



Healthy Homes Screening Tool (HHST)

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of Jane Nickert from the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, Robert Scott from MDCH, and many work-study students who helped with this survey.

What the HHST Will Do

The Healthy Homes Screening Tool (HHST) will:

- Examine the health risks in surveyed homes by assessing the presence of a wide range of risk factors that may increase the potential for sickness, injuries, and death among a home's inhabitants.
- Provide a consumer and paraprofessional screening tool as a companion to the Healthy Homes Rating System (HHR).
- Evaluate differences in resident responses regarding health and safety hazards in comparison with actual findings determined through the HHR.

HHST Targets & Versions

- The first version of the HHST was used for face-to-face interviews with residents at the door.
- The second version of the HHST is being used by non-housing professionals to make observations about the household.*
- A third two-page version of the HHST is currently being developed to be used by non-housing professionals and paraprofessionals to make observations within the home.

*Residents are being given the option of allowing non-housing professionals into the home to make observations or to complete the survey by a face-to-face interview at the door.

HHST vs. HHRS

- The HHST is a screening tool intended for use within households by paraprofessionals and others.
- The HHRS is “a system of assessment... of hazards and the potential effect of conditions” to be used by trained housing professionals. [1]

[1] Healthy Homes Rating System – Operating Guidance

Healthy Homes Risks

Asthma/Allergy

- In homes where allergens are present, including dust mites, cockroaches, mold, furry pets, tobacco smoke, air fresheners, and certain chemicals, “children may experience severe and frequent asthma attacks from high airborne concentrations of these allergens”.^[1]

Moisture/Water Damage

- Moisture and water damage can cause mold and fungus growth, leading to the development of asthma and allergies and triggering “allergic symptoms such as rhinitis, conjunctivitis, eczema, cough and wheeze”.^[2]

Lead

- Lead-based materials, such as lead-based paint and water pipes, can cause lead poisoning and have “toxic effects on the nervous system, cognitive development and blood production”.^[2]

[1] National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences - www.niehs.nih.gov/airborne/asthma.html
 [2] Healthy Homes Rating System – Operating Guidance

Healthy Homes Risks

Housing Characteristics: House

- Overall housing conditions such as excess noise, risk of entry by intruders, lack of adequate living space, improper food preparation appliances and lack of proper personal hygiene and sanitation facilities can have multiple negative physical and psychological impacts on residents.

Housing Characteristics: Stairs

- Falling on stairs can be caused by poor structural condition, inadequate lighting and absence of handrails, leading to “bruising, fractures, head, brain and spinal injuries” and even death.^[1]

Housing Characteristics: Bath

- Falls within a bath can be caused by lack of slip-proof surfaces and grab bars, often resulting in “cuts or lacerations, swelling or bruising, or fractures”.^[1]

Housing Characteristics: Fire/Electrical

- Smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, multiple exits and fire exit strategies can help to reduce the risk of death by burns or gas or smoke inhalation in the case of a fire.
- Exposed wiring and improperly vented appliances can increase the risk of fire and electrical shock.

[1] Healthy Homes Rating System – Operating Guidance

Healthy Homes Risks

Carbon Monoxide

- Improperly vented gas appliances such as dryers and stoves can lead to increased levels of carbon monoxide, leading to “headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, confusion”, disorientation, fatigue, and even “unconsciousness and death”. [1]

Poisoning: Other

- Substances such as medication, pesticides, cleaning products and others can be potentially hazardous to children especially if stored in accessible locations.

Radon

- Significant exposure to ionizing radiation can “damage DNA and cause genetic mutation”. [1] Because radon is a gas, it can leak into homes through the basement or crawl space, cracks in concrete floors and walls, floor drains and sump holes, or through well water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, responsible for as many as 21,000 cancer deaths each year. The combination of smoking and the presence of radon in the home can significantly increase the risk of lung cancer.

