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**Fellowship in  
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# **IFPTI Fellowship Cohort VIII: Research Presentation**

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Rhiannon Pomerville, CP-FS

# Identifying Performance Challenges of Standardized Food Sanitarians Within Michigan's Local Health Departments

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Rhiannon Pomerville, CP-FS

IFPTI 2019-2020 Fellow

Health Department of Northwest Michigan

# Background

- Michigan Food Safety Inspection Officer Standardization Training program
  - State
  - Local



# Background

## 4 Key Training Program Elements

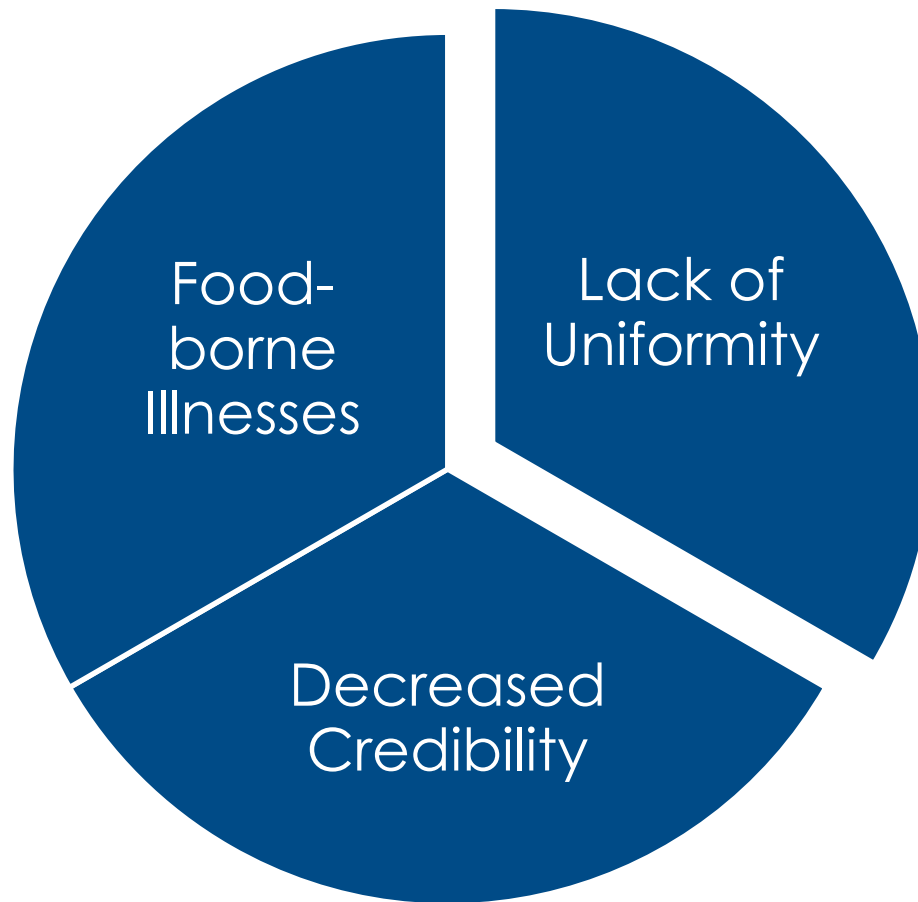
- Technical/Curriculum
- Joint Field Inspections
- Independent Inspections
- Evaluated Inspections

# Background



# Background

## Potential Risks



# Problem Statement

Performance challenges preventing newly standardized food safety sanitarians from adhering to Michigan's standardized food program training inspection format is currently unknown.



# Research Question(s)

1. What are the main performance challenges experienced during food service inspections as identified by food sanitarians, post-standardization?
2. What differences in performance challenges are observed between rural and urban area local health department sanitarians?
3. What additional training can be implemented to address identified performance challenges?

