



Assessment of Sentinel Laboratory Preparedness in the State of Texas

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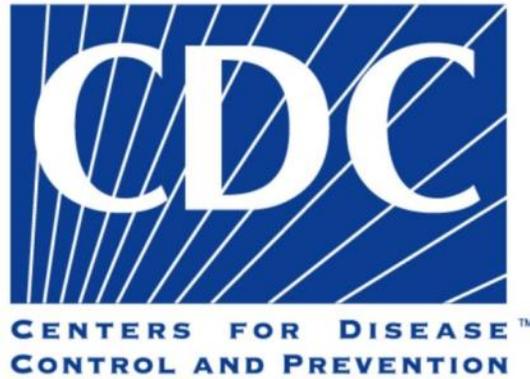
Mentor: Rahsaan Drumgoole, MPH

Manager, Emergency Preparedness Branch
Texas Department of State Health Services

Purpose

- i To create, administer and analyze a survey tool sent to 411 Sentinel Laboratories across Texas
- i Two goals: to assess how well.....
 - § LRN Sentinel laboratories are prepared for a bioterrorism event or other public health emergency
 - § LRN Regional Reference laboratories are training their respective Sentinel laboratories

Methods



Study Population

- i 411 Sentinel level laboratories in Texas
 - § Labs from all 10 public health regions
 - § Facility types:
 - a Hospital based clinical laboratories
 - a Day surgery facilities
 - a Commercial Laboratories (e.g. Labcorp)



Survey Design

i Questions

§ Based on information found on the ASM website:
Sentinel Laboratory Protocol www.asm.org

§ 3 categories

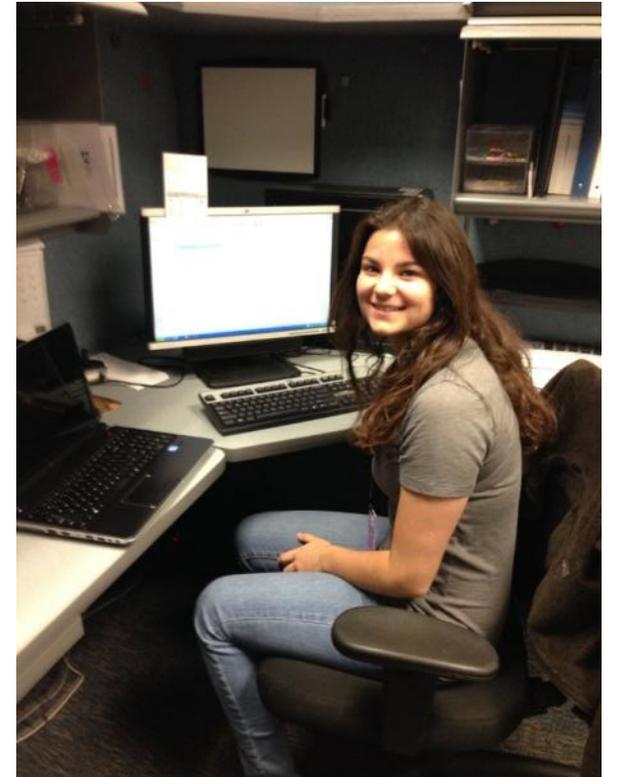
- a Laboratory Contact Information
- a Laboratory Preparedness
- a Proficiency Test

i Final Survey approved by R. Drumgoole, MPH

i Methods to return survey

§ Fax

§ On-line (Question Pro)

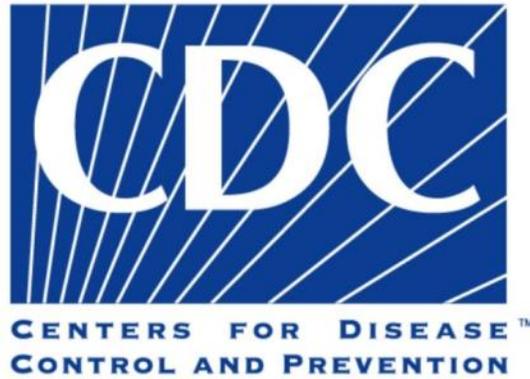


Data Analysis

- ; Compile survey responses in Question Pro
- ; Export responses into a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet
- ; Analyze responses using Microsoft Excel
- ; Create tables and figures in Microsoft Excel



Results



Response Rate

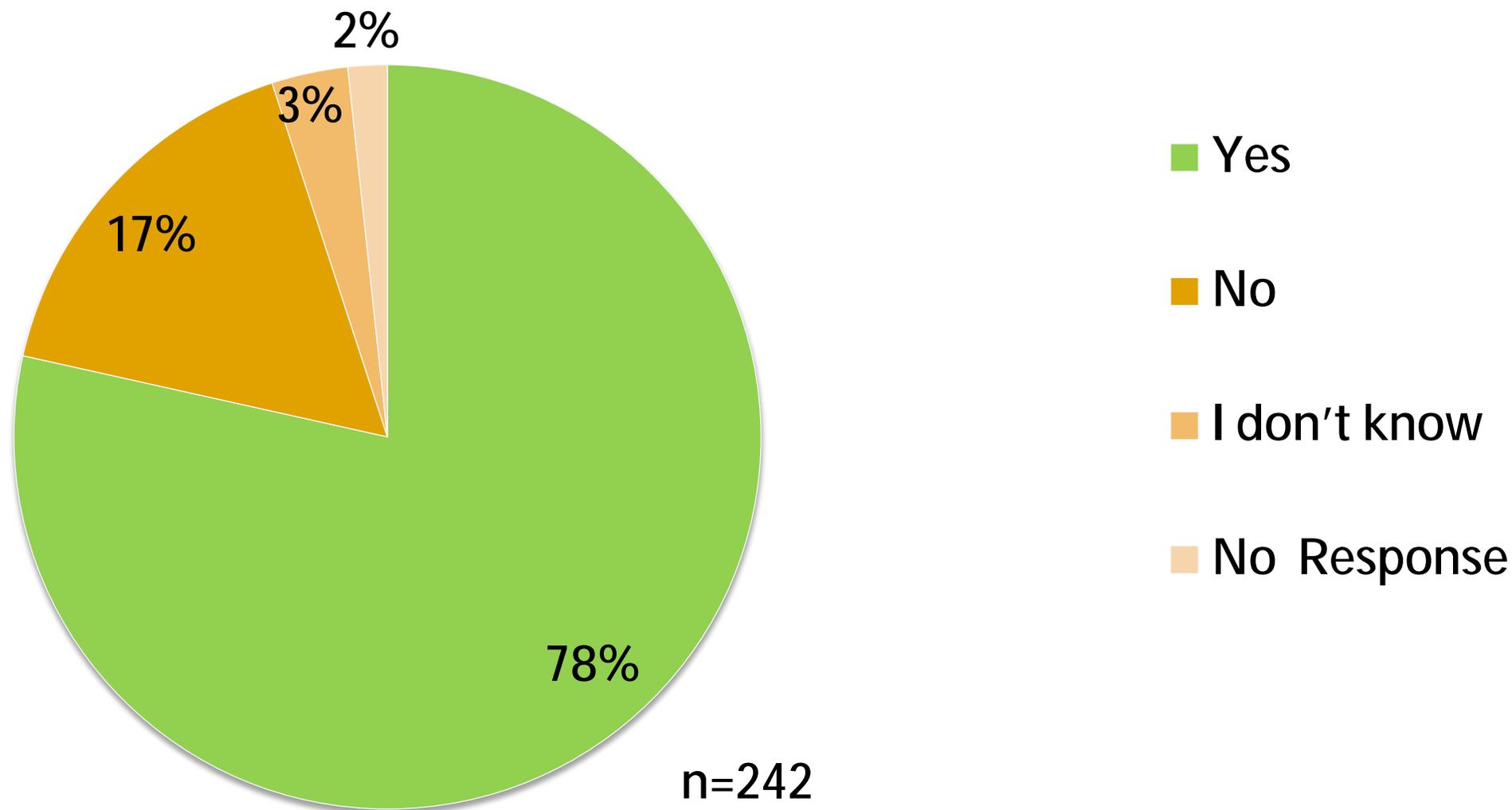
- | 411 surveys administered
 - § Complete – 242
 - § Incomplete – 169
- | Overall response rate – 58.8%
- | Response rate for each LRN ranged from 37.9% - 81.8%

