

Perceptions and Barriers to Outbreak Reporting in Long Term Care Facilities in Sarasota County

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Overview

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Background: Sarasota County

Population 380,620

- 555 square miles (690.2 individuals per square mile)
- Oldest large city population
 - >65 y/o 35%, median age of 59
- Caucasians 91.7%, Hispanics 8.6%, African Americans 5%
- Median Household Income: 47,144
 - 7% Unemployment Rate

Home to over 100 Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)

- Skilled Nursing
- Assisted Living
- Combined Care
- Hospice
- Life Care Retirement Communities

Background: LTCF Susceptibility

The elderly represent a vulnerable population

- Chronic Health Problems
- Psychological Dispositions
- Function Impairments

Facilities are ideal environments for acquisition and spread of infection

- Congregate Living
- Sharing of Food, Water, Air, and Healthcare
- Influx of Visitors, Staff, and Residents

Background: Outbreak Reporting

Upon suspicion of an infectious disease outbreak, facilities are required by Florida Statute and Florida Administrative Code to report to their local health department.

WHY?

- Investigate and confirm the presence of an outbreak
- Ascertain the source and spread of the infection
- Obtain specimen samples for state lab testing and organism identification
- Determine and recommend appropriate control measures
- Surveillance
 - Understand and keep track of outbreaks in the community
 - Appropriately allocate of resources

Impact

WE KNOW...

- Outbreaks are common in LTCFs
- Most common outbreaks are GI, Respiratory, Scabies, Antibiotic –resistant organisms
- Very little literature on this topic
- Lack of knowledge regarding certain outbreak protocols
 - Calls from the community
- ❖ Many facilities do not report

WE DON'T KNOW...

- Frequencies of outbreaks in the community
- What outbreaks are most common in Sarasota County
- Preparedness of facilities to identify and control outbreaks
- Perception of the DOH – Sarasota
- Internal barriers to outbreak reporting

Problem Statement/Hypothesis

Who/Population: Clinical and Healthcare Staff, Infectious Disease Personnel, Facility Managers

What/Magnitude: Outbreak Reporting Barriers

When/Time: Suspicion or Identification of an Outbreak

Where/Place: Long Term Care Facilities in Sarasota County

Why/Impact: Frequency and Prevalence of Outbreaks, and Lack of Public Health Knowledge

Clinical staff in long term care facilities in Sarasota county face outbreak reporting barriers once an outbreak is identified or suspected, which hinder public health knowledge and perpetuate their frequency and prevalence.

Research Questions

- 1. What are the barriers that long term care facility clinical staff encounter which hinder outbreak reporting?*
- 2. Are there any perceptions about the health department which also affect outbreak reporting?*

Objectives

Three categories used to analyze barriers and perceptions

1. Facility Capacity: analyze the ability to efficiently identify outbreaks, implement control measures, and identify causal pathogens
2. Knowledge Gaps: highlight if facilities are aware of outbreak reporting requirements, and detect if they are aware of the resources available to them through the health department
3. Attitudes and Perceptions: identify any misconceptions regarding consequences of reporting to the health department and assess attitudes towards working with department of health staff

Method

- Generate Survey Questions
 - Consulted with Environmental Health in Sarasota County
 - Consulted with president of the Florida Health Care Association (FHCA), District 6
 - Presented a draft to 25 facility staff
- Create a Survey Monkey
- Disseminate
 - Obtained a list of emails and phone numbers from Environmental Health ✓
 - FHCA president of district 6 send out the link using internal list serve
 - Internal DOH – Sarasota email list ✓
- Analyze Data using survey monkey and Epi-Info

Survey Design

Hello,

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County would like you to participate in a survey to identify barriers and challenges to outbreak reporting. The 17-question survey will advise DOH – Sarasota in creating a complimentary outbreak response toolkit for you and your facility and provide a better understanding of the resources needed for outbreak control. Please be assured that all answers provided are confidential.

