

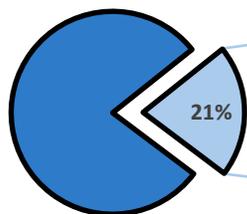
Minimum Qualifications of Hiring Inspection Staff

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Education



79%

Require 4-year degree (n = 46)

- Prefer 4-year degree (n = 7)
- High school diploma/GED (n = 7)
- Some college/2-year degree and experience (n = 11)
- Six years combined college and experience (n = 1)
- No requirement/up to another agency (n = 7)

Note: Multiple responses could be provided.

Experience



24%

Combination of Experience and Education (n = 15)



11%

Experience Not Required/Preferred (n = 7)



10%

Food Safety, Food Industry, Agriculture, or School Experience (n = 6)



6%

Two or more years of work experience to qualify for credential (n = 4)



6%

Inspection, Regulatory, or Compliance Experience (n = 4)

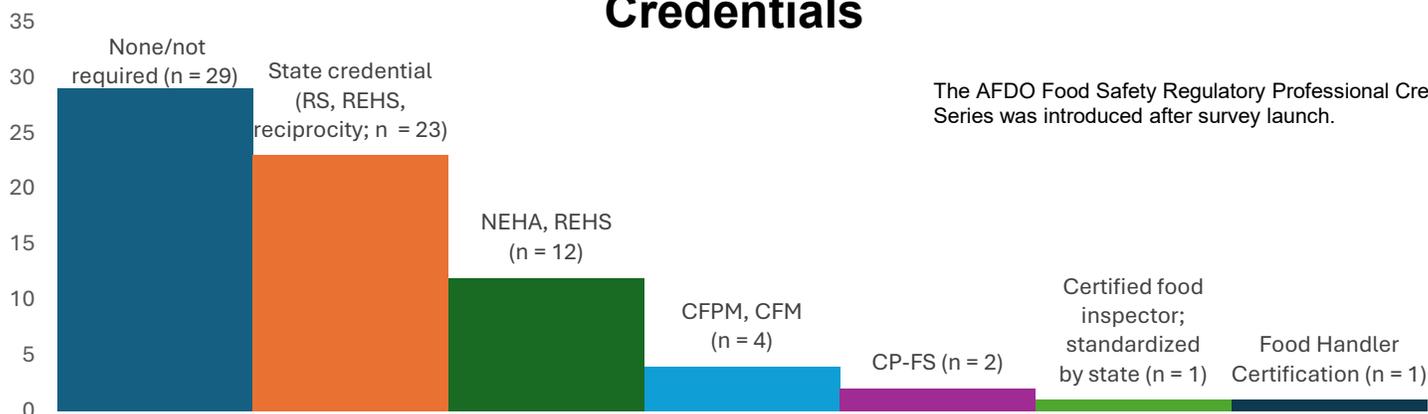


3%

Public Health or Environmental Experience (n = 2)

56% of respondents (n = 35) had no requirements for experience or did not respond.

Credentials



The AFDO Food Safety Regulatory Professional Credential Series was introduced after survey launch.

Additional Qualifications (Open-ended Comments)

Power skills

- Effective communicator (n = 3)
- Social skills, assertiveness (n = 1)
- "Hiring for attitude" (trainability; n = 1)

Other

- Increase in pay for credentials (n = 3)
- Must be state resident (n = 2)
- Civil service exam (n = 1)
- Can hire only RS or RS-in-training (n = 1)

- Driver's license (n = 1)
- Ambulatory (n = 1)
- Food safety experience (n = 1)

Contact: AFDO afdo@afdo.org 717.757.2888 www.afdo.org

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Current Food Code and Plans for Adoption

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

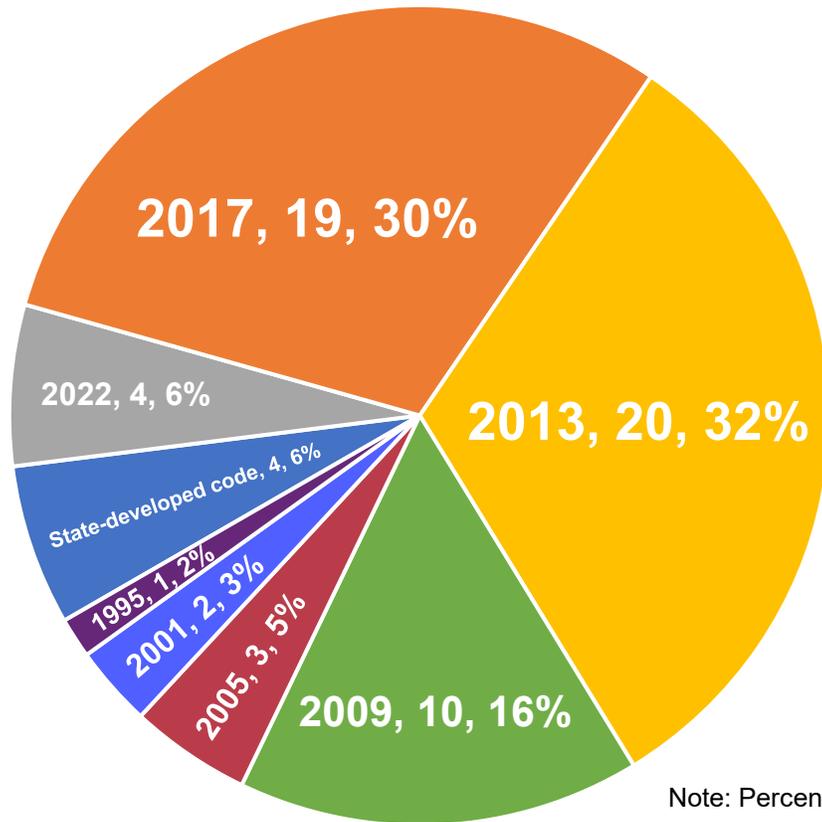
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Food Code Operating Under (2023)

