

# IMPACT



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## Teens Improve Food Safety Knowledge in Southeastern Idaho

### *The Situation*

Many adolescents get their first job working in a food service establishment. In fact, teens make up a significant portion of the workforce in the food service industry. In addition, many high schools and teen organizations prepare food for fundraising. Unfortunately, adolescents may not have been previously taught correct ways to safely handle food or be required to receive such training if they are hired to work in a food service establishment.

Teens who have been trained in food safety and have received their Idaho food safety and sanitation certificate may improve chances of employment and advancement in the food service industry.

### *Our Response*

Ready, Set, Food Safe curriculum, first edition, was taught to adolescents in four high schools (Malad, North Gem, Westside, and Preston) in the southeastern corner of Idaho.

Ready, Set, Food Safe curriculum was based on the Idaho Rules Governing Food Safety and Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments (UNICODE), and is a state-approved curriculum. It was developed specifically for high school students, and includes Microsoft PowerPoint slides to teach the nine lessons, student fill-in notes, and activities.

### *Program Outcomes*

Two hundred thirty-two high school students have been taught the Ready, Set, Food Safe curriculum

over the last four years. One hundred forty-five, or 63%, of those who took the test passed with an 80% or higher and received an Idaho food safety and sanitation certificate.



Additionally, a pre and post test of thirteen questions was given before and after the Ready, Set, Food Safe curriculum was taught. A t-test was used to compare the scores. The average post test scores (11.75) were significantly higher than the average pre test scores (9.70) ( $p < 0.00$ ), indicating an increase in food safety knowledge.

### *For More Information*

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