

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

Claire Leback, RN MPH  
Wisconsin TB Program  
November 3, 2021



**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**

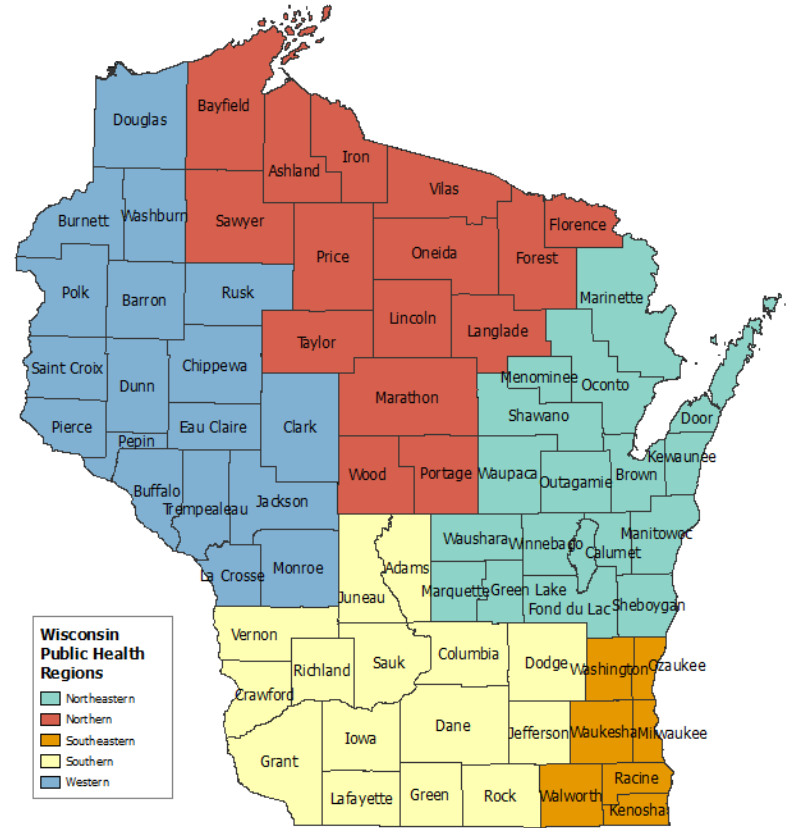
**Western: 37**

**Northeastern: 74**

**Southern: 48**

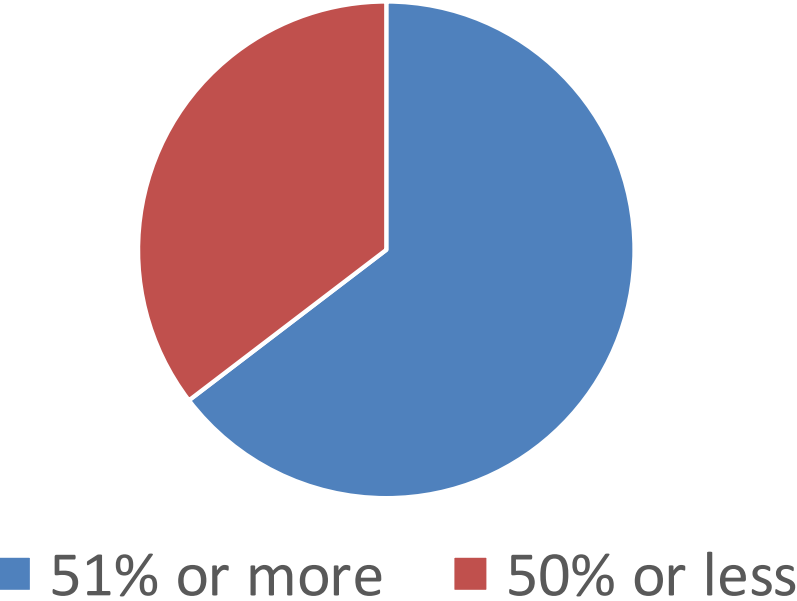
**Southeastern: 46**

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



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

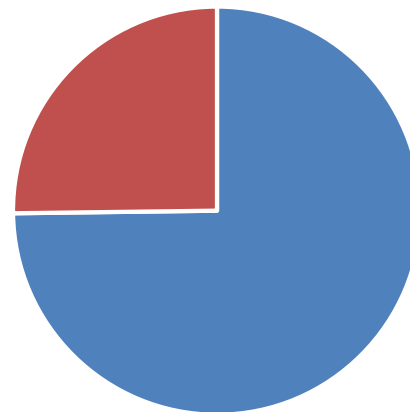
65% of respondents reported over half of their time is spent doing COVID-19 related work





