



PUBLIC HEALTH
BIOTERRORISM AND HEALTH
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Bioterrorism Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment of Tarrant County Physicians

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Objectives

- **Construct a system to evaluate level of physician knowledge regarding emergency their level of preparedness to respond to a crisis in the community.**
- **Develop a mechanism for identifying deficiencies in physician knowledge regarding potential intentional pathogens and other emerging diseases.**
- **Assess level of physician willingness to participate in various (CBRNE) emergencies.**
- **Discuss the most effective techniques for integrating physicians into an overall community emergency response system.**
- **Articulate how to improve local physician capability to recognize anomalous events and become a critical component of local surveillance system.**
- **In other words, how to use scientific methods to determine status and level of preparedness of your local clinical community**

Methods

- **A cross-sectional survey of practicing and retired physicians throughout Tarrant County, Texas was conducted in Spring 2006.**
- **Survey developed by using multi-disciplinary group of local stakeholders (epidemiologists, BT team, health authority, etc.).**
- **Support by the Fort Worth / Tarrant County Health Authority and the Tarrant County Medical Society was critical.**
- **Mail-out survey included self-addressed stamped envelope**
- **Sent to 3,202 active and retired physicians**

Goal: Two-fold

- 1) Assess the level of knowledge and preparedness of physicians in Tarrant County, and**
- 2) Identify specific areas of training deficiencies and preferred educational modalities.**

Bioterrorism Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment

As a physician in Tarrant County, your participation in this assessment of physician readiness and training needs regarding emergency preparedness and response to natural disasters and/or intentional biological events is greatly appreciated. These data gathered from this assessment will help us to better provide you with the most relevant, efficient, and effective training possible.

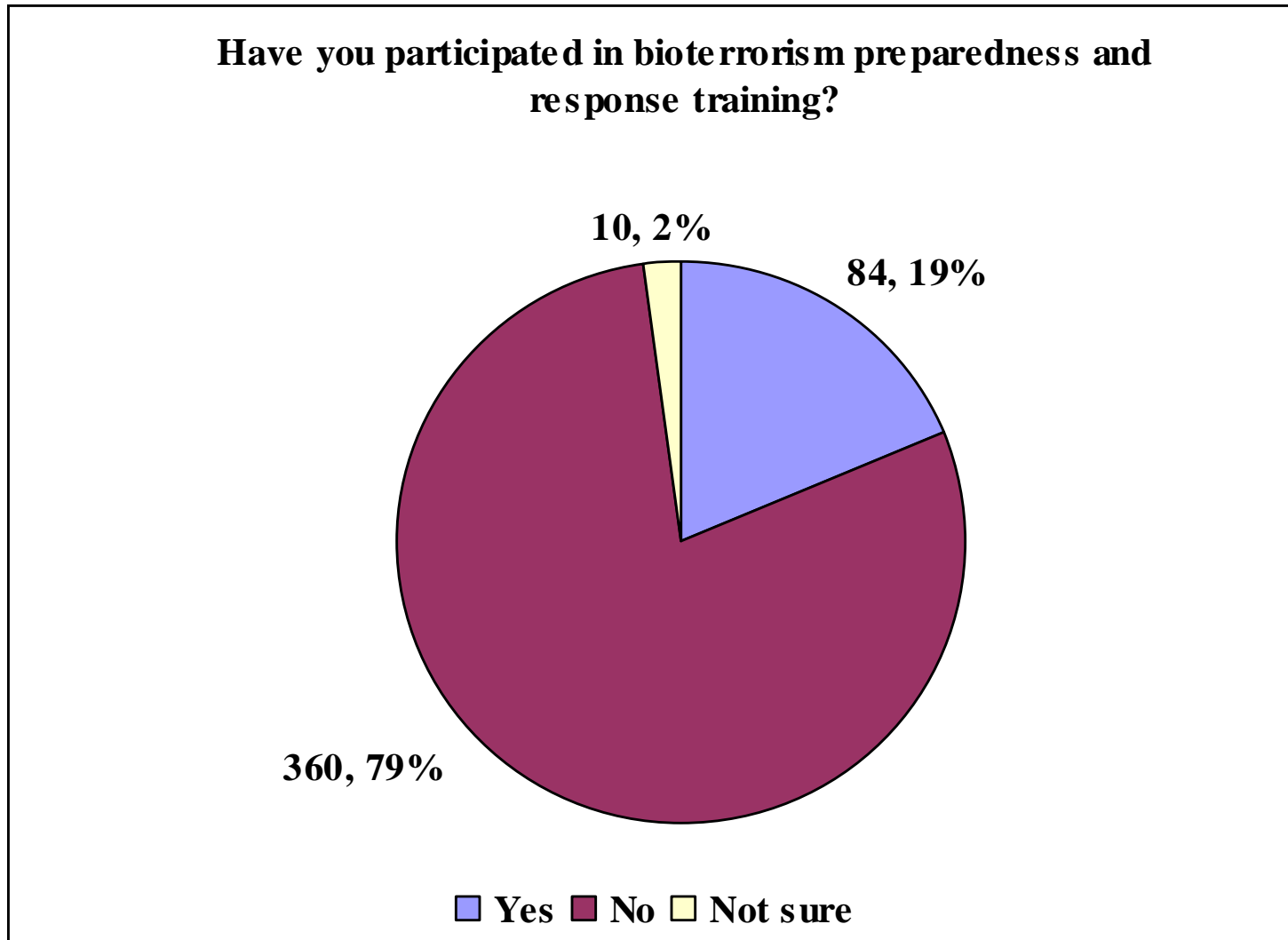
- **1) Have you participated in bioterrorism preparedness and response training?**
 - Yes No Not sure
- **2) Have you completed Core Disaster Life Support (CDLS) training?**
 - Yes No Not sure
- **3) Have you completed Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) training?**
 - Yes No Not sure
- **4) How would you rate your current knowledge regarding the recognition and management of bioterrorism-related illness?**
 - Excellent Good Fair Poor
- **5) Would you be willing to serve as a consultant in one of the following events?**
 - Infectious outbreak Trauma care Radiologic attack
- **6) Would you like to receive additional bioterrorism information and/or materials?**
 - Yes No
- **7) Would you like to be informed of future training opportunities in bioterrorism preparedness and response?**
 - Yes No
- **8) If Yes, what type of training would you prefer?**
 - **Self-paced Training**
 - Audio-visual
 - Internet-based
 - CD-ROM
 - Curriculum-based reading materials
 - Professional/scientific journals and publications
 - **Instructor-led Training**
 - Small-group workshop
 - Large-group presentations
 - Both
- **9) Would you like more information on joining the Medical Reserve Corps?***
 - Yes No

