
Building A Collaboration to Support Energy Efficient and Healthy Homes: The NYC Experience

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What I Will Cover Today

- Who we are and why we are concerned about home environmental hazards
- Partnering with home visiting organizations -- Why do it?
- What we are doing in NYC to build collaboration with WAPs
- Challenges/Next Steps

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- ... and the wonderful staff of the NYC Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Who We Are: NYC's Program

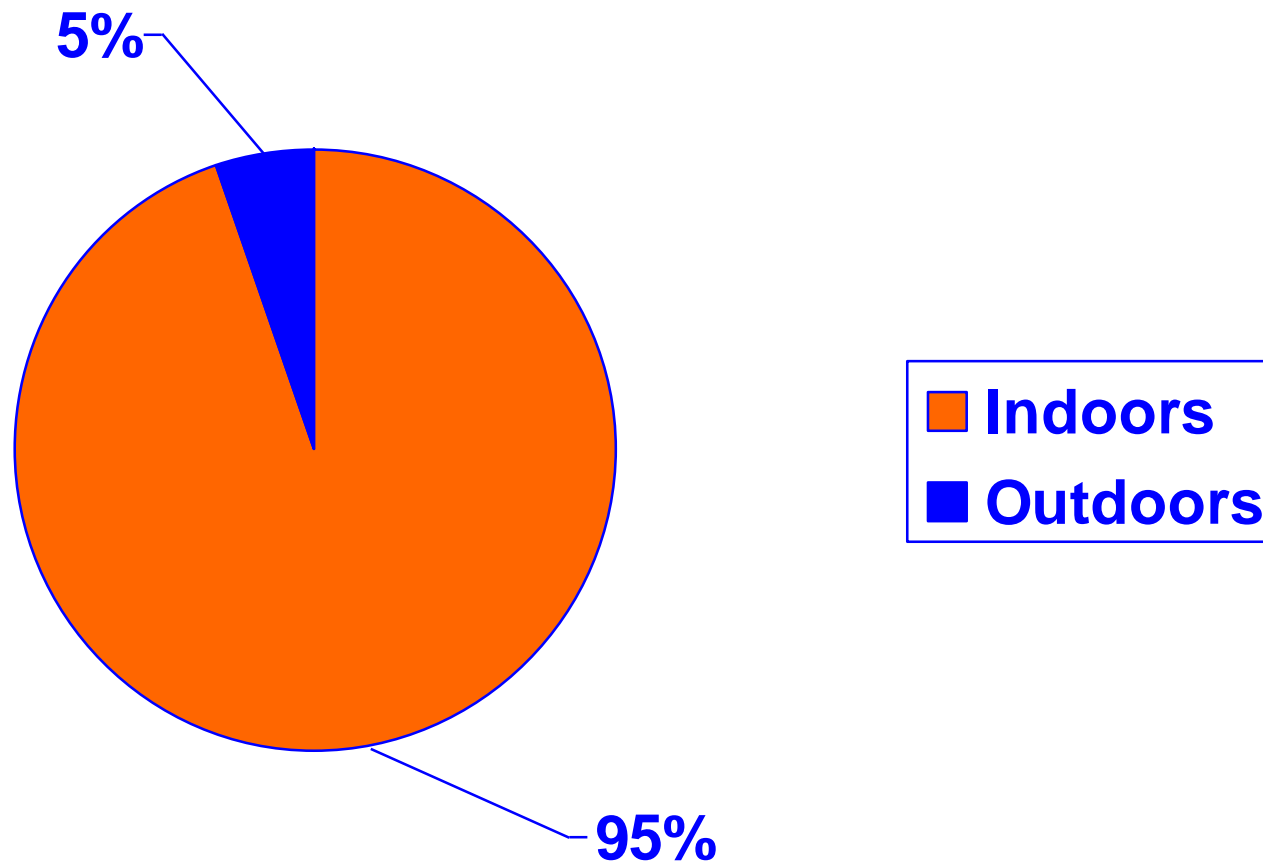
- Began in 1970
- Comprehensive lead poisoning prevention services:
 - Lead hazard reduction in homes and communities
 - Outreach and education to the public and health care providers
 - Case coordination for lead poisoned children and pregnant women
 - Environmental investigation and enforcement
 - Surveillance and research
- Addressing other home environmental hazards
 - 2005 – Healthy Homes Hardware Store Initiative
 - 2008 – Healthy Homes Inspections

Why Are We Concerned About Home Environmental Hazards?

