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IFPTI Fellowship Cohort V: Research Presentation

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***Factors Influencing Texas Health
Department's Enrollment in the Voluntary
National Retail Food Regulatory
Program Standards***

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National uniformity has been an ongoing debate for years (FDA, 2015)

The Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS):

- Developed and designed by the FDA to help food regulatory programs
- Has 9 Program Standards with the goal of reducing or eliminating the occurrence of foodborne illnesses and deaths from food at the retail level

- Texas is a ‘home rule state’:
 - 262 independent jurisdictions.
- From 2001 to present enrollment of 65 (25%)

Texas State and Local Health Jurisdictions

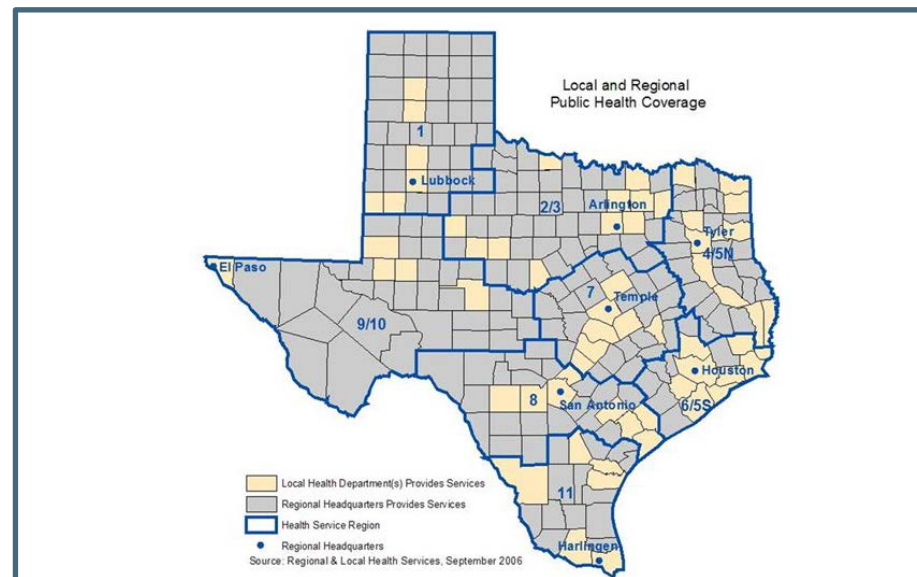


Image source: Department of State Health Services, March 2012, Retrieved from <http://slideplayer.com/slide/759578/>

No current published research describes the influences that bring about or hinder adoption of the Retail Program Standards by Texas local health departments.

1. What do Texas local health departments perceive as the benefits of enrollment in the Retail Program Standards?
2. What do Texas local health departments perceive as the barriers to entry into the Retail Program Standards?
3. What barriers have local health departments in Texas encountered after enrolling in the Retail Program Standards?
4. What are the characteristics associated with the local health departments enrolled and those not enrolled in the Retail Program Standards?

Qualitative data:

- 10 question survey via electronic mail

Email lists:

- FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Standards
- Local Public Health Organizations listing on the Texas Department of State Health Services

Study population:

- Food Safety Inspection Officers (FSIO) employed by local health departments
- Both enrolled and non-enrolled in VNRFRPS

Data collection/analysis:

