

Evaluation of a Legionella Webinar Series for Healthcare Facilities

Dilani Goonewardene, MPH, Jane Yackley, MPH, Mary-Margaret Fill, MD

BACKGROUND

Legionnaires' disease, a type of severe pneumonia, is caused by breathing in small droplets of water that contain the bacteria *Legionella*.

In 2017, 13% of Tennessee (TN) legionellosis cases were healthcare-associated. Healthcare facilities are at high risk for *Legionella* growth and spread.

Proper maintenance and effective water management programs (WMPs) can reduce *Legionella* risk. Increased education and prevention outreach to healthcare facilities in TN is needed.

The Tennessee Hospital Association (THA), Tennessee Healthcare Engineering Association (THEA) and Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) developed the "Legionella Webinar Series" to raise awareness about Legionnaire's disease and the importance of prevention through WMPs.

METHODS

Webinar information was disseminated to THA and THEA membership via E-newsletters and emails, and to regional and local health department staff via email.

The target audience included facility management, infection control, risk management, safety, quality assurance, environmental services and leadership.

Six webinars were conducted between January–June 2019. Webinars were recorded and made available online.

At the series conclusion, registrants were emailed a survey to evaluate attendance, quality/utility, participant/facility information, barriers from having a WMP, and educational opportunities of interest.

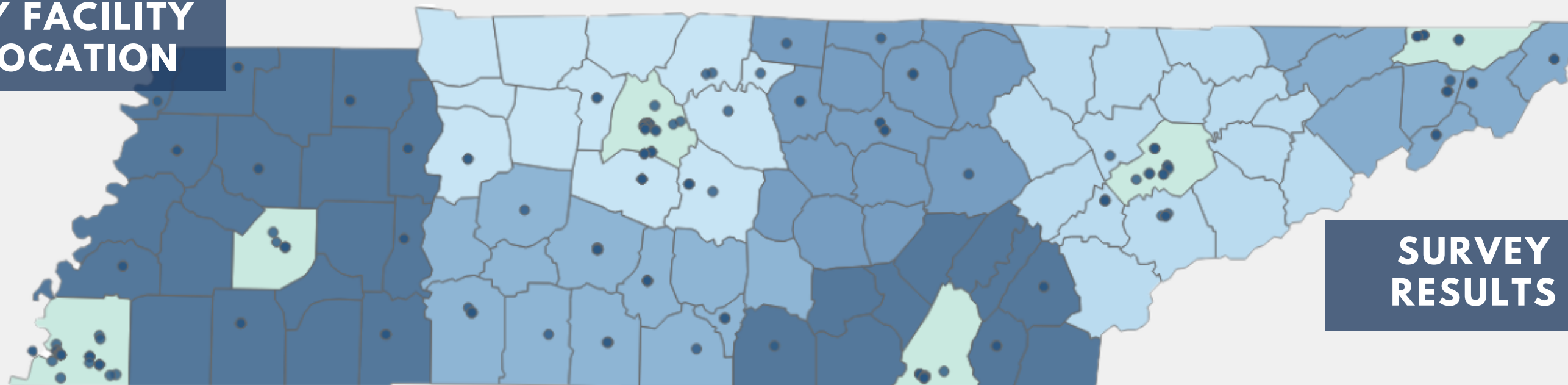
CONCLUSION

Despite the low response rate to the evaluation survey, the webinar series reached its target audience from 147 facilities and provided relevant information and resources. Survey results indicated that content and resources discussed were helpful.

Future efforts could focus on outreach to facilities with low webinar participation, like long-term care facilities, and increased dissemination of resources to aid in legionella prevention.

Surveys could be sent after each individual webinar, rather than series conclusion to increase response rates.

REGISTRANTS BY FACILITY LOCATION



Participants' organizations were distributed across 48 counties within TN and 11 other states. (Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia)



Recorded webinars and presentations here:

<https://tha.com/events-education/legionella-webinar-series/>

Introduction to Healthcare – Associated Legionellosis
Water Management Programs
Developing a Water Management Program

Healthcare Experience with WMPs
What to Expect in an Outbreak
Review Resources and Healthcare Implications

SURVEY RESULTS

28/164 (17%) REGISTRANTS FROM THE TARGET AUDIENCE RESPONDED TO THE WEBINAR EVALUATION SURVEY

100%

were interested in future educational opportunities

96%

rated content as very or extremely helpful

68%

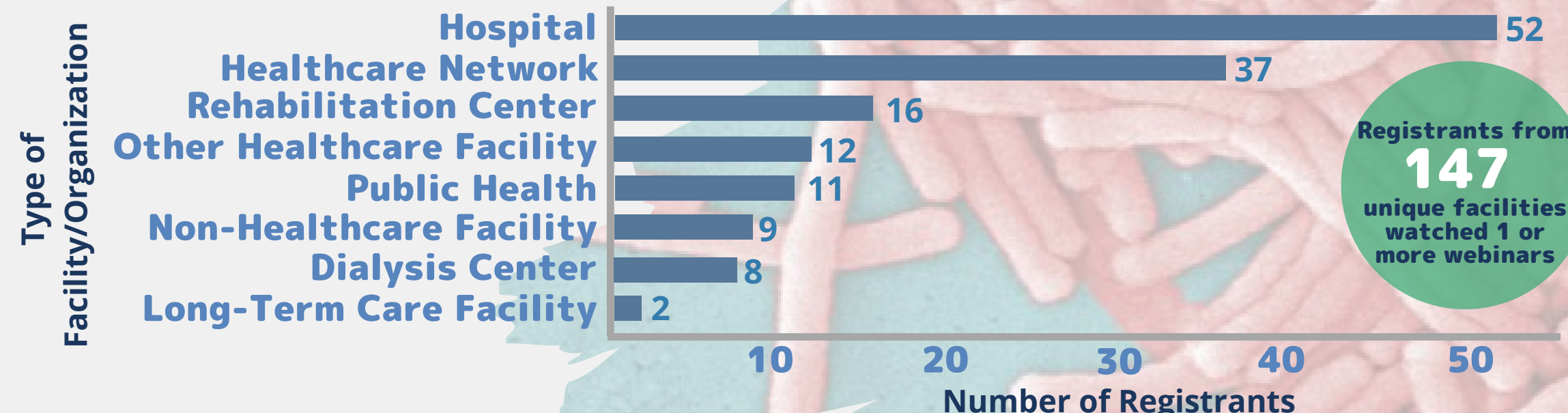
reported their organization has a WMP

VIEWS PER WEBINAR

- 164 individuals registered for ≥1 webinar.
- Upon login, registrants entered the number of additional attendees viewing.
- The series averaged 145 viewers per webinar, totaling 869 views including unregistered attendees.



FACILITY TYPES



Registrants from 147 unique facilities watched 1 or more webinars