

Engaging School Nurses as Change Agents to Promote Integrated Pest Management in Northeast Schools

[\(http://www.northeastipm.org/working-groups/schools/\)](http://www.northeastipm.org/working-groups/schools/)

Objectives

- Identify needs and opportunities for engaging and empowering nurses to reduce health risks of pests and pesticides at school.
- Provide training for school nurses throughout the NE region
- Develop and distribute outreach materials to school nurses



Pests and Pesticides Pose Health Risks in Schools

- Respiratory illness (mice, mold, roaches, caterpillars)
- Rashes and bites (caterpillars, bed bugs, ticks, fleas, lice)
- Diseases (ticks, mosquitoes, roaches, mice, flies)
- Stings (ants, bees & wasps)
- Acute and chronic pesticide toxicity



Yes, Your School DOES Use Pesticides

- Bleach and Disinfectants
- Wasp Spray
- Repellents
- Weed-killers
- Organic and Natural Bug Sprays
- Mouse Poison
- Ant Cups
- Plant Disease Sprays



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is Best Practice to Minimize Risks of Pests and Pesticides

IPM Relies on:

- Education, Communication, Leadership
- Pest prevention
- Monitoring
- Biological, physical, cultural pest control methods
- Carefully selected pesticides used as last resort



Everyone Plays an Active Role in IPM

**Health &
Wellness
Coordinator**

School Nurse

**Business
Manager:**
contracts,
budgeting

**Contracted
pest
professional**

**Students
&
Teachers:**
education,
sanitation,
monitoring



Custodians:
Sanitation,
monitoring,
pest
reporting

Maintenance Staff:
pest exclusion &
monitoring

Sports Staff:
scheduling, turf
protection

Office Staff:
communication,
records, scheduling

Kitchen Staff:
pest prevention
& monitoring

Develop an IPM Plan for Each School

Sample responsibilities matrix for pest monitoring component of IPM plan

Responsibilities	IPM Coordinator or Facilities Manager	Principal	Custodian	Teacher	Nurse
IPM Task					
<p>2. Pest Monitoring and ID</p> <p>School grounds, kitchen, breakrooms, classrooms, locker rooms, storage, concession stands are regularly and systematically inspected for pests and pest-friendly conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with school nurse to establish communication and reporting protocol for pest and pesticide exposures. • Assigns pest monitoring tasks to appropriate staff members and provides training. • Ensures <u>all</u> staff are trained in pest reporting protocols. • Reviews each vendor service ticket and ensures vendors review pest monitoring records at each service visit. 	<p>Ensures teaching staff are trained to report pest sightings</p>	<p>Records and reports pest sightings and pest-friendly conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructs students in pest-sighting protocols • Reports and records pest sightings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report and record pest sightings such as ticks, lice, bedbugs • Record and report suspected pest or pesticide exposure • Communicate with families to recommend action needed to address pest or pesticide exposures or sightings • Educate how to identify pests

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Anticipated Outcomes of Our Project

- School nurses will learn how to access information needed to recognize health-impacting pests and pest-friendly conditions
- School nurses will be empowered to promote and support adoption of effective IPM policies and strategies in their schools

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Free IPM Training
Modules Available at
StopSchoolPests.org

