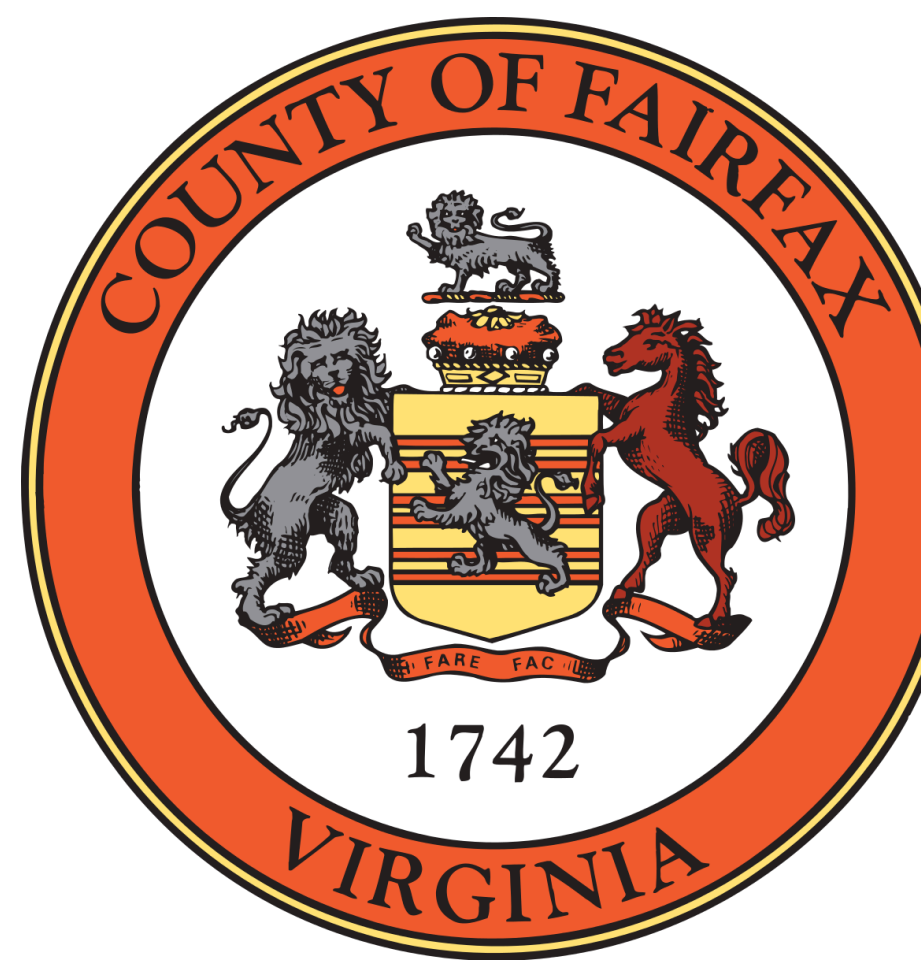


# Improving Environmental Health: A Food Safety Data to Intervention Strategy

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## Background

- The CDC estimates that 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die due to foodborne diseases each year.
- Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) creates an annual Foodborne Illness Report and quinquennial Risk Factor Study to assess the risk and occurrence of foodborne illness in the county.
- FCHD's Division of Environmental Health works to develop relevant interventions to improve food safety and reduce foodborne illness.

## Contributions

- Reviewed national standards on food safety and foodborne illness reporting guidelines.
- Compiled literature articles on foodborne illness and intervention methods.
- Accompanied alongside restaurant and pool inspections.
- Assessed and reviewed current food safety methods.
- Analyzed, organized, and visualized 2023 risk factor data.
- Assisted with the 2023 Foodborne Illness Report.

## Outcomes

- Recommend an improved emphasis on a food safety culture for both EH inspectors and facility operators.
- Created two presentations:
  - Figure 1. was created for a presentation for EH staff to learn about a food safety culture and how to improve current safety efforts.
  - Figure 2. was created for EH inspectors to present to operators to connect risk factors to foodborne illness.
- Presented Figure 1. to EH staff during the Foodborne Illness Report Presentation.
- Compiled a OneDrive folder of all recommendations, deliverable materials, and research articles to be reviewed and used by EH staff.
- Assembled the 2024 Risk Factor Study.
  - Combined new visuals and analysis of 2023 risk factor data.
  - Recommend interventions and future data collection points.
- Completed data collection for a recall project to assess how popular food suppliers distribute food recall information.



