

Local Environmental Health Professionals and Their Role in Tick-Related Activities

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Why should we care about tick-borne disease?



of reported vector-borne disease cases between 2004 and 2016 were tick-borne¹

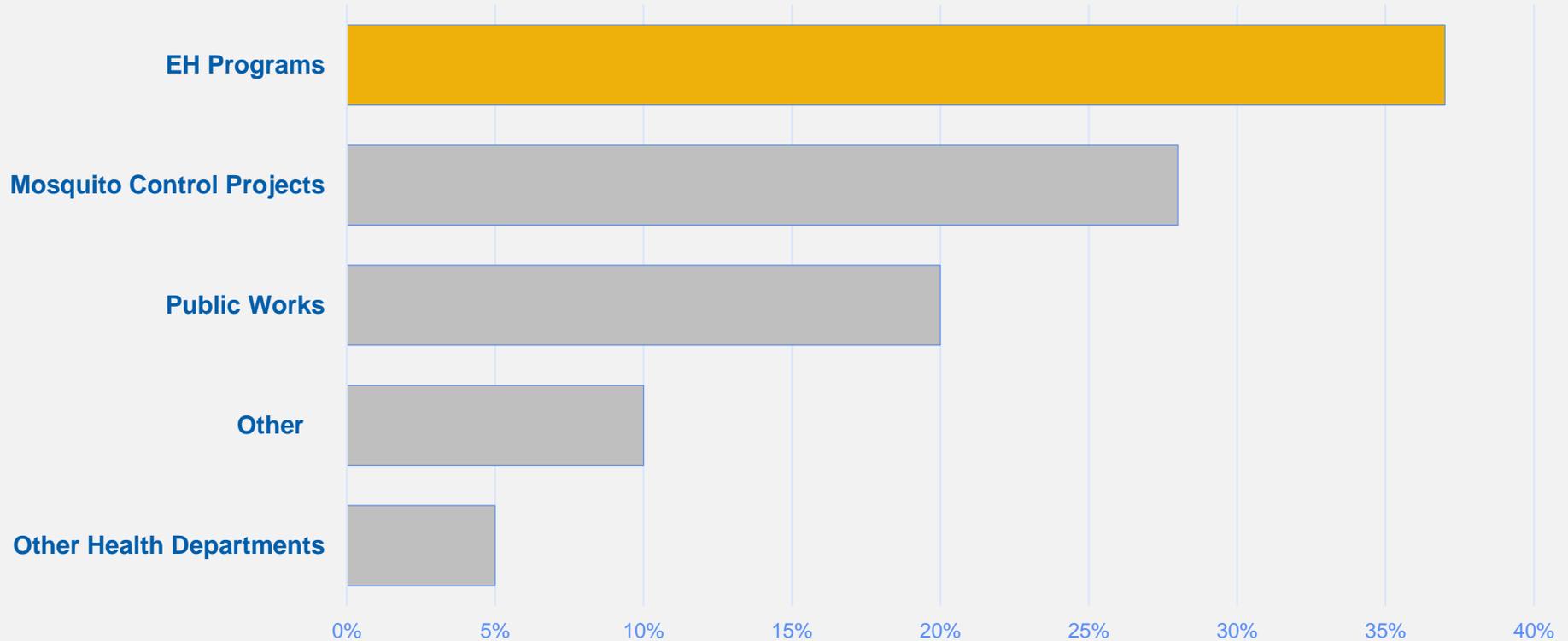