Based on 63 Respondents:

- 2022 FDA Food Code is used by 6% of jurisdictions
- The majority are operating under 2017 or 2013 FDA Food Code
- One jurisdiction is using 1995 FDA Food Code

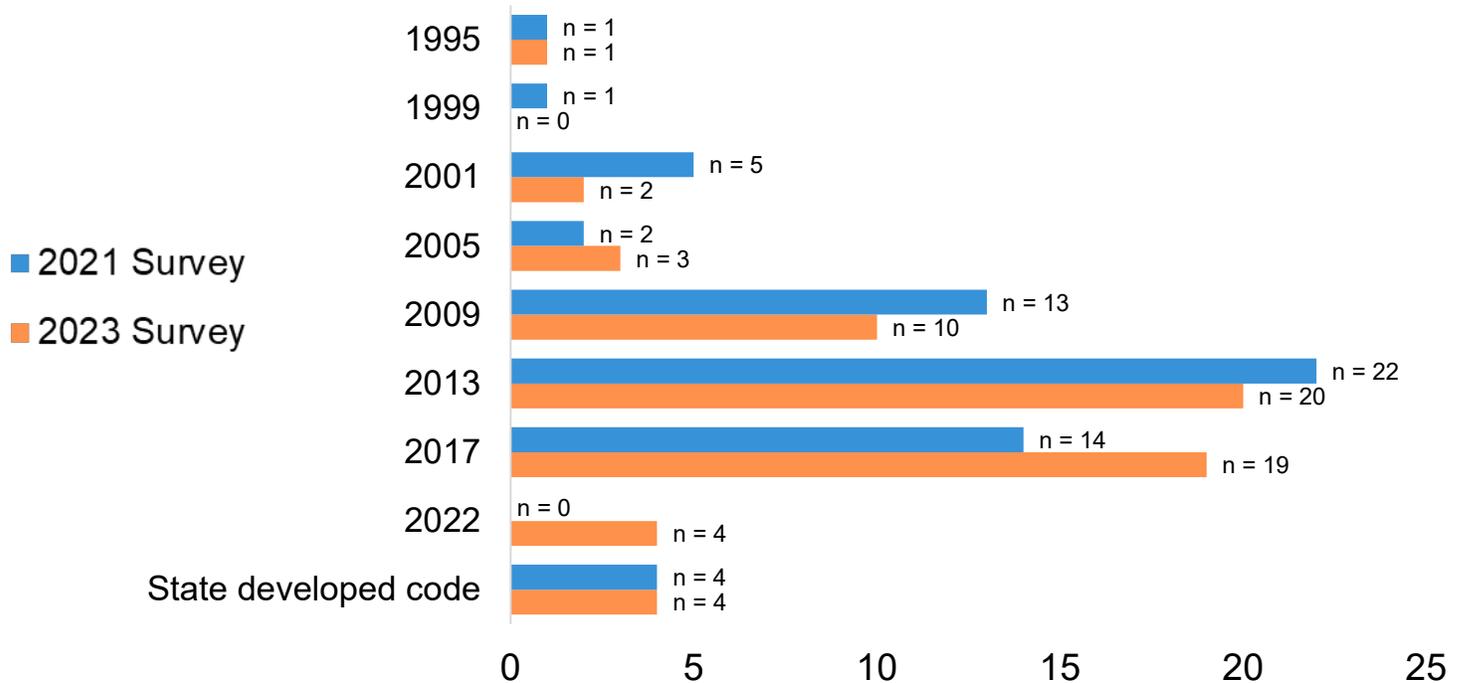
Scan the QR code for current Food Code Adoption data from the Retail Food Safety Collaborative.