State Nurse Associations & State Agency Contacts

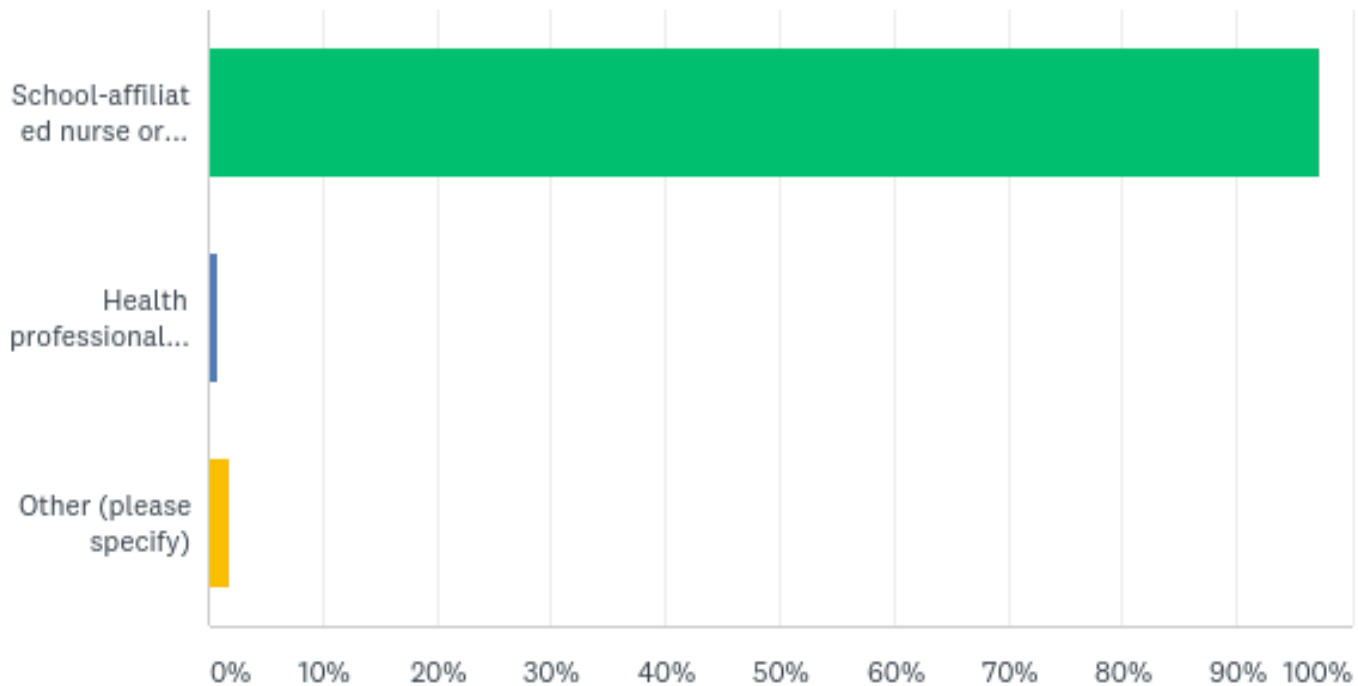
(See State Contacts list in Files Pod)

State	State School Nurse Consultant Agency	State School Nurse Consultant	Email	Professional Association Contact	Professional Association Contact	email	NASN Delegate	Email
CT	CT Dept Education	Stephanie Knutson; Cheryl Resha	Stephanie.knutson@ct.gov ; cheryl.resha@ct.gov	Assoc School Nurses of CT	Chlo-Anne Bobrowski	cbobrowski@wethersfield.me		
DC	Child, Adolescent and School Health Bureau?			DC School Nurse Assn	Michele Kuhn			
DE	DE Dept of Education	Linda Wolfe	linda.wolfe@doe.k12.de.us	DE School Nurse Assn; dsna.org	Sharon-Rose Gargula			
MA	MA Dept of Public Health	Gapinski, Mary	mary.gapinski@state.ma.us	<u>MA School Nurses Assn</u> , msna.org	Katie Vozeolas			
MD		Alicia Mezu	alicia.mezu@maryland.gov		Mary Nasuta	mary.nasuta@hcps.org		
ME	ME Dept of Education	Emily Poland	Emily.Poland@maine.gov	Maine Assoc of School Nurses	Ilmi Carter	icarter@rsu13.org	Janis Hogan	janis.hogan@fivetowns.net
NH	NH Dept Health	Maria Butler	Maria.Butler@dhhs.nh.gov	NH School Nurse Assn	Linda Compton	lcompton@conval.edu	Laurie Fleming	Fleming4him@comcast.net
NJ	NJ Dept of Education			NJ State Association of School Nurses	Judith Woop	njssnaexecutivedirector@gmail.com		
NY	NY Dept of Educ	Karen Hollowood	KHollowo@mail.nysed.gov	NYS Assoc of School Nurses	Betsy Williams	president@nysasn.org ; csmattern@comcast.net		
PA	PA Dept of Health	Beth Bahn	bbahn@pa.gov		Cheryl Mattern			
RI				RI Certified School Nurse Teachers	Diane Kowal	dkowal95@gmail.com		
VT	VT Dept of Health	Sharonlee Trefry	sharonlee.trefry@vermont.gov	<u>VT State School Nurses Assn</u> vssna.org	Sophie Hall	president@vssna.org		
WV		Rebecca King	rking@k12.wv.us	WV Assn of School Nurses	Linda Gordon	lkgordon@k12.wv.us ; info@wvasn.org		