Regional LRN	Response Rate (%)
Austin	61.4
Corpus Christi	75.0
Dallas	37.9
El Paso	69.2
South Texas Texas/Harlingen	81.8
Houston	64.3
Texas Tech/Lubbock	72.7
San Antonio	54.3
Tarrant	66.7
Tyler	69.8



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: BASIC LABORATORY CAPABILITIES

Does your laboratory have a Class II or higher biosafety cabinet?





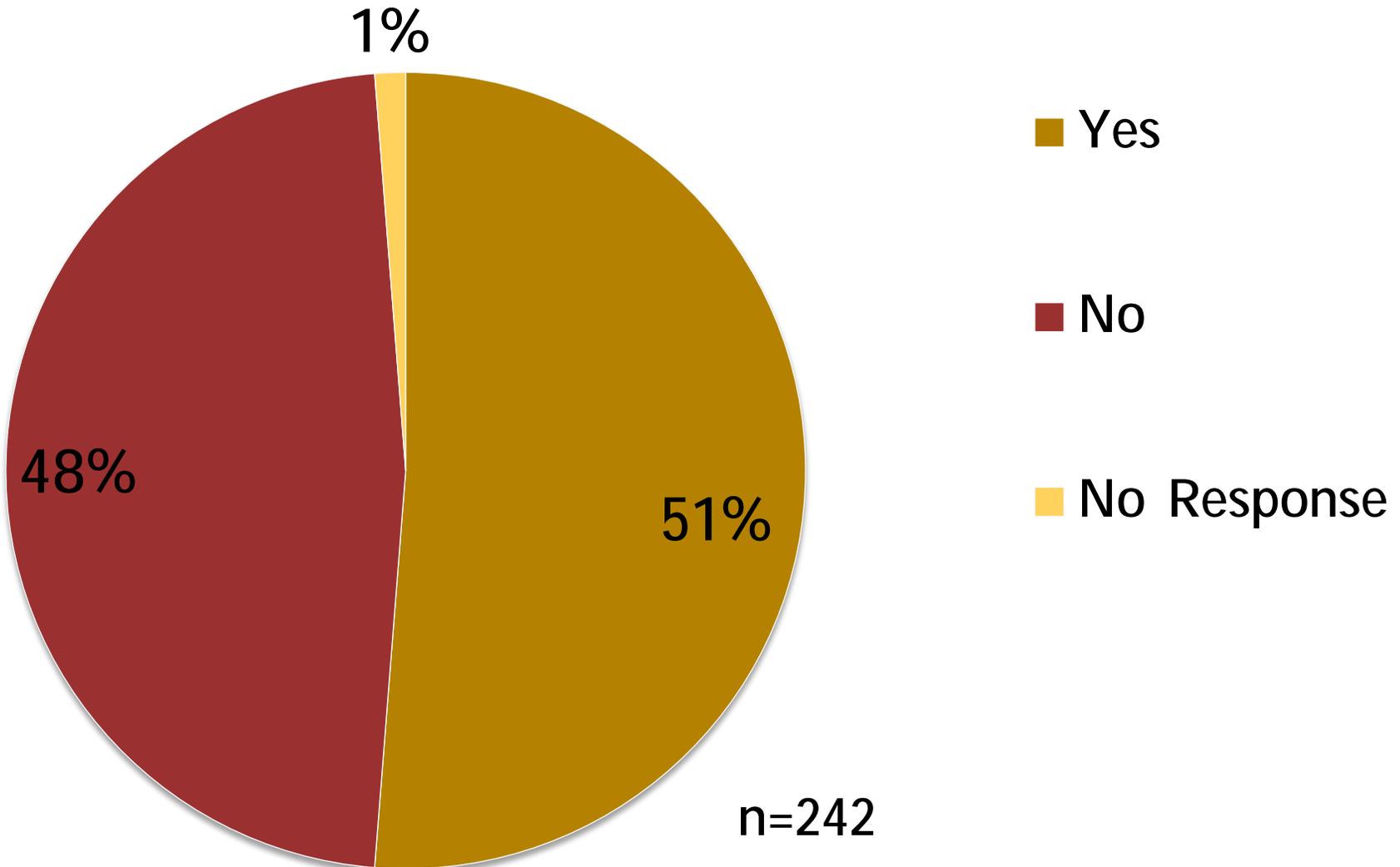
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