# 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



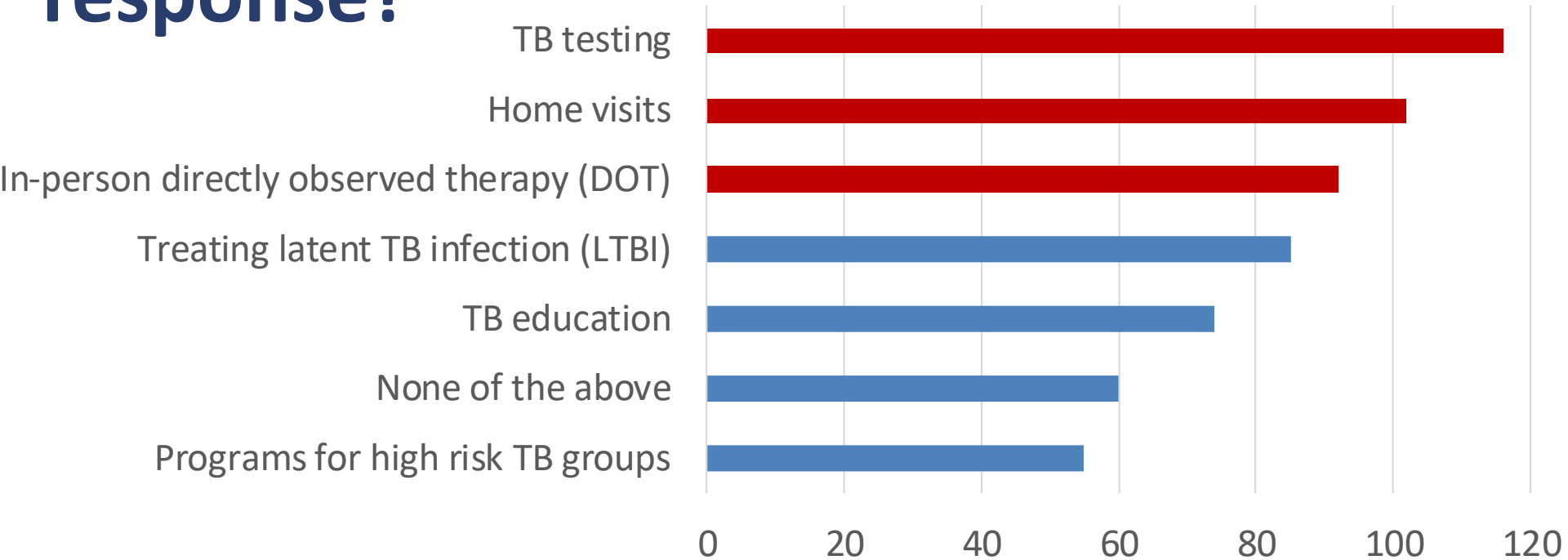
■ Yes ■ No or not sure

# 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).

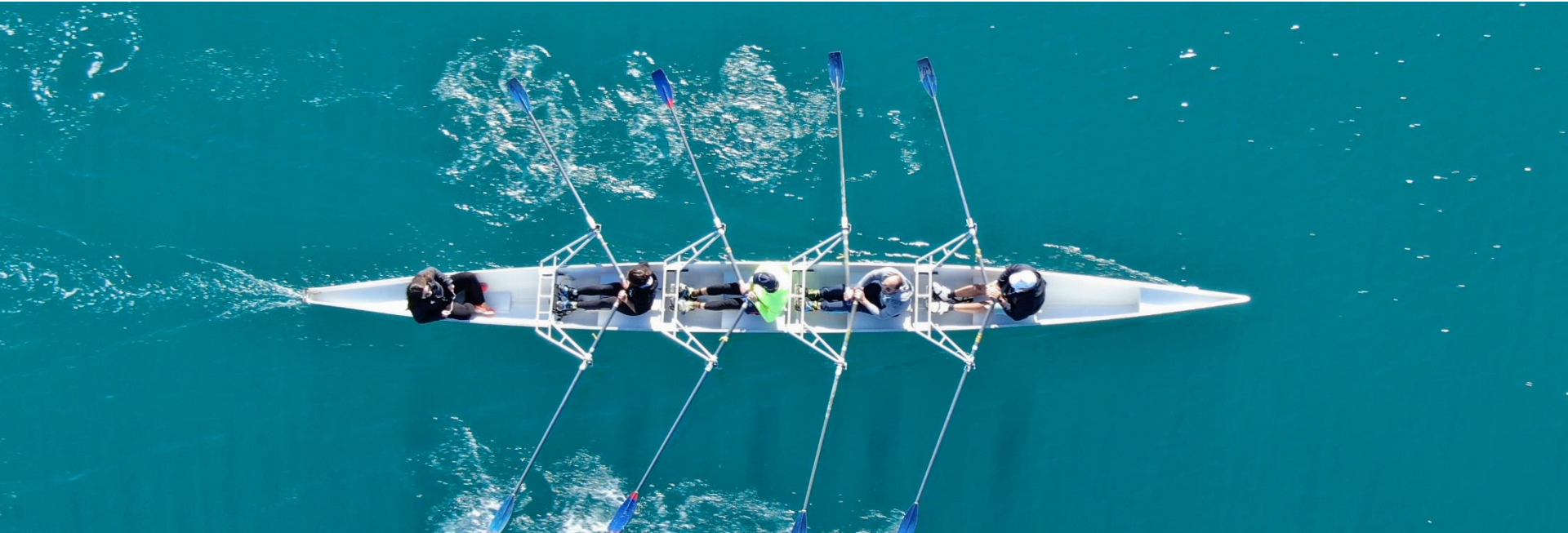
Across the board— TB testing was decreased or stopped.

**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?



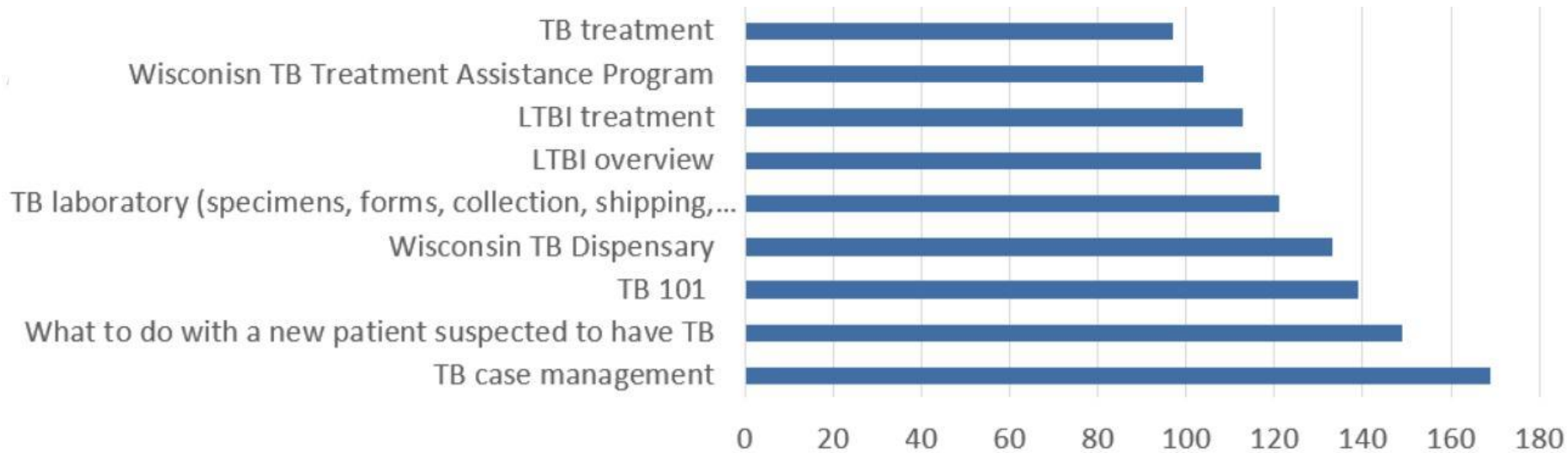
**When do you think that staff would be able to dedicate time to TB trainings or workshops?**

**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 24<sup>th</sup>)**

**Financial Assistance through the WI TB Program  
(Sept 14<sup>th</sup>)**

**Evaluation for TB Disease and TB Case  
Management (Sept 28<sup>th</sup>)**

**TB Lab (Oct 12<sup>th</sup>)**

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.



# TB Program Contact Information

Phone: 608-261-6319

Fax: 608-266-0049

Email: [dhswitbprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhswitbprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Website:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tb/index.htm>