## Lessons Learned

- FCHD is at the forefront of food safety intervention strategies. Future recommendations should be geared more towards changing opinions and perceptions of food safety.
- Health equity is present in all fields of public health, as seen by the barriers of time, money, and proper attention that restrict operators from upholding food safety.

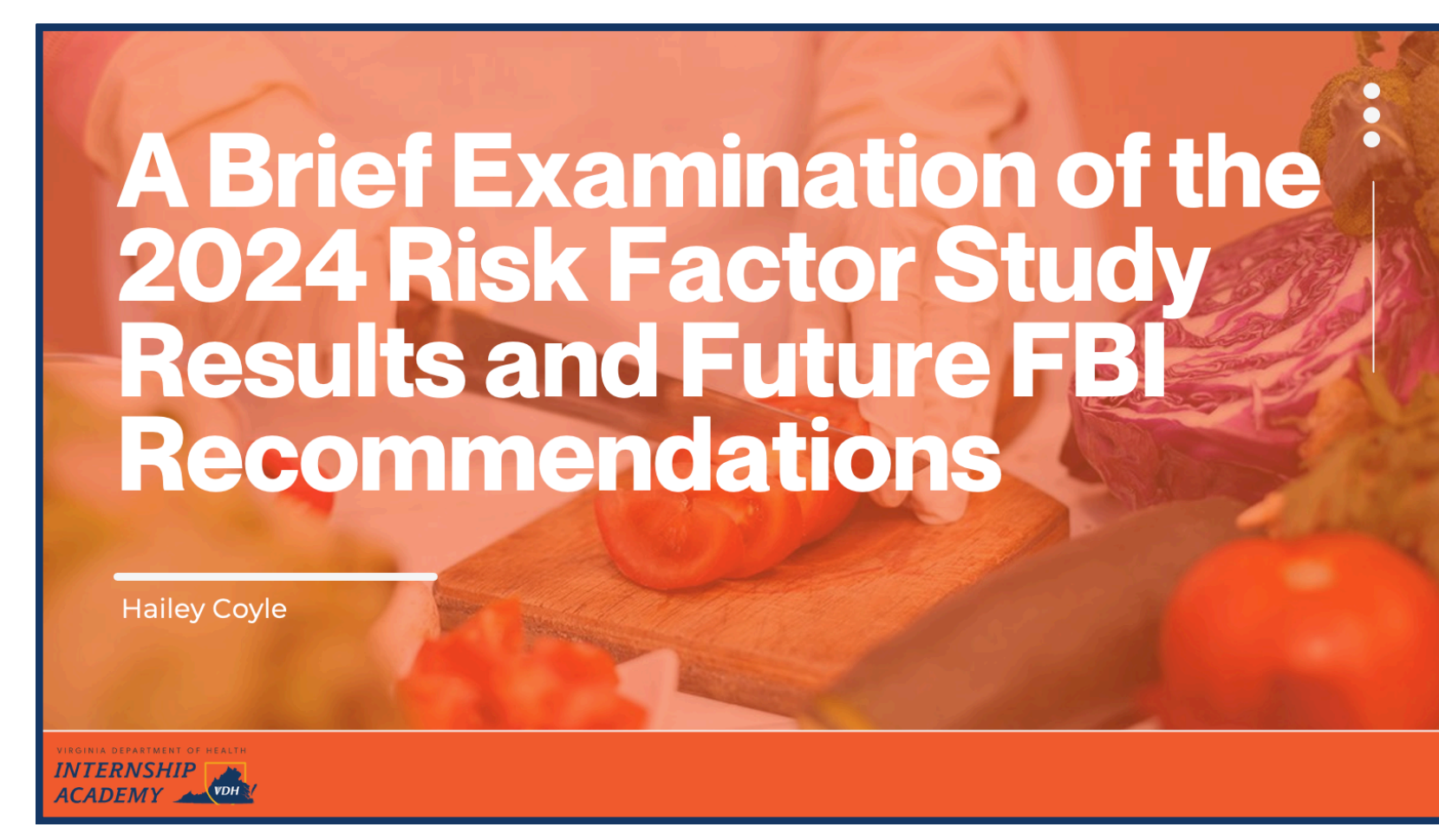


Figure 1.

