LOUIS CALDER CENTER
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CENTER FOR
EXCELLENCE IN VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

VECTOR BIOLOGY BOOT CAMP

WORKPLACE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FROM PROGRAM ATTENDEES

2018 - 2019

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Vector Biology Boot Camp is an annual event offered by the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (NEVBD) and the Louis Calder Center of Fordham University, providing hands-on learning opportunities in vector surveillance program operations. The program is designed for vector-borne disease professionals working in the Northeast, covering tick and mosquito species of medical importance to this region. Program attendees include professionals whose job duties specifically involve vector surveillance and/or control. Additional details on the program curriculum are available on the NEVBD website.

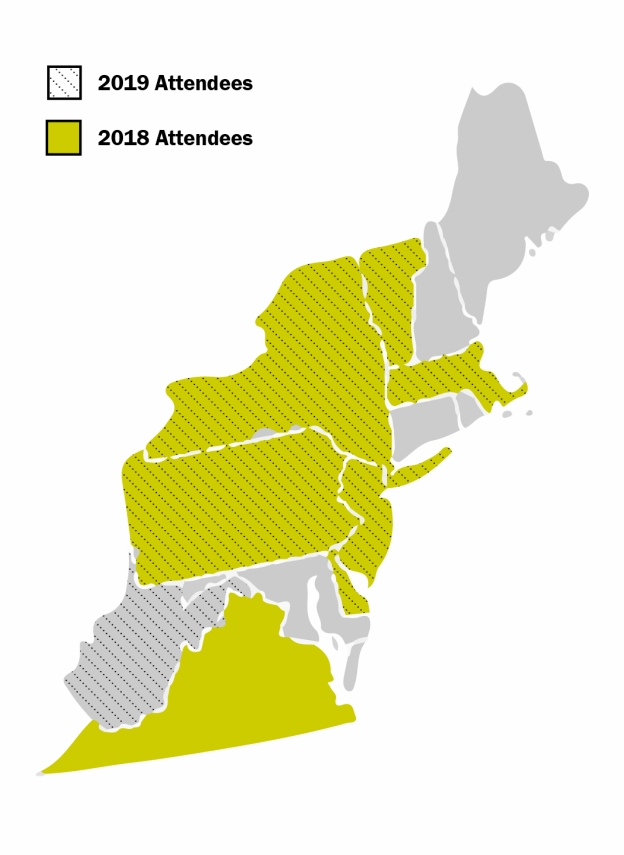
NEVBD hosted two in-person Vector Biology Boot Camp programs in 2018 and 2019. The 2020 Vector Biology Boot Camp was hosted online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTENDEE WORKPLACE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

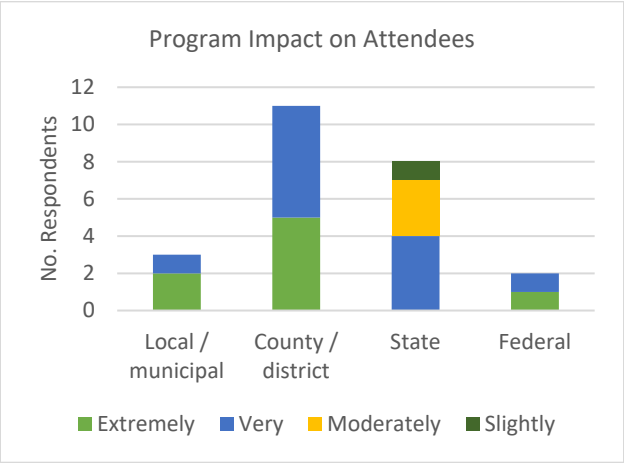
NEVBD reaches out to program attendees in the January following Vector Biology Boot Camp participation (nine months) to gauge the impact of program attendance on their workplace operations, as well as gain feedback on how to improve future iterations of the program. Feedback has been gathered from 24 attendees to the 2018 and 2019 programs using an anonymous online survey.

Program Year	No. Respondents	Response Rate
2018	11	50%
2019	13	65%
TOTAL	*24*	*57%*

Respondents by Year of Program Attendance and State of Residence



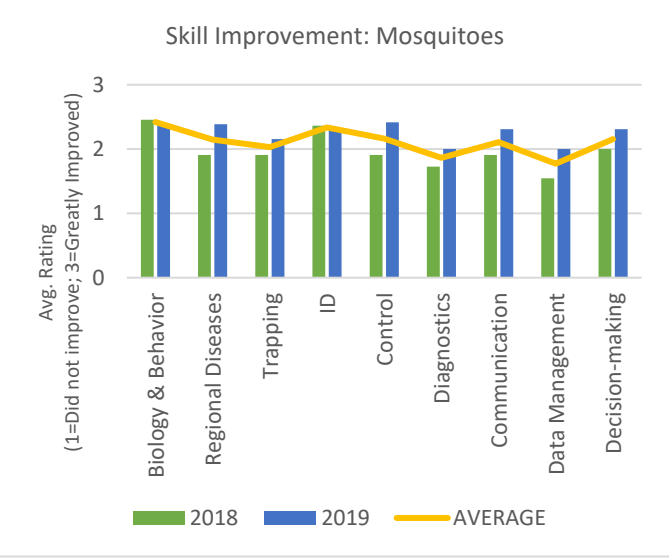
Most respondents to the survey found the Vector Biology Boot Camp to be extremely (33%) or very (50%) impactful to them, particularly among local and county respondents.