Thank you for your time and cooperation!!!



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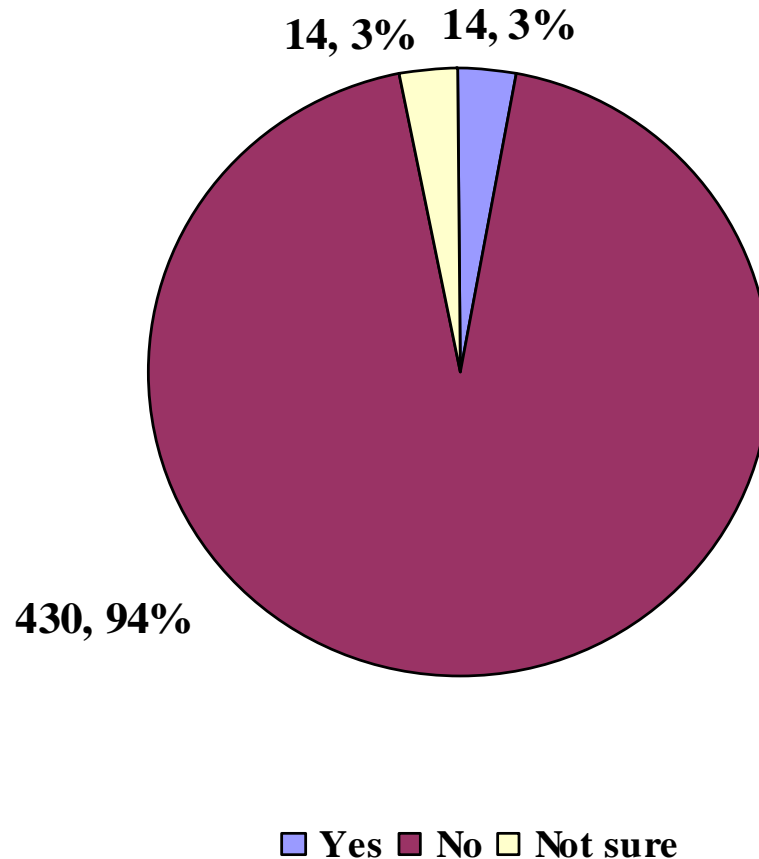