“Rule Out” Training

Proficiency of rule out training knowledge

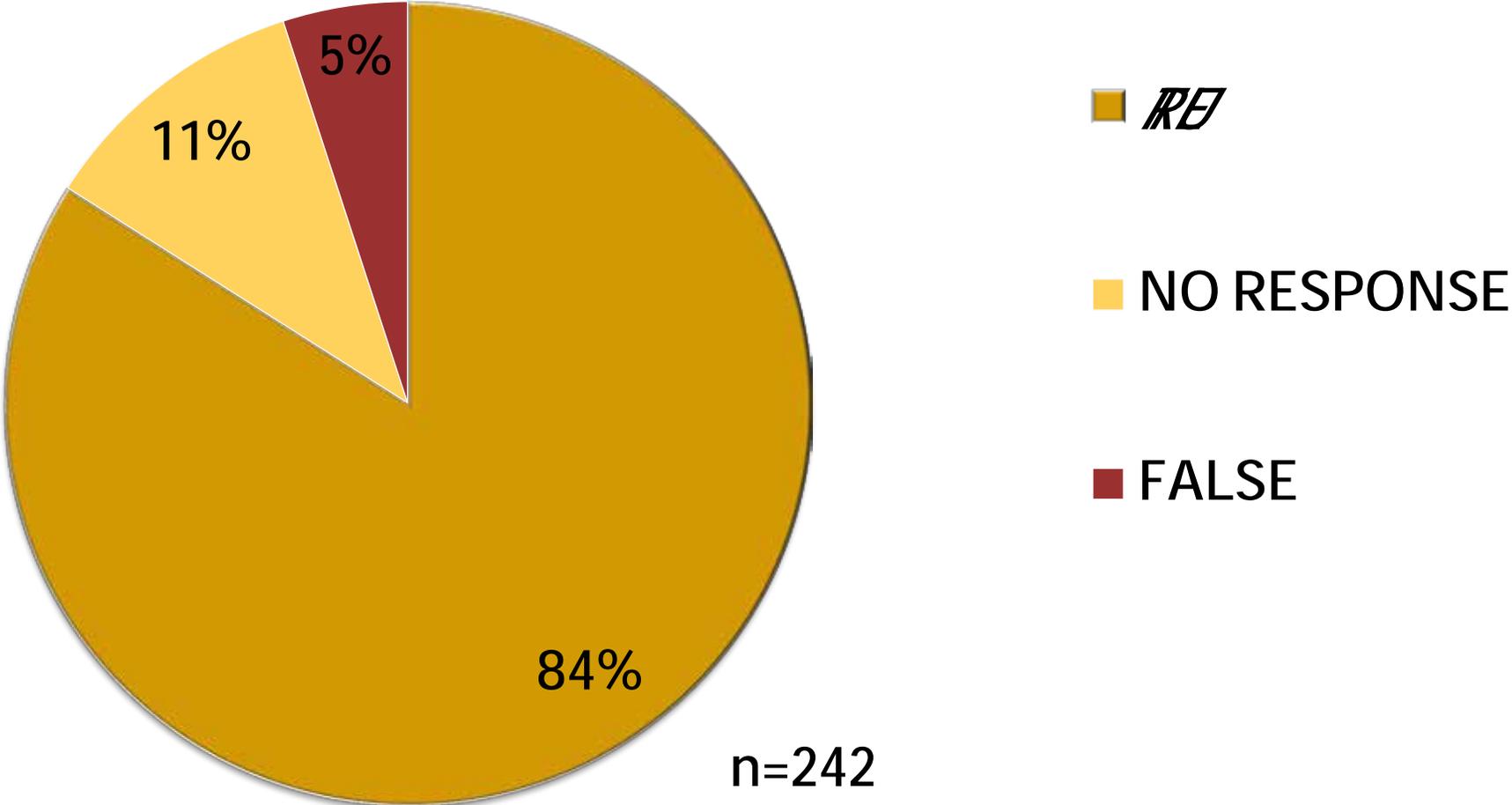


Have you received training on "rule-out" protocols from your regional LRN?

