



ifpti **Fellowship in Food Protection**

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IFPTI Fellowship Cohort VII: Research Presentation

Jill Lozmack Mollberg

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development

Survey of Retail Food Transportation Inspection Activity in the U.S.

Jill Lozmack Mollberg, Food Safety Specialist

IFPTI 2018-2019 Fellow

MI Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development

Background

Problems Found with Transported Foods

- Temperature Abuse
- Cross-Contamination
- Source
- Inadequate Labeling

Background

Causes for Problems

- Inadequate Vehicles
- Cost-Cutting Measures
- Proximately to Sources
- Traffic Constraints
- Driver Food Safety Knowledge

Background

Transport vehicles are not easily identified as commercial vehicles.



Background

“Jobber”

1. A wholesaler who operates on a small scale or who sells only to retailers and institutions.
2. A person who works by the job.

- Merriam Webster

Background

Jobbers pose a challenge.



Oftentimes
have little
food safety
knowledge.



Not
connected
with a food
producer.



Not
licensed or
registered.



Not
inspected
by
regulatory
agencies.

Background

- Restaurants and grocery stores pick up foods
- Cash and carry warehouse
- Restaurant facilities



Background

- No refrigeration
- Unknown shared cargo
- Personal vehicles



Background

- The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rule on Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food was enacted and is designed to keep food safe from contamination during transportation.

Background

- The rule exempts those engaged in food transportation operations that have less than \$500,000 in average annual revenue.

The exemption would apply to many of the retail food transportation entities this project is designed to explore.

Background

- Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) indicated their opposition to this exemption.
- Informed FDA exempted transporters are commonly found to be in violation of food safety requirement by state officials.
- Exempted transporters need the oversight the most.



Background

This project will evaluate state regulatory oversight of retail food transportation.



Problem Statement

Food safety regulators at this time lack a comprehensive understanding of the current state of food safety regulation regarding retail food transportation operations exempt from the FSMA rule on Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food.

Research Questions

1. Do states/territories have regulations or ordinances addressing transportation of food to retail?
2. Do states/territories regularly assess food in transport to retail operations?
3. How do states/territories respond when they do assess food in transport to retail?

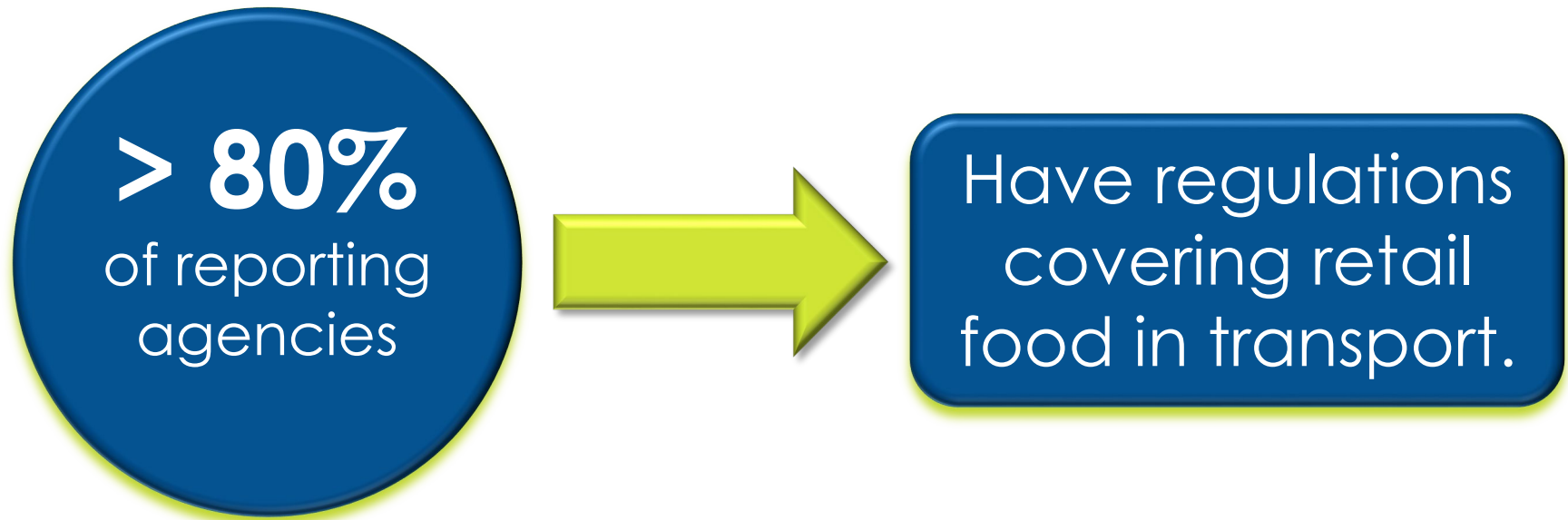
Research Questions (continued)

