

Bed Bug Management: Preliminary Survey of Public Health Agencies in Canada

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NCCEH Bed Bug Planning Meeting



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale



BC Centre for Disease Control
An Agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Survey Objective

Identify and highlight

- Current state of public health practice with regards to bed bug management in various Canadian jurisdictions
- Current challenges and where support is needed

Generate discussion

- Provide a framework
- Preliminary sample not intended to be comprehensive

Survey Design

Participants

- Directors and managers (or alternate) of previously identified agencies involved in public health inspection
- One or more agencies in each province/territory (P/T) surveyed depending on governance structure (provincial, regional)
- Quebec governance structure was unclear at the time; no data collected

Survey Design

Survey

10 minutes

Sept 2013

Questions

based on essential (core)
public health functions
(roles) as outlined by
PHAC and often adopted
by provinces

challenges, barriers, and
support

T A B L E 1

Examples of Programming for Essential Public Health Functions.

Essential Function	Programming Examples
Population health Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population/community health needs assessment; • Health status report, system report card.
Health surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic health surveys; • Cancer and other disease registries; • Communicable disease reporting; • Ongoing analysis of data to identify trends or emerging problems, (e.g., recognition of increasing syphilis cases); • Report to practitioners of increasing threat, what they need to look for, and intervention required.
Health promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectoral community partnerships to solve health problems; • Advocacy for healthy public policies; • Catalyzing the creation of physical and social environments to support health (e.g., bike paths, promoting access to social networks for institutionalized seniors).
Disease and injury prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunizations; • Investigation and outbreak control; • Encouraging healthy behaviours (e.g., not smoking, healthy eating, physical activity, bicycle helmet use); • Early detection of cancers (e.g., organized programs for breast cancer screening).
Health protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurant inspections; • Child care facility inspections; • Water treatment monitoring; • Air quality monitoring/enforcement.

Survey Results

Response rate

- 77% (47 of 61), 10 provinces/territories (P/T)
- Missing AB, QC, NB


What are public health agencies currently doing with regard to bed bug management?