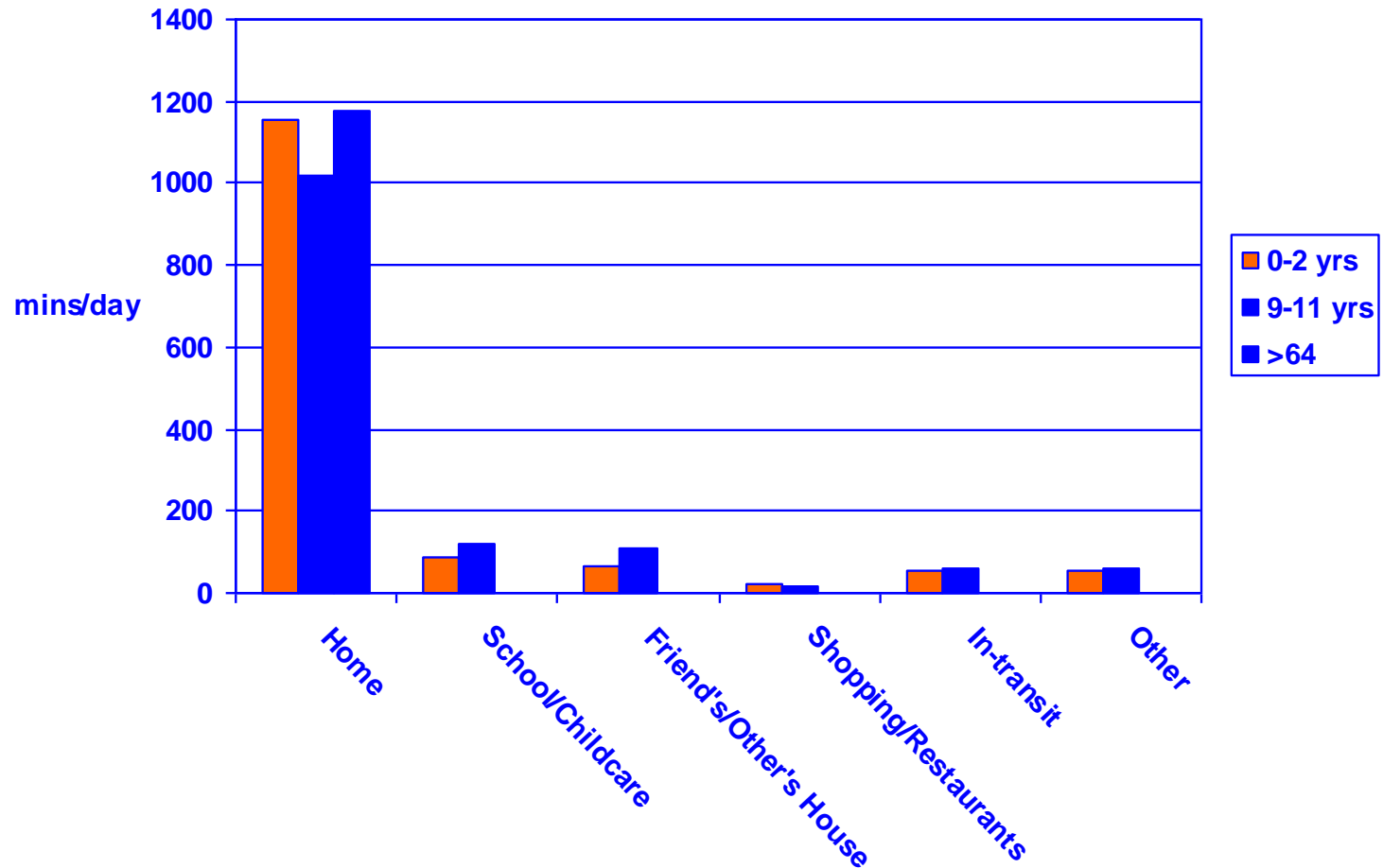
- Homes, especially if poorly maintained, can be hazardous to residents
- Home health hazards may lead to illness --lead poisoning, asthma, allergies and or injuries related to falls, fires and poisonings
- Young children and elderly especially at risk

Time Spent in Different Environments

Average for children ages 2 to 9 years



Young Children and Seniors Spend Most of Their Time at Home



Lead Poisoning: Tremendous Success, but Still a Problem in NYC

- Dust from lead paint is the major cause
- Lead paint was banned for residential use in 1960
 - About 70% of NYC's housing units were built before 1960
- Dramatic decline in cases over the last 30 years
 - However, in 2010 over 2,000 children had blood lead levels ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and almost 15,000 had BLLs between 5-9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
 - Blood lead levels previously thought to be safe are associated with learning and behavioral problems