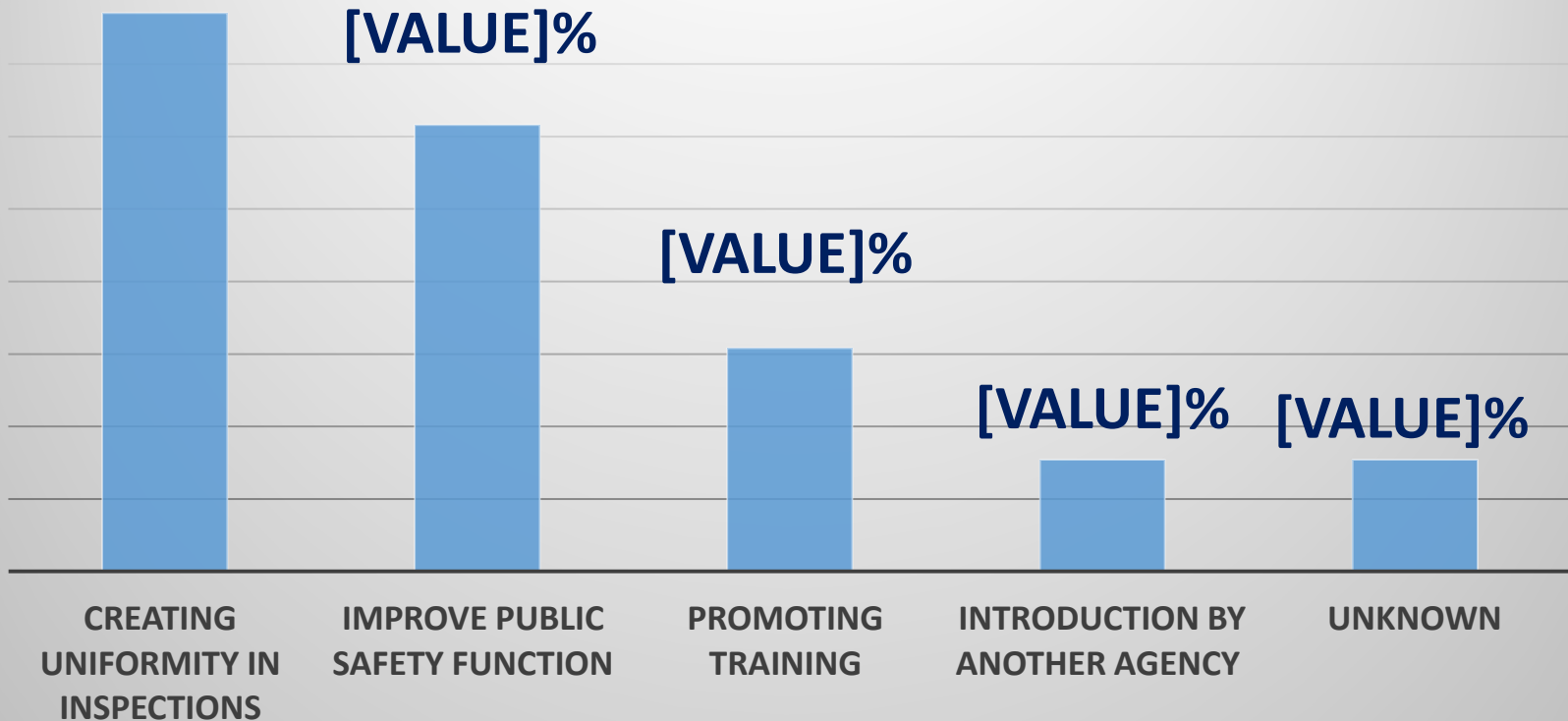
- Excel spreadsheet data collection

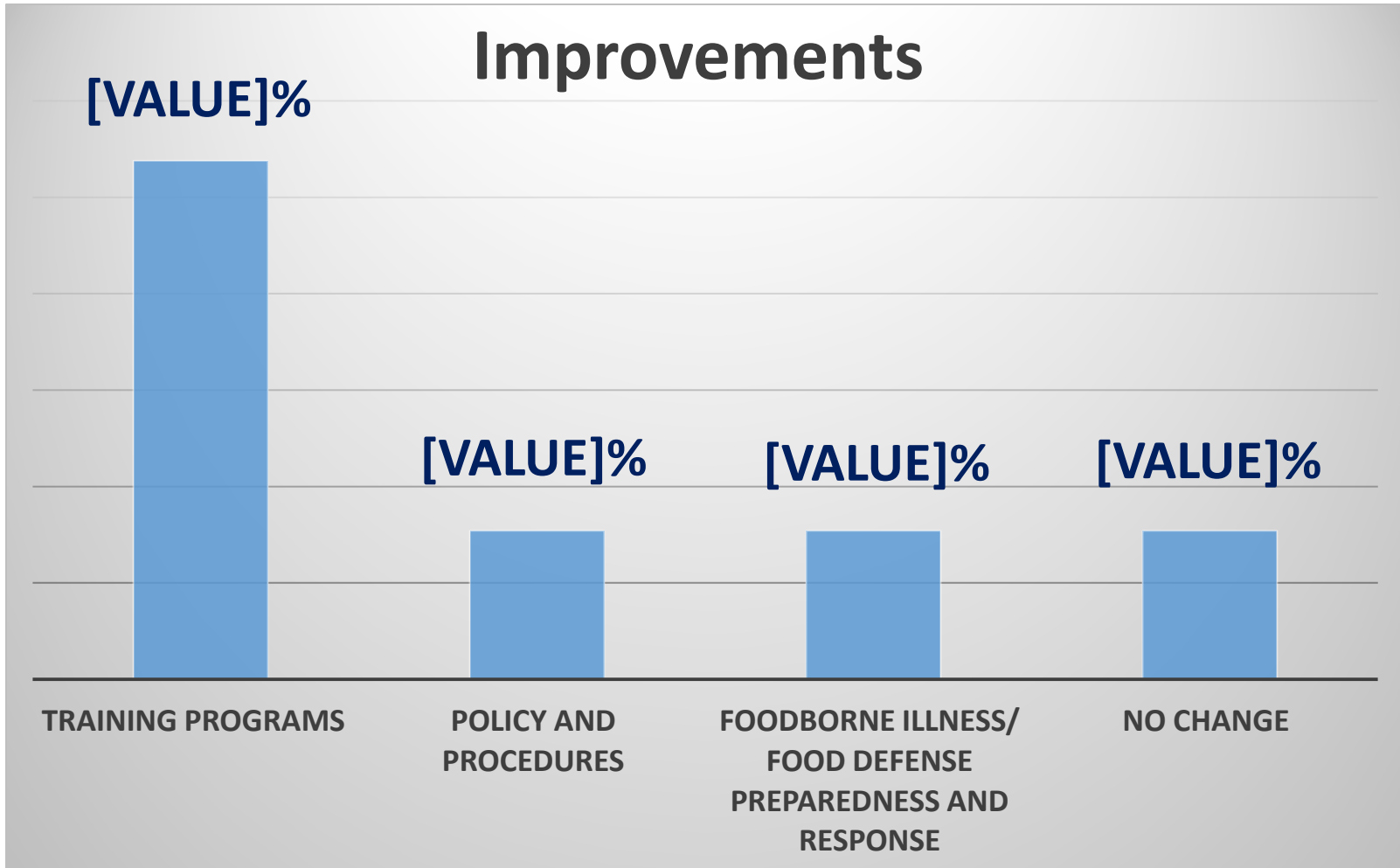
- Total of 16 responses
 - 13 enrolled
 - 3 non-enrolled
- Data separated into groups based on population
 - Large: 200,000 and above (8)
 - Medium: 100,000 – 200,000 (5)
 - Small: 100,000 or less (3)