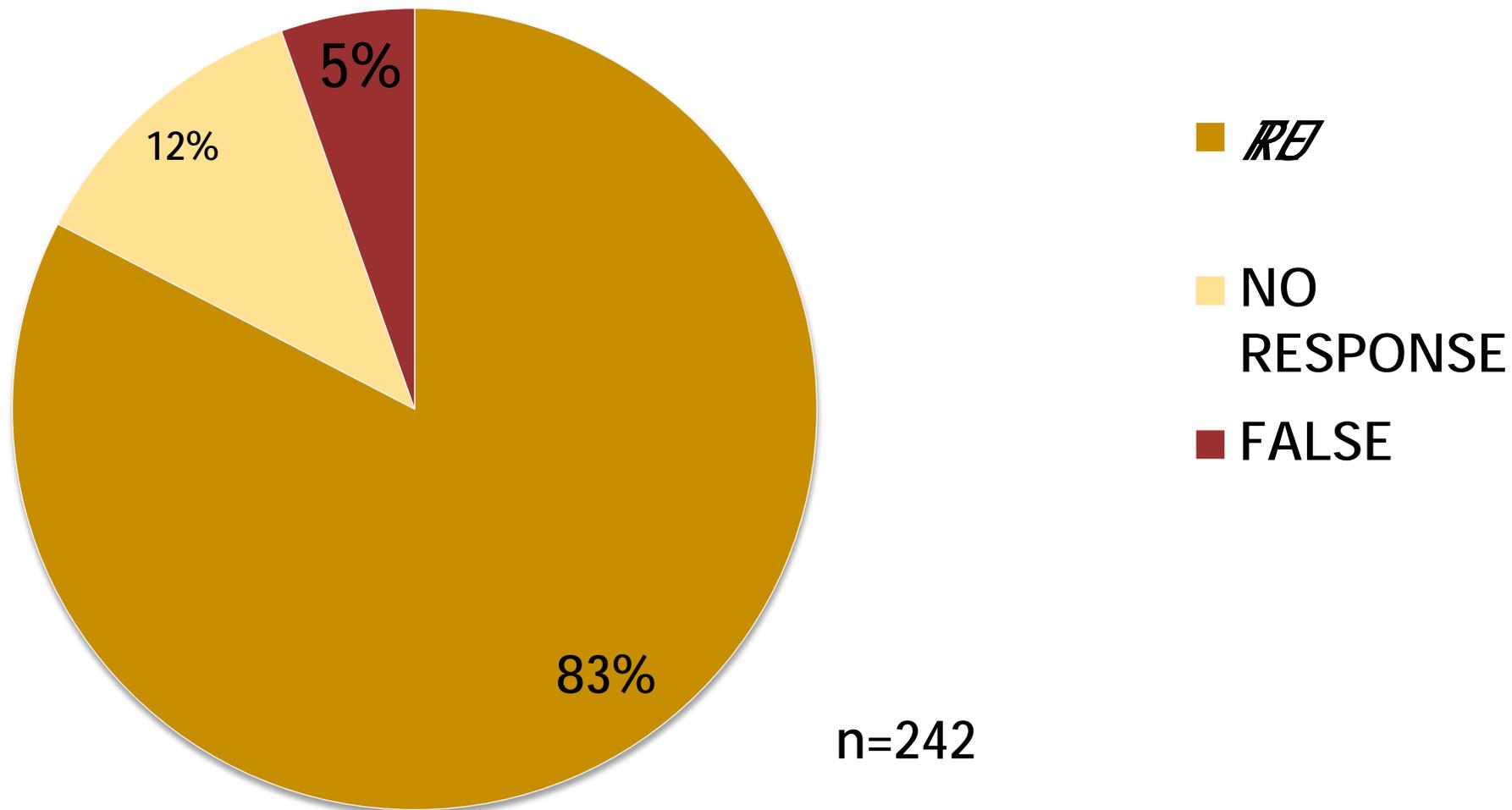




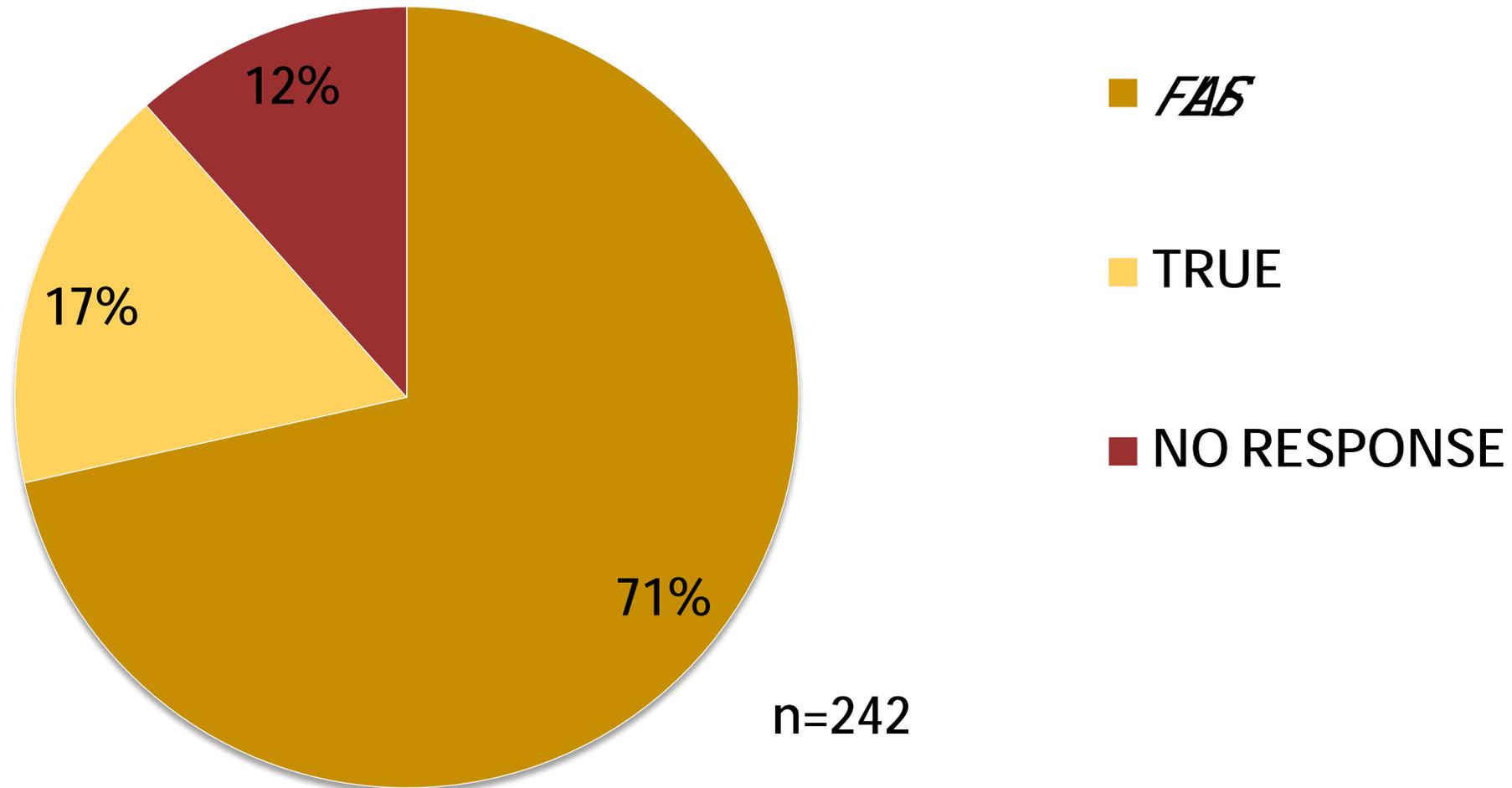
Generate a report that *B. anthracis* cannot be ruled out and isolate has been referred to LRN Reference Laboratory.



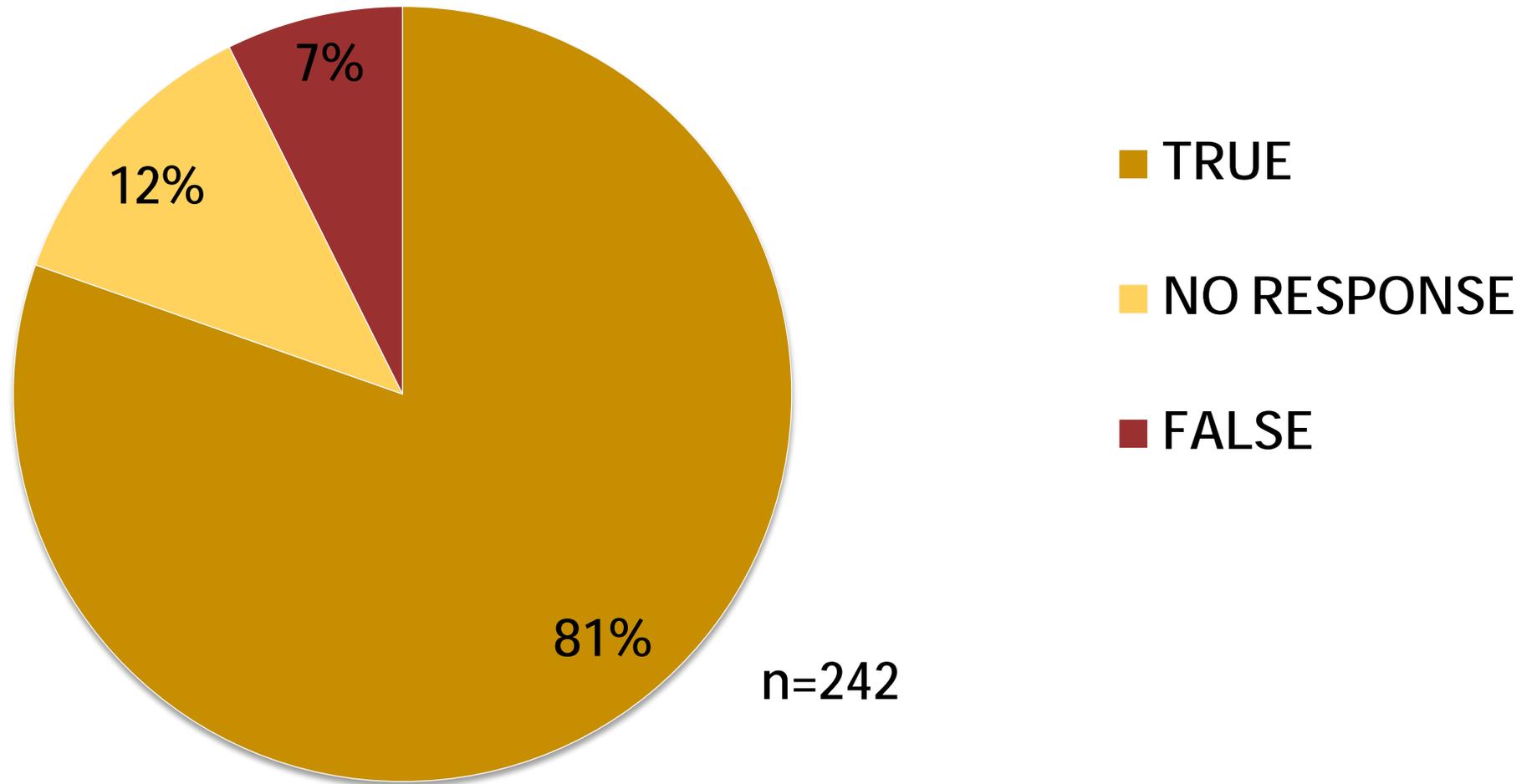
Consult with LRN Reference Laboratory regarding additional clinical specimens that may be submitted for testing.



