

Wisconsin Survey of Local Health Departments on COVID Impacts and Educational Needs: Results- June 2021

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Approximately 20% decrease in case finding for tuberculosis (TB) (37% for multi-drug resistant-TB), due to:

Decreased global movement

Pandemic mitigation efforts (e.g., masking)

Lower suspicion of TB

Decreased access to health care

Other impacts...

Public health staff turnover

Reassignment from TB to COVID

Decreased TB/Latent TB infection (LTBI) services

WI TB Program Survey, June 2021



Purpose

Assess continuing impacts of COVID on local TB programs

Assess training needs as WI recovers from pandemic

10 QUESTIONS

Six related to TB staffing and services capacity

Three related to TB training needs

One related to demographics of respondents

Respondents

248 surveys completed total

Northern: 42

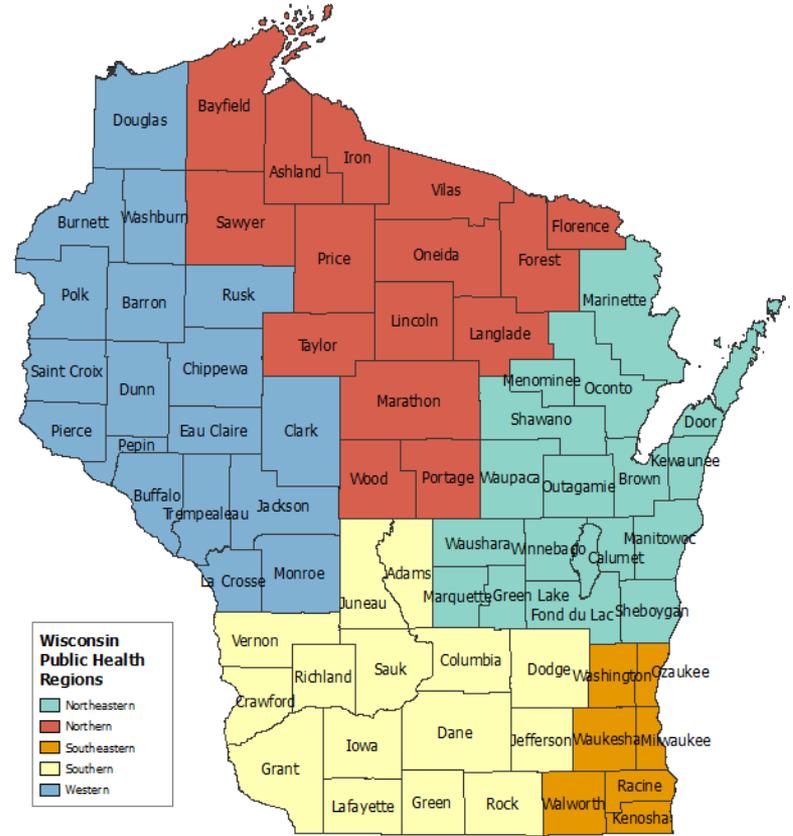
Western: 37

Northeastern: 74

Southern: 48

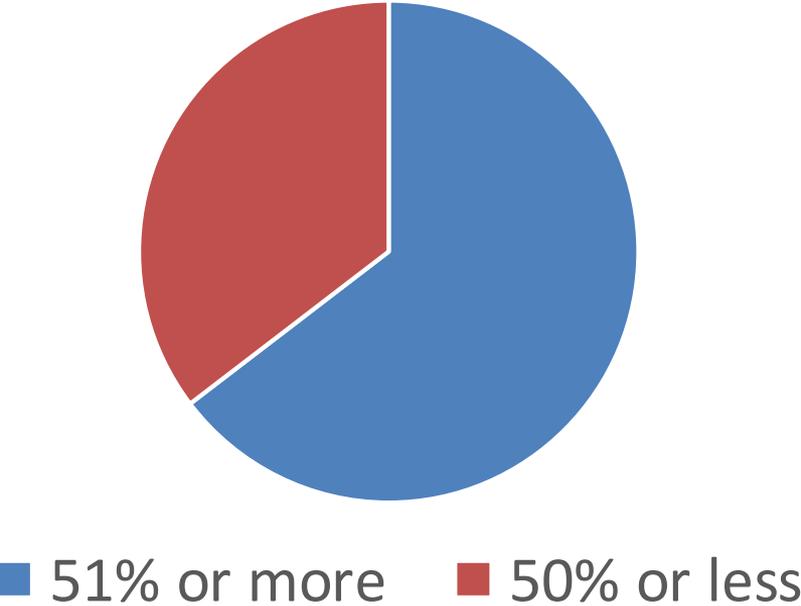
Southeastern: 46

A few from Minnesota
(grouped with western);
one from Illinois



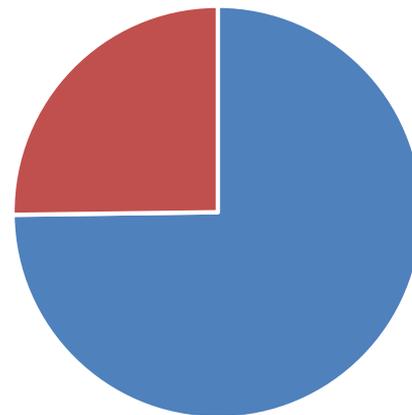
How much of your time is currently spent doing COVID-19 related work?