Asthma

- Chronic respiratory disease common in children
- Life-threatening if not managed properly
- In 2008, nearly 1 in 10 NYC children had an asthma attack
- Leading cause of school absenteeism and hospitalization of children < 14 years of age
- Hazards that can cause or worsen symptoms:
 - Second hand smoke, pests, cockroaches, mold, dust mites, household cleaners and

Injury Hazards - Children

- Leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 12 years in NYC
- Most fatal unintentional injuries among children occur in the home
- From 2001-2008, the leading causes of fatal unintentional injuries:
 - Traffic (41%)
 - Fire and burns (28%),
 - Falls (9%)
 - Asphyxia (10% of deaths)

Fall Hazards - Seniors

- Falls - Each year, among approximately 1 million older adults in NYC...
 - 21,000 are treated and released in emergency departments
 - 16,000 additional are admitted into hospitals
 - 300 die directly from fall-related injuries
 - Risk for falls and fall-related problems will increase as NYC's population ages. By 2030, the older adults population will grow 44%.

Heat-Related Deaths – Seniors

- Adults over 65 are at higher risk for heat illness and death
- Excess deaths and illness during heat waves
- Majority occurred at home
 - Lack of air conditioning critical to the problem

Key Public Health Principle

Primary vs. Secondary Prevention

- **Primary prevention:** These strategies are designed to prevent disease from occurring. For environmental health, preventing exposures.
- **Secondary prevention:** These strategies aim to diagnose and treat existing disease before more serious and, for environmental health, prevent further exposures

Expanding Primary Prevention

- 60% of NYC housing built before 1950 (1.9 million units)
- 4% (over 70,000 units) deteriorated or dilapidated
- Poorly maintained homes – moisture conditions --- lead hazards, mold, pest
- Preventing home environmental hazards
 - Strong policies
 - Safe work practices
 - Exposure prevention/housing maintenance
 - Job too big without partners

Home Visiting Programs: Ideal Partners to Expand Our Reach

- Home visiting programs serving high-risk families
 - Newborn Program and Asthma Initiative
 - Provide training to do visual assessment
 - Set up referral system
 - We perform environmental inspections
 - If hazards are identified, landlord is ordered to remediate the hazards
 - Weatherization Programs serving low/middle income families

Collaborating with Weatherization Assistance Programs (WAPs)

- WAPs “suped up” home visiting program
 - Community outreach
 - Trained workers
 - Work scopes
 - Repairs
- Holistic approach
- Capitalize on presence in the home to address health and safety hazards/missed opportunity

What We Are Doing In NYC

- Research project: Lead dust in window replacement during weatherization work
 - Collaborative project with NYU, NCHH, local Oneida County Health Department and local WAPs
- Healthy Homes tenant training module for WAPs
- Building collaborative with health and housing programs, WAPs, and energy conservation groups

Building a Healthy Homes Collaborative

■ Partner meeting

- Purpose: Explore ways to collaborate to make NYC homes energy efficient, green, safe and healthy
- All 16 NYC-based WAPs
- Co-sponsored with NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)
- NYS HCR, NYSDOH, NYSERDA and HUD

Pre-Planning Activities

- Getting the right people/networking/getting buy in from key parties
- Understanding the issues
 - Research – learning about other groups
 - Assessing local needs
 - Survey Monkey
- Developing Healthy Homes data profiles for each WAP
- Meeting planning – professional facilitator, interactive and informative meeting linked to strategic planning for collaborative

