School Nurse Health-Pest Concerns Survey Results

Methods: Invitation to complete an on-line survey was e-mailed to school nurse association contacts and school nurse liaisons in the 12 northeastern states and District of Columbia. The survey was open May-October 2017. In addition, the survey was administered in person at the New England School Nurse conference in May 2017.
Q1: What is your role?

Answered: 827    Skipped: 0

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Q2: In which state do you work?

Answered: 819  Skipped: 8

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

Answered: 827   Skipped: 0

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?

Answered: 827    Skipped: 0

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.
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)?

Answered: 827    Skipped: 0

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?

Answered: 827    Skipped: 0

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

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Resources:

IPM Tools, Guidelines and More:

- epa.gov/managing-pests-schools
- eXtension School IPM
- ischoolpestmanager.org

Training Modules

• StopSchoolPests.org

Results of this NE School Nurse Survey available at: maine.gov/schoolipm