



A Summary of “Determining Training and Education Needs Pertaining to Highly Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response: A Gap Analysis Survey of U.S. Emergency Medical Services Practitioners” from the *American Journal of Infection Control* (AJIC)

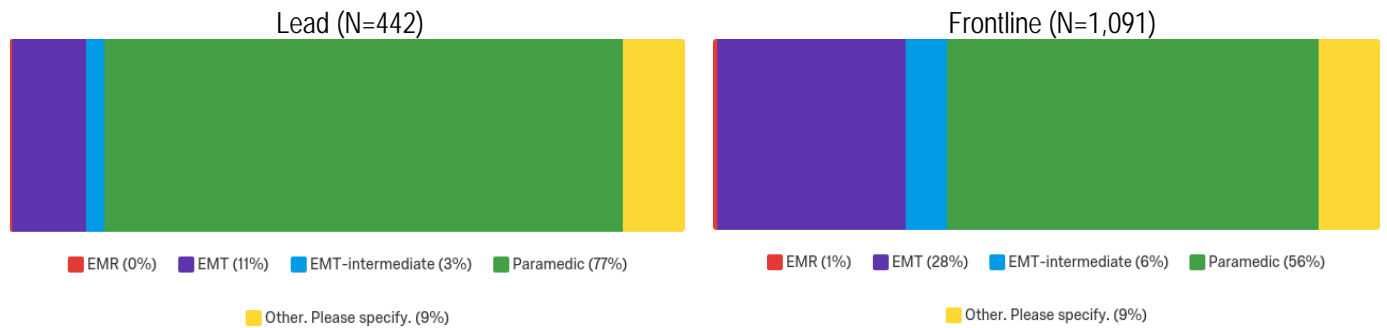
A Summary of Data from Survey Respondents

This is a summary from the AJIC paper: “Determining Training and Education Needs Pertaining to Highly Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response: A Gap Analysis Survey of U.S. Emergency Medical Services Practitioners” (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2017.09.024>). “...The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak underscored the lack of consistent guidelines, training, and education for workers outside of traditional hospital settings who might also encounter potential highly infectious disease (HID) scenarios, and subsequently respond to these hazards...Although emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners are not independent...they are often unsupervised, have minimal assistance, exercise critical decision making, and provide emergency care in high-pressure scenarios...Because EMS practitioners are often the first health professionals to evaluate patients—frequently without advanced notice of diagnosis—their ability to quickly and accurately recognize symptoms of an HID can help prepare downstream resources for an appropriate response. Although emergency response systems emphasize the importance of EMS practitioners in mounting swift and effective patient care, EMS practitioners are often overlooked when providing HID-specific education and training...To explore the extent of HID training and knowledge amongst EMS practitioners, a gap analysis survey pertaining to HID preparedness and response among EMS practitioners in the United States was administered. Results were analyzed to determine current levels of HID training, education, current protocols and procedures in place at the respondent’s agency, and potential differences in levels of certification or position responsibilities correlated to differences in HID knowledge to determine areas of HID training and education that can be bolstered in this industry to increase occupational safety and health in EMS practitioners.” N=2,165 responses were initiated and collected at the Lead Level and Frontline Personnel Level.

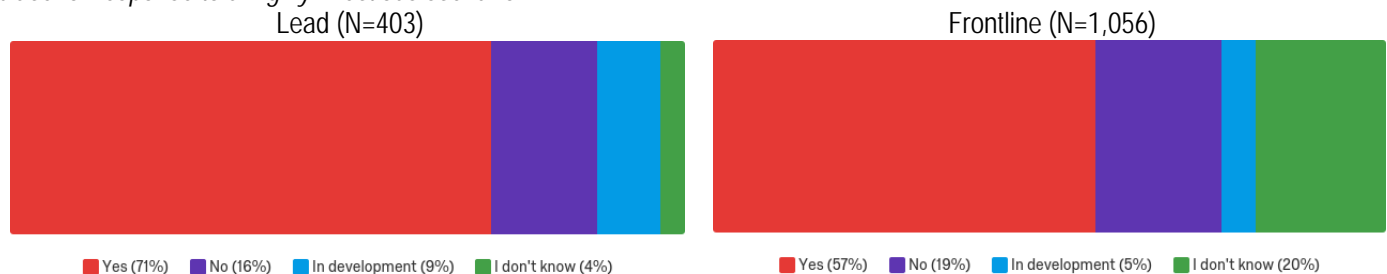
+All questions were voluntary, so response rates vary.