Q. FDA Food Code (base code) version?

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Food Code Adoption Trends (2021 vs. 2023)



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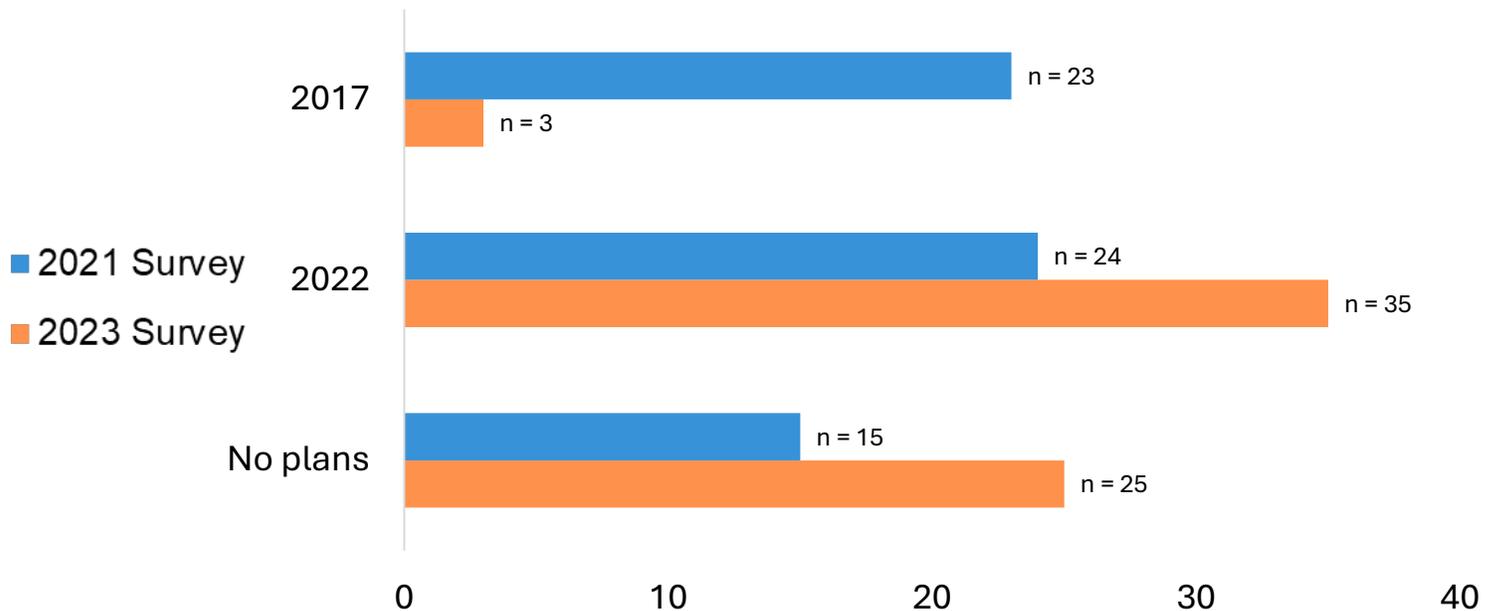
Current Food Code and Plans for Adoption

State Survey*

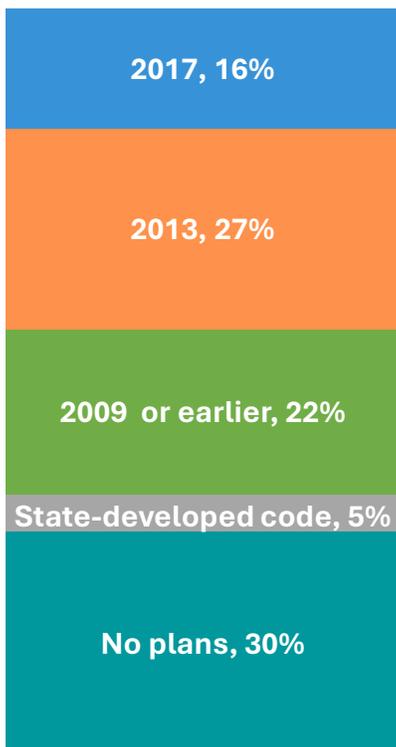
April 2023 to February 2024

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Planned Food Code Version Adoption (2021 vs. 2023)



Q. Do you have plans to update your food code? If yes or considering, to what version?



Current Version of Food Code for Those Planning to Update Their Food Code

Based on 63 Respondents:

- A combined 70% of respondents are planning to adopt a newer version of the FDA Food Code.
- Of those planning to adopt a new code, 22% are on 2009 or earlier, 27% on 2013, and 16% are on 2017 FDA Food Code.
- About 56% are considering 2022 while 5% consider 2017.