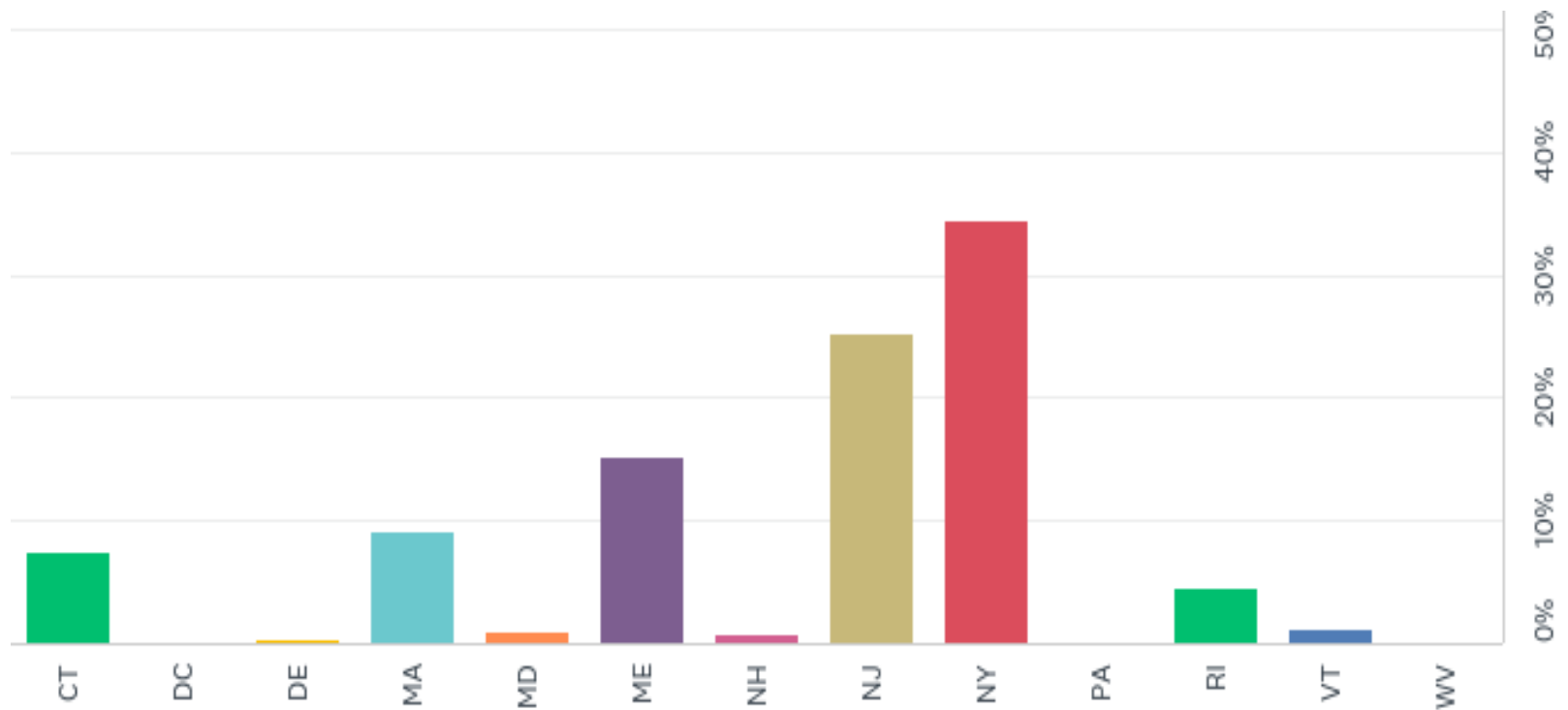
On-Line Survey May-Oct 2017

Q1: What is your role?