65% of respondents reported over half of their time is spent doing COVID-19 related work



Does your health department currently have nurses or other staff who are still dedicated to TB-related work?

75% of respondents reported still having dedicated TB staff



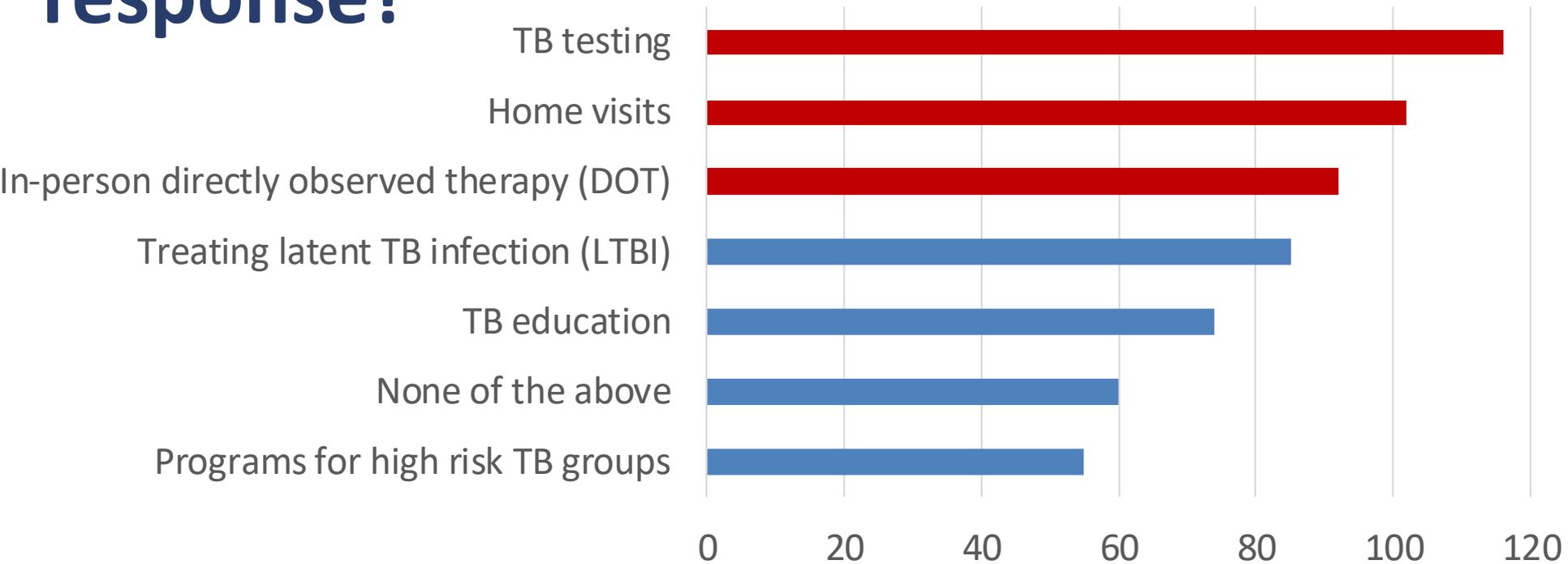
■ Yes ■ No or not sure

Within the last year, have you had staff who were previously doing TB-related work who either retired or left the health department?

Yes	108
No	123
Not sure	14

Hardest hit: **Western**, **Southern**, **Northeastern**— about half reported losing a TB staffperson

What types of TB activities were stopped or decreased due to the COVID-19 response?



What types of TB activities were stopped or decreased due to the COVID-19 response?

All regions (except **southeastern**) decreased or stopped home visits.

Northeastern, **southeastern**, and **southern** also often reported decreasing LTBI treatment (at least 30% of respondents).