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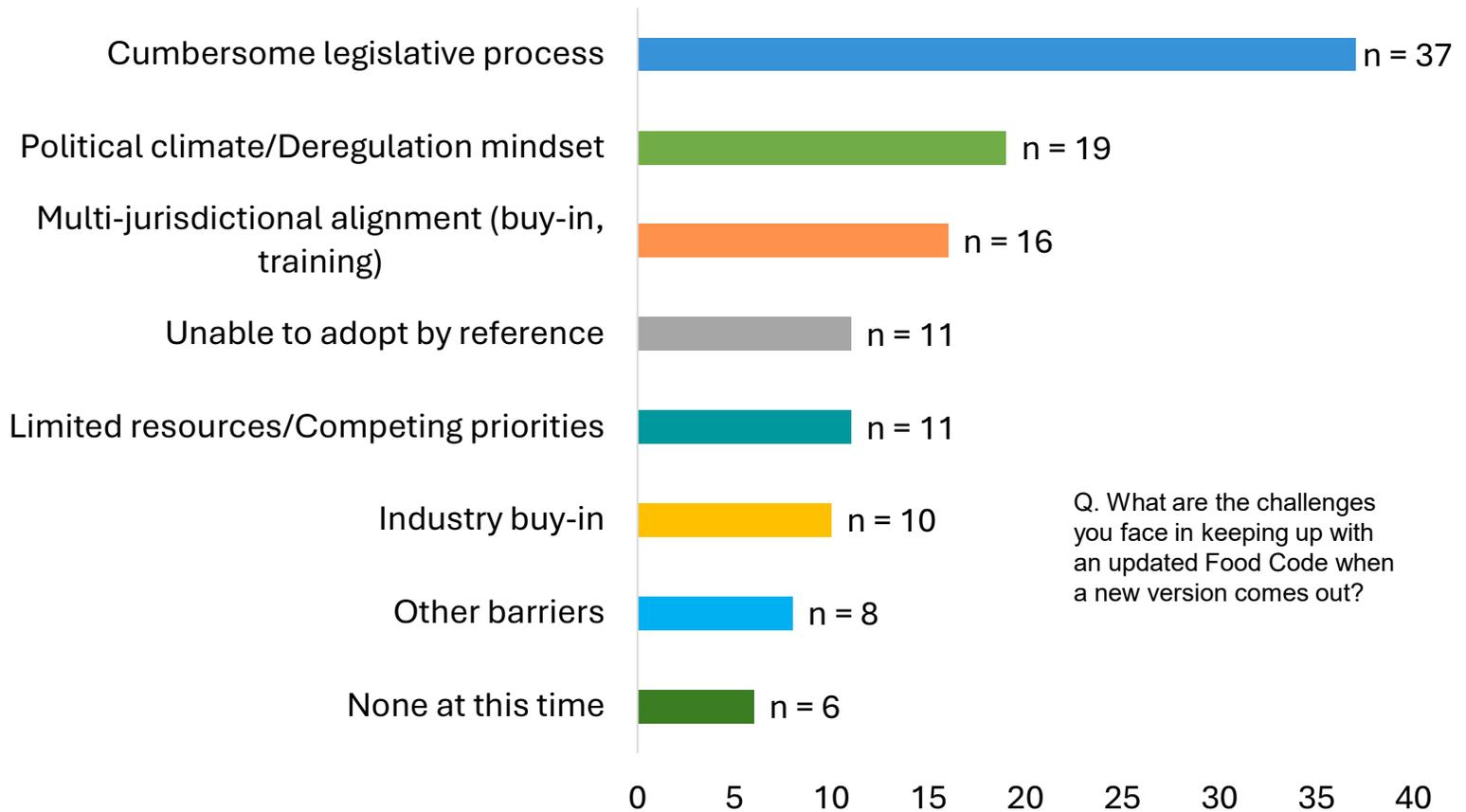
Food Code Adoption Barriers

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Barriers to Adopting Food Code (2023)



Notes: Multiple responses could be provided.

Top 3 Barriers:

- Cumbersome and time-consuming legislative process (n = 37)
- Political climate leaning towards deregulation with efforts to reduce restrictive language (n = 19)
- Getting buy-in from state partners, aligning with local jurisdictions on training needs and program goals (n = 16)

Other Barriers:

- Program is outpaced by industry to implement Food Code changes (n = 3)
- Lack of FDA Food Code experience in agency or legislature (n = 3)
- COVID-19 slowed implementation (n = 2)

