four in ten have personal experience - 41% say they have had food poisoning or other food-borne illness at some point in their lives.

Americans of all age groups and in all regions of the country express about the same amount of confidence in the government's ability to protect them from food-borne illness. But almost one in three has little or no confidence in the government to do this. That number is even higher among those who have themselves gotten ill from food.

**CONFIDENCE IN GOV'T ABILITY TO PROTECT CONSUMERS  
FROM FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS?**

Great deal	15%
Some	52
Not much/none	31

Overall, four in ten Americans report having gotten food poisoning or some form of food-borne illness at some time in their lives. Nine percent say they've gotten ill in the past year.

**HAVE YOU EVER HAD A CASE OF FOOD POISONING?**

In the last year	9%
Before that	32
No	58

But even those who have never experienced a food-borne illness worry about it. Two-thirds of Americans express at least some concern about it, including a quarter who are very concerned.

**HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS?**

Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	42
Not very/not at all	32

However, Americans are much less concerned today than they were in the summer of 1997, around the time of a major beef recall and E.Coli scare, when 44% were very concerned about food-borne illness.

---

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,142 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone February 8-11, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**Concerns about Food-borne Illness**  
**February 8-11, 2007**

q80 How much confidence do you have in the government's ability to protect consumers from food-borne illnesses -- a great deal of confidence, some confidence, not much confidence, or no confidence?

	Total
	%
Great deal	15
Some	52
Not much	24
None	7
DK/NA	2

q81 How concerned are you personally about food-borne illnesses? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about food-borne illnesses?

		Aug97a
	%	%
Very concerned	25	44
Somewhat concerned	42	35
Not too concerned	25	15
Not at all concerned	7	3
DK/NA	1	3

q82 Have you personally ever had a case of food poisoning or food-borne illness, or not?  
 IF YES, ASK: Was that in the last year, or longer ago?

Yes, past year	9
Yes, longer ago	32
No	58
DK/NA	1

**Total Respondents**                      **1142**