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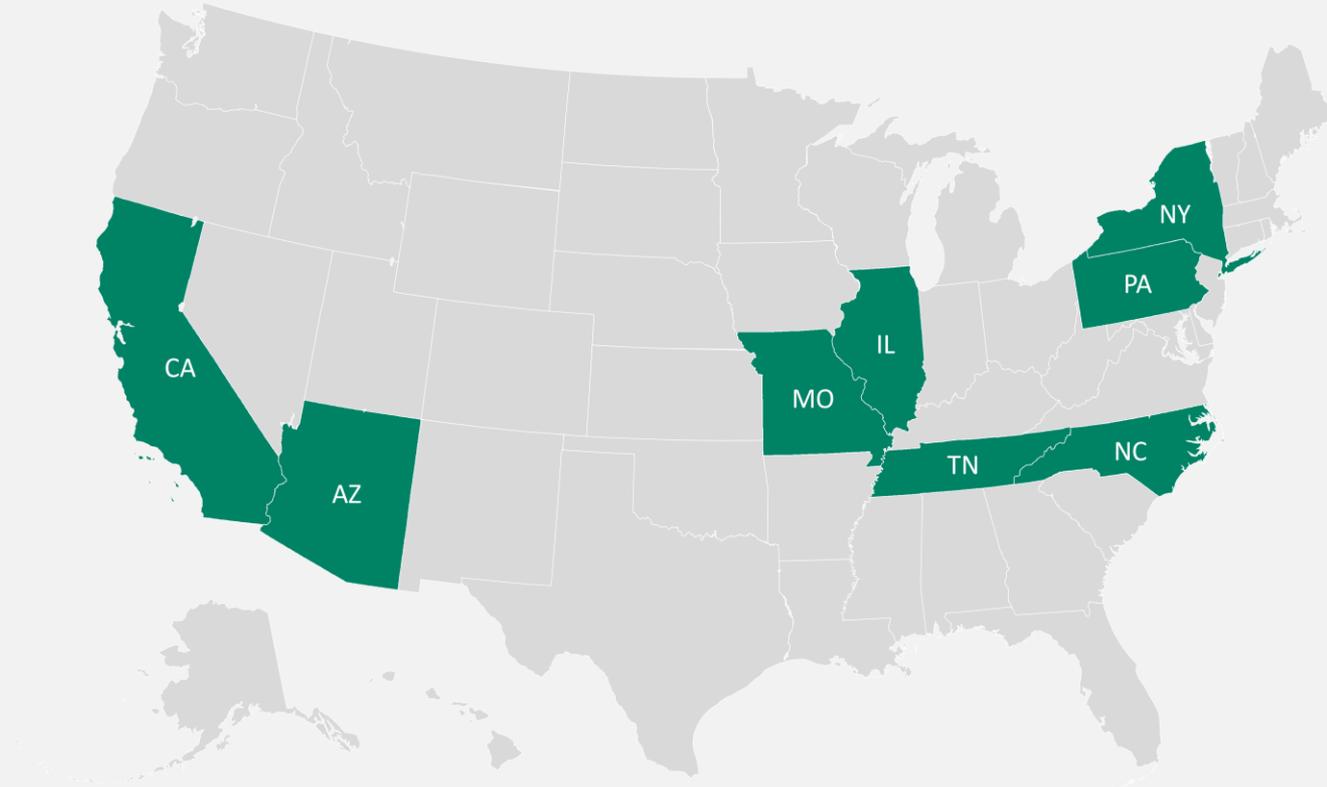
New or introduced tick-borne diseases¹



EH professionals make up a significant portion of the vector control workforce^{2,3}



We assessed EH programs in nine states—eight local programs and one tribal program