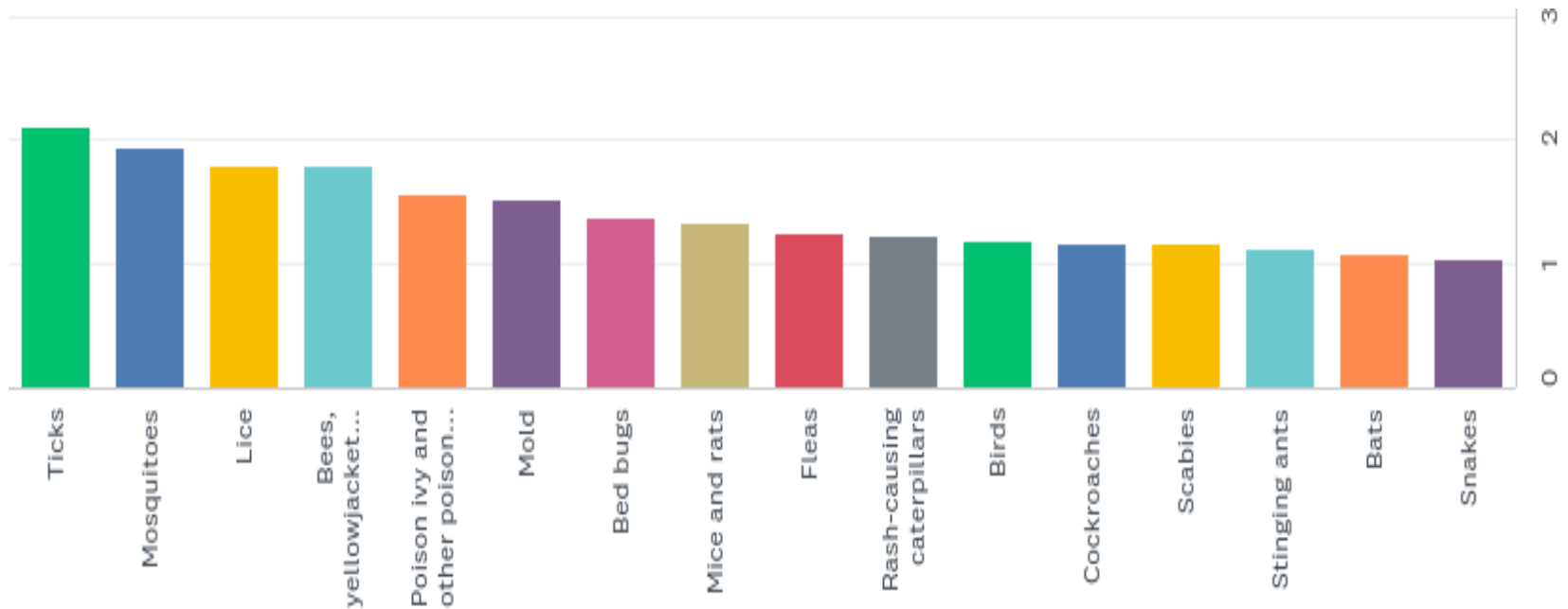
Answered: 827 Skipped: 0



Q2: In which state do you work?

