

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**INFORMATION PAPER****THE SECOND STUDY OF INFECTIOUS INTESTINAL DISEASE IN THE COMMUNITY (IID2 STUDY)**

1. In 2006, the Agency commissioned a group of organisations, led by the University of Manchester, to undertake a 'Second Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease in the Community (IID2 study). The purpose of this study was to provide up-to-date data on the incidence of IID in the UK, identify the microorganisms causing illness and assess whether the incidence has changed since the first study of IID (IID1 study) was carried out in the mid-1990s. The study also compared the incidence of IID reported in IID2 with that reported to UK national surveillance systems to get a "true" picture of the level of IID experienced by people in the UK, as it is widely accepted that there is significant under-reporting of IID cases in the UK.
2. The IID2 study was published on the Agency's website on Tuesday 6 September 2011(<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2011/sep/iid2>). The IID2 study findings indicate that the burden of IID in the community is significant with up to 17 million cases annually in the UK; for every reported case of IID in the UK there are around 147 cases in the community. The microorganisms most often associated with illness were norovirus, sapovirus, *Campylobacter* spp. and rotavirus.
3. These findings show that the Agency's focus on tackling *Campylobacter* as part of the Foodborne Disease Strategy (FDS) 2010-2015 is warranted. The IID2 study highlights the importance of viral causes of IID, particularly norovirus and the Agency has established a research programme to gather evidence to help reduce foodborne transmission of norovirus. The IID2 findings will be used, with other data, to estimate the burden of foodborne disease in the UK. This work is necessary for monitoring progress against our strategic objectives and for identifying key priority areas (i.e. microorganisms) for improving microbiological food safety along the food chain. This work is due to be completed in 2012.
4. Professor Sarah O'Brien, the IID2 principle investigator, will give a presentation to ACMSF members summarising key findings of the IID2 study; a copy has been provided for your information. Also attached for information (and Members Use Only due to copyright issues) are two peer-reviewed publications arising from this study (as they are published papers ACM/1033b and c may be referenced but not published on websites). The Agency will provide hardcopies of the IID2 final report to ACMSF members in due course; until these are produced the report can be accessed on foodbase at:
http://www.foodbase.org.uk/results.php?f_report_id=711.

5. Members are asked to note and comment on the findings of the IID2 study.

Secretariat
September 2011