[1] Healthy Homes Rating System – Operating Guidance

2012

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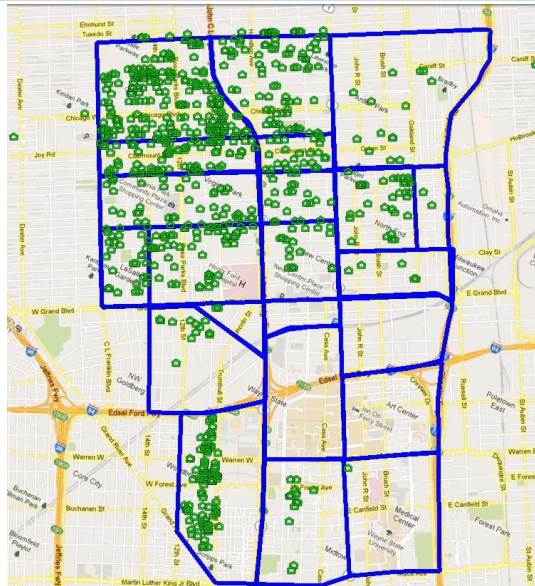
HHST Target Area

Working from west to east, the northernmost boundary from Linwood to Woodward is Webb/Woodland. From Woodward to Oakland it is Holbrook, and from Oakland to I-75 it is Clay.

Working from north to south, the easternmost boundary from Atkinson to Holbrook is Woodward. From Holbrook to Clay, it is Oakland, and from Clay to Mack it is I-75.

The southernmost border, from west to east, is West Grand Blvd between Linwood and 14th. From 14th to Rosa Parks Blvd, it is I-94. Between Rosa Parks Blvd and Trumbull, it is Grand River, and between Trumbull and I-75 it is Mack/Martin Luther King Blvd.

Between Atkinson and West Grand Blvd, the westernmost boundary is Linwood. Between West Grand Blvd and I-94, it is 14th, and between I-94 and Grand River, it is Rosa Parks Blvd.

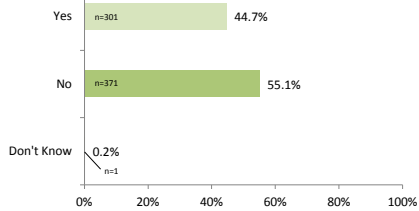


2012

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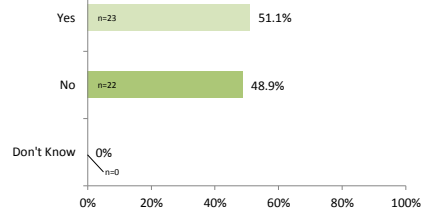
Smoking

Does anyone in your home smoke?



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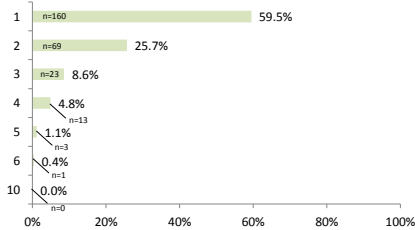
Does anyone in your home smoke?



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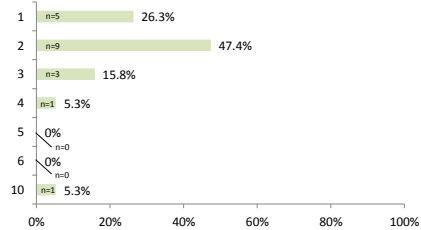
Smoking

Number of people who smoke



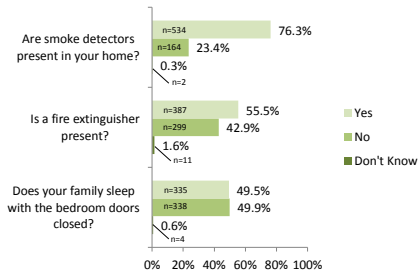
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Number of people who smoke

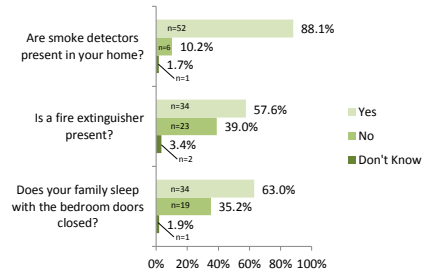


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Fire/Burns

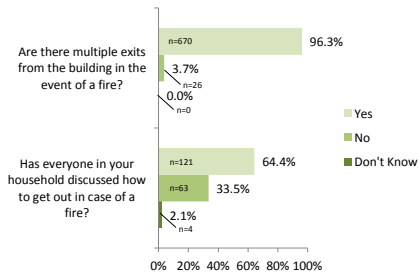


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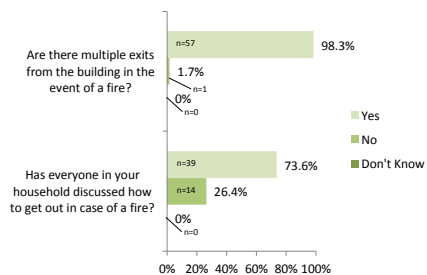