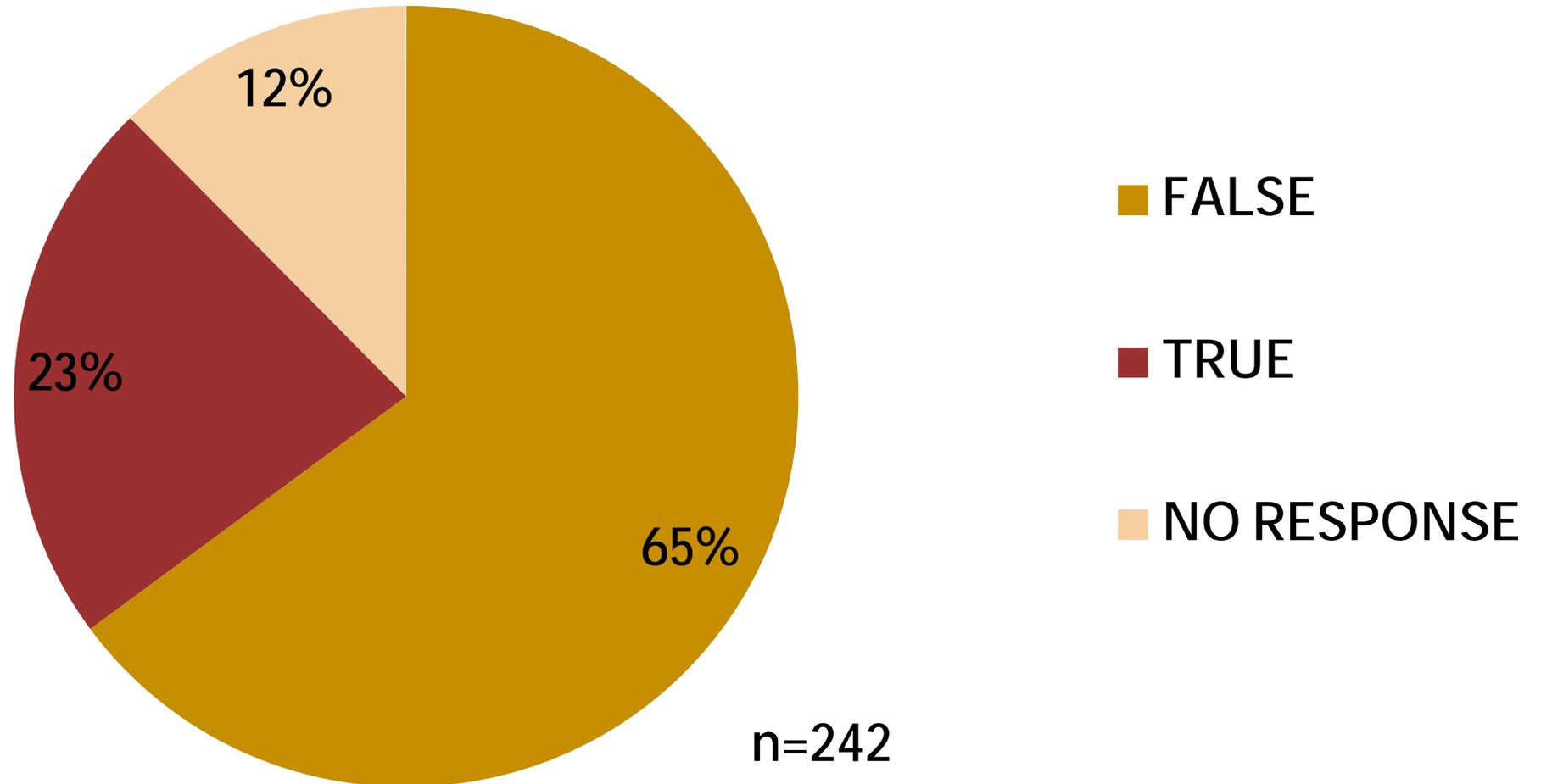
Attempt full identification testing in the Sentinel Laboratory.



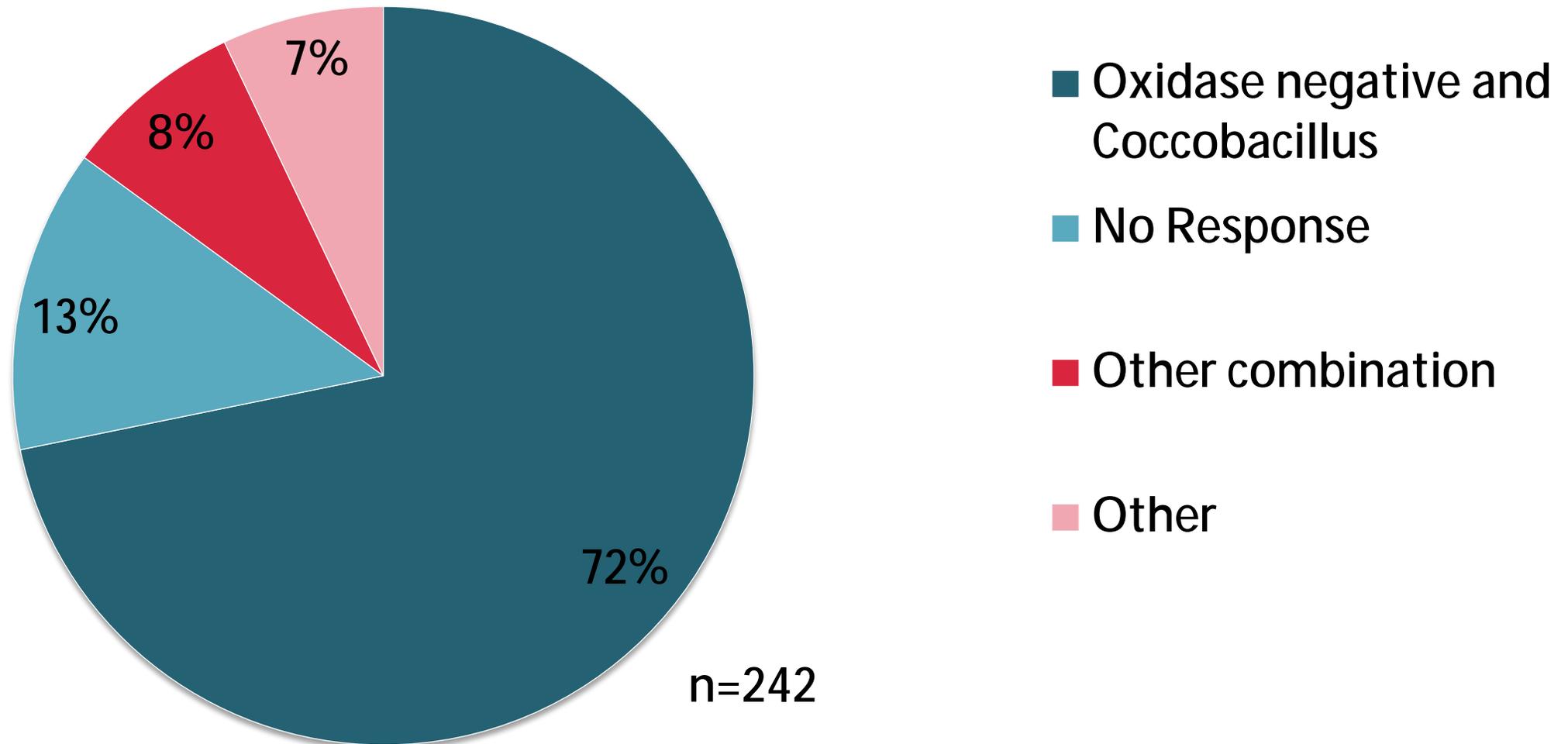
Initiate documentation showing specimen identification control, notification, and transfer to LRN Reference Laboratory.