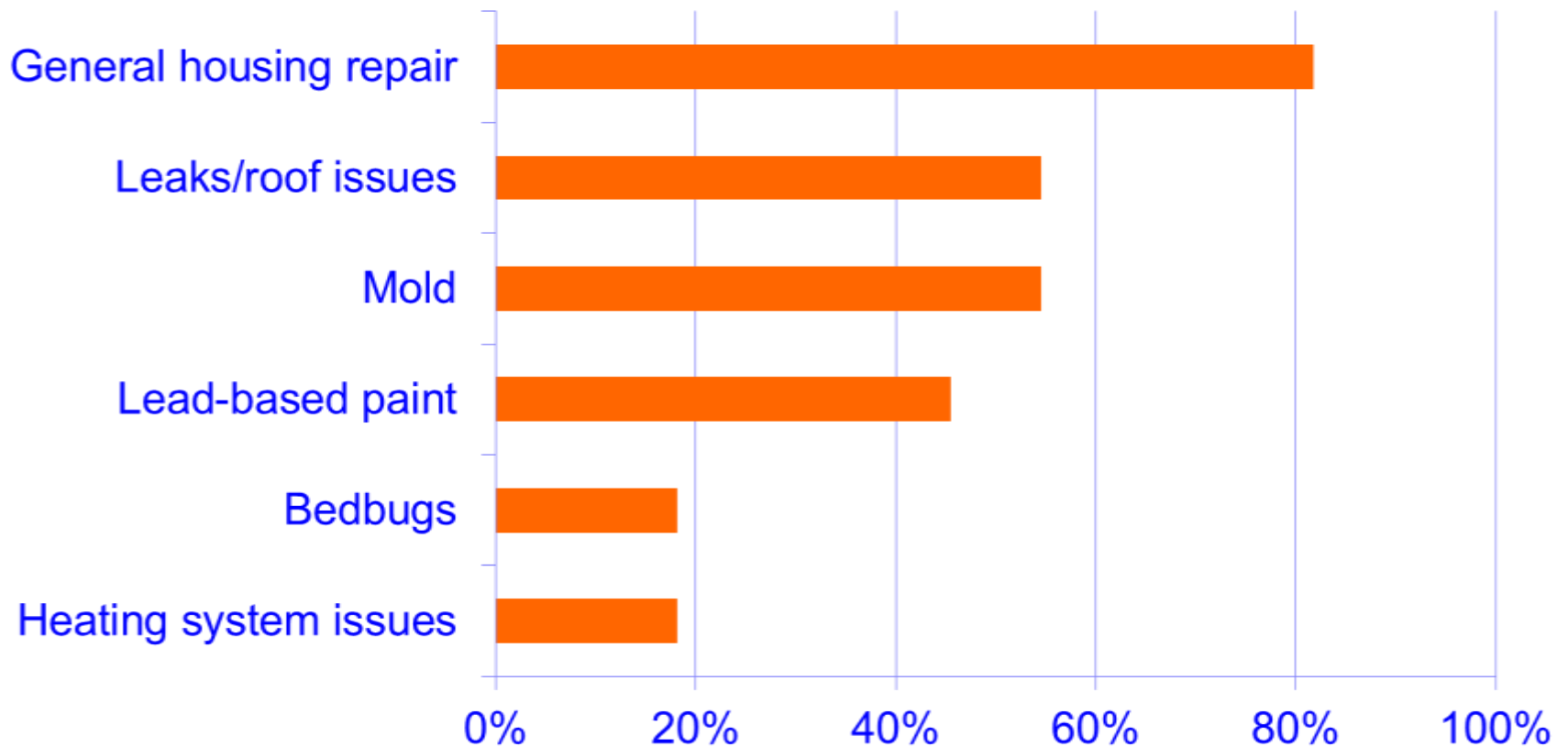
Establishing Common Ground

- Healthy Homes/WAP Collaborations – What’s going on across the country
- Impact of housing on health - NYC data
- Review of survey results – NYC WAP health and safety barriers & needs
- Resource Panel – NYCDOH, NYC HPD, NYS HCR, NYSERDA
- Group “Visioning Exercise”:
 - “What do you want to see in place as result of a collaboration among WAPs, health and housing programs to make NYC housing more energy efficient, healthy, safe and green?”
 - “Road Map” of building collaborative – issues of concern