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Fire/Burns



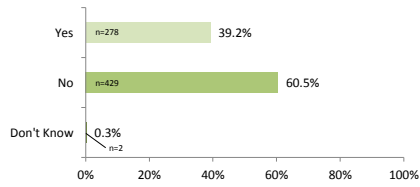
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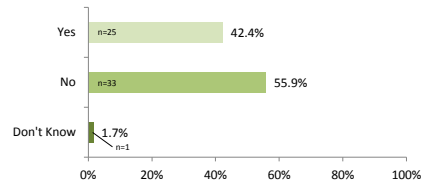
Fire/Burns

Do you use any appliances other than a furnace to provide heat? (wood stove, fireplace, space heater)



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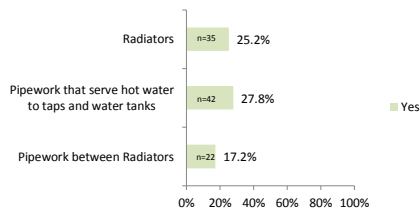
Do you use any appliances other than a furnace to provide heat? (wood stove, fireplace, space heater)



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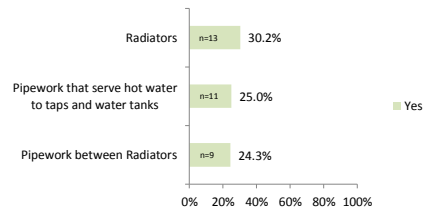
Fire/Burns

Are the following hot surfaces accessible to children?



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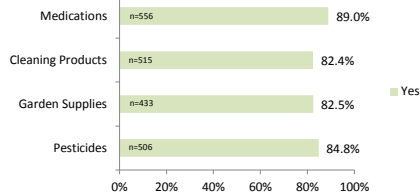
Are the following hot surfaces accessible to children?



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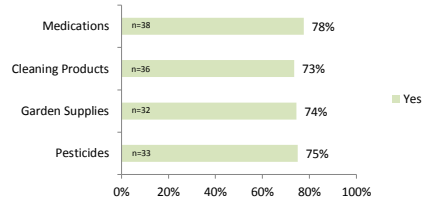
Poisoning

Are the following items stored out of the reach of children?



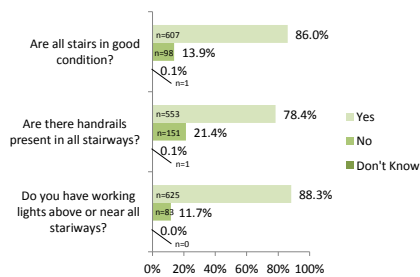
Completed outside house by interview

Are the following items stored out of the reach of children?

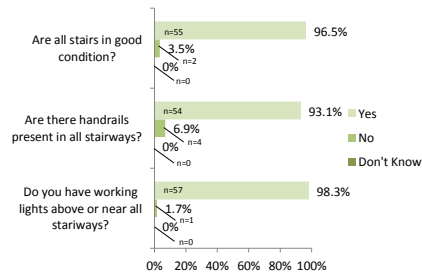


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Falls

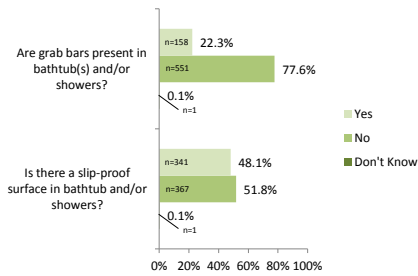


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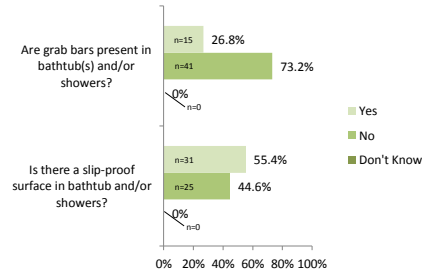


