

An Evaluation of the Knowledge and Practices of Metro Vancouver Residents Regarding Mould

A BCIT Applied Research Project by Chloe LeTourneau

Overview

- PURPOSE
- RATIONALE
- LITERATURE REVIEW
- METHOD
- RESULTS
- DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSION

Purpose:

To evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Metro Vancouver residents regarding mould as it relates to Indoor Air Quality.

Rationale:

Public and Environmental Health professionals will be better able to address concerns from the public regarding mould when they have a better understanding of the public perception on the topic.

Key Literature Review Findings

A microscopic view of mold spores on a light-colored surface. The spores are dark, irregularly shaped, and scattered across the surface. Some spores are clustered together, while others are isolated. The background is a light, off-white color with some faint, darker spots.

1 Mould is
EVERYWHERE

2 Contributing factors include moisture, a nutrient source, and others



3 Indoor environments can easily become a part of the problem



4 Health effects are varied



5 Preventing an accumulation of moisture is critical to preventing the mould growth



6 Remediation depends on the extent of the problem



7 Reliable resources are available to the public but may be difficult to access



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

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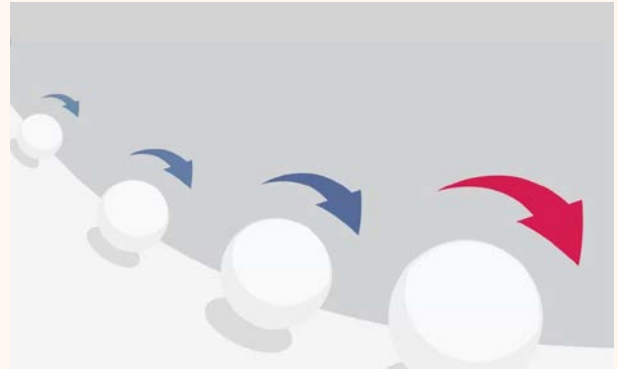


CMHC SCHL

WORK SAFE BC

Method

- Self-administered online questionnaire
- Open to Metro Vancouver residents
- Disseminated using email, social media and the snowball effect



Questionnaire Details

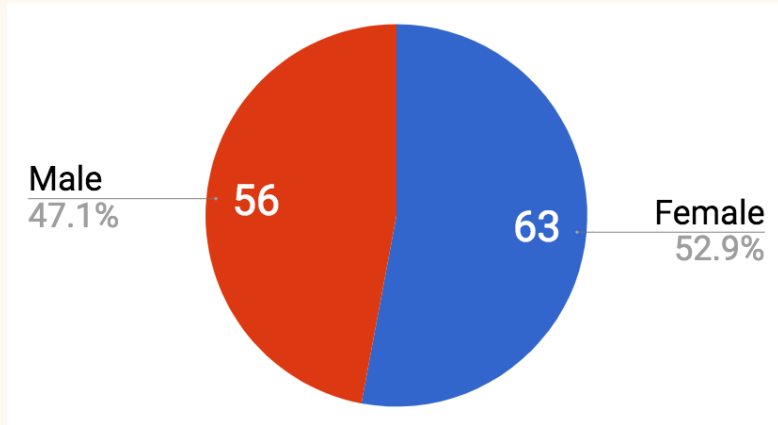
- SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS, INCLUDING:
 - Age
 - Housing status
 - Highest education achieved
- SECTION 2: KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES
 - Questions informed by literature review findings
 - Knowledge scores assigned based on answers
- SECTION 3: BEHAVIOUR AND PRACTICES, INCLUDING:
 - Hypothetical scenarios



