

Household waste disposal (value adding project) in Western Sydney

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In February 2015, the Centre for Population Health, in partnership with the local Aboriginal Medical Service and NSW Housing, conducted a pilot of the Housing for Health (H4H) program in Western Sydney, the first for the Local Health District.

During this project, a number of problems were identified by residents. This included the occurrence of pests, such as cockroaches and rodents. Storage of household waste was identified as a possible contributing factor, with 66% of households not having a functional kitchen bin.

This project aim was to introduce an integrated pest management approach to help reduce pests in the household, by improving how waste was stored and by providing general cleaning products to assist in household cleaning.

Participants were provided with a household waste (clean-up) kit and asked some questions about how they managed waste in the home.

A follow-up survey via telephone was conducted 6 months later, asking about usefulness of the kit and other feedback.

Integrated pest management is a recognised approach which aims to reduce exposure to both pests and pesticides. It incorporates an holistic approach to pest management by recommending:

1. Inspection and monitoring to identify areas in the home that might provide pests with food, water, or shelter
2. Identification of the type of pests (if present) to allow a targeted response. (minimising pest treatment with chemicals if required)
3. Comparison of pest numbers to action thresholds (is there a tolerable level of pests that do not impact on health?)
4. Limiting access to food, water, and shelter; good maintenance and housekeeping are the first line of defence in integrated pest management
5. Evaluation of effectiveness of implemented actions. (Maley et al, 2014).

Most (93%) of the respondents advised that the bins provided were still being utilised, and most of these still had functioning lids to prevent the entry of pests.

All of the households indicated that they were separating waste into different types: general waste and recycling. One household was also composting in their backyard. Some households were using the recycling bucket provided, five households indicated that it was either used for another purpose or lost.

All the respondents indicated that the clean-up kits were great and that the items included for general cleaning were useful, and six, (43%) noticed fewer pests around the home.

The use of an integrated pest management approach is an accepted and relatively easy strategy to assist households in controlling household pest occurrence, thereby minimising exposure to pesticides.

Reference

Maley et al, (2014). Integrated Pest Management: A Guide for Affordable Housing, available online at <http://www.stoppests.org/> (accessed 11/8/17).

For more information

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Glossary

H4H Housing for Health

Household Waste Disposal Project

Western Sydney, NSW

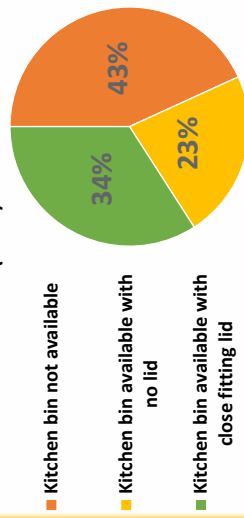
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Introduction

In February 2015 the Centre for Population Health in partnership with the local Aboriginal Medical Service and NSW Housing conducted a pilot of the Housing for Health (H4H) program in Western Sydney, the first for the Local Health District.

During this project, a number of problems were identified by residents. This included the occurrence of pests such as cockroaches and rodents. Storage of household waste was identified as a possible contributing factor with 66% of households not having a functional kitchen bin.

Household Bin Survey (Independent H4H survey) (n=44)



Aim

This project aim was to introduce an Integrated Pest Management approach to help reduce pests in the household by; improving how waste was stored and by providing general cleaning products to assist in household cleaning.

Methods

Participants were provided with a household waste (clean-up) kit and asked some questions about how they managed waste in the home.

A follow up survey via telephone was conducted 6 months later asking about usefulness of the kit and other feedback.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

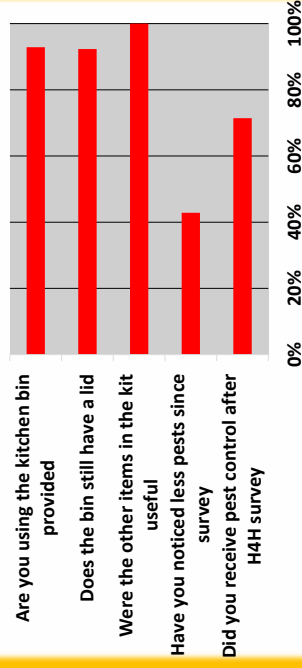
Integrated pest management is a recognised approach which aims to reduce exposure to both pests and pesticides. It incorporates an holistic approach to pest management by recommending:

1. Inspection and monitoring to identify areas in the home that might provide pests with food, water, or shelter.
2. Identification of the type of pests (if present) to allow a targeted response. (minimising pest treatment with chemicals if required).
3. Compare pest numbers to action thresholds (is there a tolerable level of pests that do not impact on health).
4. Limiting access to food, water, and shelter. Good maintenance and housekeeping are the first line of defence in IPM.
5. Evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.

Maley et al. (2014) *Integrated Pest Management: A Guide for Affordable Housing*, available online at <http://www.stoppests.org/>, accessed 11/8/17.



Results of Follow Up Household Survey (n=14)



Respondents who answered 'Yes'

Results

Thirteen (93%) of the respondents advised that the bins provided were still being utilised.

Thirteen (93%) of the participants preferred to use the bin provided and 92% (12/13) of these still had functioning lids to prevent the entry of pests.

All of the households indicated that they were separating waste into different types, general waste and recycling. One household was also composting in their backyard.

Some households were using the recycling bucket provided, five households indicated that it was either used for another purpose or lost.

All the respondents indicated that the clean-up kits were great and that the items included for general cleaning were useful.

Six (43%) of respondents noticed less pests.

Conclusion

The use of an Integrated Pest Management approach is an accepted and relatively easy strategy to assist households in controlling household pest occurrence, thereby minimising exposure to pesticides.