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Falls

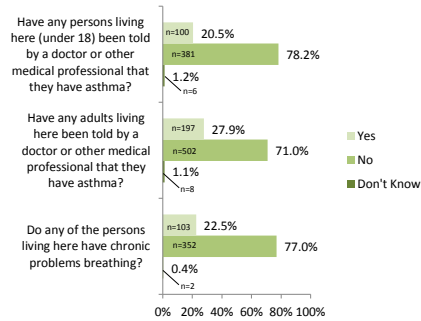


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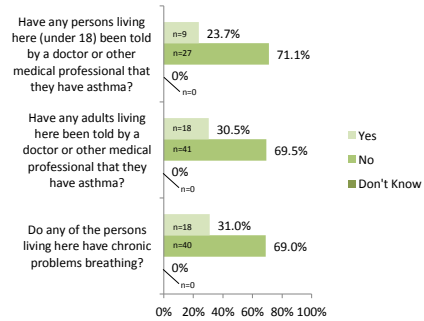


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Asthma/Allergies



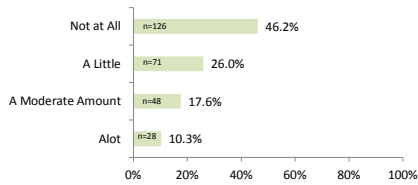
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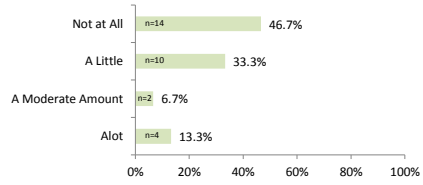
Asthma/Allergies

Would you say [this person] limits [his/her] usual activities due to asthma?



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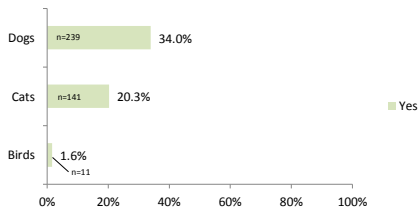
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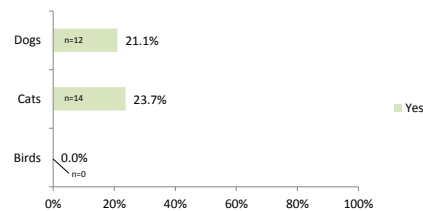
Asthma/Allergies

Do you have any of the following pets living in your home?



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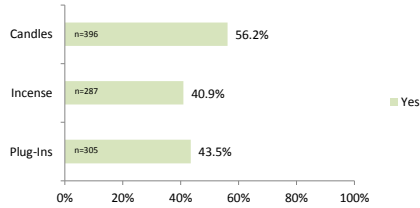
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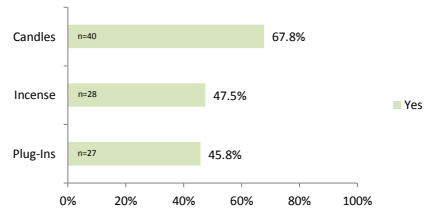
Asthma/Allergies

Do you use the following air freshener products in your home?



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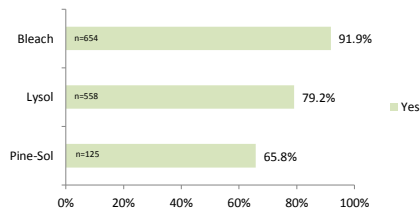
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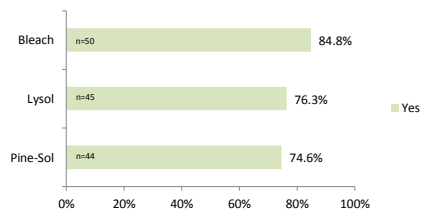
Asthma/Allergies

Do you use the following cleaning products in your home?



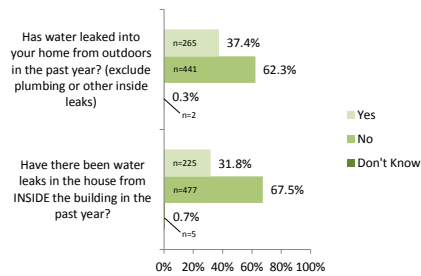
Completed outside house by interview

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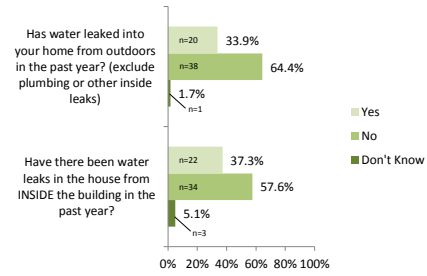


