

Strengthening the Capacity of Health Professionals Serving Minority & Low Income Communities to Prevent Environmental Health Risks

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New England Focus



- **Collaboration: state & local health departments**
- **All stakeholders**
 - Planning
 - Execution
- **Local environmental topics**
- **IOM Competencies**

Congressman P. Kennedy

March 12, 2006

Core Curriculum: Locally-Focused

- Cultural/Religious use of heavy metals
 - *Azogue & mercurio*
- Marine paint
- Tire burning
- Agricultural pesticide use





Project Overview

- **8 Workshops**
 - 421 nurse/PH professionals –full day program
- **6 Workshops**
 - 620 student nurses
 - 40 nurse faculty at faculty development workshops
- **60,000 NE children reached**

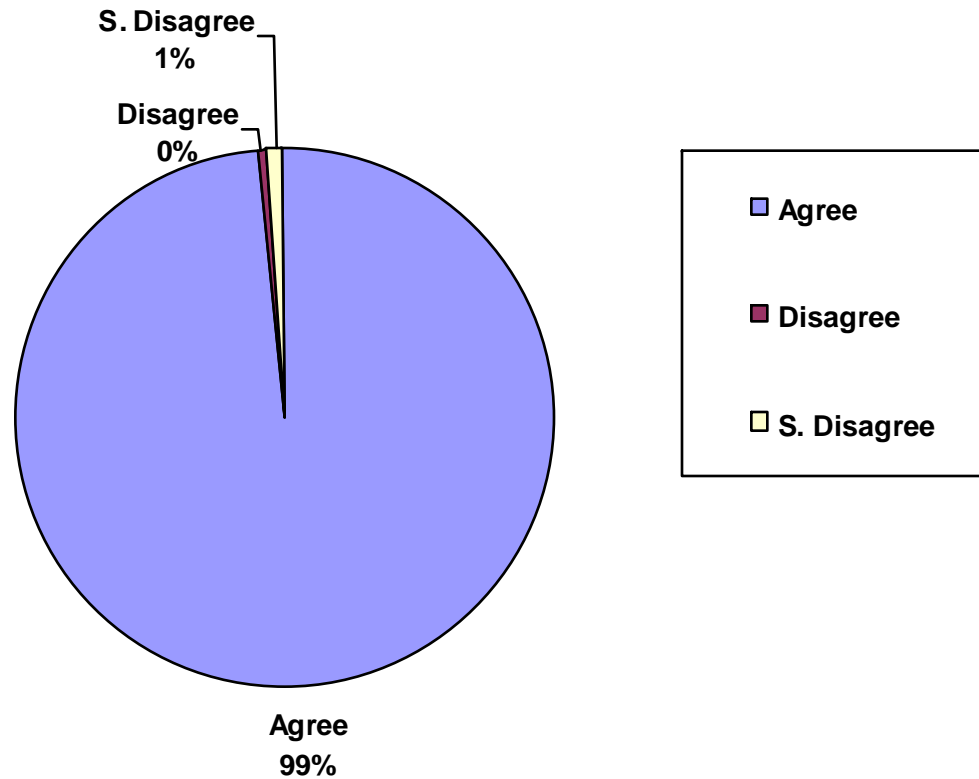
Evaluation

- Knowledge gain
- Translation into practice
- Sustainability



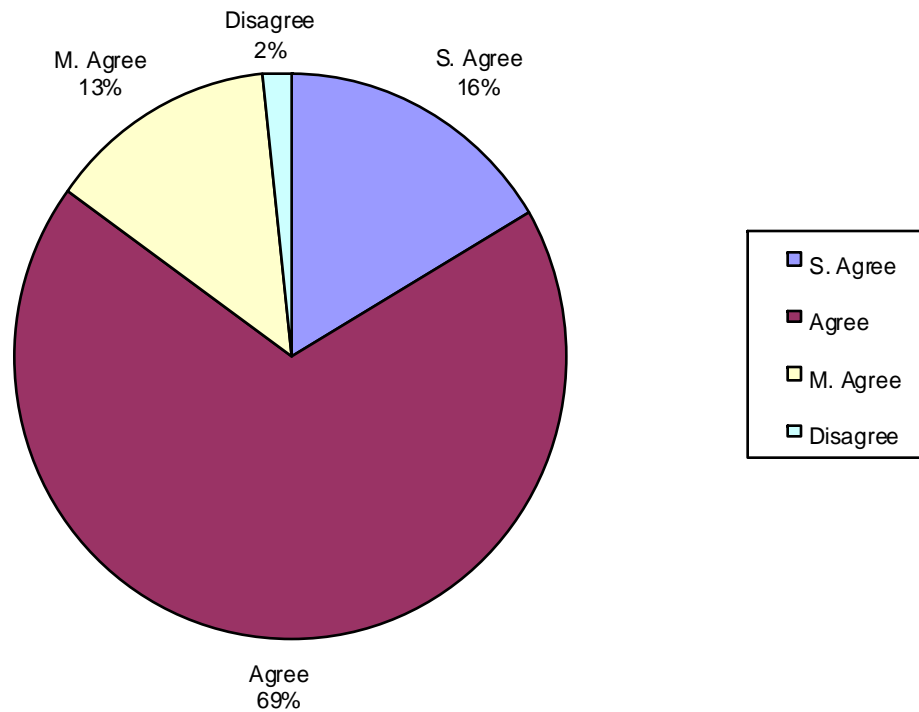
Post Test

Q6. Percent Able to Describe Selected Children's Health Prevention & Control Strategies for Environmental Hazards (n=205)



45+ Days Post Evaluation

1(a). Percent Comfortable in Addressing, Identifying, & Preventing Environmental Health Risk to Children (n=166)





Knowledge to Practice

“...we are in a very rural area. I really never thought much about well water quality except for microbial contamination. You don't really give much thought the long-term use of arsenic and lead on the apple crops and the pesticides and things that get sprayed on...potato fields. I have started to talk to people about water testing now. I even dropped off a sample here (state lab) on my way in to [focus group] for a family because couldn't afford testing and I know that this well is susceptible to a lot of problem just by where it is situated.”



Sustainability

■ Networking

- Local organizations
- Follow-up conferences

■ Policy changes

- "...integrated environmental health content into new nurse orientation" (*Agency level*)
- "...much more emphasis on environmental triggers in the Asthma Program" (*Program level*)
- "...green school materials to the school health advisory council & found someone to sponsor *Anti-idling* legislation." (*State*)
- "We are exploring the feasibility of a program similar to VT EHD here in our state health department" (*State*)

Sustainability

- Publications
 - *ViewPoint*
 - *Advance for Nurses*
 - *American Journal of Nursing*
- Listserve
- Website