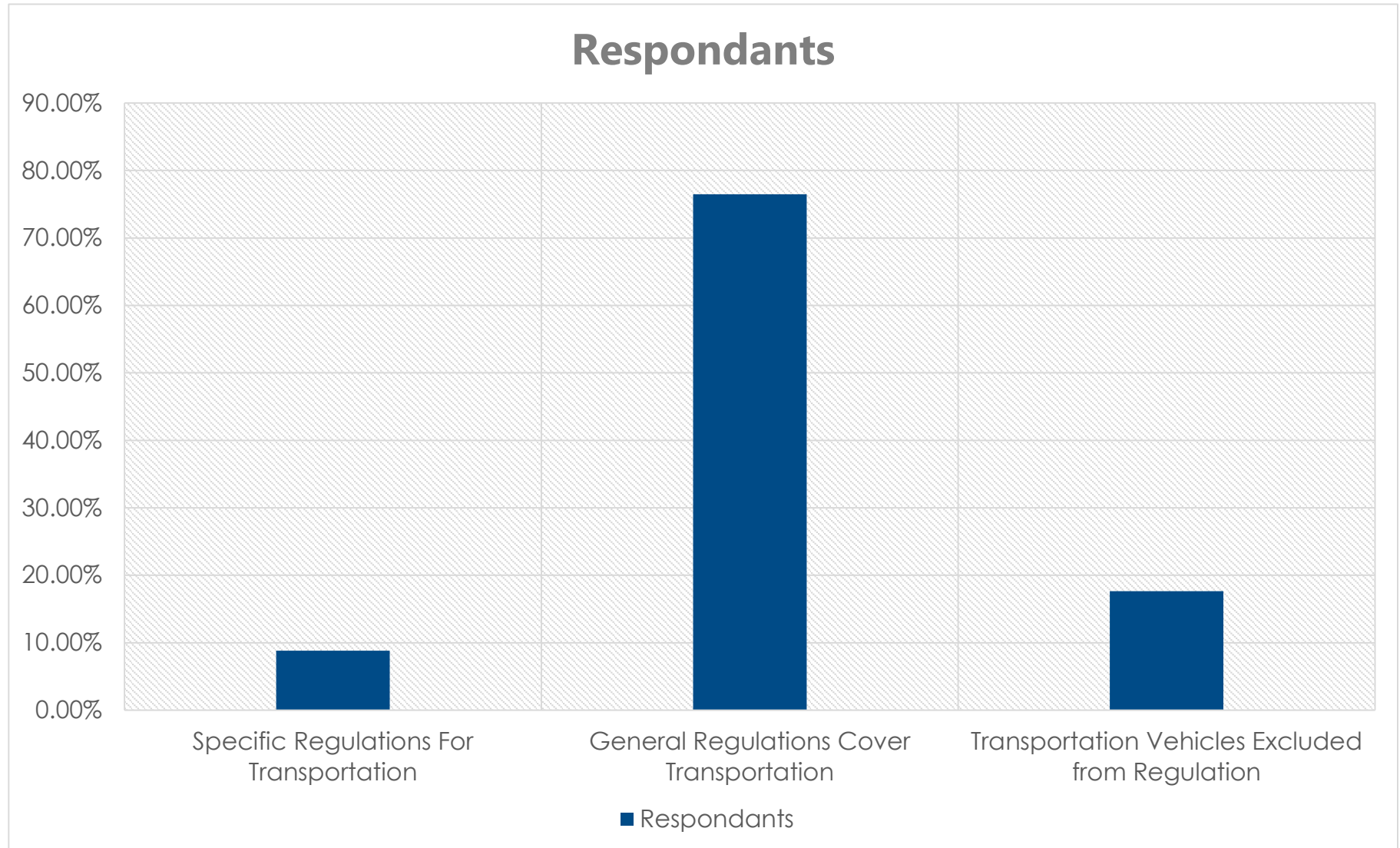
4. What are some of the responses states/territories have had when they find violative practices?
5. What are some of the causes states/territories have noted for violative foods found in transport to retail?