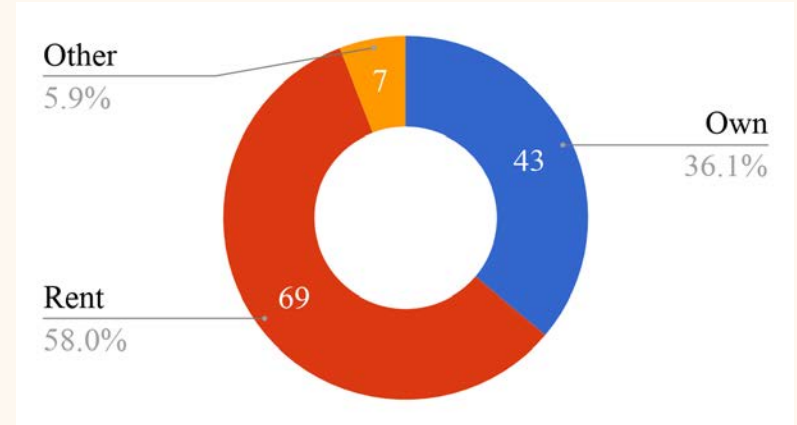
Results

Descriptive Statistics - Demographics

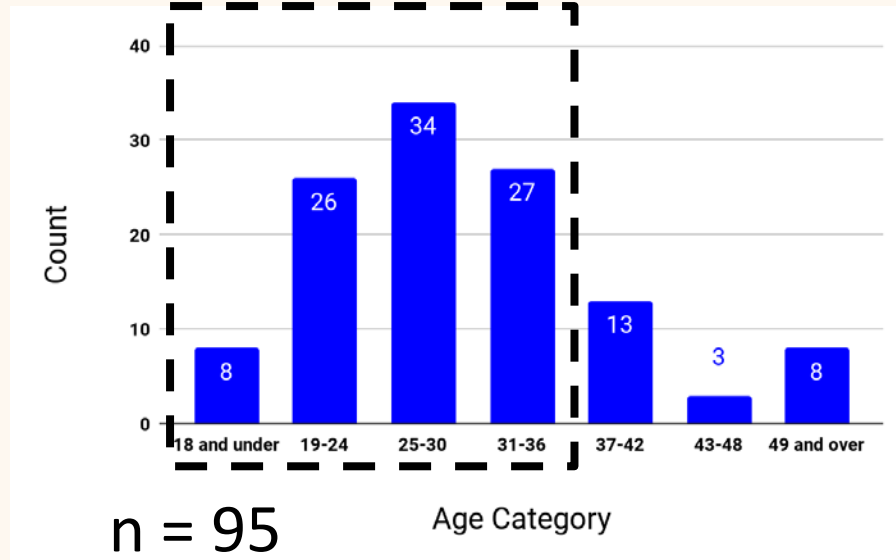
Respondent Gender



Respondent Housing Status



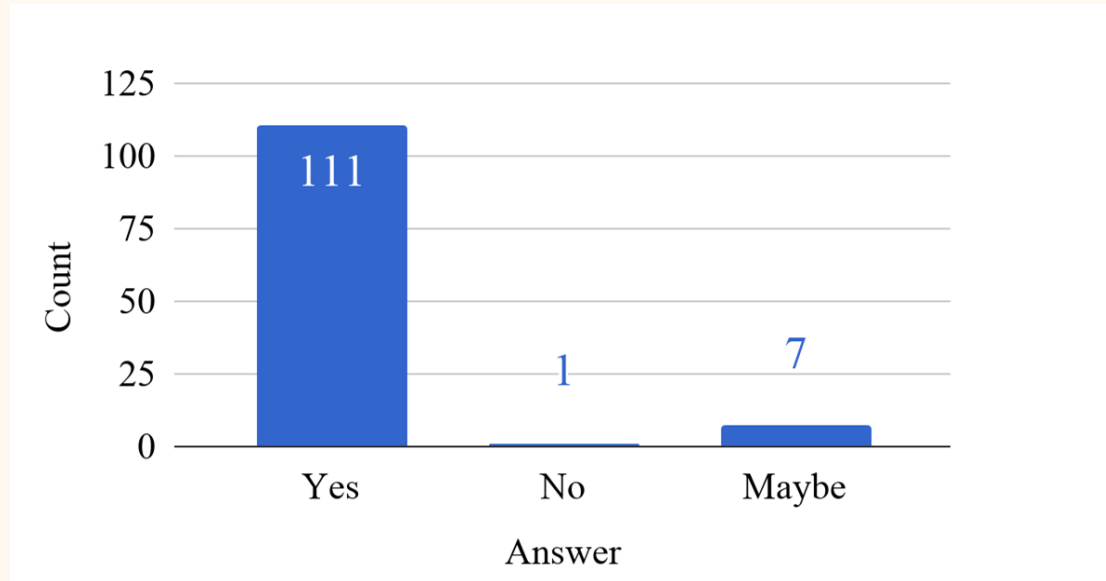
Respondent Age Category



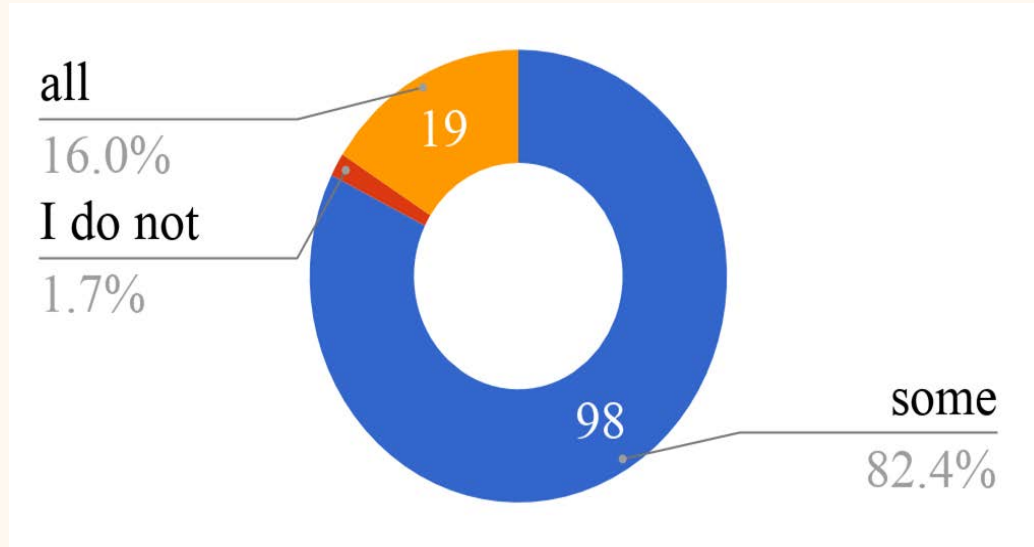