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**Have you completed Core Disaster Life Support (CDLS)
training?**

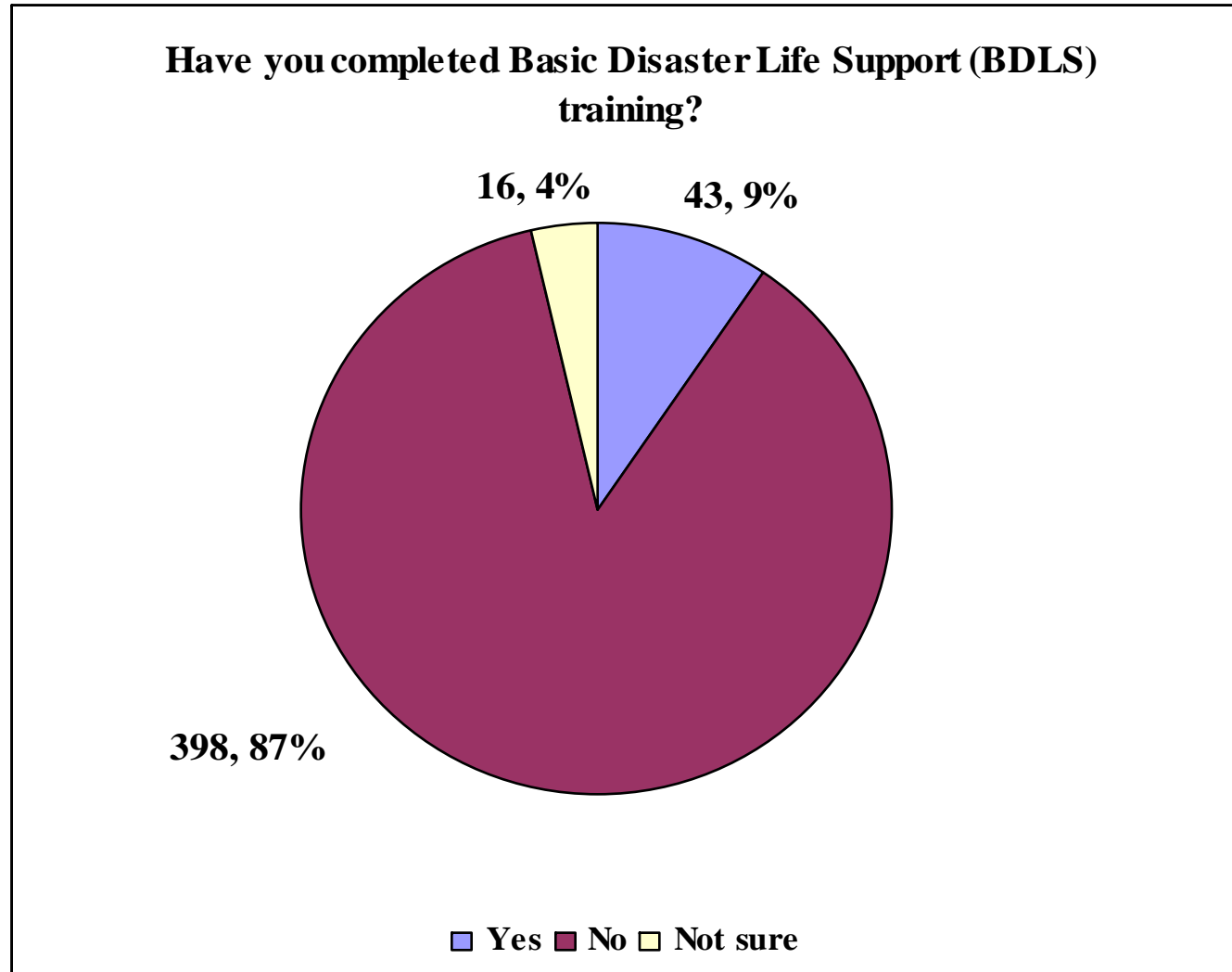




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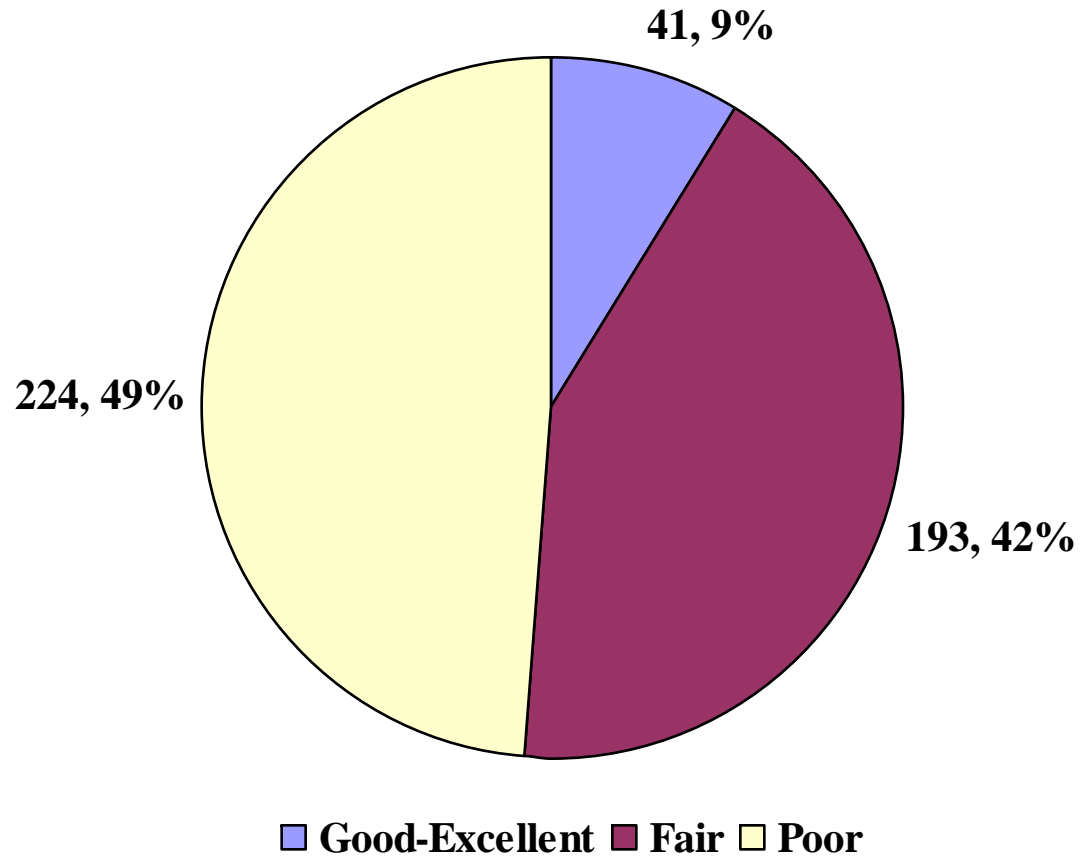




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How would you rate your current knowledge regarding the recognition and management of bioterrorism-related illness?