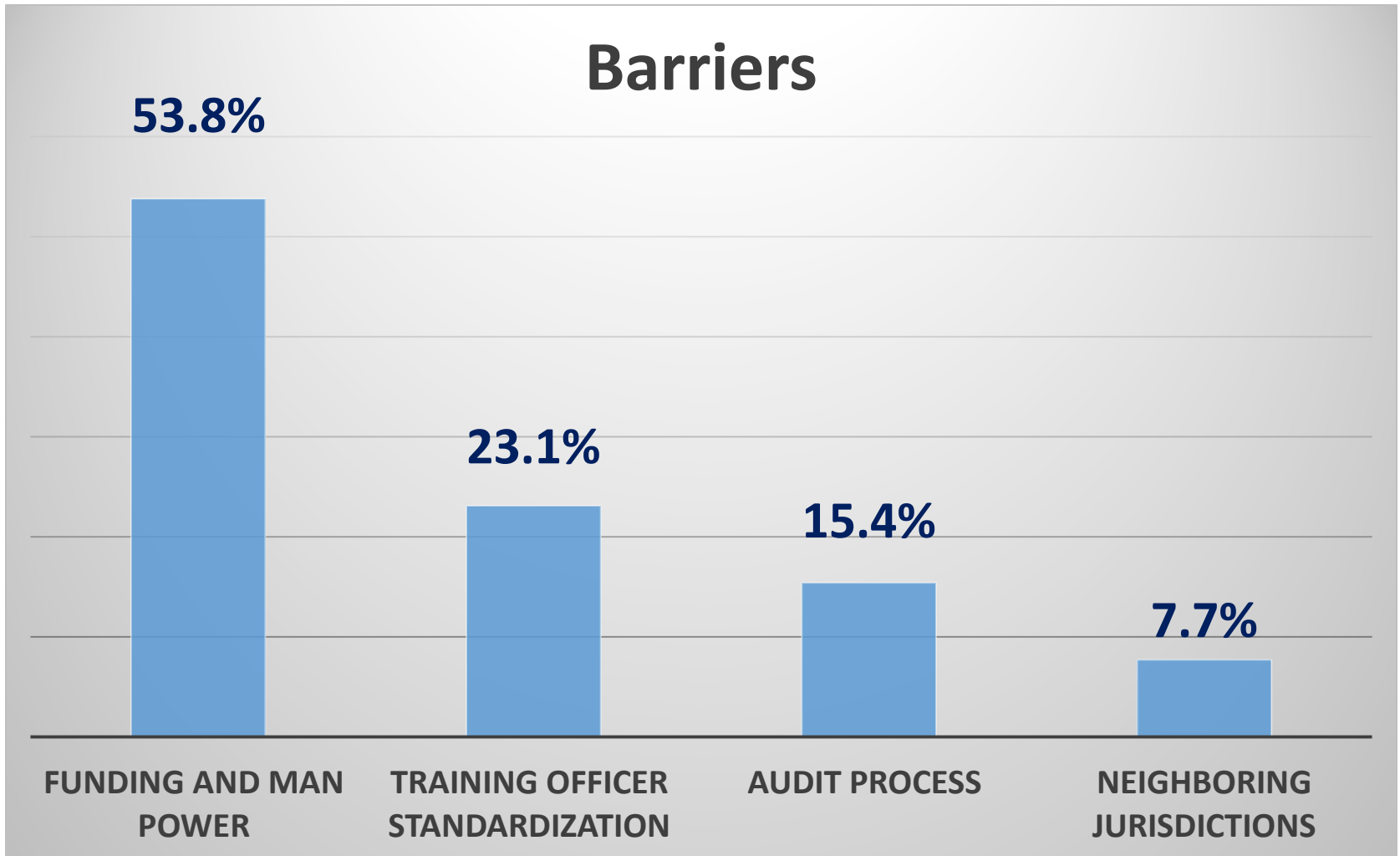
- Larger health departments complete more Standards compared to small health departments that only complete one or less.
- 5 of the 13 (38.5%) identified Standard 2 – Training and Standardization as the most difficult to complete.
- 10 of the 13 (76.9%) enrolled local health departments had no formal training program.

Purpose of Enrollment

[VALUE]%







- Thoughts regarding the Retail Program Standards:
 - Enrolled
 - Assistance from Federal and State level health departments
 - Support of the Training Standardization Officer
 - Non-enrolled
 - No assistance needed

- Improvement
 - Training programs
 - Creation of policy and procedures
 - Foodborne illness/food defense preparedness and response
- Barriers
 - Lack of budgeting and reduced staff
 - Training Standardization Officer
 - Auditing process
 - Trouble partnering with another agency

Dedicated website to the Retail Program Standards in Texas created to:

1. Share Texas-specific information and advice regarding the Retail Program Standards.
2. Encourage communication among the 262 local health departments regarding opportunities and overcoming barriers to implementation of the Retail Program Standards.
3. Identify funding and resources for enrollees.
4. Provide technical information on topics such as auditing and self-assessment.

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) management:
 - Mr. Jon Huss, Section Director
 - Dr. Rod Moline, Unit Manager
 - Mr. Christopher Sparks, Public Sanitation and Retail Food Safety Manager
- DSHS Public Sanitation and Retail Food Safety Team
- Mr. Cameron Smoak, Fellowship Mentor
- Paul Dezendorf, Research Subject Matter Expert
- IFPTI Fellows
- IFPTI staff

Questions?



Image source: <http://www.lhtech.us/FAQs.php>

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- Texas has updated to the FDA 2013 Model Food Code
 - VNRFRPS Standard 1 has been updated for any health department in Retail Program Standards
- Small survey
 - Lead to more surveys (specific)