Knowledge Score Summary

Mean	Median	Mode	Standard Deviation	Range	Min.	Max.	Count
14.59	15	18	3.50	17	3	20	119

“In your opinion, does the quality of the indoor environment have an impact on health?”

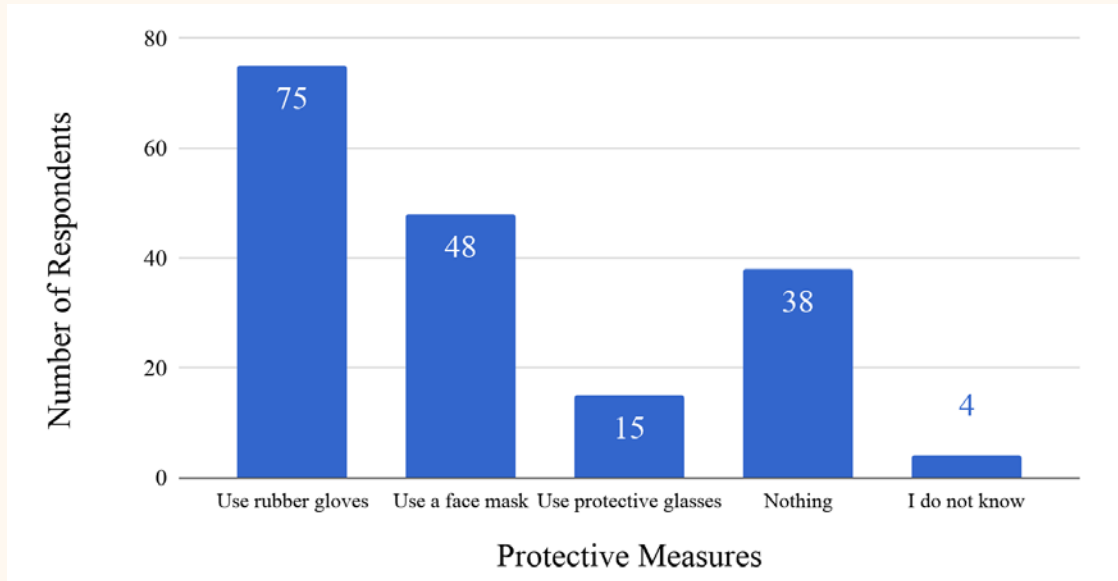


“_____ species of mould can potentially cause harm to humans”