Methodology

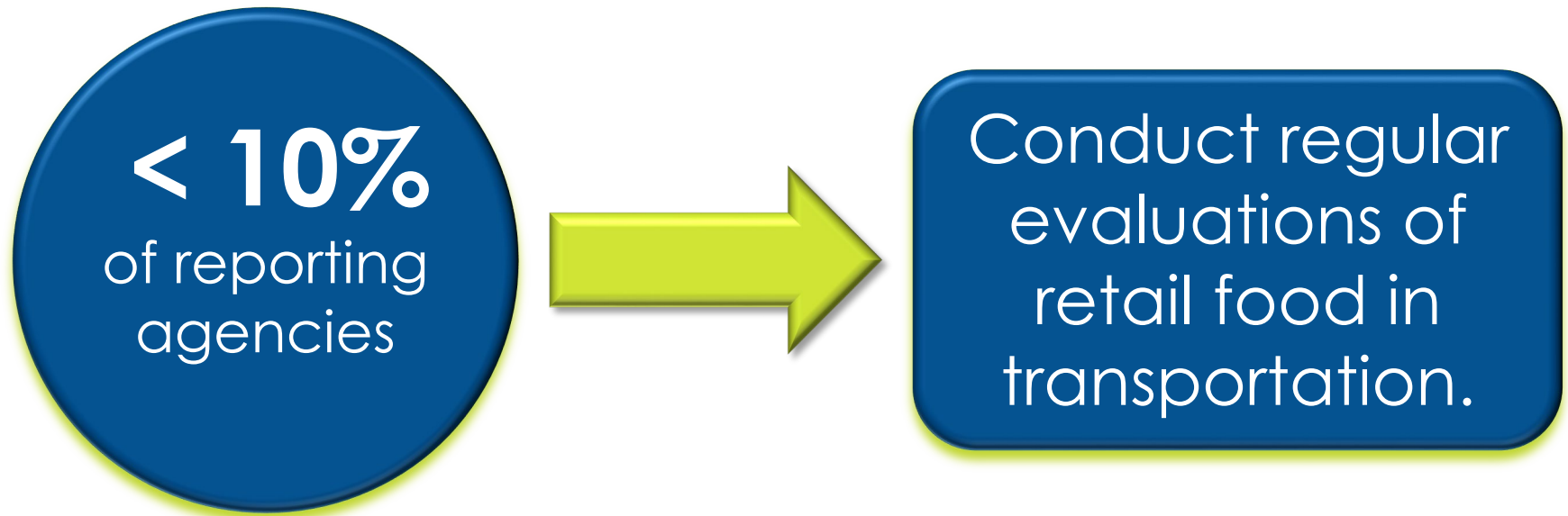
- Survey questions developed
- Piloted with cohort states and mentor
- Survey link emailed to AFDO retail food directory
- Follow-up appeal email one month later