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Mold/Water Damage

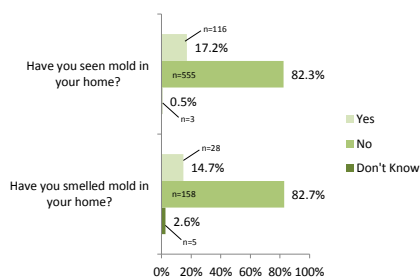


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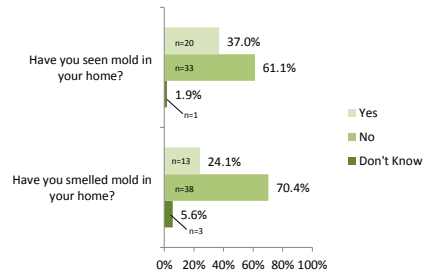


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Mold/Water Damage



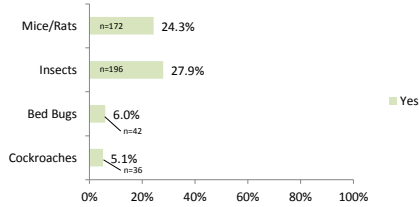
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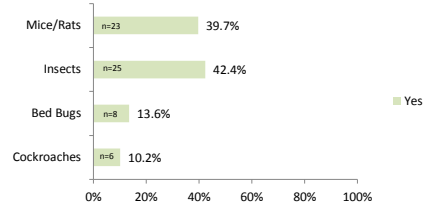
Pests

Is there visible evidence of the following in or around your home?



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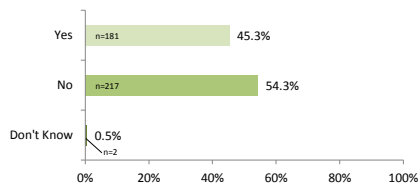
Is there visible evidence of the following in or around your home?



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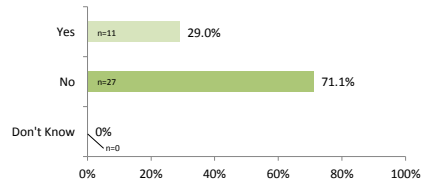
Pests

If yes to any of the above, do you use pesticides to get rid of or prevent them?



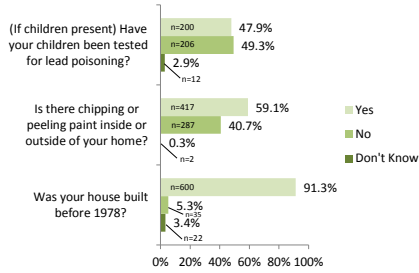
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If yes to any of the above, do you use pesticides to get rid of or prevent them?

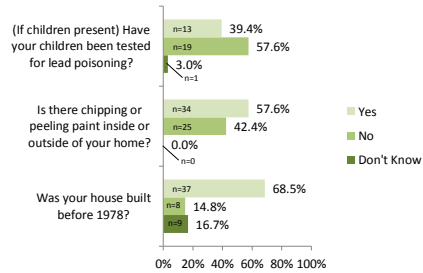


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Lead Poisoning

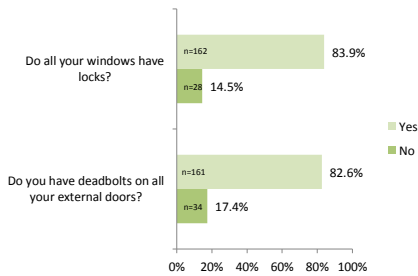


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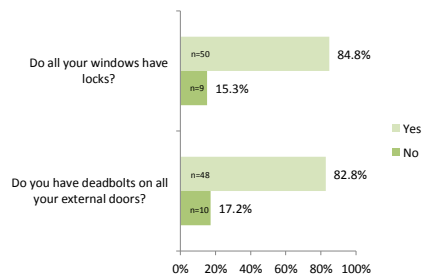


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Entry by Intruders

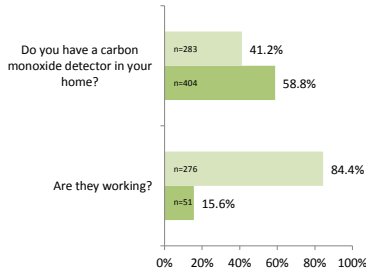


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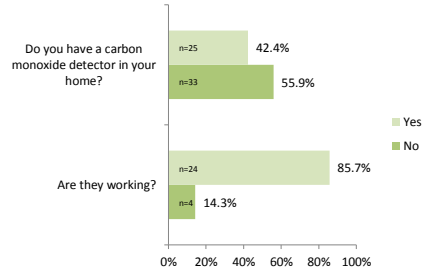