Nonclinical or environmental samples should be processed in Sentinel Laboratory.



Which of the following characterize *Francisella tularensis*?





Free response comments about training

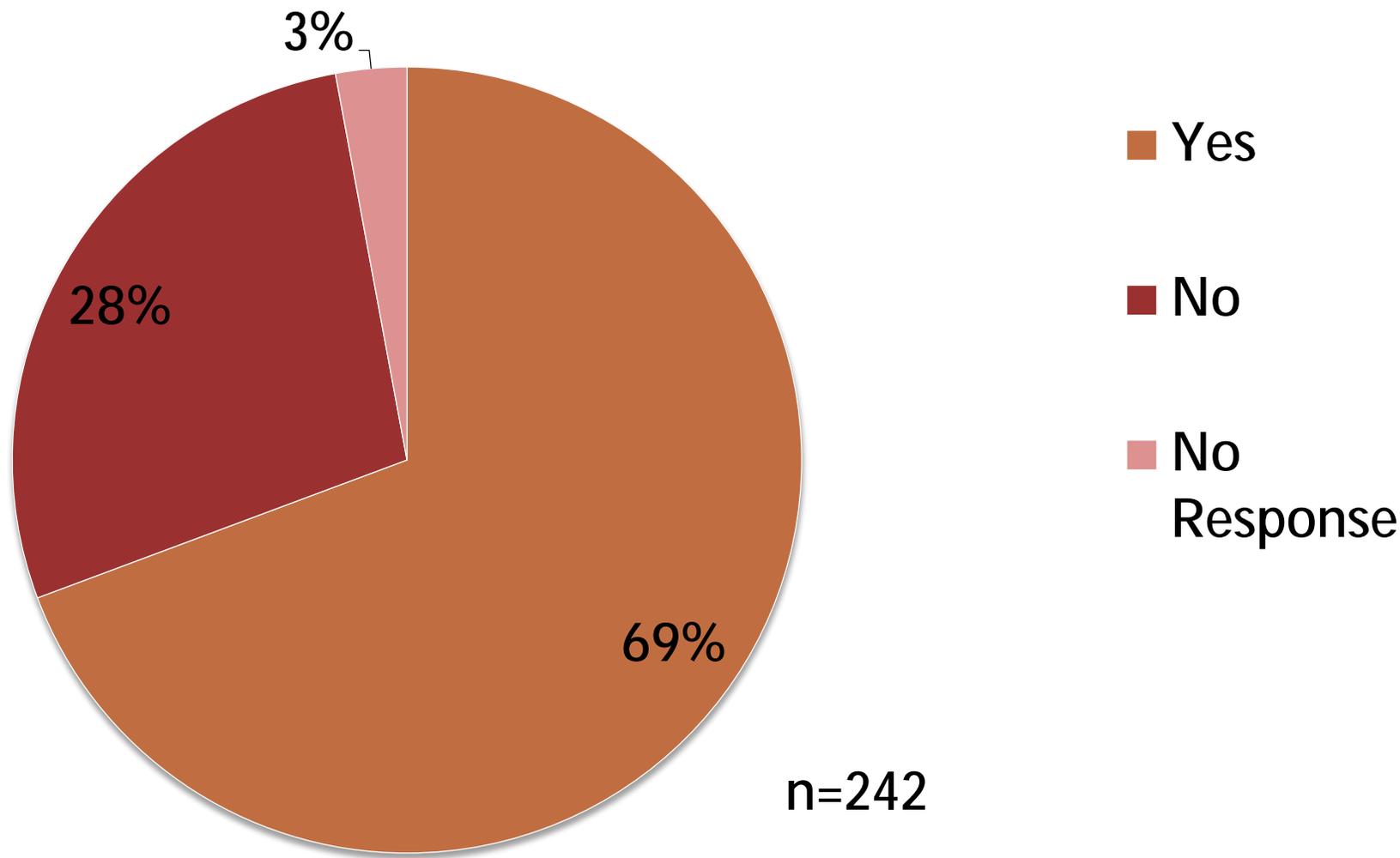
- a "It would be great if we could get an annual in-service just to reinforce the training when the coordinator comes to visit each year."
- a "The Tarrant County LRN Reference Laboratory is extremely responsive, offering training, ongoing support and competency exercises. "
- a "Would like to see more opportunities and times for Sentinel Lab "Rule Out" training."