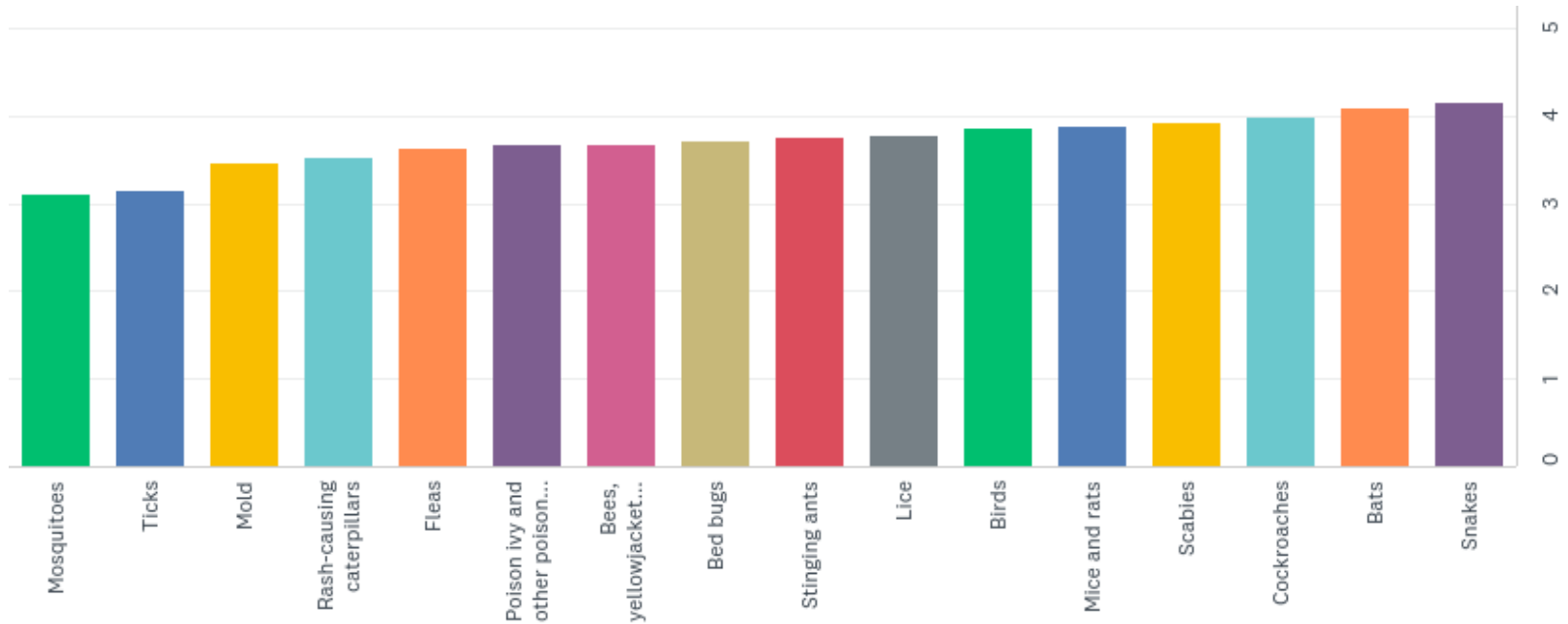


Q3: How do you view pest risk concerns in your school(s)?