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Carbon Monoxide



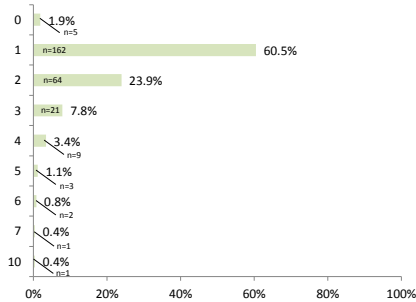
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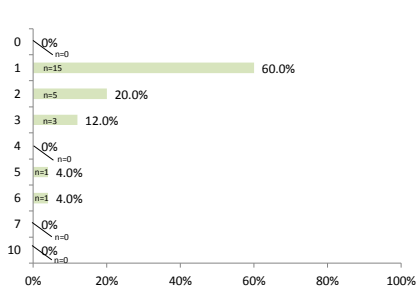
Carbon Monoxide

How many? (Carbon Monoxide Detectors)



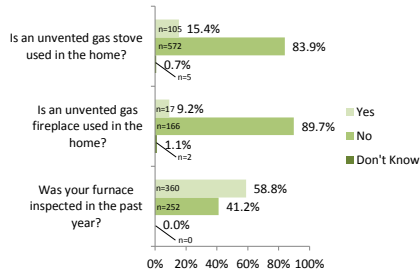
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How many? (Carbon Monoxide Detectors)

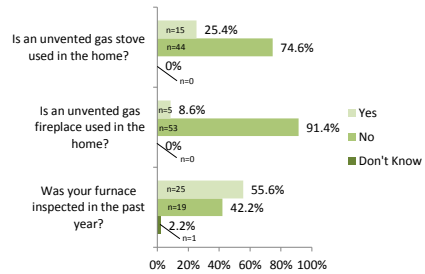


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Carbon Monoxide

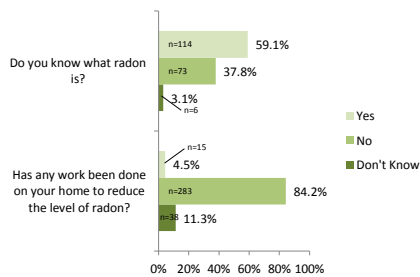


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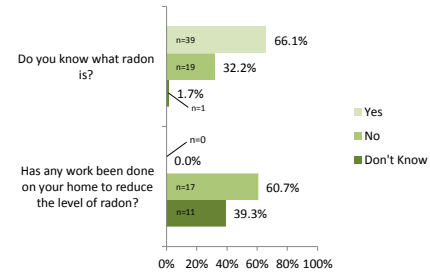


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Radiation

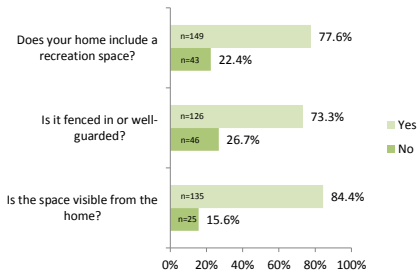


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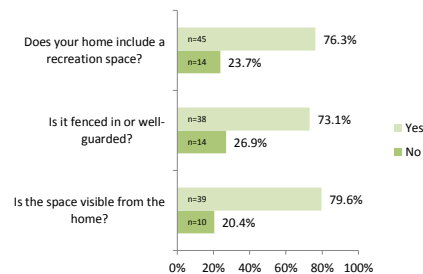


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Crowding & Space

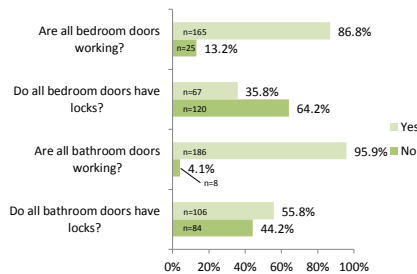


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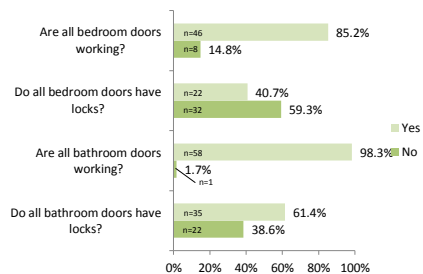


