Bed Bugs in the Community

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What are they?

- Parasites related to Lice
- Reddish-brown, oval-shaped, flattened insects about the size of a tick
- Non-disease vectors
- Feed off the blood of humans
History

• Many references to them in historical literature
  – “Red Coat Bugs”
• Widely eradicated in *developed* countries after the use of DDT and other toxic pesticides
• Resurgence due to restriction of such chemicals and ease of travel
Where are they found?

- Apartments, homes, shelters, hotels, dormitories, laundromats, etc.
- Live in cracks or crevices where people sit or sleep for long periods of time
Who Can Get Bitten?

Everyone regardless of age, sanitation or class!
How Are They Detected?

• Blood-stained Smears on Bedding, Walls, Curtains
• Usually Only Come Out at Night
• Hiding in Picture Frames, Bedding, Window Frames, Carpets or Walls
What do the Bites Look Like?

- Relatively Painless
- Reddish
- Raised
- Itchy
Prevention and Control
Special Precautions

- Furniture or Bedding on the Side of the Road or at Trash Collection Sites
- Used Furniture or Bedding
- Community Laundromats
- Furnished Apartments
- Hotels and Motels
What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

• Encourage them to contact the property owner
  – The sooner you address the problem the better chance you have to successfully eliminate it

• Contact the local health officer and/or code enforcement official to make an official complaint
  – Depends on local ordinances and State codes/RSA’s
What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

• Advise them to avoid using over-the-counter pesticides (such as ‘Raid’) especially in areas occupied by children/infants or people with respiratory disorders
  – Not effective
  – Misuse and toxicity
• Contact a licensed Pest Control Operator (PCO)
  – Ask for references
  – Have they been successful in treating them
What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

- Tenants need to work together with property owners and PCO’s!!!!
  - Proper treatment preparation
    - Laundering
    - Vacuuming
    - Bed covers
  - Removal of untreatable items
  - Eliminating use of unchecked used furniture etc.
What Should You Do If You Think Someone Has Bed Bugs?

• Key Facts
  – Successful eradication may require multiple chemical/heat treatments
  – Ongoing monitoring is essential
  – One “bad” tenant in a multi-family will ruin the effort
  – Need to provide tenants with easy to use instructions and resources to handle their end of the bargain…….
Multi-Agency Pest Control Effort

• Langdon Mill Campaign
  – 20 unit apartment building
  – 50 residents
  – Relocated for 2 weeks
  – Ongoing education and surveillance

• Spring/Summer/Fall 2009 and Ongoing
Who was Involved? Part 1

- Property Owner
- Community Organizers
  - Granite State Organizing Project
  - American Friends Service Committee
- Local Government
  - Manchester Health, Public Works, Building and School Departments, and Mayor’s Office
- Academic Institutions
  - St. Anselm College
Who was Involved? Part 2

• Faith Based Organizations
  – Manchester Church of God

• Community Advocacy Groups
  – Greater Manchester Association of Social Service Agencies (GMASA)
  – United Way

• Local Businesses
  – Wal Mart
Lessons Learned

• Waiting too long makes an infestation impossible to completely eradicate
  – Active surveillance continues
  – Quick response to new sightings
• Must be a carefully coordinated effort
  – Must have the support of the property owner and ALL tenants
  – Pick up of infested materials must be timely
• Education and ongoing assessments are a must
Lessons Learned

• Must identify barriers to success
  – Languages and Literacy
  – $$$
    • New or “gently used” replacement items
    • Laundry
    • Relocation
  – New Tenants
  – Reducing the “stigma” of reporting
Now What…

• Bedbug Policy Task Force
  – Policy Change
    • Reducing risk factors
      – Curbside bedding/furniture pick-up
    • Addressing areas of concern
      – Used furniture and clothing operations
    • Increase funding to treat/support treatment
  – Public Education
    • Increase access to educational materials
    • Reduce stigma
Referral Information

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