

An Ounce of Prevention to Prepare Adult Family Home Owners for Future Epidemics

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Background

- In Washington state:
- Residents and staff in adult family homes (AFH) remain vulnerable to the impacts of disease outbreaks, especially epidemics.
 - AFHs lack the resources to apply the same infection control measures as larger healthcare facilities.
 - Clark County had the most AFHs per capita in Washington State (WA).
 - The WA House Bill 1218¹ identified an epidemic preparedness need which prompted this work and the guidance² we used to inform the project.
 - Engaged AFH owners to determine what epidemic preparedness tools and information would be most useful to them.

Objectives

- Name two reasons for **building partnerships** between local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and the state department of health (DOH).
- Identify one **effective way to engage** with Adult Family Home (AFH) owners.
- Identify the **importance of using plain language** for public health guidance.

Methods

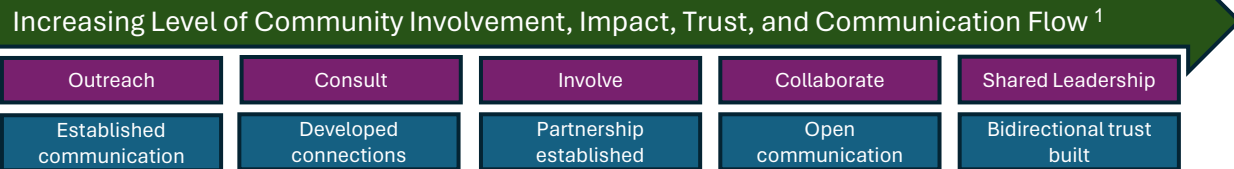
Collaboration and Shared Leadership³ developed:

- Clark County Public Health (CCPH)
- Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH)

Consulted³ regulatory partners

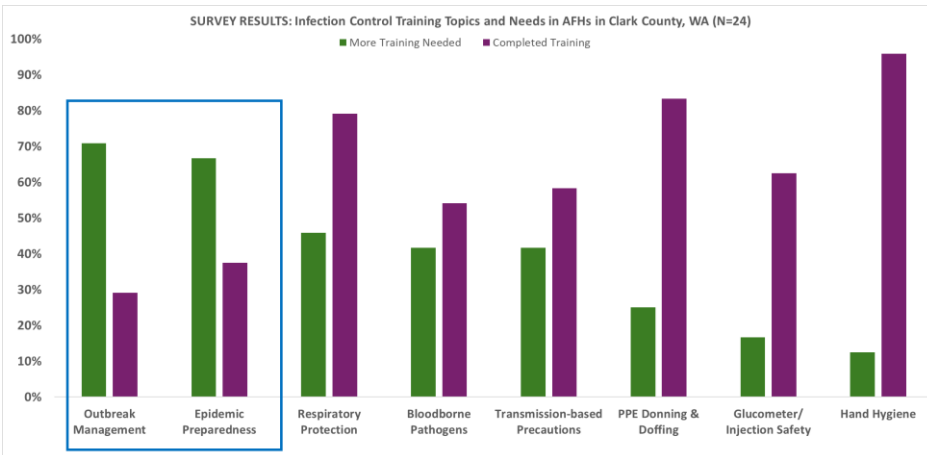
Community engagement³ with AFH owners through

- In-person meetings
- AFH Council Presentations^{4,5}
- Online survey
- Email



Results

- Obtained limited number of 24/380 surveys, but the information was still valuable.
- In-person engagement of about 120 AFH owners



“Don’t ask us questions, tell us what you want us to do”

Discussions with regulatory partners

“Provide guidance in plain and direct language”

Conclusion

- AFH owners want continuous engagement with their LHJ and DOH.
- In-person meetings were a more effective way to gather feedback compared to surveys and helped establish trustful relationships with AFH and public health.
- To improve epidemic preparedness, an AFH Epidemic Preparedness Tool was developed which incorporates elements of outbreak management in plain language.
 - The Tool was informed through community engagement by subject matter experts.

References

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Disclosures

The authors do not have anything to disclose.