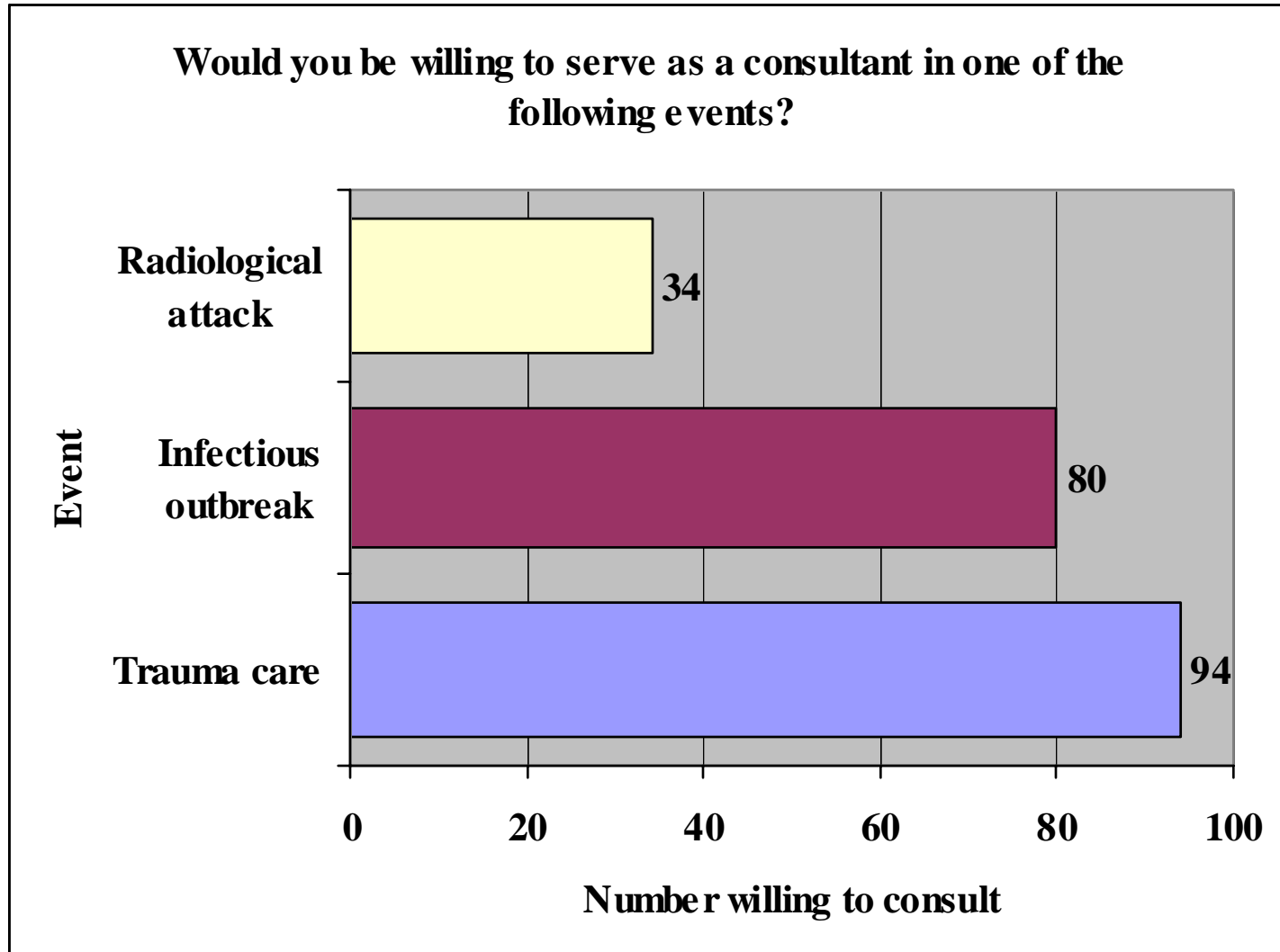




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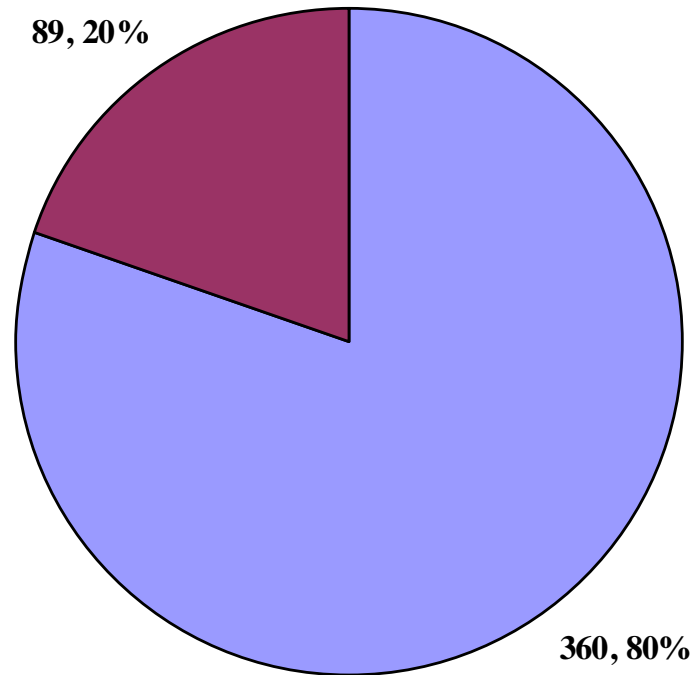


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Would you like to receive additional bioterrorism information or materials?