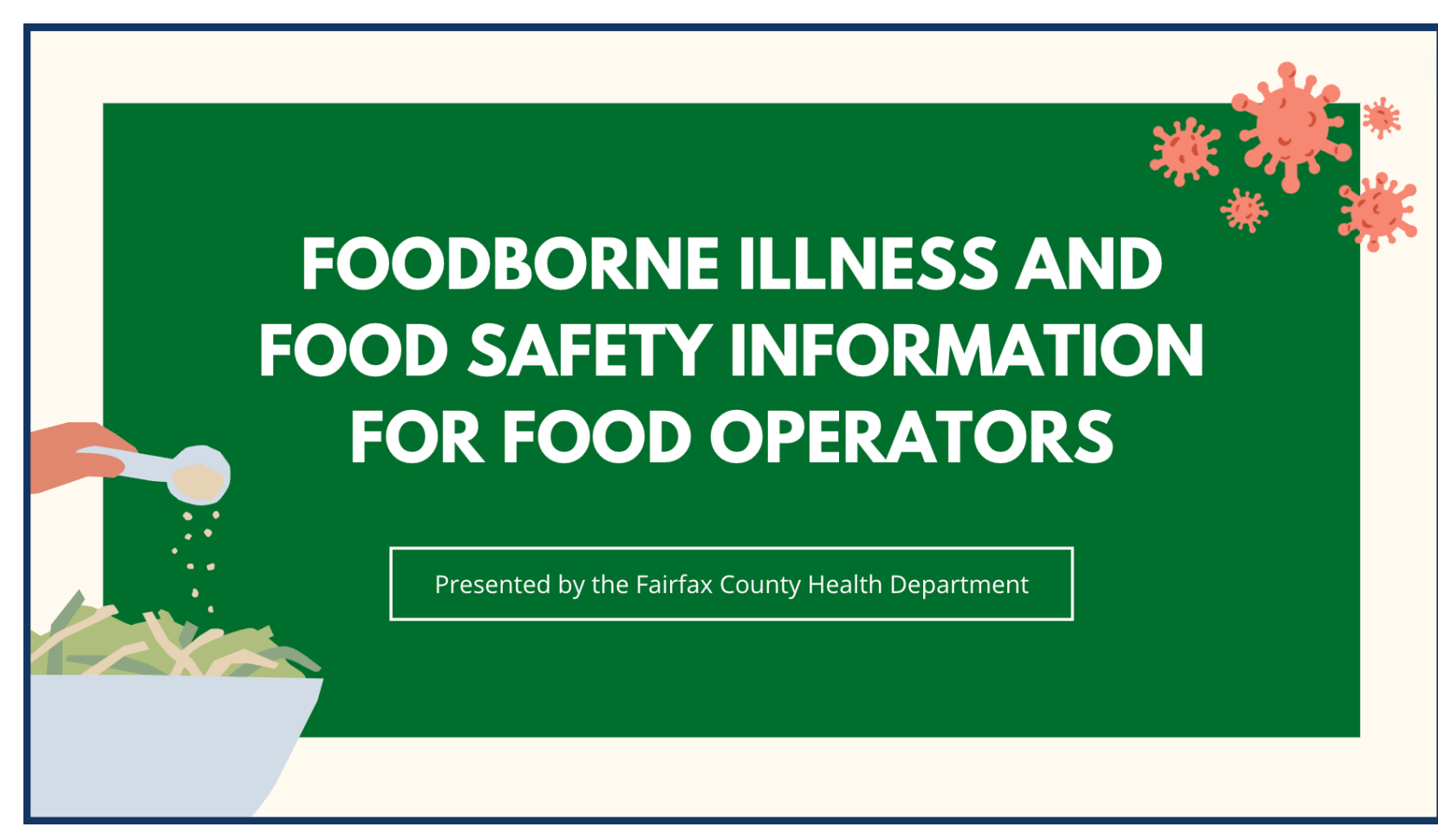


Figure 2.

## Additional Experiences

- **Health Equity:** Joined OHE Journal Club, Health Equity Team meetings, and a values conversation with the FCHD Director of Health.
- **Disease Control:** Accompanied DCIP on mosquito trapping and stormwater surveillance. Attended foodborne illness outbreak investigation with an epidemiologist.
- **Data Learning:** Received 1-on-1 GIS introduction education, worked on Data Camp courses, and attended Data Learning Collective meetings.

## Acknowledgments

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