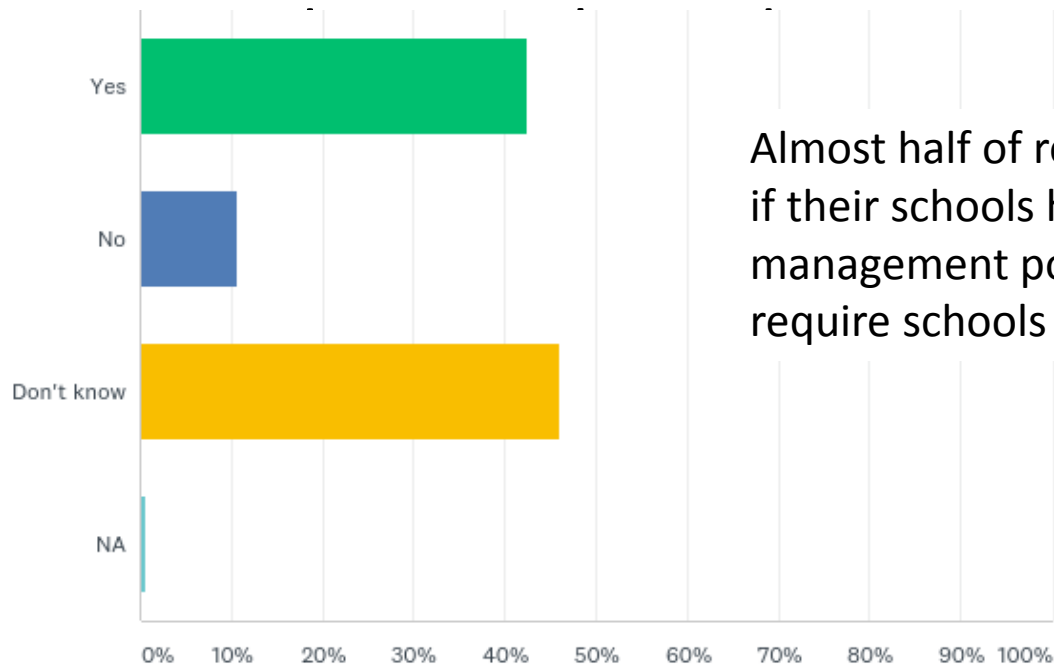
On a scale of 1(low concern) to 3 (high concern) ticks and mosquitoes top the list, followed by lice, stinging insects, poisonous plants and mold. Rodents (mice and rats), bed bugs and fleas are of moderate concern. Cockroaches which are asthma-allergen producing pests, and bats (a rabies vector) were of relatively low concern.

Q4: How effective are your school(s)' prevention and response protocols?



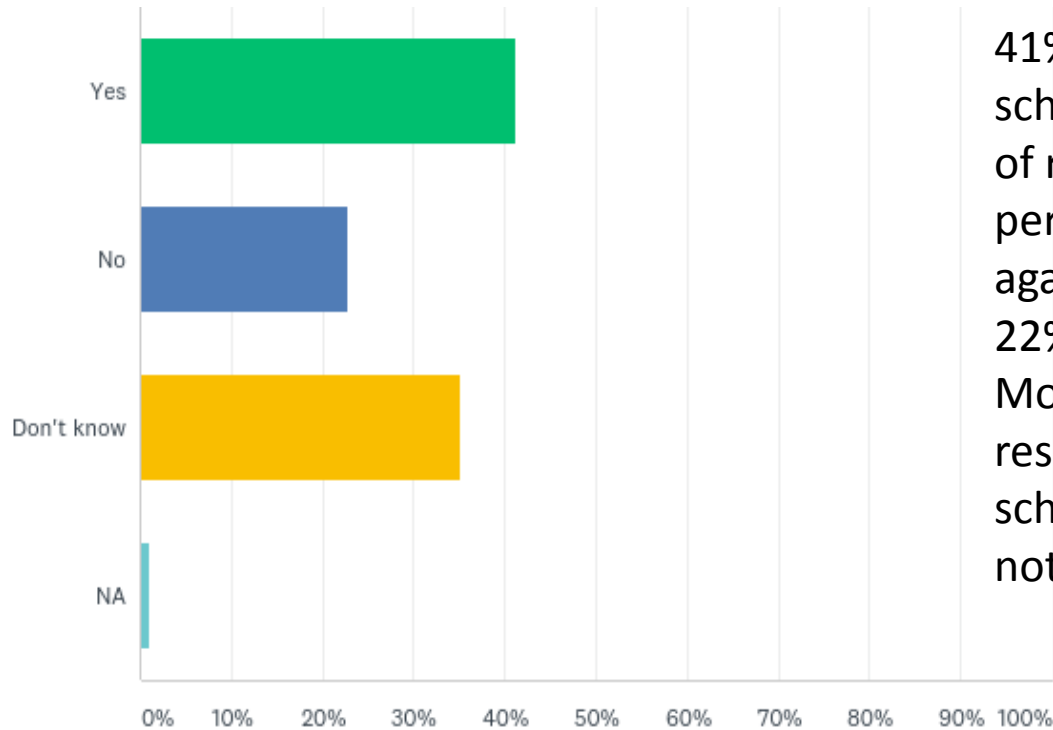
On a scale of 1 (not effective) to 5 (very effective) respondents feel their schools' practices are moderately to mostly effective, but a little less so for ticks and mosquitoes.