# Methodology



## Electronic Surveys

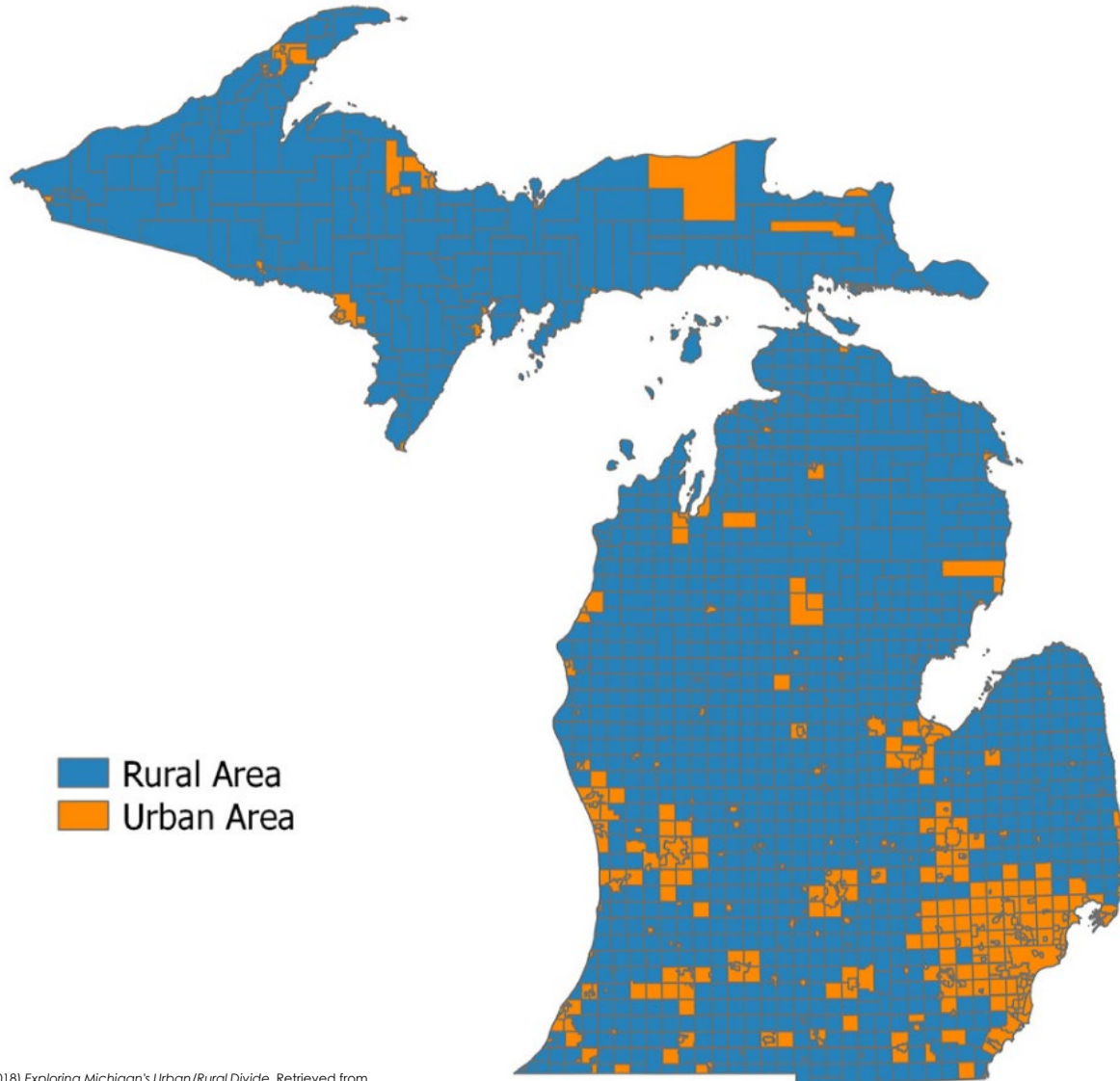
- Google Forms
- Local Health Department
- Electronically submitted via email



## Analysis

- Google Sheets
- Qualitative data grouping
- Comparison

# Study Population



Citizens Research Council of Michigan. (2018). *Exploring Michigan's Urban/Rural Divide*. Retrieved from [https://link.zixcentral.com/u/76037cd8/FFX4D9266hG2mkEOgdRvvg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michiganfoundations.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fresources%2Frp1400\\_Exploring\\_Michigans\\_Urban-Rural\\_Divide.pdf](https://link.zixcentral.com/u/76037cd8/FFX4D9266hG2mkEOgdRvvg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michiganfoundations.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fresources%2Frp1400_Exploring_Michigans_Urban-Rural_Divide.pdf)