Please see link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VYMSL8V>

Thank You

Preliminary Results

- 66% Assisted Living, 11% Combined Care, 22% CCRC
- Almost all respondents reported ≥ 1 outbreaks per year
- Most common outbreak reported was Respiratory illness
- 78% knew the definition on an outbreak
- All respondents knew that reporting to the Florida Department of Health was required

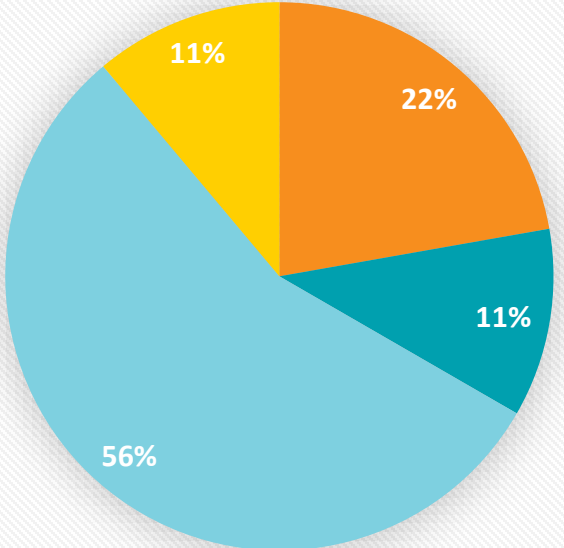
Target Sample is 50/100
Total Responses is 9/40 as of 2/7/17

Preliminary Results

- **All Respondents**
 - Had a staff member responsible for outbreak reporting
 - Facility and/or corporate office encouraged outbreak reporting
 - Knew that DOH – Sarasota can assisted in lab identification of organisms
- Other agencies that they reported outbreaks to were ACHA and Corporate Offices
- **No facilities** reported
 - Staff turnover hindering outbreak reporting protocols
 - No other barriers identified
- Most identified their preparedness to identify and control outbreaks as **highly prepared**
- **No facilities** believed that reporting an outbreak to DOH – Sarasota would reflect negatively on them

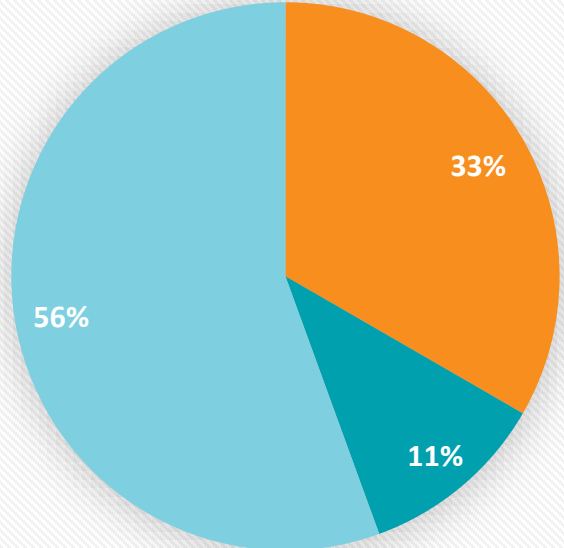
Preliminary Results

Satisfaction with Experience Working with DOH - Sarasota



■ Moderately ■ More ■ Highly ■ N/A

How Beneficial Would an Outbreak Response Guide Be



■ Moderately ■ More ■ Highly

Limitations and Challenges

- Bias in response and under reporting (Voluntary)
- Role of staff member filling out the survey is unknown
- Old emails that no longer worked
- One email listed but multiple locations or facility types
 - Combined care
 - Same name but multiple locations
- Large companies
 - Generic email
 - Need authorization before completing survey
- Creating a survey
- Difficult to get people to respond to surveys

Discussion

- We have about 5-10 facilities that work with us regularly, therefore the respondent number and responses was expected
- More techniques needed to increase response rate
 - Initial phone calls
 - Utilizing community partner outreach
- Two initial assumption may not be true*
 - Facilities DO know that it is required that they report outbreaks to the health department
 - They DID NOT believe reporting would reflect negatively on them
- Maybe there are not as many outbreaks in Sarasota County LTCFs as initially suspected*
- Showed a clear need and/or want for an Outbreak Response Toolkit

Next Steps

Ultimately the information gathered from this research project will inform an infectious disease outbreak response toolkit, aimed towards guiding LTCF in identifying, reporting, and controlling outbreaks in Sarasota County.

- Gain a better understanding and baseline for the landscape of outbreaks in LTCFs in Sarasota county
- Identify best practice and understand resources needed for outbreak control
- Add to the literature

Outbreak Reporting

A Resource Guide for Long Term Care Facilities in
Sarasota County, Florida

Identify · Report · Control



Office of Epidemiology and Disease Intervention Services

Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County

Phone: 941-861-2873 After Hours: 941-861-2900 Fax: 941-526-1534

www.sarasotahealth.org

[1]

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Thank You

QUESTIONS?