



民政總署
INSTITUTO PARA OS
ASSUNTOS CÍVICOES
E MUNICIPAIS



2015 Report on Results of Lunar New Year Foods

Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau

Food Safety Centre

2015



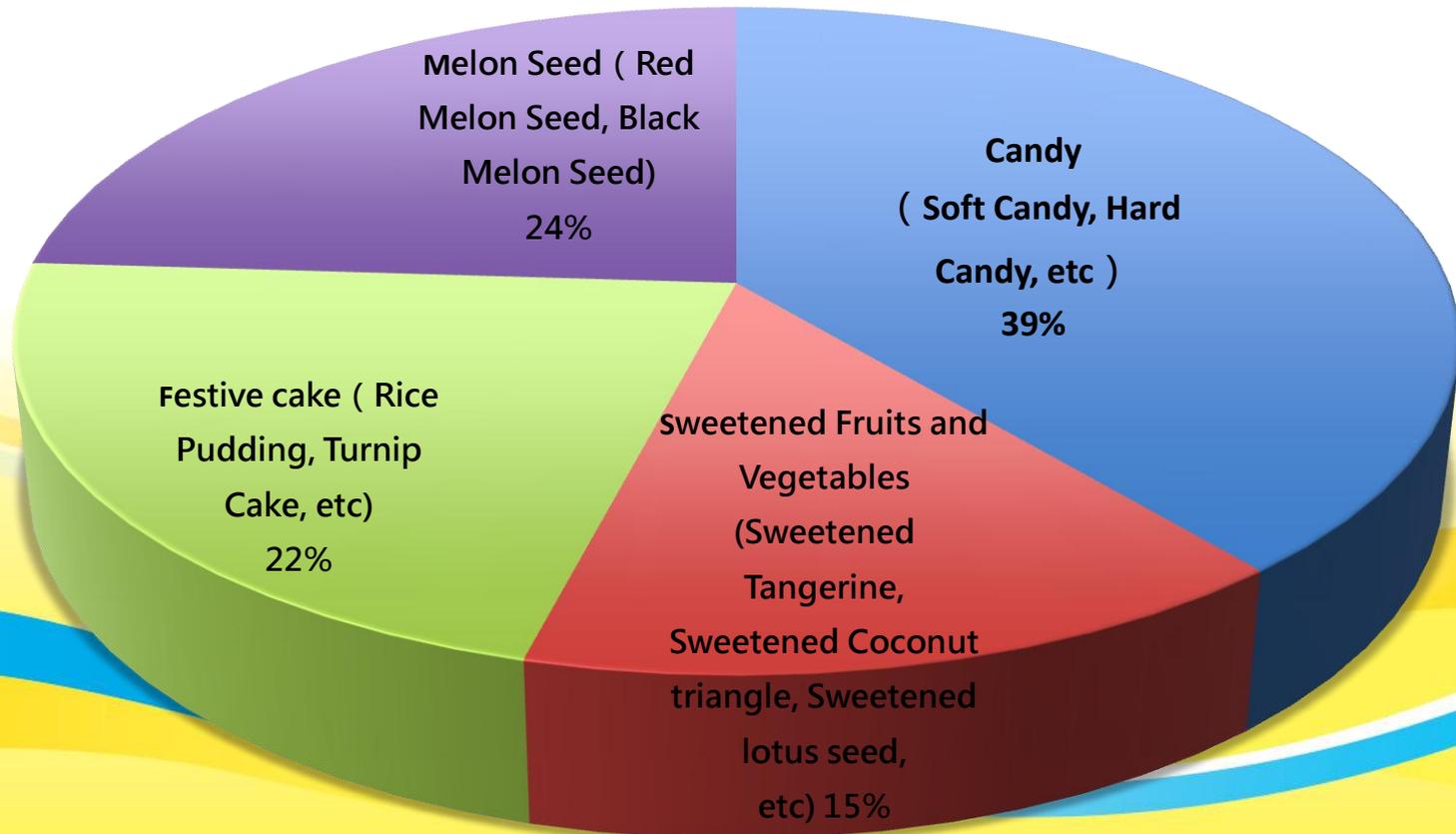
Background

- **The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), the Health Bureau (SSM), and the Consumer Council (CC) cooperated to collect a total of 130 samples of Lunar New Year (LNY) food from the market for microbiological and chemical tests. Types of food included sweetened fruits and vegetables, candies, melon seeds, festive cakes, etc.**
- **The test results showed that three samples of sweetened fruits and vegetables contained preservatives sulphur dioxide over the reference limit and one sample of black melon seeds contained mineral oil.**
- **The authorities took immediate actions to urge the respective shops to stop the sale and dispose of the affected products in order to safeguard food safety.**



Types of samples

Collected a total of 130 samples of LNY food from retail outlets in Macao. The types of foods included sweetened fruits and vegetables, candies, melon seeds and festive cakes.



Types of test

- **Microbiological analysis :**
 - Pathogen
(*E. coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella*)
- **Chemical analysis :**
 - Preservatives (e.g. sulphur dioxide, benzoic acid, sorbic acid)
 - Coloring matters
 - Mineral oil



Test Results

- Among 130 food samples, 4 were found to be unsatisfactory.

Sample	Testing item	Result
Sweetened Tangerine	Sulphur dioxide	1100 mg/kg
Sweetened Melon (Sample A)	Sulphur dioxide	1100 mg/kg
Sweetened Melon (Sample B)	Sulphur dioxide	1100 mg/kg
Black Melon Seed	Mineral oil	0.23g/100g

Follow-up and Preventive Actions

- **Follow-up actions have been taken on the unsatisfactory samples, which included:**
 - ✓ Request the respective shops to stop selling the affected products immediately.
 - ✓ Trace the source and distribution of the food item.
 - ✓ Inform the suppliers and the retailers to stop selling the affected batch of the products.
 - ✓ The affected products should be disposed under supervision
 - ✓ Re-check and Re-test



Advice for trade

- Purchase festive foods and ingredients from reputable suppliers. Do not buy food from unknown sources.
- Wrap festive foods and ingredients properly, and store at appropriate temperatures. Follow the “cooked food above, raw food below” principle.
- Keep all the purchase and sale records for source-tracing when necessary.
- Do not purchase or sell any food products if there is any doubt about its hygiene and safety.



Advice for consumers

- Buy festive foods from reputable and hygienic stores
- When buying pre-packaged products, make sure the packages are intact and mind the expiry dates.
- When buying non-packaged products such as sweetened lotus seed, nuts and melon seeds, pay attention to hygienic condition of food containers and personal hygiene of staff.
- Choose foods with natural color. Do not purchase foods which look too colorful or too bright as excessive amount of artificial colors or food additives may have been added.
- Before eating, check the food carefully. If abnormal smell or moulds are found, discard the food immediately.



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Safe food. Safe Consumption

Alimentar-se com segurança e prazer

食品安全
食得安心