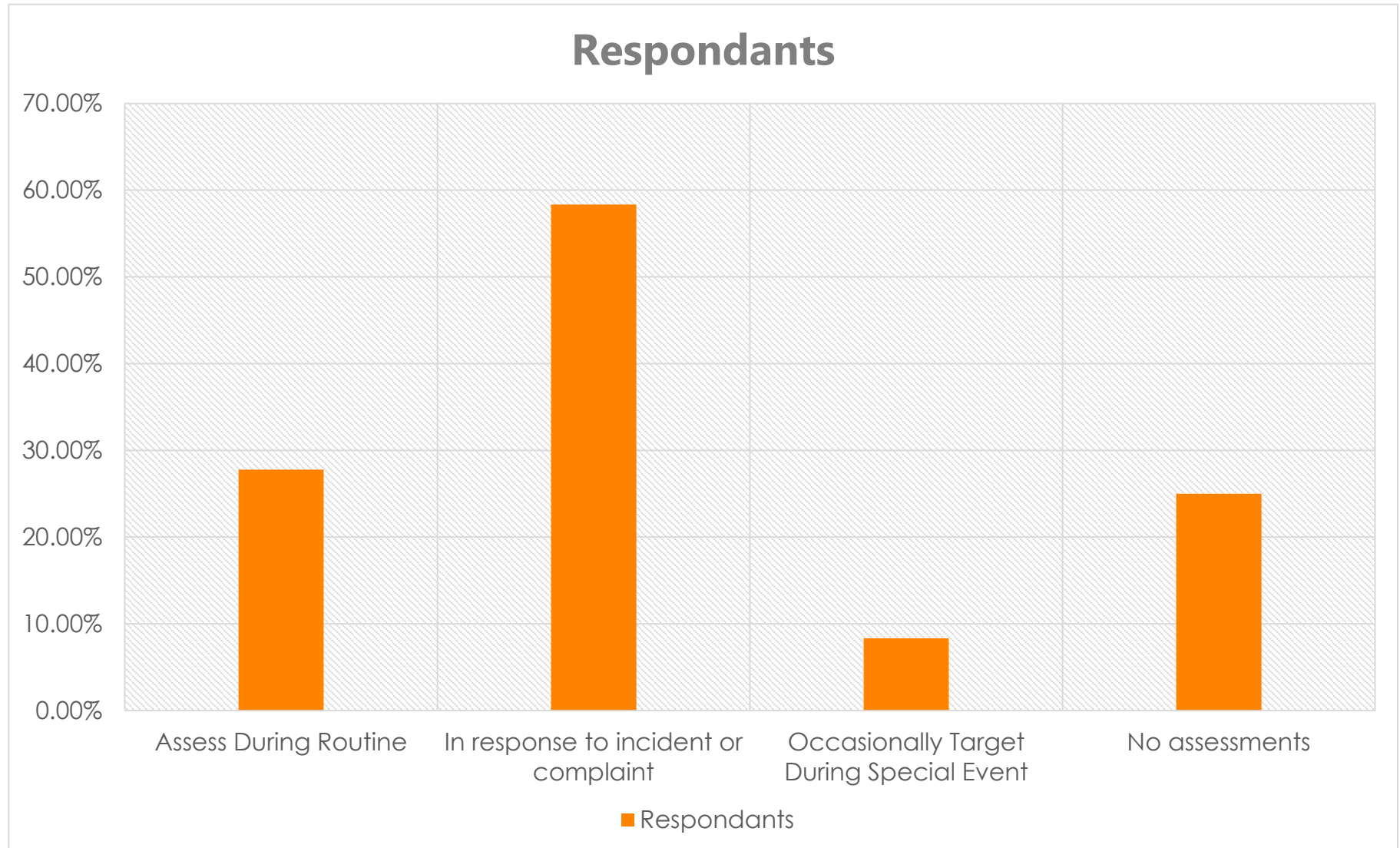
Results





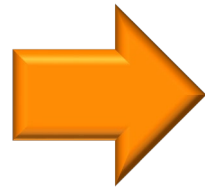
Results



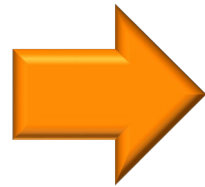


Results

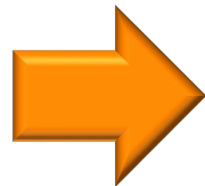
When questioned if retail food transportation vehicles are assessed:



More than half of the respondents responded vehicles are assessed only during incidents or complaints.



Only 10 agencies reported assessing vehicles as part of routine inspection.



25% of the agencies stated they do not assess vehicles.

Results

- When violations were found, a variety of responses were reported:
 - Written violations
 - Criminal court action
 - Fines
 - Warning letters
 - Most cases- seizures/stop sales or embargos

Almost 15% of the respondents use none of the preceding measures.

Recommendations

1. Given FSMA has exempted small food transporters, state agencies should determine if existing rules in their state can be applied to food transportation.
2. A national guidance document should be developed for the benefit those jurisdictions having little experience with transportation of retail foods.
3. Education options for retailers, transporters, and cash-and-carry operations.

Recommendations (continued)

4. AFDO should advise FDA of the findings in this study and also consider if changes to the FDA Food Code might be warranted.
5. A survey of cash-and-carry operations could identify needed intervention strategies including education and the availability of ice chests, perishable food packaging, and ice for transporters.

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Questions?

Jill Lozmack Mollberg, Food Safety Specialist, MDARD
lozmackj@michigan.gov
(616)813-9204