Key informants shared information in two ways



Pre-interview questionnaire



Interview

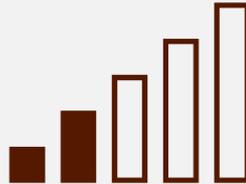
We asked EH professionals to identify



Level of involvement in tick activities



Best practices and the resources they use



Any unmet technical assistance and resource needs

Participant snapshot

Out of the 9 respondents,

8 Reported that they have been engaged in tick activities for at least 5 years

4 Reported increase in community interest in tick-borne disease



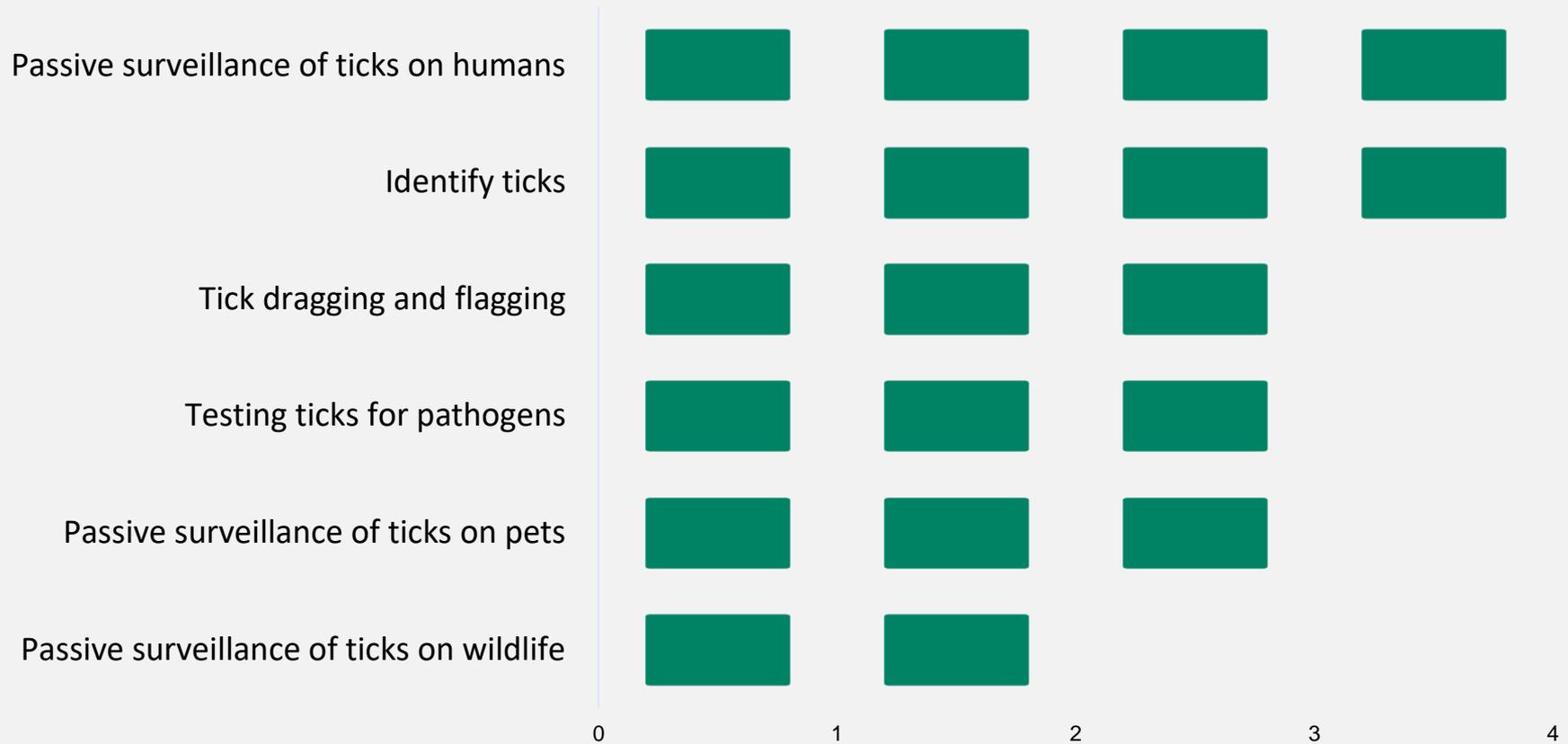
5 Reported that ticks were a priority in their community

7 Reported that they do not receive dedicated tick funding

Community education was the most common tick-related activity reported by participants



Surveillance activities reported by participants



Participants reported resource challenges



**Funding
and staffing**



**Routine tick
surveillance**



**Access to human
case information**



**Process to train staff
on tick-related
concerns**

Participants reported success in surveillance, partnership, and community engagement



Even on a small scale, surveillance provides valuable insight



Internal and external partnerships can strengthen tick programs



Community engagement leads to better understanding of priorities

References

1. Rosenberg R, Lindsey NP, Fischer M, et al. Vital Signs: Trends in Reported Vectorborne Disease Cases — United States and Territories, 2004–2016. (2018) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 67(17).
2. Gerding J.A., Landeen, E., Kelly, K.R., Whitehead, S., Dyjack, D., Sarisky, J. & Brooks, B.W. (2019) Uncovering environmental health: an initial assessment of the profession's health department workforce and practice. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 81(10).
3. Ruiz, A., Vanover, C., Parale, A. & Gerding, J. (2018) A web-based review of environmental health vector control services in the United States. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 80(8), 36–38.

Thank you!

Always willing to answer questions!

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