■ Yes ■ No

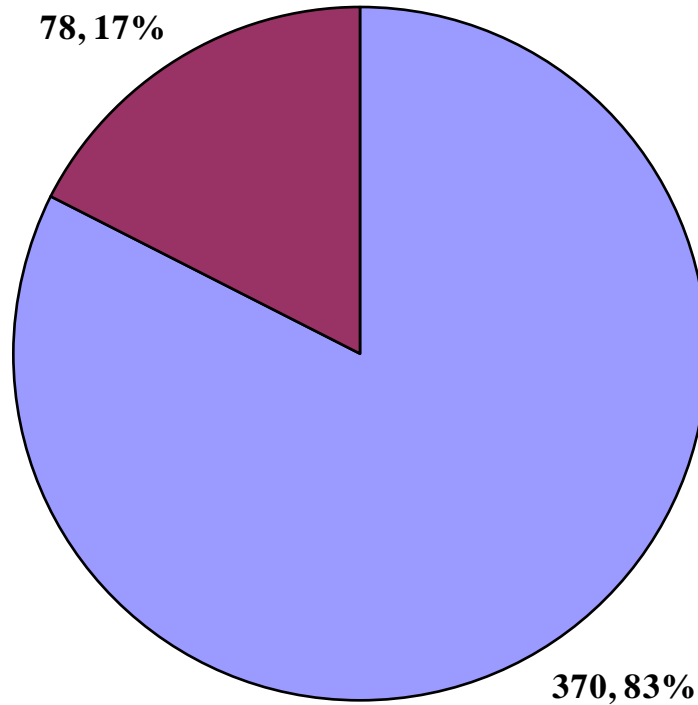


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Would you like to be informed of future training opportunities in bioterrorism preparedness and response?