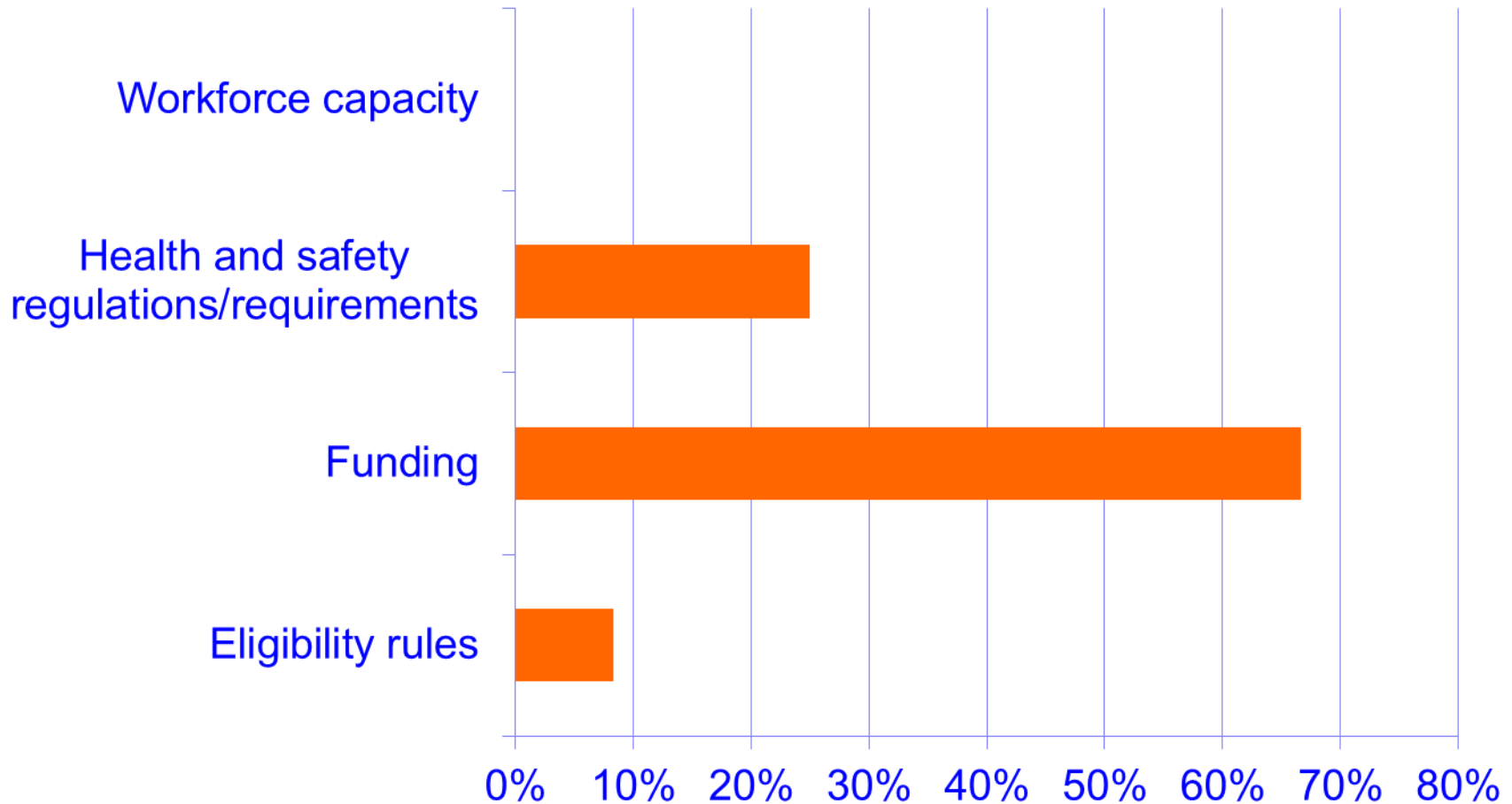
WAP Health & Safety Survey

Some Important Responses

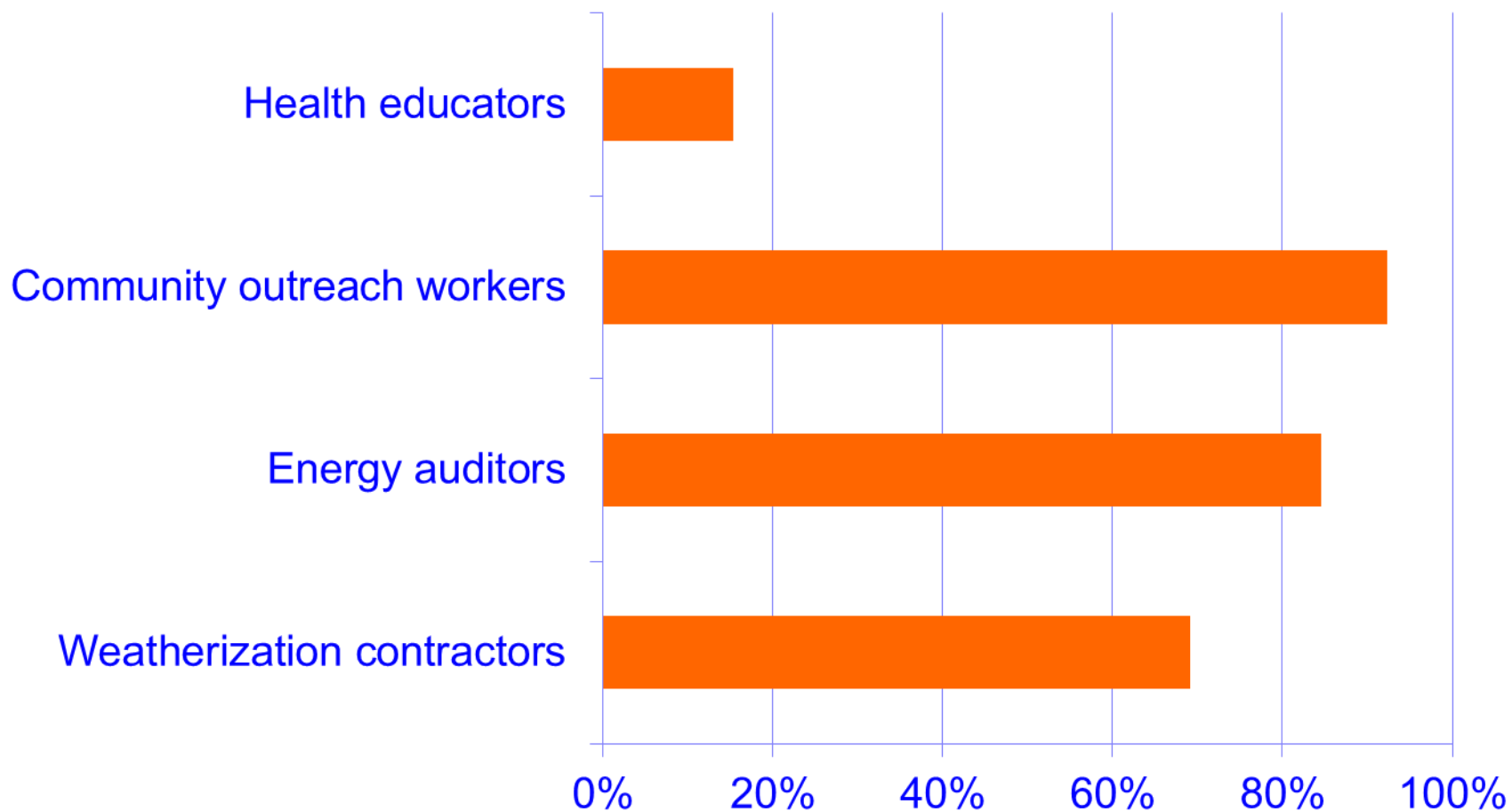
What are some of the health and safety reasons that made you walk away from a weatherization project?