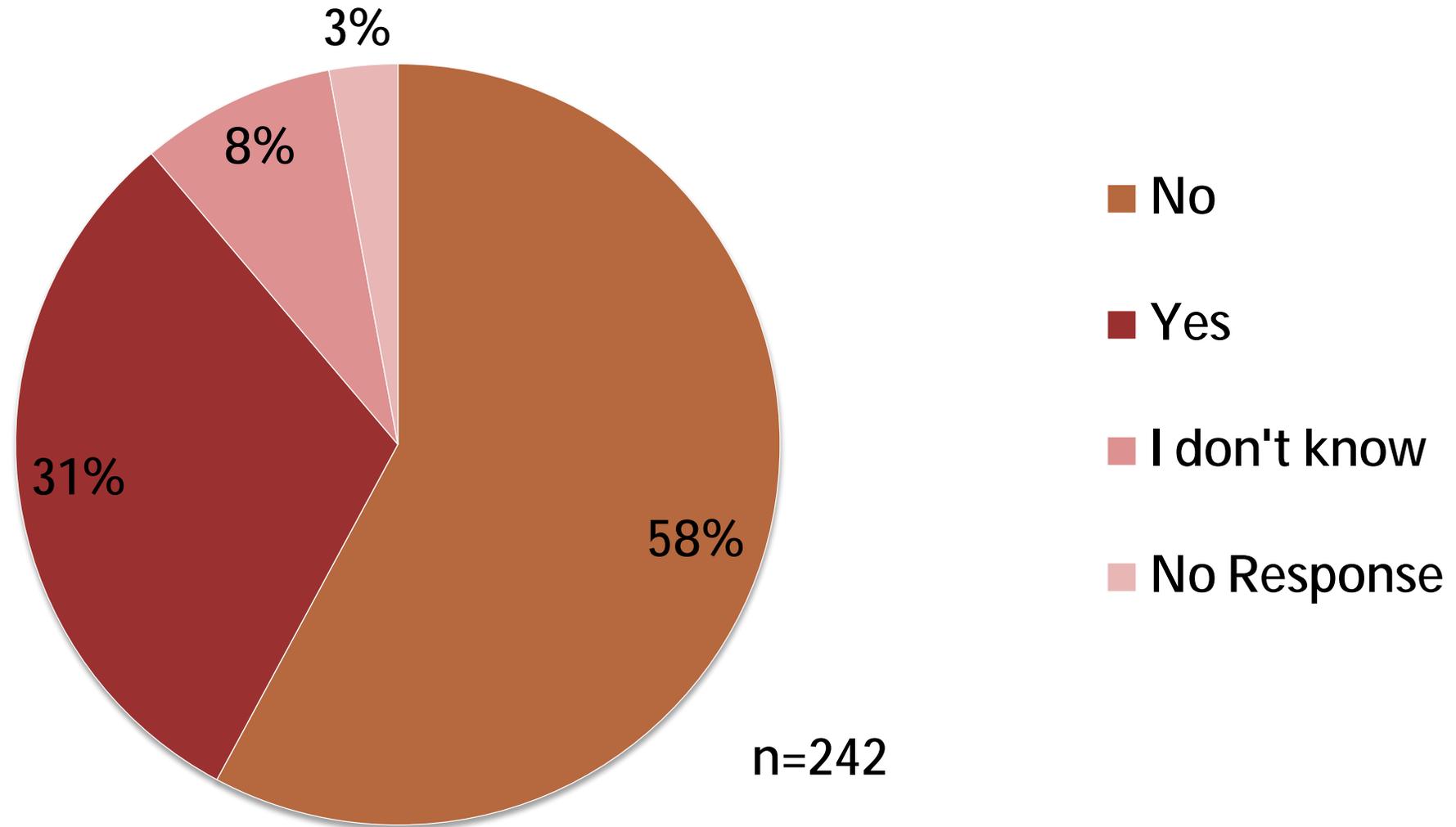
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Packing and Shipping Training
Proficiency of Packing and Shipping
Knowledge

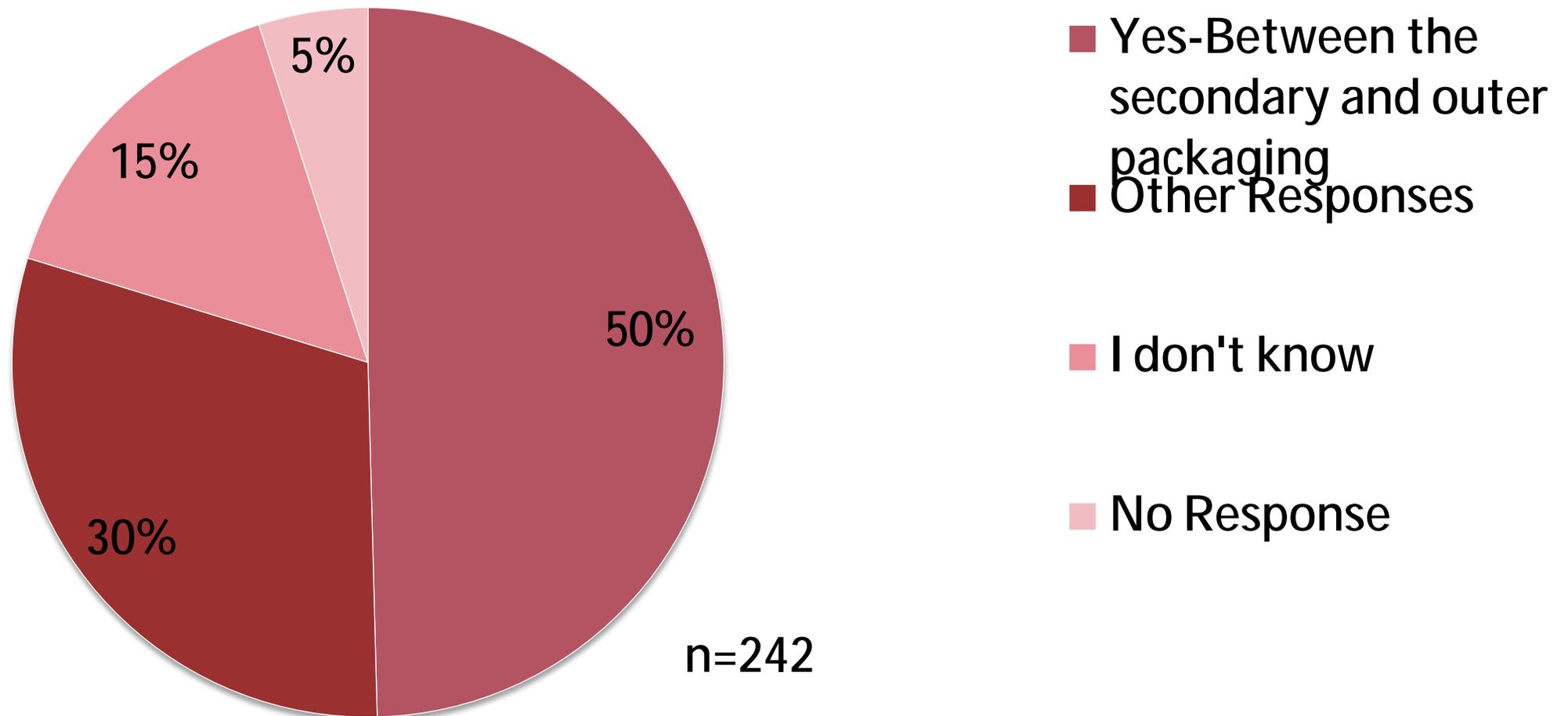
Have you received training on proper packaging and shipping techniques by your regional Reference LRN?