++All images were generated by Qualtrics® Software Version 2016.17

Level of Certification

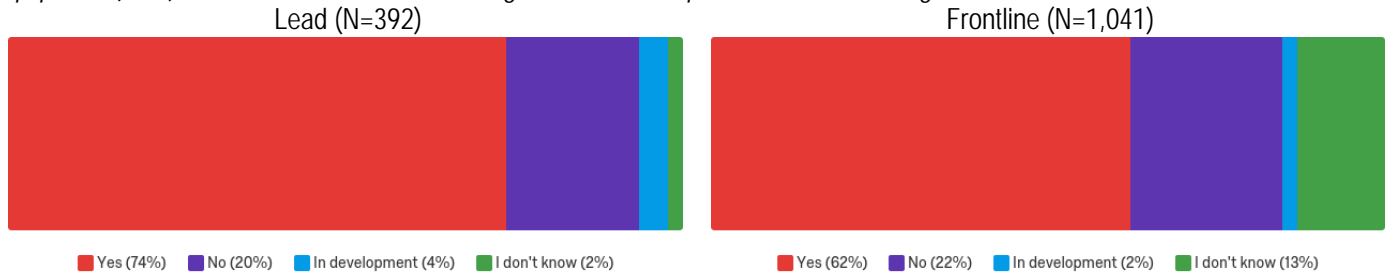


Awareness that their agency has standard operating guidelines (SOG) or standard operating procedures (SOP) in place for response to a highly infectious scenario

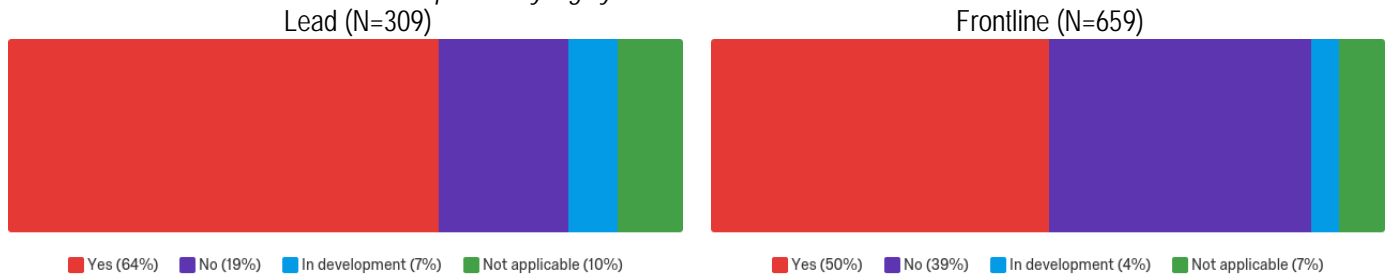




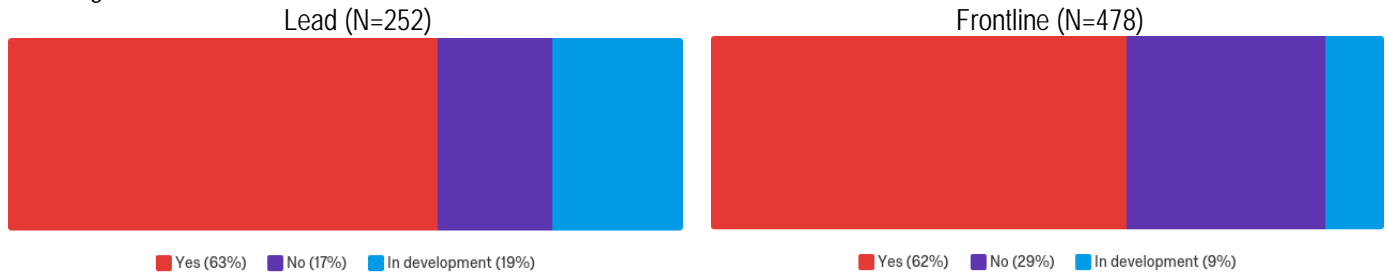
Knowledge of whether a protocol is in place that details proper donning and doffing technique of personal protective equipment (PPE), for members, while conducting a CDC or local public health screening