Q5: Do(es) your school(s) have a written pest management policy?



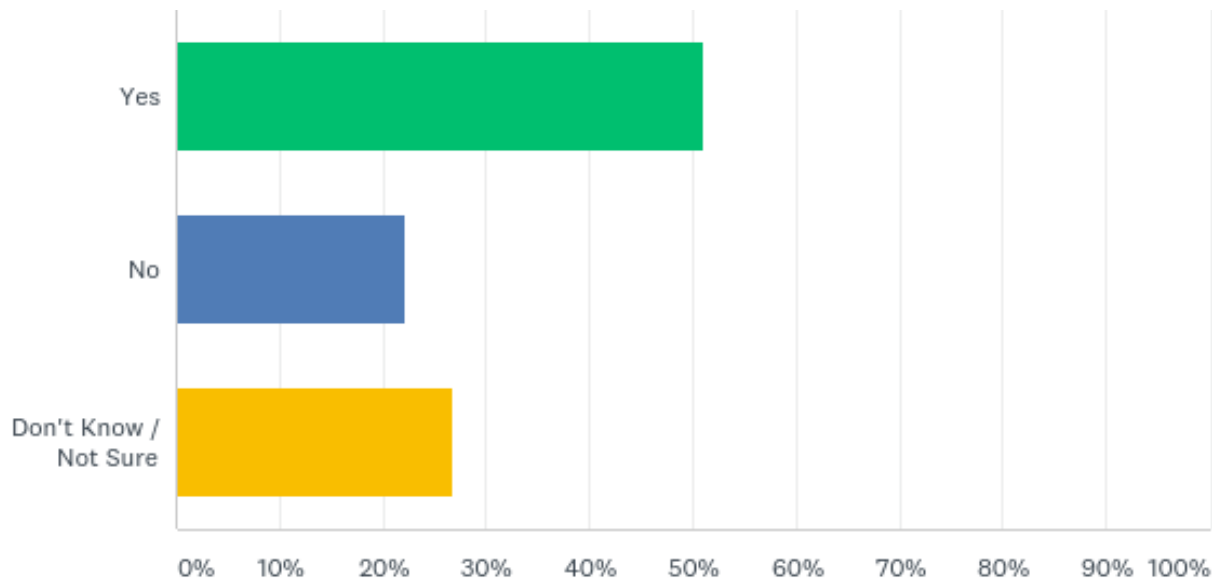
Almost half of respondents did not know if their schools have a written pest management policy. Several NE states require schools to have one.

Q6: Do(es) your school(s) have policies regarding the use of repellents or other personal protection measures (such as protective clothing)?