- Is there any consensus?
- Additional Roles
- Challenges, Barriers, Supports


Gaps and limitations

Close-ended Questions

Determined
% 'Yes' for each
P/T



Determined
% 'No' for each
P/T

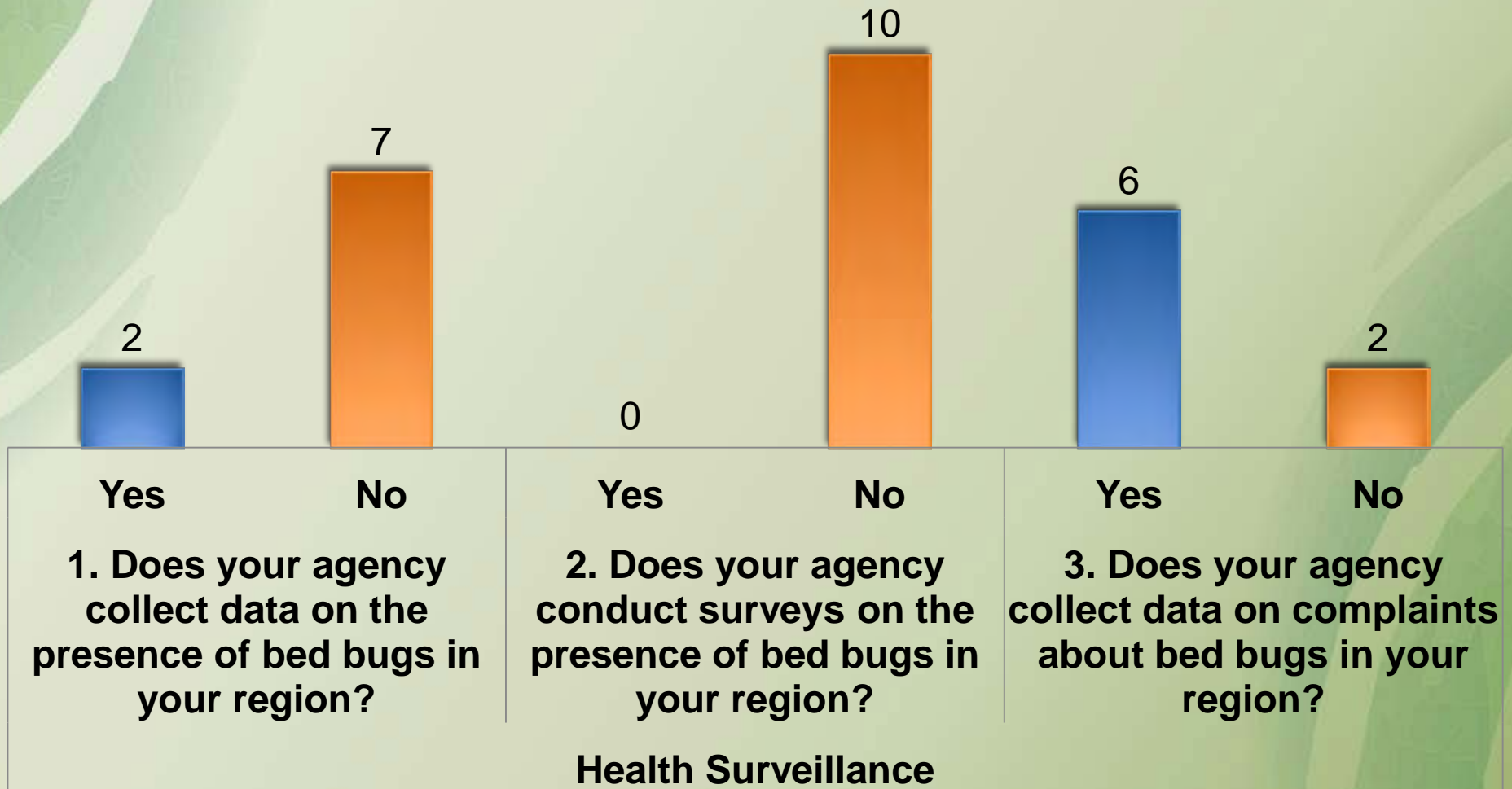


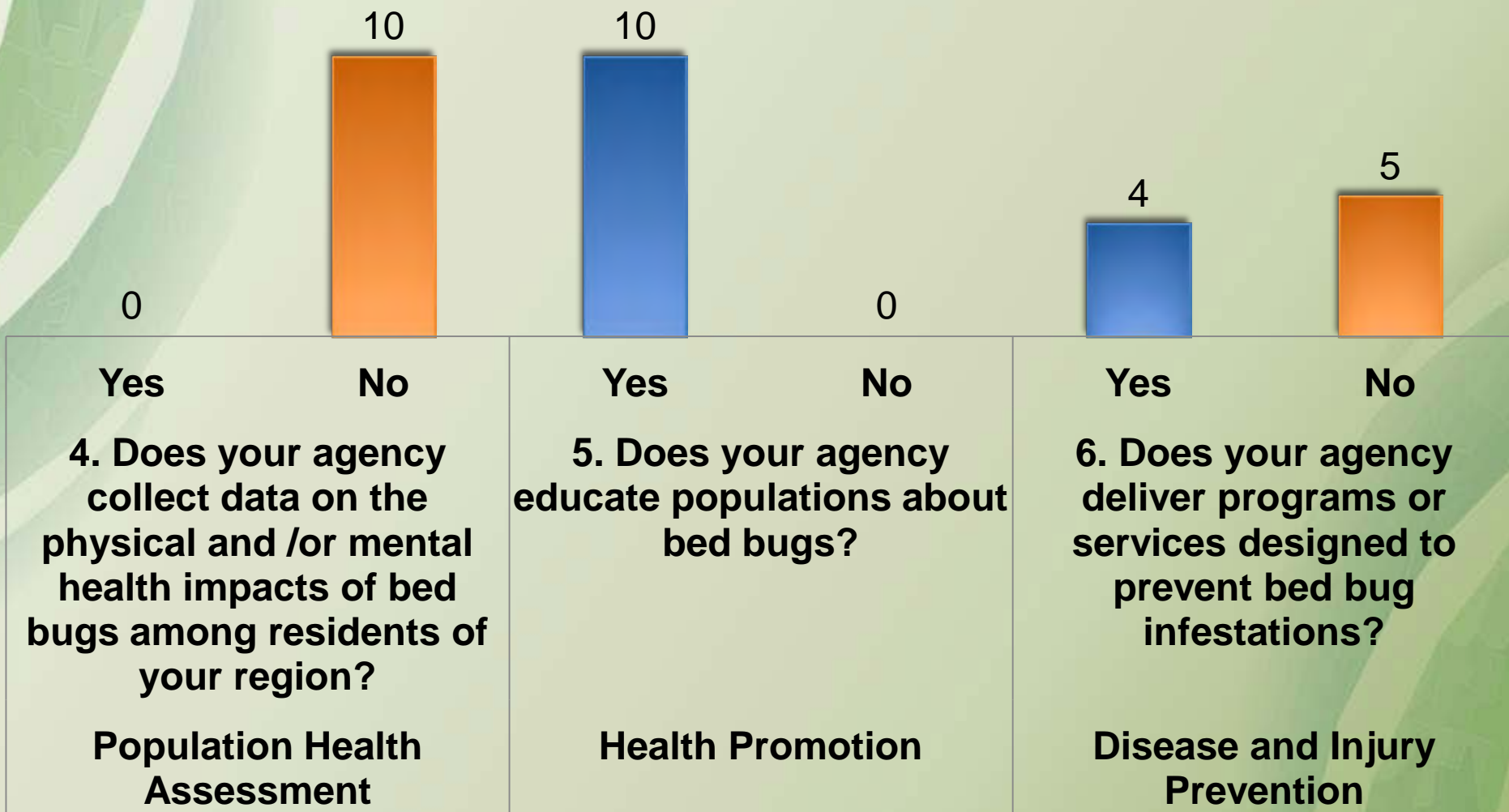
Summary

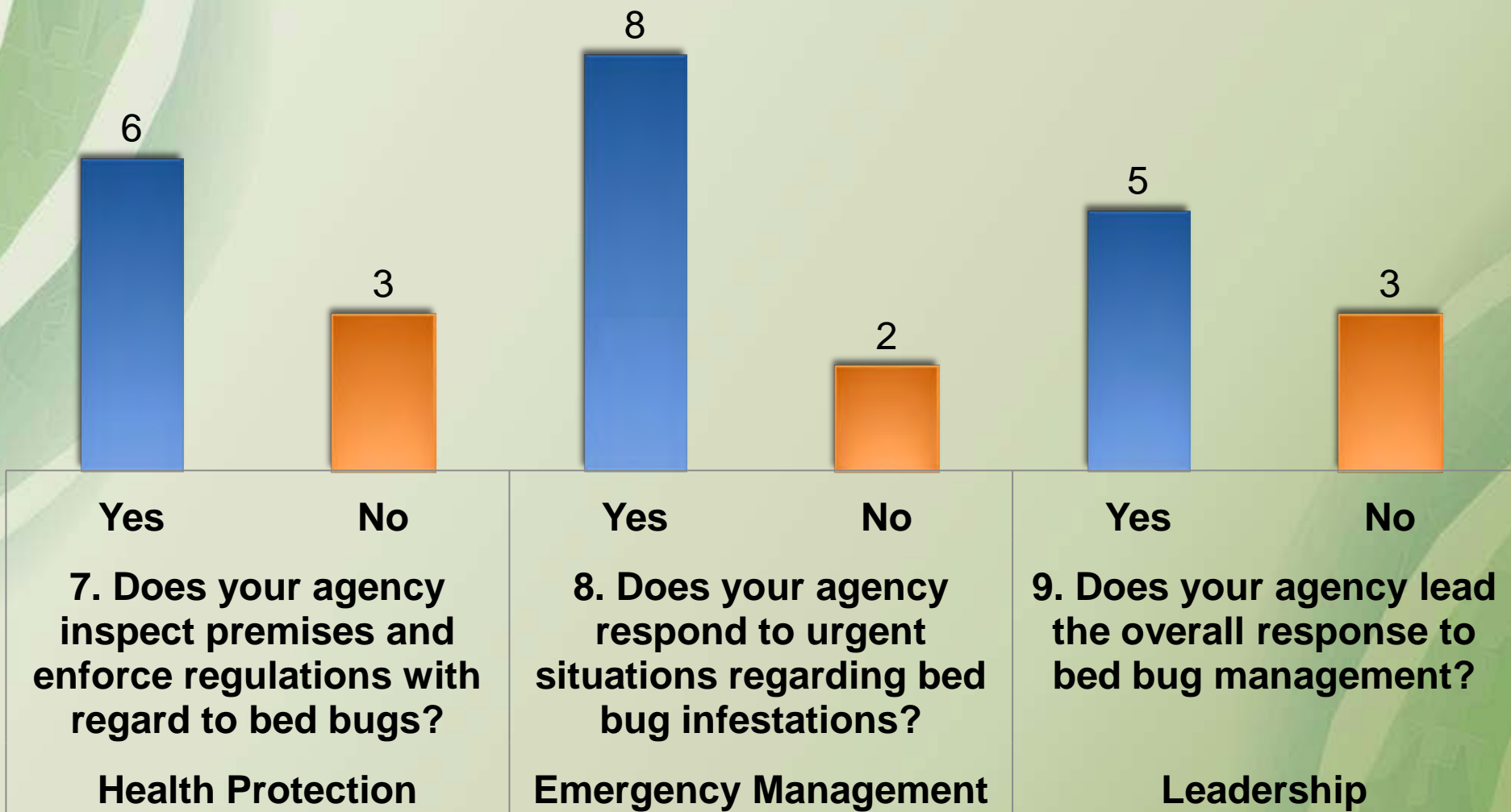