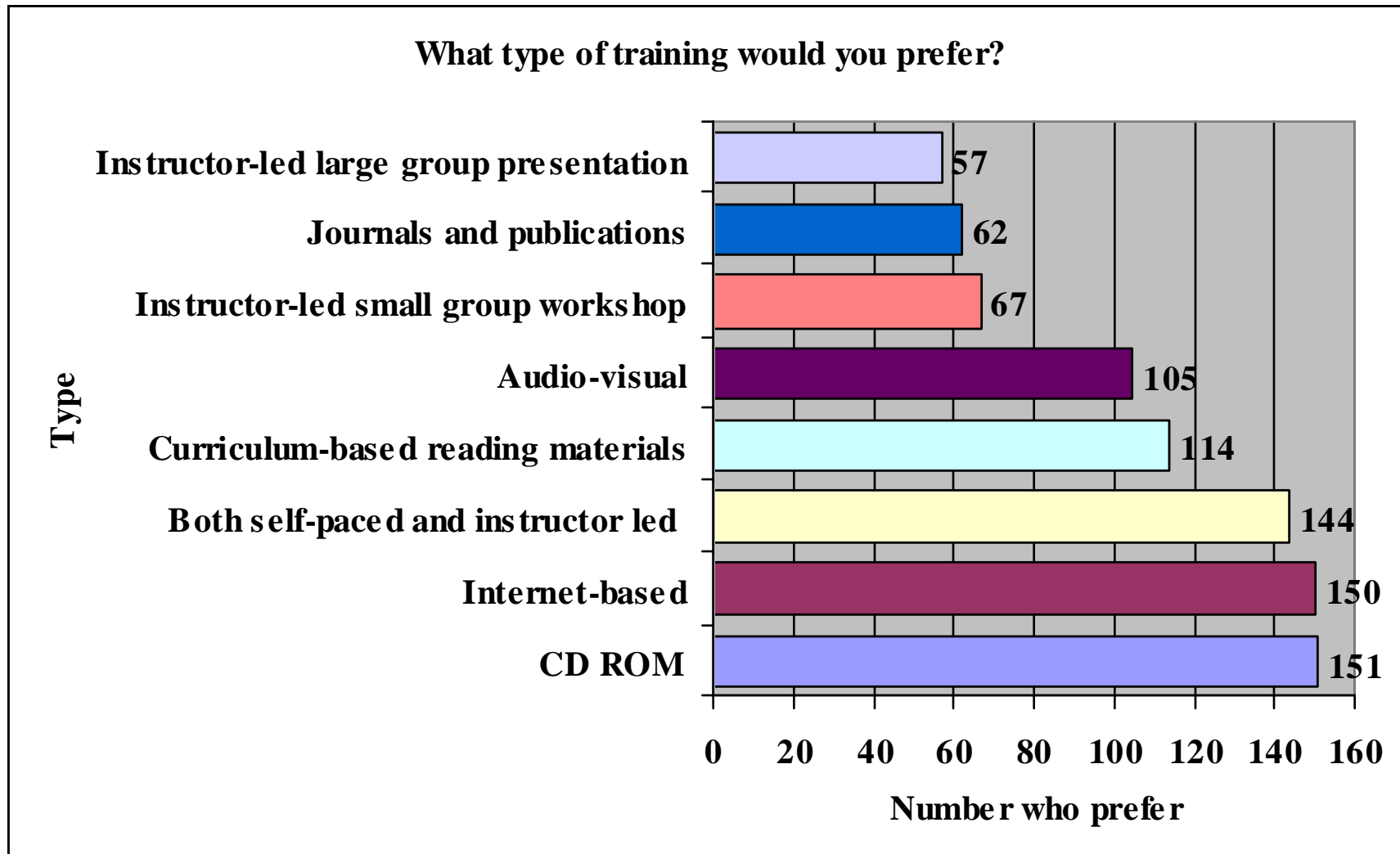
Yes No



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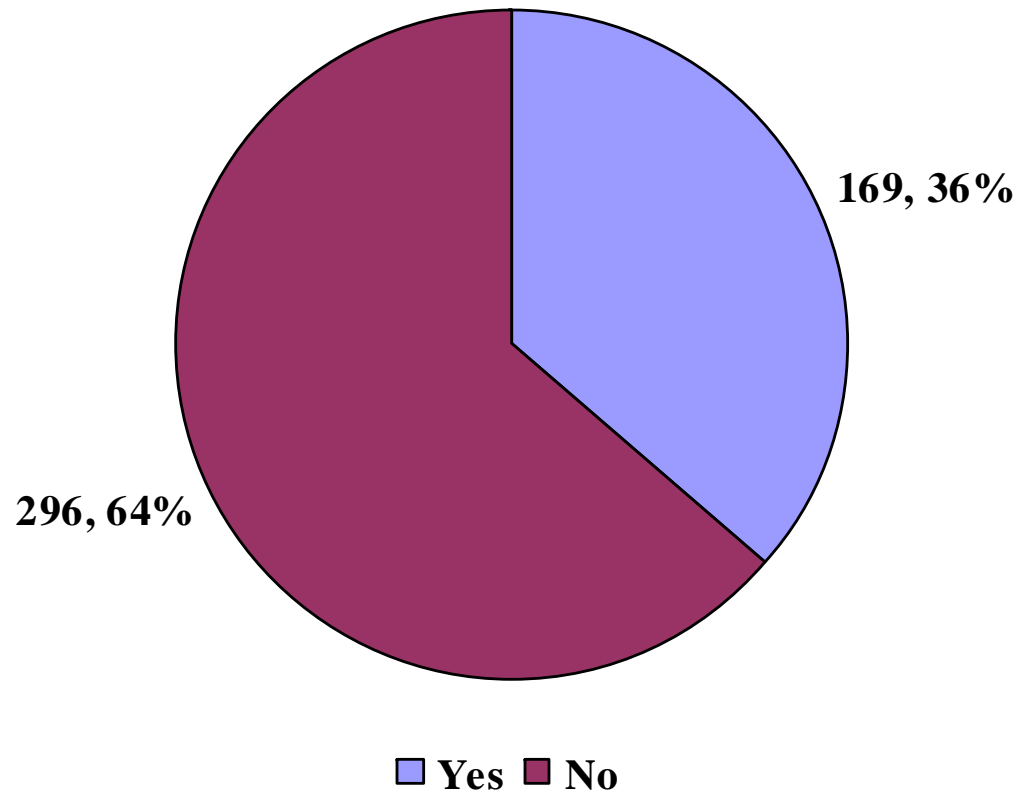




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Would you like more information on joining the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)?



Conclusions

- **Of the 3,202 surveys mailed, 465 were completed and returned.**
- **The results indicated that 91% of local physicians reported knowledge regarding their recognition and management of bioterrorism-related events as “fair-poor”**
- **80% desired more information and 83% favored more training opportunities.**
- **80.2% expressed desire for more information / training (which is in contrast with previous studies)**
- **Those physicians who have reported prior training were more confident in their skill in both the recognition and response to a biological event and were also more likely to serve as volunteers in the event of an emergency.**
- **These findings suggest that local clinical preparedness efforts need to improve access and training to area physicians through increased and improved educational modalities.**
- **Ultimately, these survey and evaluation efforts can help cultivate educational interventions that will enhance the participation, integration, and mobilization of clinicians in the event of a community emergency.**

Questions?

Thank You!!

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