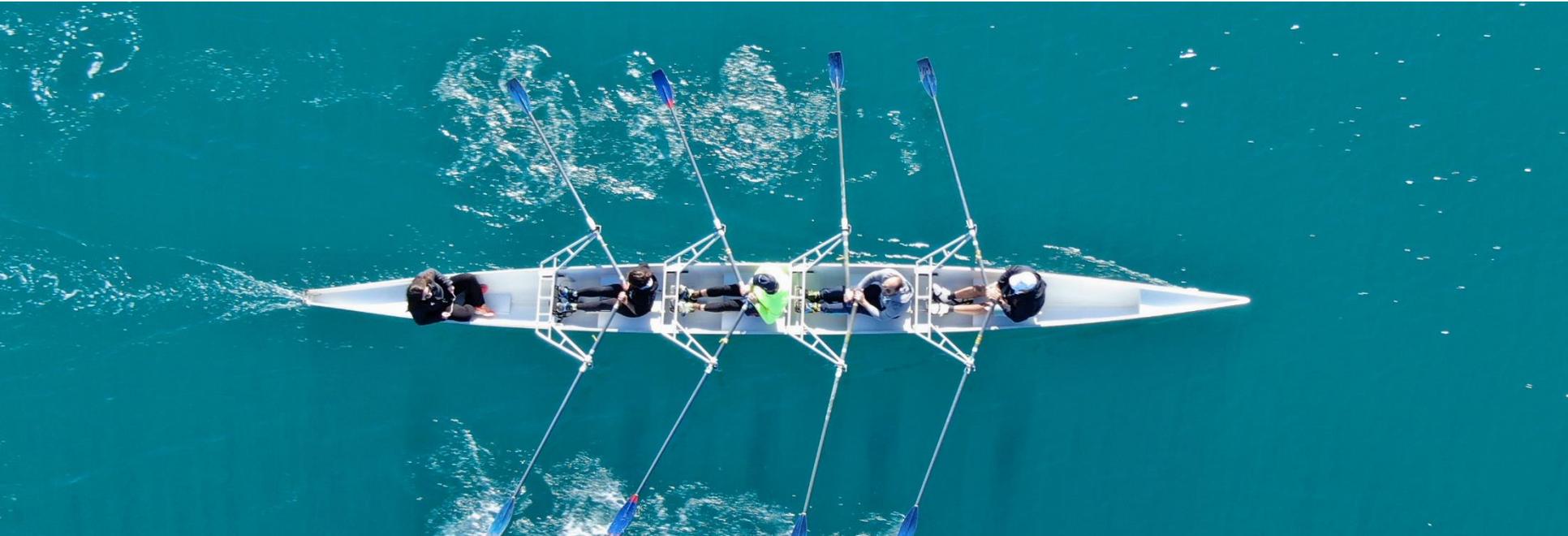
Across the board— TB testing was decreased or stopped.

When do you think that your health department will be able to turn attention back to TB-related work (including home visits and DOT)?

Most (59%) were starting to at the time of survey or planning to within three months.



How can WTBP support LHDs refocus on TB?



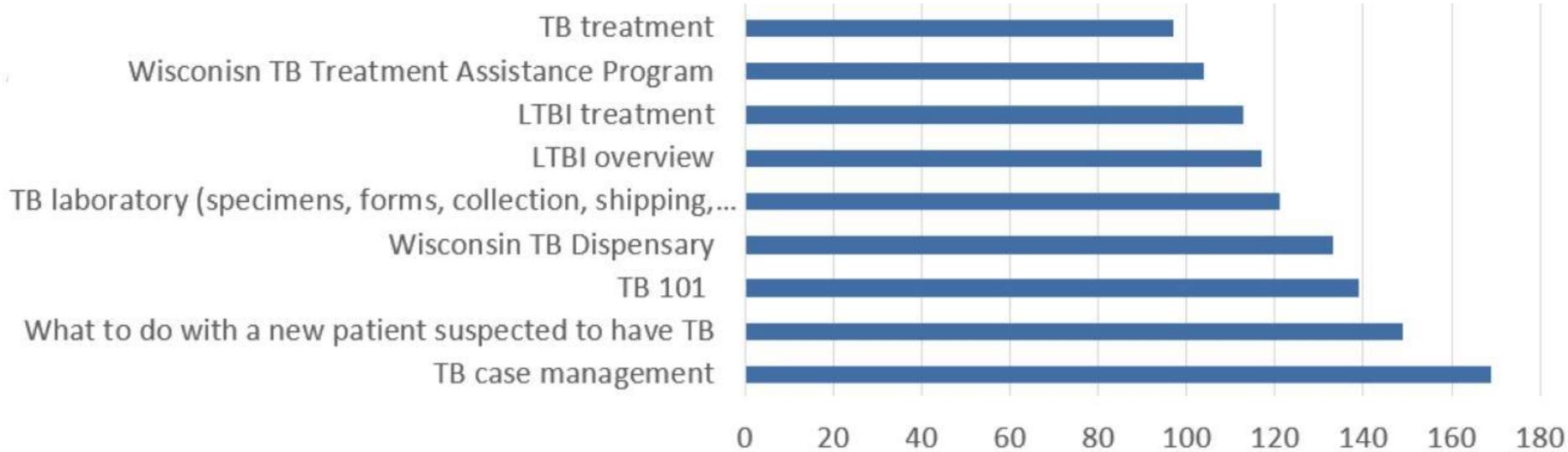
When do you think that staff would be able to dedicate time to TB trainings or workshops?

Most (66%) were starting to at the time of the survey or planning to within three months.



What TB topics are of highest importance as far as training?

Out of 16 suggested topics:



Webinars

TB 101 (August 24th)

**Financial Assistance through the WI TB Program
(Sept 14th)**

**Evaluation for TB Disease and TB Case
Management (Sept 28th)**

TB Lab (Oct 12th)

Recordings available at:



Conclusion

COVID continued to strain LHD TB resources.

Most LHDs were preparing to refocus on TB activities.

LHDs desired TB training on fundamentals, care management, evaluation, and financials.



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