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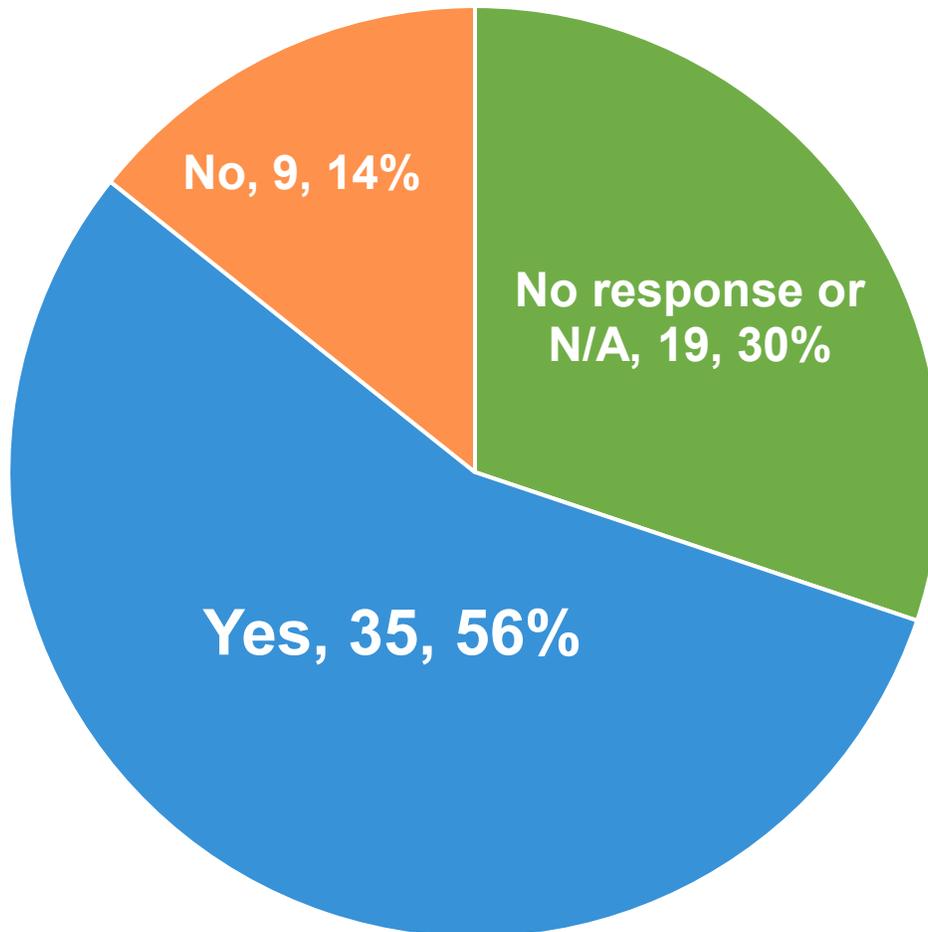
Food Code Adoption

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

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Local Adoption of State Food Code (2023)



Q. When the Food Code is adopted, do locals (if applicable) follow?

No (n = 9)

- Local code can be stricter (n = 4)
- Some locals adopt older version of Food Code (n = 2)
- Some locals adopt more recent version of Food Code (n = 3)

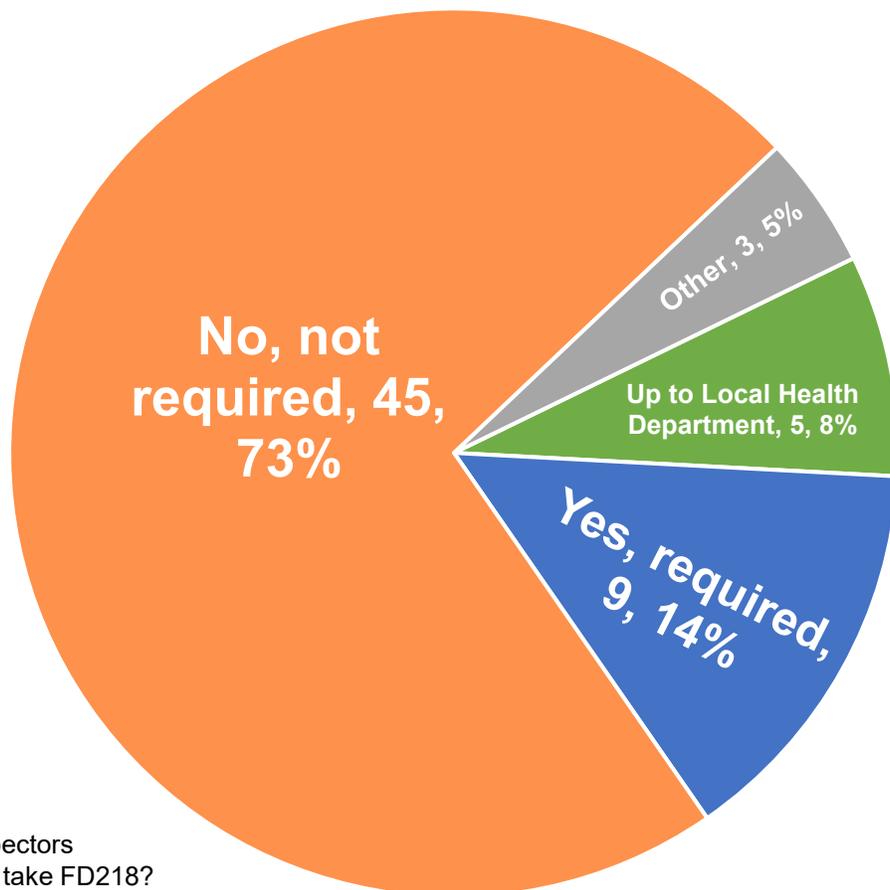
Risk-Based Inspection (FD218) Trainings

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Risk-Based Inspection (FD218) Training Requirements (2023)



Q. Are inspectors required to take FD218?

Note: One participant did not respond.