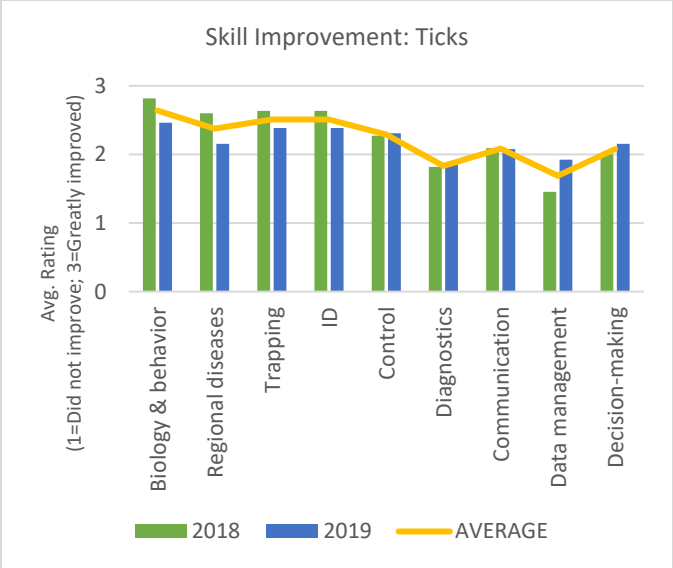


Most respondents (23/24) across both years and all jurisdictions agreed that the information covered in the Vector Biology Boot Camp was directly applicable to their work, and that attendance helped them grow their professional network and introduced them to new resources available to vector-borne disease professionals.

ATTENDEE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

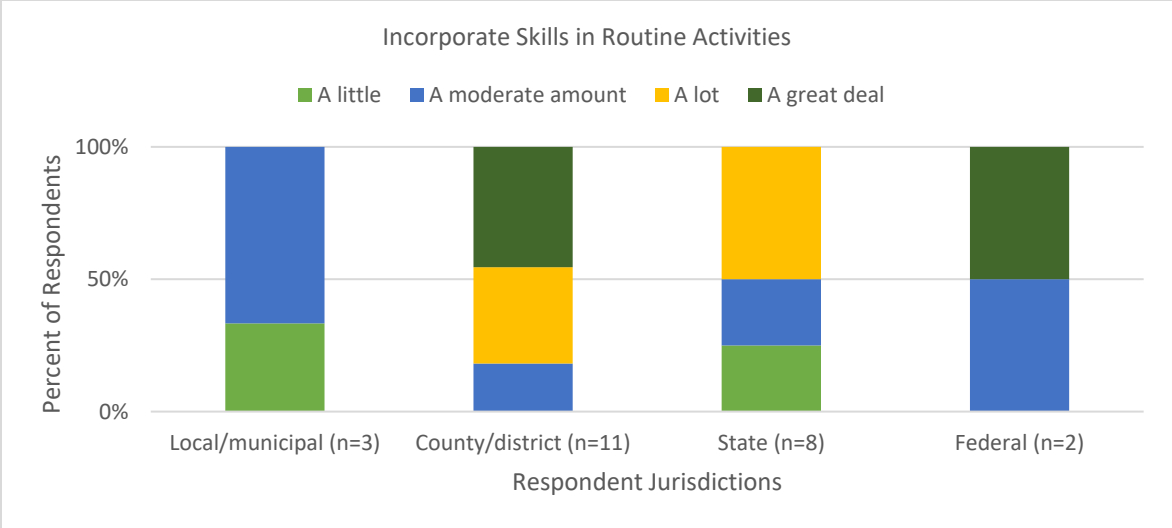
The subject areas where respondents reported the greatest increase in their skills were knowledge of the biology and behavior, identification, and control approaches for ticks and mosquitoes. Respondents also reported increases in their skills for tick collections and knowledge of regional tickborne diseases. The most useful subject areas for attendees in both 2018 and 2019 were arthropod biology and behavior, vector control, and arthropod identification and taxonomy.





County-level attendees were able to incorporate the skills learned in the Vector Biology Boot Camp to the greatest degree in their routine workplace activities. Most attendees were able to expand the scope of their work using skills gained at the Vector Biology Boot Camp (20/24) and share information learned with their colleagues (23/24).

Describing how they were able to expand their scope of work, responses generally focused on initiating tick surveillance programs (n=7), gaining a broader understanding of the vector-borne disease public health infrastructure (n=5), incorporating information into outreach materials (n=4), and expanding mosquito surveillance and pesticide resistance monitoring efforts (n=3).



The largest barriers to attendees incorporating skills from the Vector Biology Boot Camp into their routine work were lack of time, lack of funding, low prioritization of these activities within their organizations. Four respondents reported that they did not experience any barriers to incorporating skills and activities into their workplace.