

Lab 1 Introduction

According to the FDA, foodborne illnesses cause over 48 million people to get sick, 128,000 people to be hospitalized, and the deaths of 3000 people every year. The FDA has also reported almost 300 recalls in the last year. You would think that with an issue that affects so many people, more would be on the lookout for updates regarding recalls, especially for consumable products. However, according to Dr. William Hallman, a speaker at the 2025 Food Safety Summit, only 13% of Americans check recall reports on federally mandated websites. Many people also have dietary restrictions, such as allergies and immunodeficiency, and need a quicker and easier way to be able to get updates on food contaminated by products they can't have. Recalled products don't just affect the everyday person either. Some businesses lose millions of dollars in litigation due to unsafe products given to customers. The main issue here is that people aren't being notified in time, or sometimes at all, when they've purchased a recalled product. Most people don't get important notifications from the FDA, and the information that those who regularly check the FDA website gather usually spreads slowly. There isn't a product that gives consumers a personalized space to keep up with recent recalls. About 91% of Americans own smartphones, according to the Pew Research Center. We all check our phone notifications all the time, making this the quickest way to get updates on recalled products. Our mobile app, SpoilerAlert, will alert customers of recent recalls on products such as food, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. It will allow the user to choose if and how they want to receive notifications on recalled products they've bought or that have the potential to affect them by allowing them to personalize their accounts.