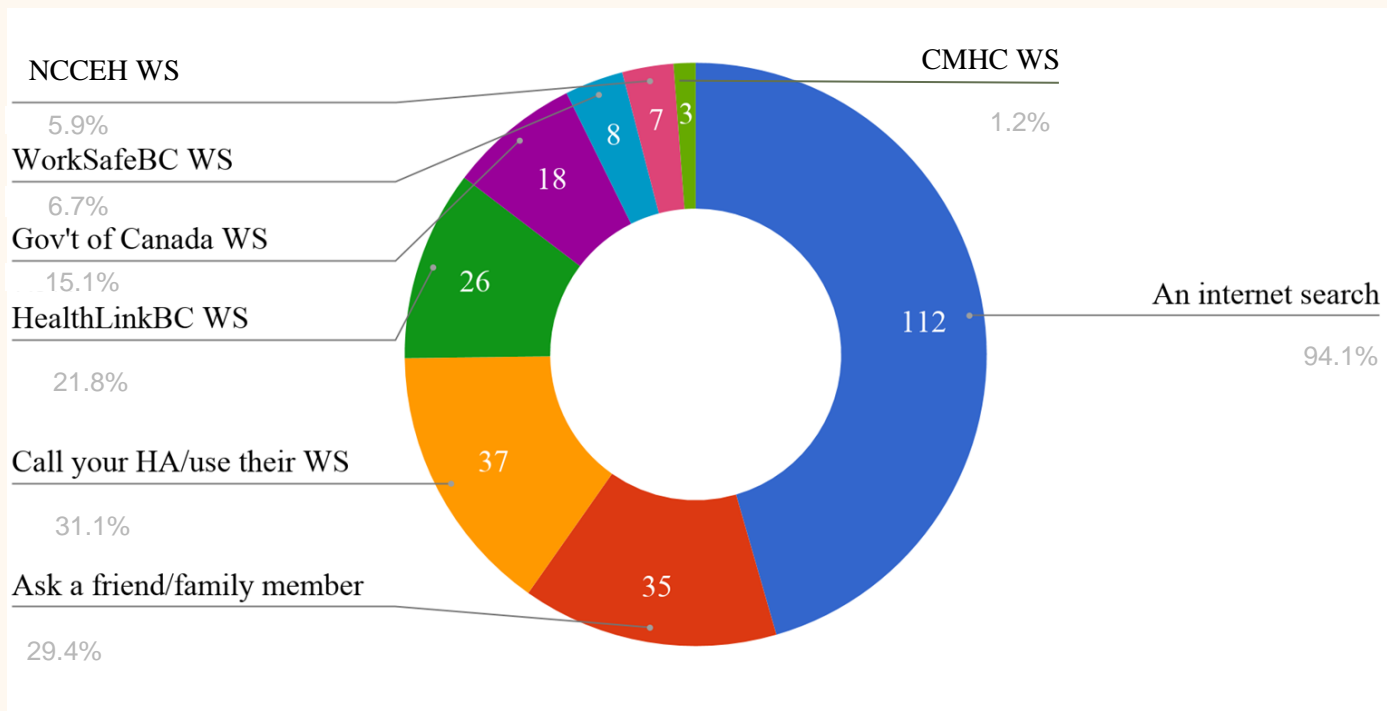


Descriptive Statistics - Practices

"If you were to clean a small amount of mould yourself, what measures would you take to protect yourself?"



“Which of the following resources would you use to learn more about mould and mould remediation recommendations?”