Based on 62 Respondents:

- Most respondents indicated that FD218 training is not required for their staff (73%)
- Some state programs require FD218 for their staff (14%)
- In 8% of programs, FD218 training is determined by local jurisdictions.

Other Responses (n = 3):

- Existing staff have taken FD218 though it was not required. New staff do need to take FD218.
- FD218 is a goal. It is not required and there is no due date.
- Although FD218 is on the training plan, registration often fills up quickly.

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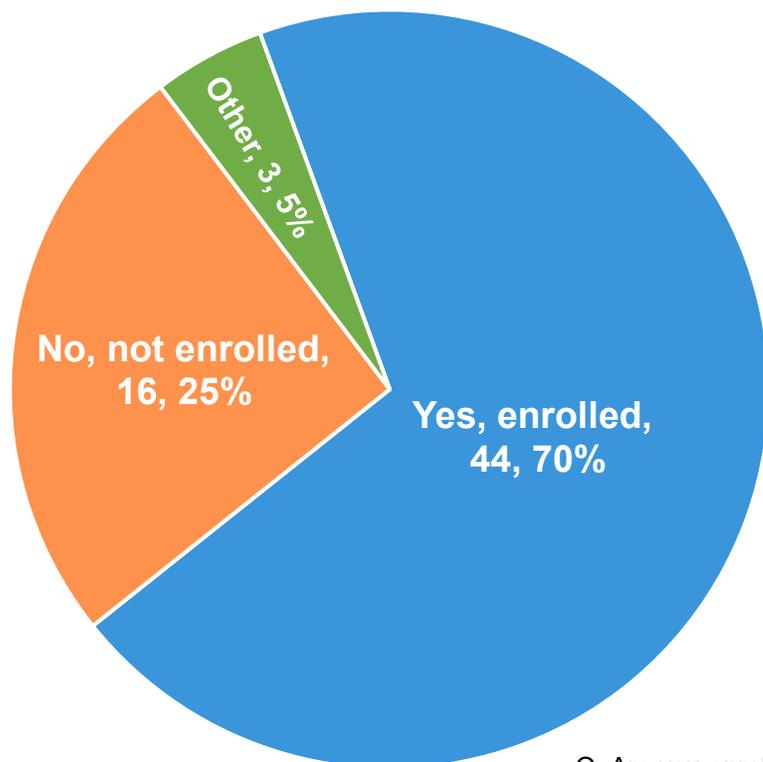
Retail Program Standards Enrollments and Self-Assessments

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Enrollment in Retail Program Standards (2023)



Based on 63 Respondents:

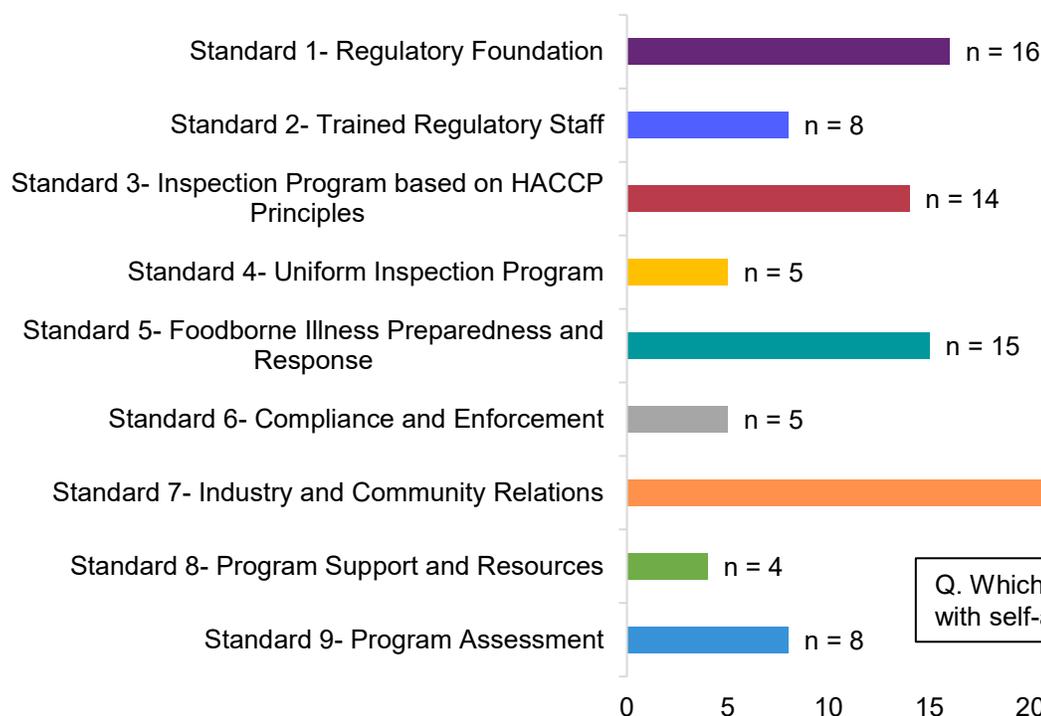
Most respondents indicated enrollment in the Retail Program Standards (70%)

Other (n = 3):

- Previously enrolled and has lapsed
- Last self-assessment was 2020
- Lapsed due to short-staffing

Q. Are you enrolled in VNRFRPS?

Standards Met by Self-Assessment and Verification (2023)



Notes: Self-Assessment and Verification results were self-reported at the time of this survey.