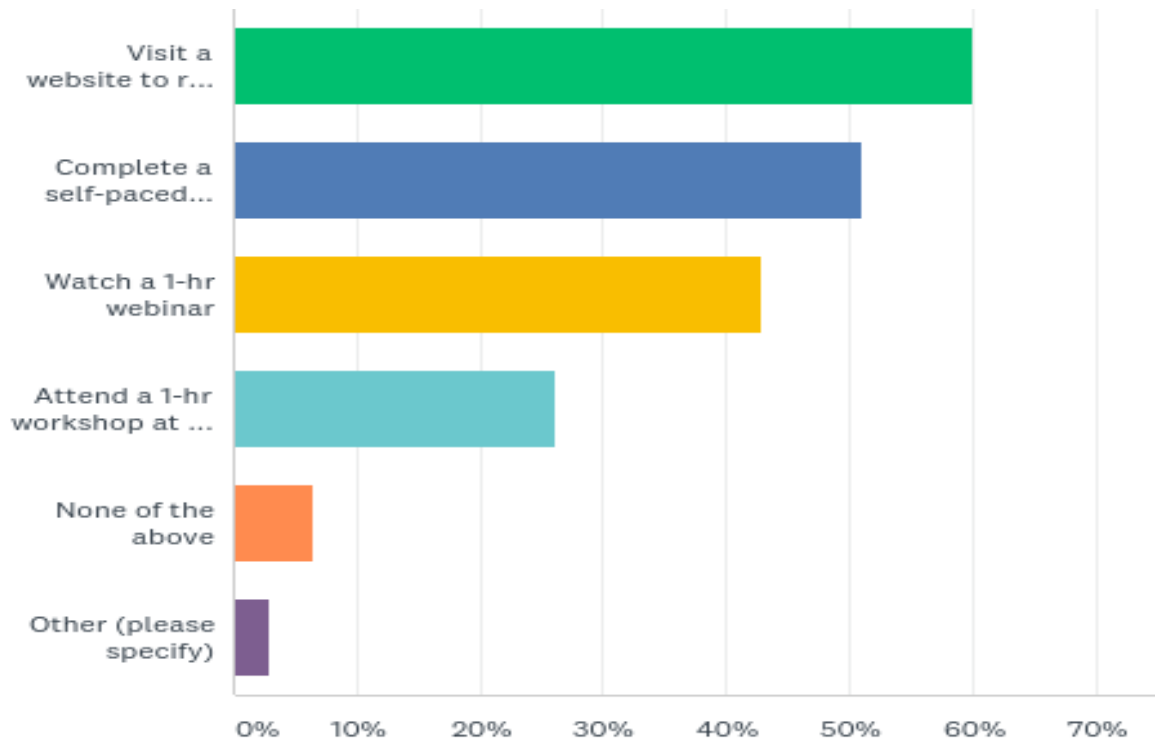
41% of respondents said their school has policies for the use of repellents and other personal protective measures against ticks and mosquitoes. 22% do not have such policies. More than a third of respondents didn't know if the school has these policies or not.

Q7: Do you feel adequate information is available to address your questions regarding pests?



Half the respondents said adequate information is available. The other half said its not or they were unsure.

Q8: Which of the following learning opportunities would you be likely to utilize? (Check all that apply)



- 60% want to get information from websites
- 50% favored self-paced learning modules
- 45% would watch a 1-hr webinar
- 28% would attend a workshop at a conference

Goal for Today

Strategize to identify opportunities, pathways, and messaging to:

- 1) Provide school nurses with IPM information and tools to help them address pest and pesticide issues in schools
- 2) Empower school nurses to serve as leaders and advocates for adoption of IPM practices and policies in schools and communities

Polling Questions

Discussion Questions

- 1) What kinds of tools do nurses need to deal with pest and pesticide concerns encountered at school? Prompt: contact lists or organizational charts for each state, posters, lesson plans, learning activities, fact sheets, training modules and presentations, wallet cards, checklists, sample letters, sample policy statements, IPM implementation guidelines, SOPs for specific pests, other)
- 2) What tools do nurses need to educate other staff and families about pest prevention and response?
- 3) What opportunities should our group use to promote the availability of web-based tools and IPM information to school nurses? Prompt: professional conferences (exhibits, presentations, others), listservs (via state and national nurse associations), webinars, other?
- 4) What incentives should be offered to engage school nurses as change agents for IPM in their schools? CEUs for participating in training, recognition certificate, assessment tools to identify needs and opportunities for improvement?
- 5) What else would you like to share with us to help our project be successful?

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What else would you like to share with us to help our project be successful?