Inferential Statistics Summary

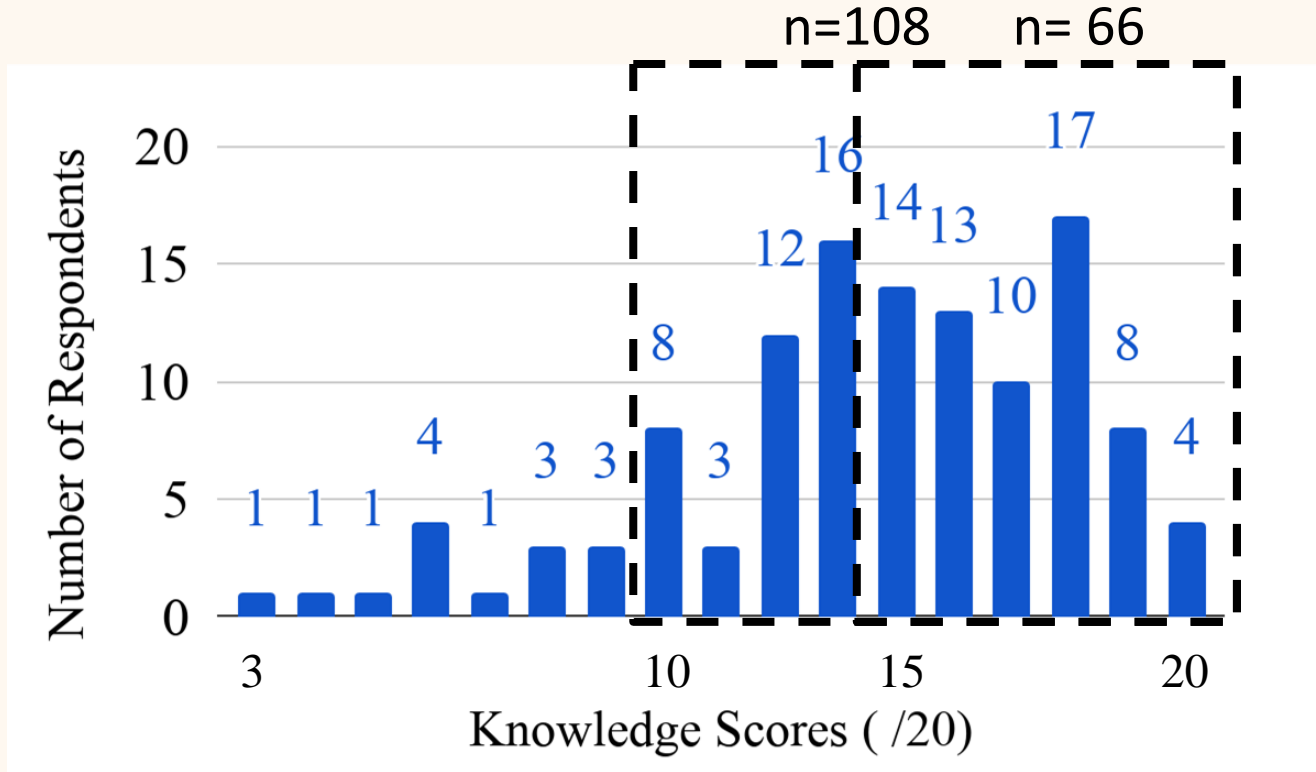
Comparison		Test Used	Result	Conclusion
Knowledge score	Gender	Independent samples t-test	$p = 0.0987$	There is no statistically significant difference for all comparisons made.
	Age	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	$p = 0.758$	
	Education		$p = 0.610$	
	Income		$p = 0.248$	
	Housing Status		$p = 0.762$	

Discussion

But what do these results mean?

- There is no difference between respondent knowledge score and ...
 - Gender
 - Age Category
 - Highest Level of Education
 - Income Category
 - Housing Status
- No one group would necessarily benefit from targeted educational campaign(s)

Knowledge Scores Were Fair



Gaps in Knowledge Exist

Examples of topic areas which appear to be poorly understood:

1. Mould exposure pathways
2. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) selection
3. Where to access valid and reliable information

Knowledge Translation



- Educational material to target identified gaps in knowledge
 - E.g. exposure pathways of mould and corresponding PPE to use when cleaning up mould
- HA websites specifically addressing ‘mould’ as a topic and linking to the valid and reliable sources of information
- The existing reliable sources should consider having a higher profile in their information on mould

Future Research Projects

1. An investigation of the public perception of mould as an IAQ issue ...
 - a. For all British Columbia residents, or for all residents of Canada
 - b. Utilizing all possible questionnaire methods
2. A comparison between the number of complaints or inquiries fielded by EHOs which are addressed on their HA website vs. those that are not

Conclusion

In summary...

- Knowledge of the topic was determined to be fair
- There was no difference between respondent knowledge scores and corresponding gender, age, level of education, income or housing status
- Insights from this study could be useful for agencies in promoting their resources and for Environmental and Public Health professionals when addressing queries from the public regarding mould

Thank you

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Question Period