If amalgamated
responses for the
P/T were $\geq 75\%$ for
either yes or no, it
was included

Summary Results

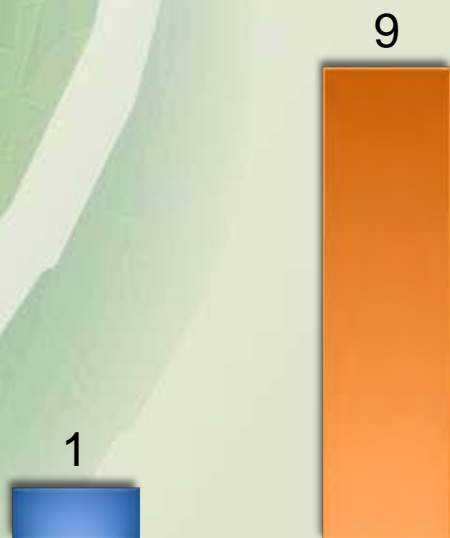
(only P/T with 75% or greater consistency in responses were included)











Yes

No

13. Does your agency conduct research about bed bugs?

Research

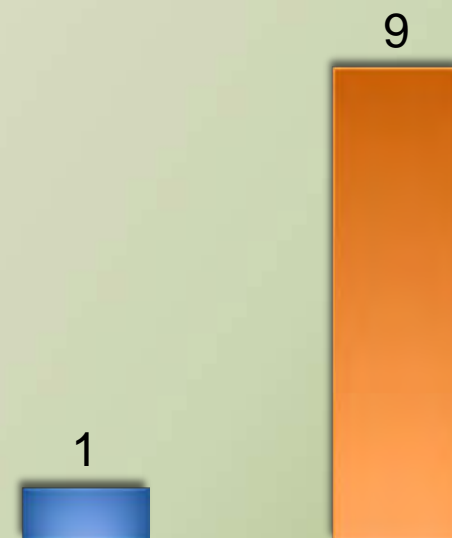


Yes

No

15. Does your agency face any challenges or barriers to effective bed bug management/response?

Challenges



Yes

No

16. Does your agency receive funding from your province or region specifically targeted to bed bugs?

Funding

Most currently...

