

Summary of Cincinnati Health Department Bed Bug Prevention, Education, Initiatives and Actions
March 15, 2012

Collaborations

1. Original member and continuous participation in Joint Bed Bug Task Force since 2008

Education

2. Developed city wide bed bug conference in August 2008, with multiple education tracks for lay persons and professionals. This was the first conference of its type in Southwest Ohio, over 400 attendees representing businesses, tenants, health departments, city employees and concerned citizens, pest management professionals. Selected sessions continue to be run on City Cable to this day.
3. Presentations at national meetings (EPA National Bed Bug Summit 2009, National Environmental Health Association meeting 2011)
4. Presentations to local organizations about bed bug prevention, treatment and control
5. DVD with in-depth lecture about bed bugs produced in 2008, updated in 2011
6. Brochures on bedbug prevention, control and treatment – (Bed Bugs, Questions to ask a Pest Management Company)
7. Public service announcement (‘The Label is the Law’)
8. Periodic televised updates on bed bugs to City Council and Board of Health
9. One-on-one discussions between Health Department staff and citizens of Cincinnati who call with questions about bed bugs
10. Send informational brochures and DVDs upon request to any citizen who requests it.

Actions

11. Hotel/motel inspection guidelines developed and implemented, included ability to cite for bed bugs.
12. Assisted with development of Cincinnati Public Schools guidelines and protocols
13. Collaboration and technical assistance to assist other groups including Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force
14. Facilitated discussions and networking, including information that allowed CHMA to take advantage of HUD sponsored IPM training
15. We provided more than 757 inspections for bed bugs in 2008 alone. When we presented a budget to continue a Bed Bug Inspection program to City Council for FY 2009 – Program not funded due to city budget deficit. From 2007-2011 the CHD has lost 40% of its general fund budget; but we have continued to develop, print and distribute brochures, DVDs and PSAs to address the bed bug problem in Cincinnati.

Prevention / Consultation / Testimony / Collaborations

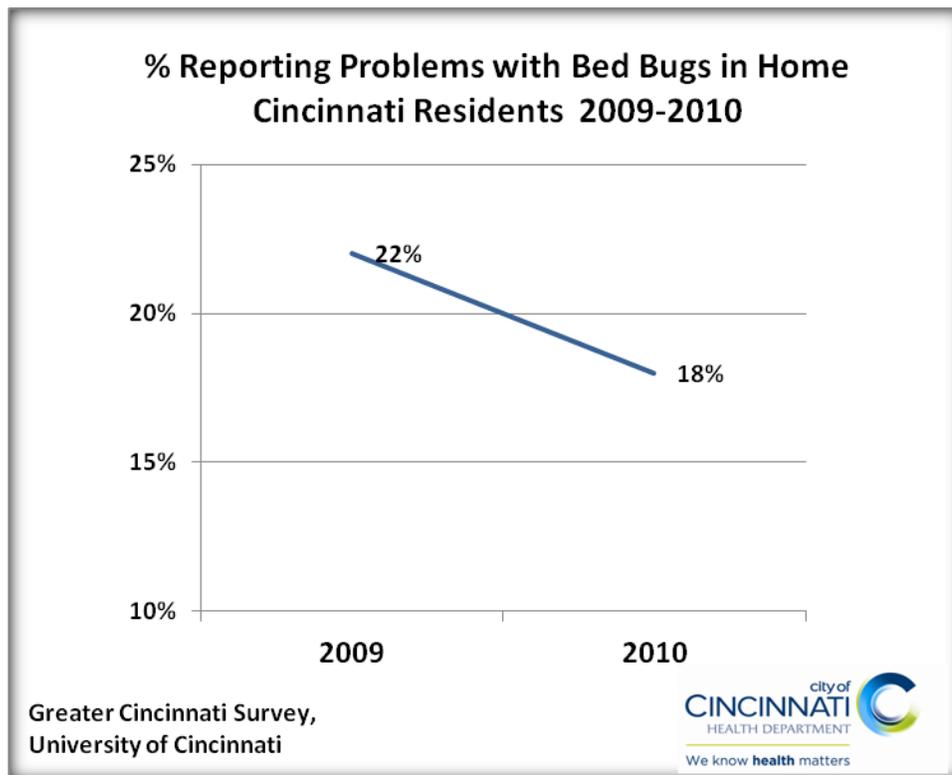
16. Ohio Bed Bug Workgroup
17. Recommendations for bed bug control to other city departments upon request (Public Services, Fire)
18. Prepared letters and testimony encouraging EPA to make propoxur available to pest management companies for residential bed bug controls. Consultation to City Council

which wrote to EPA supporting propoxur available for use by pest management companies

19. Data on bed bugs shared with HUD (Rachel Riley)

Surveillance

20. Sponsored questions on Greater Cincinnati Survey to determine true percent of households experiencing problems with bed bugs in the community – 2008, 2009, 2010, upcoming 2012 (this survey was done only once in Hamilton County suburbs). Results were used to develop targeted education in brochures and PSA
21. Placed question about bed bugs on the statewide Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey to establish baseline information about bed bug problems in the state in 2009, to allow true estimate of extent of infestation statewide
22. Pilot survey of big box vendors to see what type of information is being provided to customers who are concerned about bed bugs



Grant Applications

23. Collaborated with Ohio Department of Health in preparing grant submission to EPA for health education grant
24. Conference grant submission to NIEHS 2008