## **Bed Bugs**

## The gateway bug to better pest control

Allison Taisey Northeastern IPM Center **Cornell University** 



www.StopPests.org

## Bed bugs support is in demand

- Media pressure
- **★** Staff fear
- **☀** HUD compliance
- Budget limitations





#### A series of fortunate events

2006: HUD issued PIH Notice on IPM

2007: HUD-USDA Interagency Agreement began

2008: Developed and piloted the IPM in Multifamily Housing Training

2009:Launched StopPests.org, made "The Tenants' Role in IPM DVD", subcontracted and trained 11 trainers, ran 3 IPM trainings

2010: Hired and trained peer educators, ran 10 trainings, started the StopPests Blog, presented for housing associations

2011: Ran 6 trainings and hired 2 trainers

2012: Launched the new StopPests.org, ran 8 trainings, wrote case studies, published the IPM Guide

# IPM Training for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)

#### **HUD's Notice on IPM (PIH 2011-22)**

#### **Participating PHAs**

- IPM in Multifamily Housing Trainings
- Consultation
- 50 Resident IPM Kits
- Tenant's Role in IPM DVD

#### **General Public**

- www.StopPests.org
- StopPests Blog
- E-mail/phone support
- Conference presentations

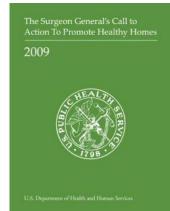




## Making homes healthy

Integrated pest management is part of a nationwide Healthy Homes movement to reduce housing-based health hazards

- \* A healthy home is:
  - Dry
  - Clean
  - Ventilated
  - Safe
  - Contaminant-free
  - Maintained
  - Pest-free



#### **Priority pests**

- Cockroaches cause asthma in infants, trigger asthma attacks, and contaminate food
- Rodents such as mice and rats carry diseases, bite, destroy property, may cause fires, and may trigger asthma attacks
- Bed Bugs and their bites are a nuisance and are expensive to eliminate







# Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- 1. Inspect and monitor
- 2. Identify
- 3. Determine the scale of response
- 4. Respond
  - Non-chemical control
  - Changing people's behavior
  - Chemical control
  - Biological control
- 5. Evaluate effectiveness

#### Investing time and resources

- An IPM budget includes
  - Materials for caulking and sealing holes
  - \* Free items for residents in need: cleaning supplies, mattress encasements, monitors, etc.
  - An IPM contract, including inspection and monitoring



## Expected program outcomes

- Increased cooperation and communication between management, staff, residents, and contractors
- Decreased pesticide applications
- Infestations limited to periodic introductions that establish—no high-level infestations
- Increased partnership with outside agencies
- PHA will be a community leader for pest-free initiatives



#### Massachusetts

- Strong IPM program—networked with experts
- ▶ PHA providing treatment services, encasements, interceptors, and trying cuttingedge technology
- Managing bed bugs

## Georgia

#### Strengths

- Motivated, enthusiastic staff
- A few interested residents
- Qualified, dedicated PMP
- In the preventative stage of bed bug and rat IPM

#### **Challenges**

- Family development
- A generation without housekeeping
- Pesticide misuse
- Cockroaches
- Mice
- Grease



### Maine

- ★ Recordkeeping system that is efficient and organized to find trends
- ★ Work hand-in-hand with a prep company and pest management firm
- Afterschool program
- ★ Resident education—don't let the bugs bite the babies



## Pennsylvania

#### **Before**



#### After



### Common challenges

- \* Raising resident and staff standards for pest control
- Enforcing non-compliance
- Procuring IPM services
- Training staff
- Training residents
- ★ Investing time and resources towards preventative measures
- **★** Documentation



## First steps

- Convert the PHA to IPM—AMP by AMP, beginning with an IPM pilot site
- 2. Train site IPM team members using resources from www.stoppests.org
- 3. Inspect and monitor every unit to identify focus areas

## Next steps continued

- 4. Reduce pest infestation—Allocate pest control time and resources to solve pest problems in focus areas using the steps of IPM
- 5. Reduce the risk of pest infestation—turn units over so that they are pest-free and sealed up, continue to educate staff and residents
- 6. Aim for early detection and rapid response—continue to monitor and inspect

### What you can do

- Explore StopPests.org—use what you like and share your resources with us
- Let your local housing providers know you have expertise
- Partner with housing providers
  - Reviewing products
  - ★Hiring contractors
  - ★Training residents and staff