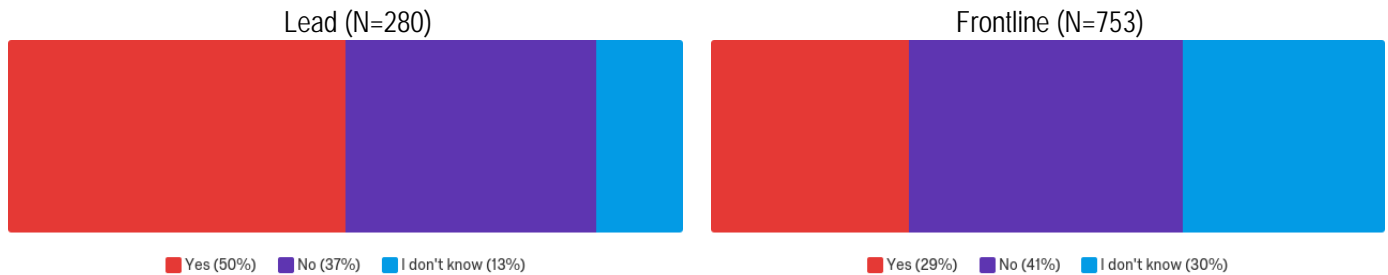
Awareness of whether their agency requires orientation training, including a skills demonstration, to be completed before members are allowed to work in a potentially highly infectious disease situation



Awareness of whether employees trained to work with HID scenarios had to undergo periodic re-training or continuing education

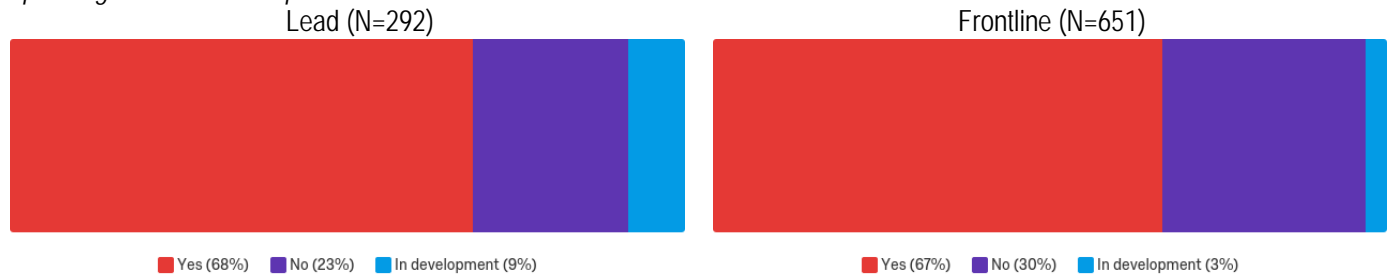


Knowledge of whether their organization conducted just-in-time (JIT) training before personnel might encounter a HID situation

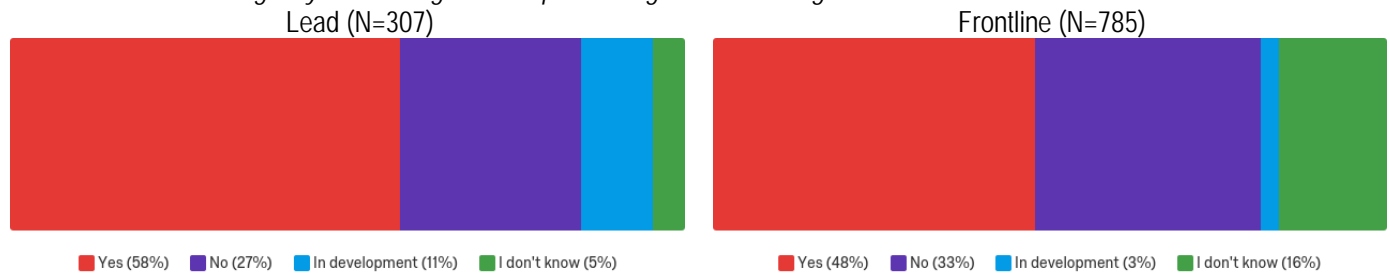




Knowledge of whether agency has protocols or procedures in place for the selection of differing PPE ensembles depending on the risk of exposure



Awareness of whether agency has strategies for implementing and monitoring correct use of PPE



For full results of this study and discussion, acknowledgements, and authors' affiliations, please reference the *American Journal of Infection Control* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2017.09.024>)

To access our free webinar, "Infectious Diseases of Public Health Significance": <https://expand.iu.edu/browse/publichealth/publichealthandyou/publichealthwebinar/phyinfectiousdisease/courses/phy-2017-webinar-1>

To access our free webinar, "Post-Flood Infectious Diseases, Hazards and Prevention Measures": <https://expand.iu.edu/browse/publichealth/publichealthandyou/publichealthwebinar/courses/sph-phy2017-3>

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