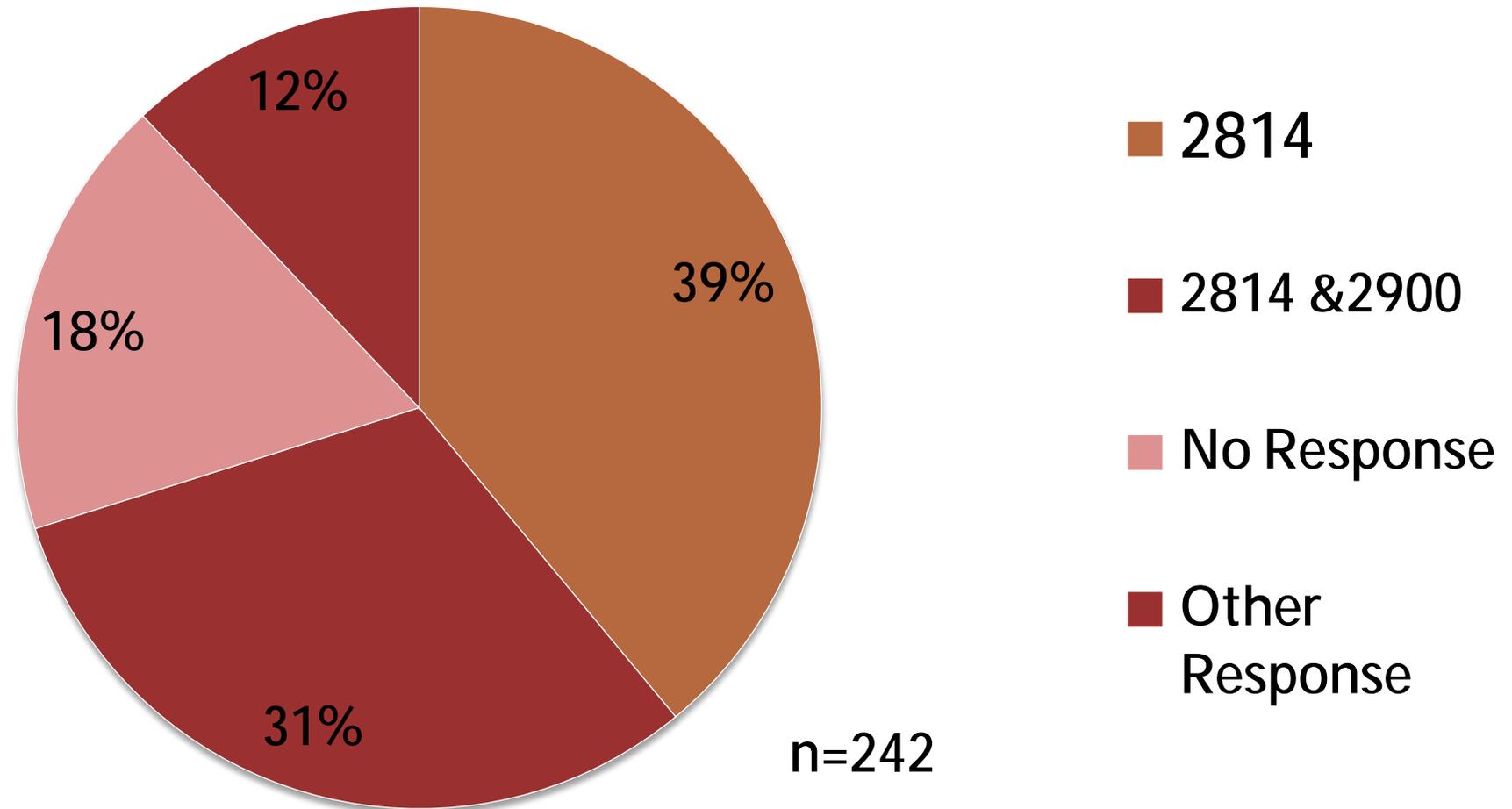
Does your facility need assistance certifying someone for packaging and shipping?



Is an itemized list of contents required when shipping infectious substances? If so, where?



If a Category A substance is capable of causing disease in humans and animals, the sample must be shipped and labeled with what UN number?

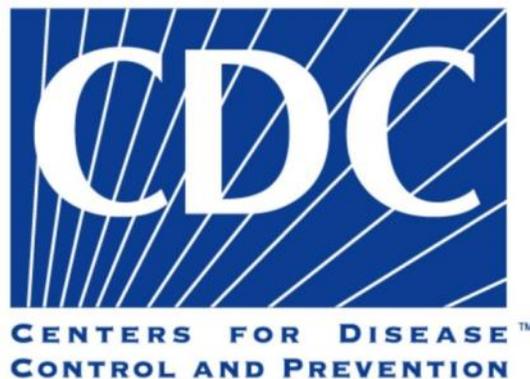




Final free response comments about packing and shipping infectious agents

- a “We need to have someone trained. Our last trained person has left us.”
- a “We do not process or culture any micro specimens on site, nor do we package anything for shipping. All specimens go by private courier to a local reference lab. ”
- a “The regional laboratory is very cooperative in training, but we do need additional training courses in shipping.”

Conclusions



BE READY
MAKE A PLAN



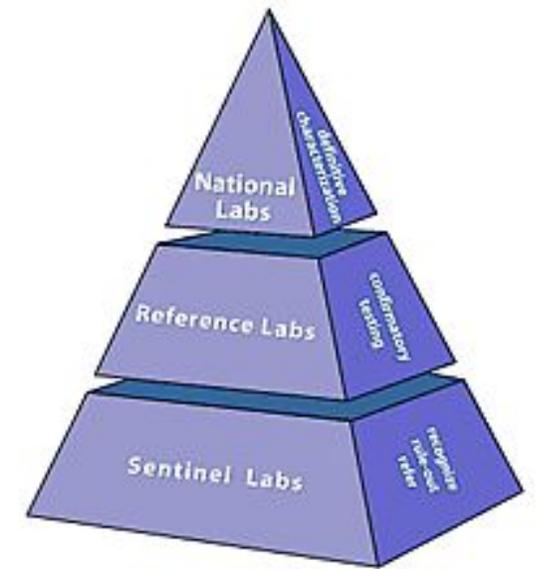
Conclusions - Response Rate

- | Only 59% overall
- | Varied by Regional LRN



Limitations

- | Low response rate
- | Incomplete contact information





Survey Result Observations:

§ Positive findings:

- a Effectiveness of “rule out” training is exceptional
- a Outreach for packing and shipping training is great

§ Findings that Indicate there is room for improvement:

- a Outreach for “rule out” training needs improvement
- a Effectiveness of packing and shipping training also needs improvement

Yes? / No?thoughts



Considerations

- § If a regional LRN (such as Tyler) is hosting a training workshop, can a Sentinel lab from another LRN region (ex. Dallas) attend?
 - a Sentinel laboratory may be located closer to Tyler LRN than Dallas.
 - a If people don't have to travel as far, may provide incentive
 - a Would require more communication between LRN laboratories to make sure Dallas LRN is informed that one of their Sentinel laboratories received training.