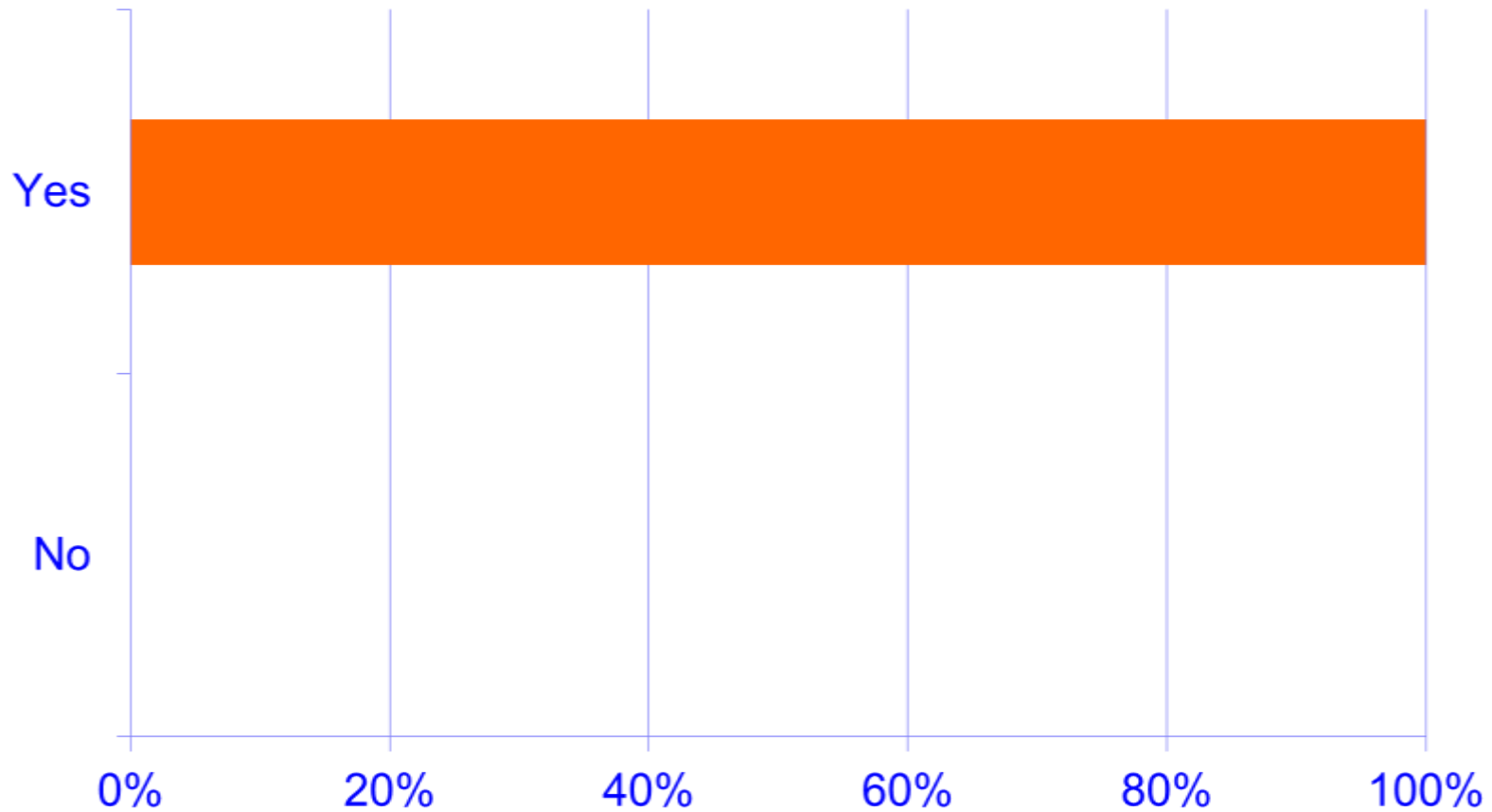
What is the biggest barrier to performing health and safety work?