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Crowding & Space



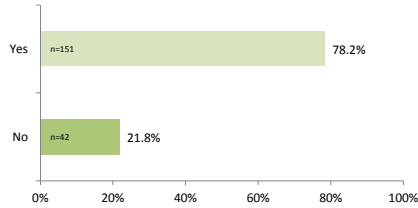
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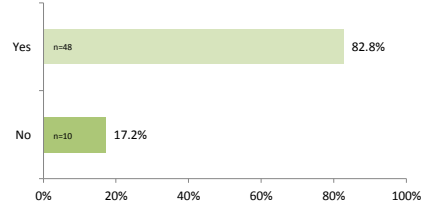
Noise

Is your home located near an airport, major highway, or train station?



Completed outside house by interview

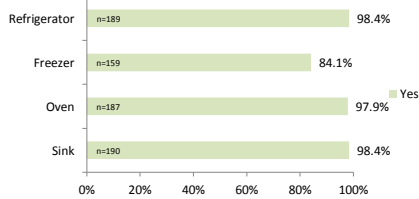
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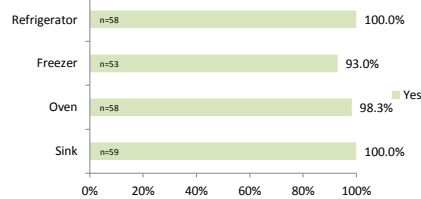
Food Safety

Does your kitchen include the following appliances/amenities?



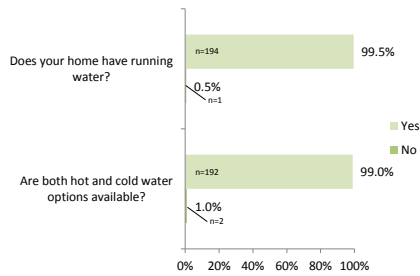
Completed outside house by interview

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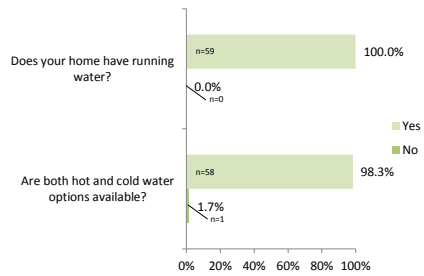


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Water Supply



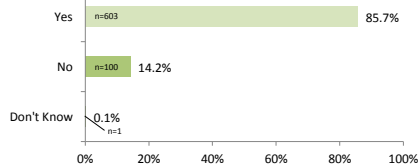
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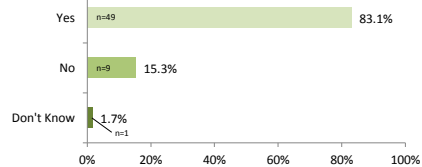
Electrical Hazards

Is all the wiring in the finished areas of your home concealed either in walls or behind metal coverings?



Completed outside house by interview

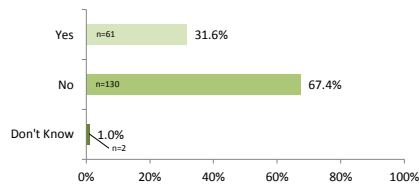
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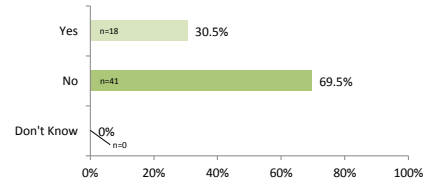
Electrical Hazards

Have you experienced any problems with your major appliances (stove, furnace, etc.) over the past year?



Completed outside house by interview

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Completed in house by site visitor

Next Steps

- The Center is in the process of piloting a grant from MDCH to work with health professionals and others to prepare a one-page version of the HHST, pilot it, and identify steps for its implementation as part of regular home visitation processes.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



Center for Urban Studies

Lyke Thompson

Director
(313) 577-5209
ad5122@wayne.edu

Ramona Washington

Research Assistant
(313) 577-0979
r.r.washington@wayne.edu

Angie Sarb

Research Assistant
(313) 993-8045
angela.sarb@wayne.edu