

3. *History*

The food protection program of the Public Health Service is one of its oldest and most respected activities. The Service's direct interest dates back to 1896, when the President requested the Public Health Service to undertake a study of the relationship between milk and the epidemic incidence of typhoid fever in the District of Columbia.

During the period 1900-22, the Public Health Service studied the thermal death points of organisms associated with foodborne illness, the processes in commercial use designed to effect control of pathogenic micro-organisms, and the efficacy of such processes.

At the request of the State of Alabama, in 1922 the PHS initiated the development of a statewide milk sanitation program. The PHS-recommended model milk ordinance was an outgrowth of the program. This model ordinance, recommended by the PHS for voluntary adoption by States and communities, has been revised 13 times since 1924 to recognize technological development and to translate new knowledge into public health practice.

During the 1930's a recommended model sanitation ordinance and code was developed for food service operations and procedures were developed for evaluation of State and local milk and food programs. In response to the needs of State and local health agencies, and in the exercise of national leadership, the PHS recommended model ordinances and other program guides for frozen desserts, poultry and poultry products, vending machines, dry milk products, and ice. Currently, similar recommendations are being developed for smoked fish, commercial baby formulas, eggs and egg products, and convenience foods.

All these program guides are periodically evaluated and updated in recognition of technological developments and emerging public health hazards. Solution to problems is sought through field studies, investigation, and research. Use of the resultant model ordinances by States is implemented through technical assistance and training programs for official agencies and industry.

4. *Level of operations.* (See table 1.)

Program: Food protection activities—Milk and food program.

Department or agency, and office, or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Public Health Service; Bureau of State Services—Environmental Health; Division of Environmental Engineering and Food Protection.