Educate
populations
about bed bugs

Respond to
urgent situations
regarding bed
bug infestations

Foster
partnership and
collaboration
around bed bug
management

Most do not currently...

**Collect data
on presence
of bed bugs**

**Conduct
surveys on
the presence
of bed bugs**

**Collect data
on the
physical
and/or
mental
health
impacts of
bed bugs
among
residents in
their region**

**Have roles
within bed
bug
management
that are
focused on
specific
vulnerable
populations**

**Conduct
research
about bed
bugs**

Agencies vary in whether they...

**Collect data
on
complaints
about bed
bugs**

**Deliver
programs or
services
designed to
prevent bed
bug
infestations**

**Inspect
premises
and enforce
regulations
with regard
to bed bugs**

**Lead the
overall
response to
bed bug
management**

**Advocate for
improved
bed bug
management**

“Are your agency’s roles within bed bug management focused on specific vulnerable populations?”

PH agencies encounter more challenges with bed bug management where there is poverty

- Pre-treatment funding, preparation

Some mentioned they have roles with focus on...

- Individuals with lower income, social economic status
- Public housing, homeless shelters, substandard housing, non-profit housing providers
- Individuals with physical, mental health or addiction issues
- Tenants
- Schools, hotels,
- Elderly
- Facilities under PH jurisdiction (e.g., licensed facilities)

Additional roles/functions

- Bed bug identification
- Referral/alert to municipal bylaw office, residential tenancy, pest control (as appropriate)
- Committees
 - Lead stakeholder groups w/ community partners
 - Involved in those led by other agencies (e.g., housing, social services, fire, police) or community-based groups

Additional roles/functions

- Support/assist municipal bylaw officers (investigative purposes)
- Community consultations, presentations to facilities experiencing infestation
- Educate front-line staff

Challenges, Barriers

- Generally, public health does not currently see bed bug issue as falling under their mandate
 - No transmission of diseases,
 - Unclear if “health hazard” (generally not)
 - Legal implications for public health
 - Lack of data on the issue

Challenges, Barriers

- Lack of resources
 - Funding, capacity to respond (complex cases, time consuming)
 - Five of 47 surveyed agencies receive funding (prov/regional) specifically targeted to bed bugs
 - Pest management is expensive

Challenges, Barriers

- Low incidence of bed bugs in some communities
 - However, difficult to provide services/resources to these areas when affected

Challenges, Barriers

- Lack of a coordinated response
 - Nature of bed bug problem is transient and unevenly distributed across a region, or even within a city
 - Engagement of partners depends on availability and capacity of provincial, regional, local departments to dedicate resources to this issue

What kind of support are PH agencies looking for?

Health Protection

- regulatory and legislative support

Health Surveillance

- assess degree of problem

Population Health Assessment; Health Equity, Advocacy

- assess physical and mental health impacts, education, especially vulnerable populations

Partnership and Collaboration, Health Promotion

- define roles and responsibilities of various agencies
- funding for mandated roles
- engage community partners, education

Leadership

- provincial leadership to recognize problem and commit

Gaps and Limitations

Results do not cover all PH/EH agencies, but presents preliminary data

- need to verify who is involved in bed bug management from a PH/EH perspective for each P/T

Different governance structures and number of PH agencies in each province

Impact of bed bugs differ in rural and urban communities

Gaps and Limitations

Framework to discuss
roles/functions

- how to facilitate
dialogue and progress?

What are the
priorities?
Strategy?

Your thoughts and discussion...

Thank You

Questions?
Comments?

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