There were 33 responses of "not applicable" or "none".

Q. Which standards do you currently meet with self-assessment and verification audit?

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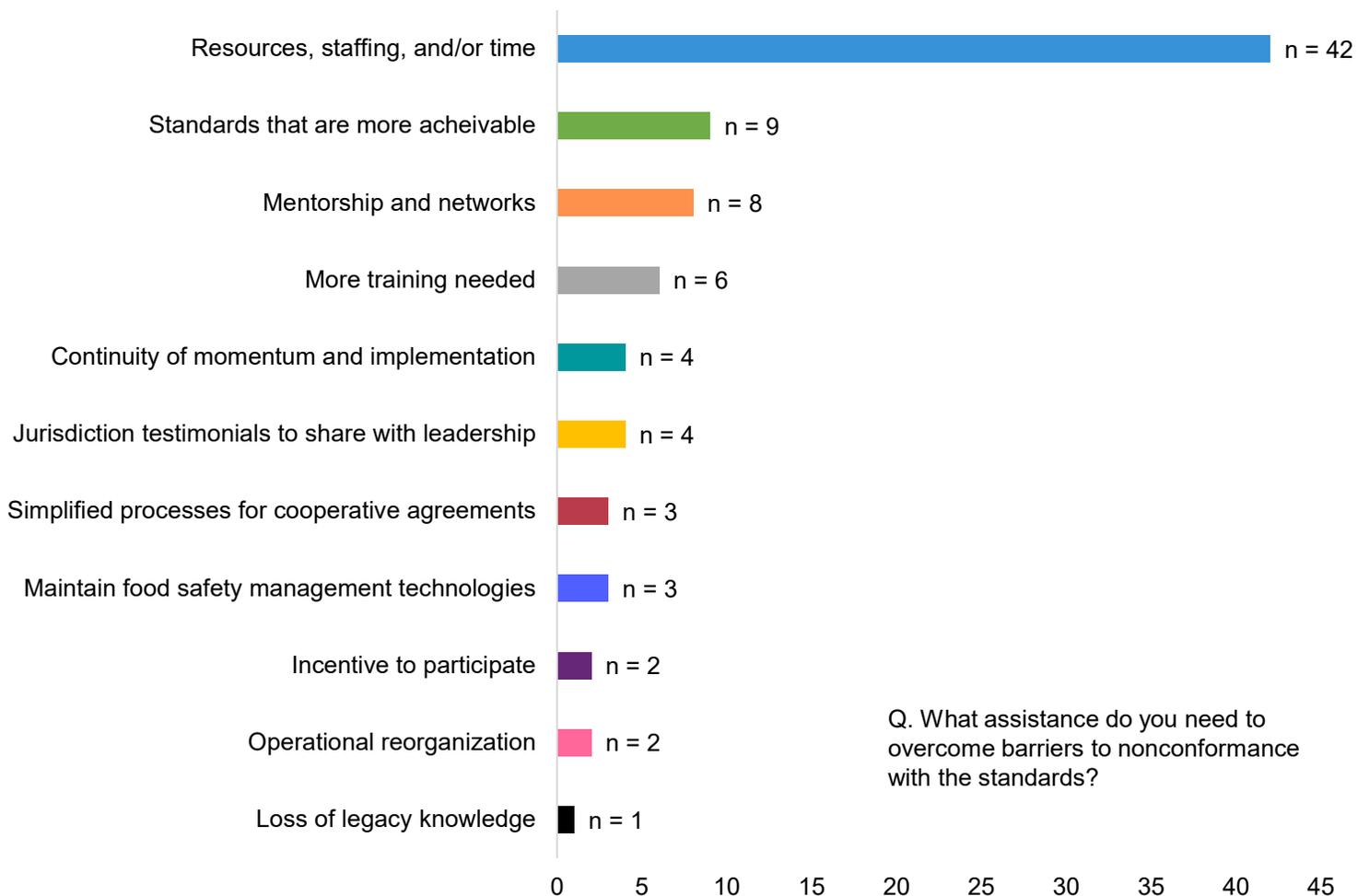
Retail Program Standards Barriers to Conformance

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Barriers to Conformance with Retail Program Standards (2023)



Notes: There were 13 responses of “not applicable” or “none” and 2 response of “unsure” or up to local health department. Multiple responses could be provided.

Top 3 Barriers:

- Resources: turnover, understaffing, competing priorities, funding (n = 42)
- More achievable alternatives to meet Standards (n = 9)
- Connect with mentors and retail coordinators in other states to share expertise (n = 8)

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Emerging Issues Impacting State Retail Food Programs

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Emerging Issues Impacting Food Safety Programs (2023)



Q. What emerging or challenging issues are you facing?

Notes: There were 5 responses of "not applicable" or "none." Multiple responses could be provided.