What type of staff work for your program?



Are you interested in exploring collaborations with other programs that address housing-based health issues?



WAP Healthy Homes Data Profiles

Example of one organization based on
their catchment area

Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition Weatherization Program
Estimates of Public Health Indicators by Borough and United Hospital Fund (UHF) Neighborhoods
 (All estimates are for 2008 unless otherwise indicated)

	BLL ≥ 10 (rate per 1,000 children ages 6 months to < 6 yrs)	Asthma hospitalizations (rate per 10,000 residents)	Mice or rats in the building (% of households)	Cockroaches in the home (% of households)	Cracks and holes (% of households)	Maintenance deficiencies (% of households)	Leaks in the home (% of households)	Carbon Monoxide exposures (rate per 100,000 residents)	Adults who smoke cigarettes (% 2009)	Secondhand smoke at home (% 2009)	Nitric Oxide (90th percentile, summer 2009)	Fine Particulate Matter (90th percentile, summer 2009)
New York City	3.4	83.7	21.8	28.5	13.5	12.9	16.7	19.6	16.0	5.1	—	—
Bronx	3.0	166.5	36.0	42.3	21.2	22.6	26.5	7.0	18.1	4.8	—	—
Brooklyn	4.4	68.6	26.3	32.9	15.4	15.5	17.1	17.0	16.1	6.3	—	—
Manhattan	2.1	52.9	19.9	26.4	14.3	12.4	16.1	60.4	15.0	3.9	—	—
Queens	3.1	71.4	13.9	23.7	8.8	7.7	12.8	4.6	14.6	4.6	—	—
Staten Island	2.7	36.6	8.4	6.0	4.6	3.6	11.5	2.7	19.7	6.4	—	—
Crotona -Tremont	3.1	194.8	50.1	49.5	24.0	27.5	29.8	16.9	20.4	5.7*	23.6	12.4
Fordham - Bronx Pk	3.8	142.4	41.8	53.3	24.1	28.8	29.4	3.9	17.0	5.4*	20.0	11.8
Kingsbridge - Riverdale	1.5	80.6	23.0	37.9	20.2	15.6	20.2	3.5	14.5*	1.3*	20.2	11.8

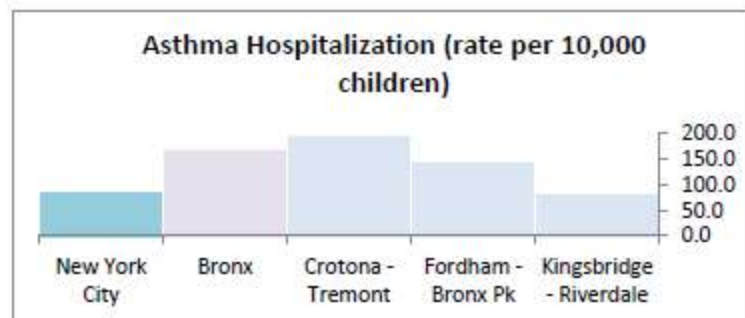
* Estimate is based on small numbers so should be interpreted with caution

** Estimate is suppressed due to insufficient data

Data sources: Lead data from LPPP datasets; all other data from Environmental Public Health and Sustainability Tracking Portal (<https://gis.nyc.gov/doh/track/>)

