# Project: Investigation of Food Poisoning

## The Story

A local health department realized that there were many reports from residents in the city that had signs and symptoms of acute gastrointestinal illness include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and abdominal pain. All these reports were occurred during a weekend from a graduation party held in the backyard of a family. Investigators from the local health department were sent out to interview all the residents that went to this party in order to find out what may be the reasons that caused the outbreak of the disease.

The objective of this study is to analyze data from the ingestion of various types of food in the party to determine the most likely cause of the outbreak.

## Data

(Data SPSS: http://people.ysu.edu/~gchang/stat/foodpoison2007s.sav )

(Data EXCEL: http://people.ysu.edu/~gchang/stat/foodpoison2007s_Excel.xls , in the Excel file, for gender: 1=male, 0=Female; for food items: 1=ate, 0=did not eat.)

Data was collected by the epidemiological team who interviewed 75 persons known to have been present at the party. Not all attendees ate at the same time, but all ate within four and one half hours of one another. The data obtained from the interviews consisted of the following: age, sickness, types of food eaten, and time to onset of illness. The food at the party consisted of: baked ham, spinach, mashed potatoes, cabbage, jello, rolls, brown bread, milk, coffee, water, cake, vanilla ice cream, chocolate ice cream, and fruit salad. All ill persons had attended the party, and family members who had not attended the picnic did not become ill. There were no laboratory data on any food sources or patient specimens.

## What do you need to do for this assignment?

You need to write a report using the descriptive statistics such as descriptive measures, charts, or tables to report your findings. **Pretending that you are the leader of the investigation team, and need to write a professional paper to report the result to the head of the local health department and the community.** All the charts and tables need to be properly numbered and labeled, even there is only one chart or table presented in the paper.

**\*\*\*\*\* Grading:** 60% - Analysis; 20% - Thoroughness; 20% - Organization