Other (n = 10):

Cultural barriers
Dietary supplements
Dogs in breweries
Donated food

Illegal slaughter
PFAS
Rodent infestations

Increase in outbreaks
Staff safety amid civil unrest
Maintaining partner relationships

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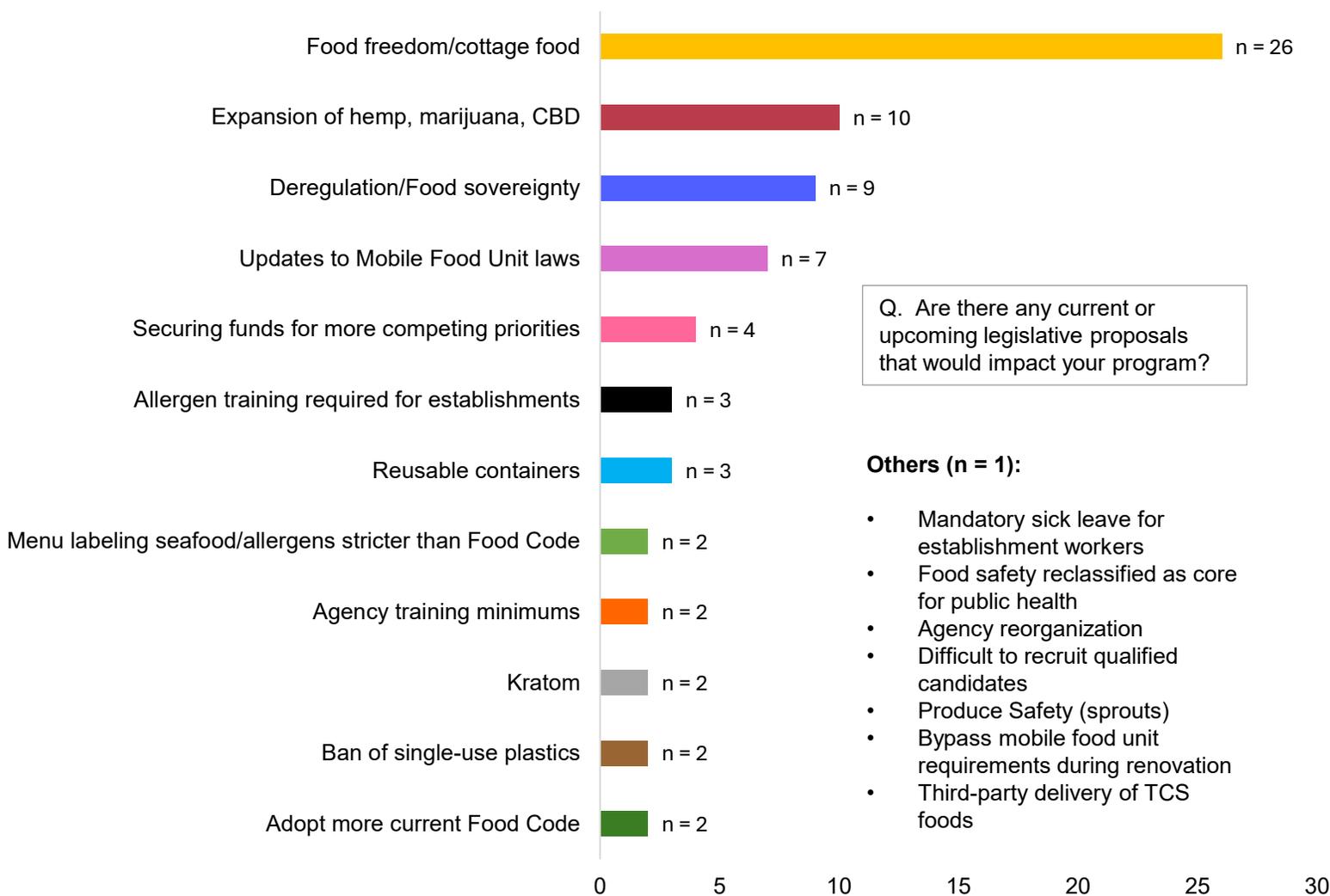
Legislative Proposals Impacting State Retail Food Programs

State Survey*

April 2023 to February 2024

*State retail food program managers or designees from Department of Health or Agriculture were interviewed (n = 63).

Legislative Proposals That Could Impact Retail Programs



Notes: Multiple responses could be provided. Of the 63 jurisdictions, 14 responded that no forthcoming legislative impacts could be anticipated.

Top 4 Impactful Proposals:

- Food freedom/cottage food (n = 26)
- Expanded enforcement of hemp, marijuana, CBD in foods and edibles (n = 10)
- Deregulation/Food sovereignty (n = 9)
- Updates to Mobile Food Unit laws (n = 7)

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