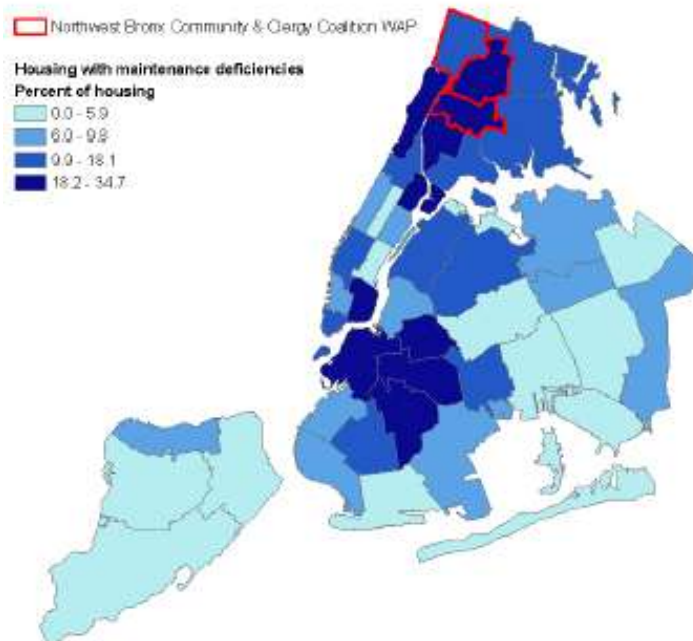
Summary of significant health indicators

- NBCCC serves an area with extremely high asthma hospitalization rates
- Proportion of homes affected by pests is significantly higher than citywide average
- High proportion of homes with maintenance deficiencies is a concern for catchment area



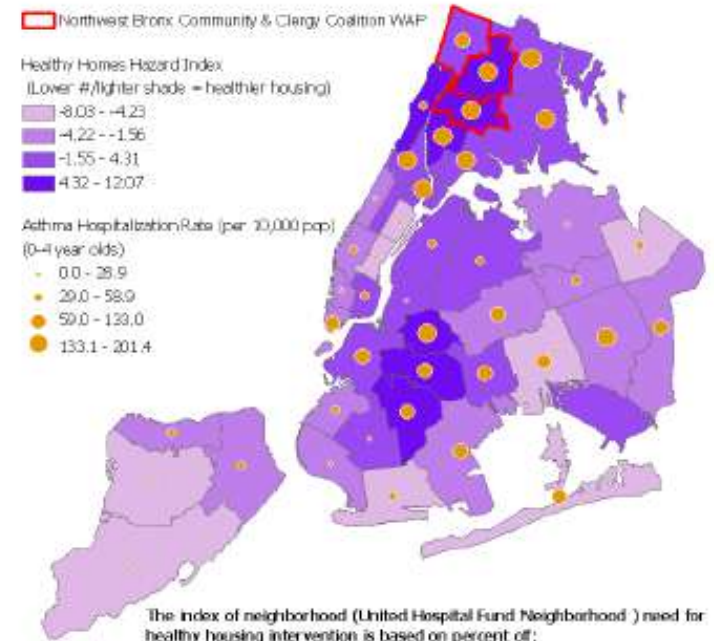
Data Profile for Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition WAP (Cont.)

Percent of housing with three or more maintenance deficiencies by New York City Neighborhood



2008 estimates extracted from the NYC DOHMH Environmental Public Health Tracking and Sustainability Portal

Estimating the need for healthy housing by New York City neighborhood



The index of neighborhood (United Hospital Fund Neighborhood) need for healthy housing intervention is based on percent of:

- households reporting seeing cockroaches daily
- households reporting mice or rats in their building
- households with cracks/holes or leaks from outside the unit
- households with 3 or more maintenance deficiencies

2008 estimates extracted from the NYC DOHMH Environmental Public Health Tracking and Sustainability Portal

What It Will Take To Build This Collaborative

- Organizing skills
 - Dedicated staff person/leadership involvement
 - Become a resource/on-going communication
- Listening to priorities/meeting halfway
- Persistence/passion
- Problem solving skills
 - Listening to problems/constructive solutions
 - Showing progress/follow through
- Getting support at all levels/showing results/build on existing assets

Challenges

- **Scale of NYC**
 - 16 WAPs
 - Lots of homes and apartments
- **The Bureaucracies**
 - Multiple agencies
 - Resistance to change/piloting less scary
 - Time of less resources/hard to do new things

Next Steps

- Meeting with each WAP – review data profiles, review visioning summary, listen to their thoughts, take note of those most interested
- Meeting with a key players – HPD, HCR, NYSERDA – and agree on next steps
- Reconvene WAPs – work groups on priority interest areas for the year/staff groups to keep things moving
 - Solutions to overcome barriers
 - Implementation strategy
- On-going information sharing and communication
- Look for funding/grants