# Results

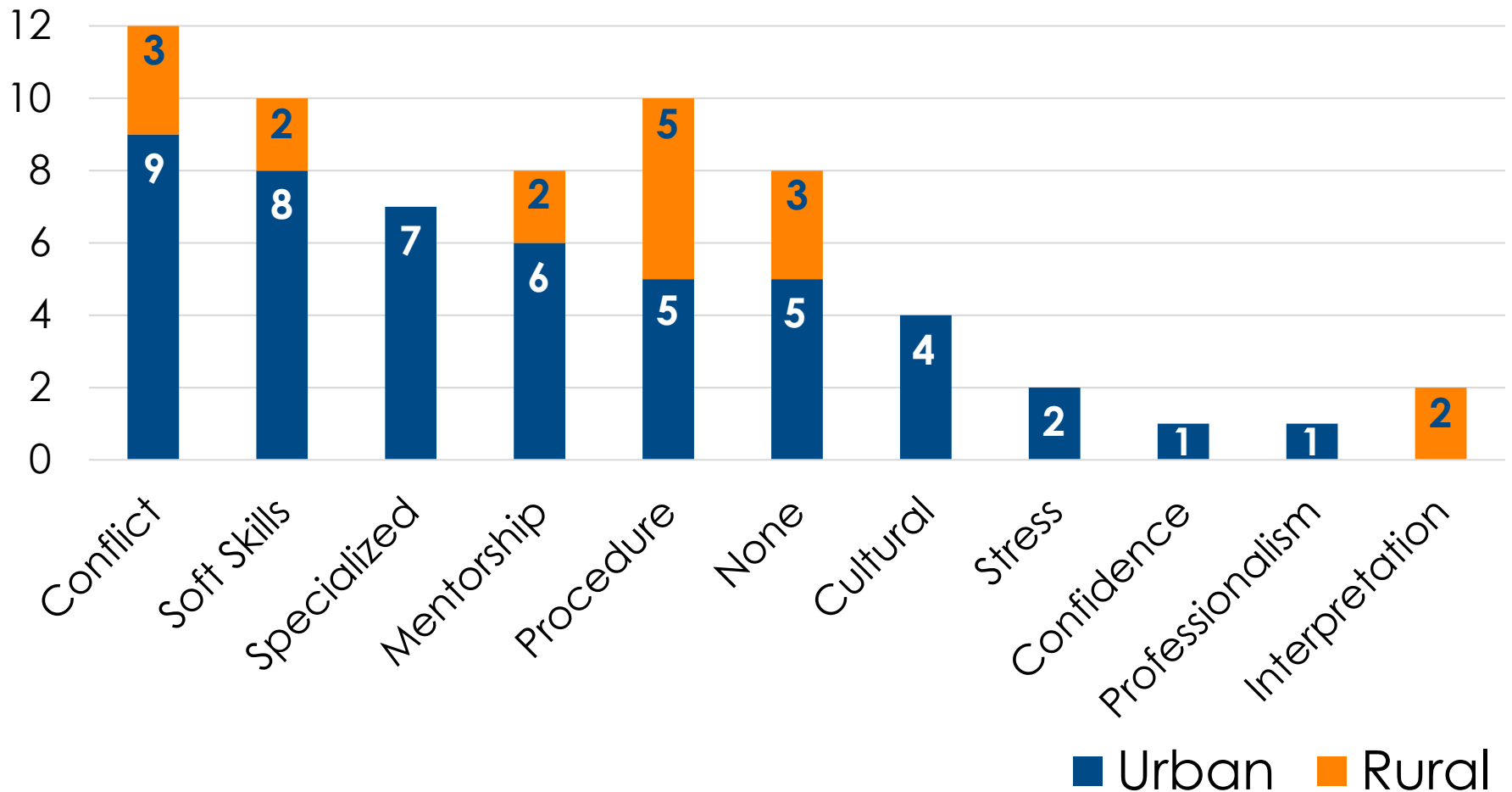
Training Completed by Urban and Rural Local Health Department Food Sanitarians in Michigan	Urban (40)	Rural (15)
FDA/ORAU Coursework	88%	87%
Joint Field Inspections with Standardized Trainer	90%	100%
Independent Field Inspections	63%	67%
Evaluated Field Inspections by Standardized Trainer	90%	93%
Food Code/Food Law	95%	100%
Professional Development	57%	53%
Department/Agency Policies	83%	73%
Reporting Tools	68%	47%
State Policies	63%	53%
Professional Development	57%	53%

# Results

Performance Challenges Post-Standardization	Urban (52)	Rural (19)
Procedure	11%	32%
Conflict	27%	11%
Confidence	8%	26%
None	15%	11%
Soft Skills	9%	0%
Cultural Differences	7%	0%
Professionalism	6%	5%
Specialized Processing	4%	0%
Interpretation	4%	11%
Training Inconsistency	4%	0%
Stress Management	4%	0%
Time Management	0%	5%

# Results

## Suggested Training by Michigan's Urban and Rural Food Sanitarians



# Conclusions

1. Incomplete training in 3 of the 4 key program elements exhibited in both study populations
2. Performance challenges varied between study populations
  - Procedural (Rural)
  - Conflict (Urban)
  - Confidence (Rural)
3. Additional suggested training suggestions
  - Conflict training
  - Improved existing procedural training

# Recommendations

1. Standardization of new sanitarian should be approved by MDARD.
2. Collaborative creation of standardized training topics outside of 4 key training elements.
3. Creation of a “post-standardization” survey provided to all new food sanitarians and completed within 6-9 months of standardization.



# Acknowledgements

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- The fellow members of Cohort VIII

# Questions?

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Rhiannon Pomerville, B.S.  
r.pomerville@nwhealth.org  
231-533-1004