BACKGROUND

• Chagas disease is endemic to Central and South America, Trinidad, and the southern United States. (1)
• Caused by protozoan (*Trypanosoma cruzi*); vector is kissing bug (*Triatoma sanguisuga*) found here, moving north. (2)
• ~1/3 of patients with Chagas disease suffer from cardiac disorders and ~ 1/10 suffer from digestive and/or neurological disorders. (3)

FIELD/LAB METHODS

• Trapping done via Styrofoam traps lined with an LDPD5 attractant.
• Protozoan DNA extraction from bug gut.
• PCR to determine presence of pathogen.

PHONE SURVEY METHODS

• Question 1: Are you familiar with Chagas Disease/aka American Trypanosomiasis?
• Question 2: What is the pathogen that causes Chagas disease and how is it transmitted?
• Question 3: Where is Chagas disease endemic?
• Question 4: Tailored based on profession:
  • For example: Pharmacists were asked if they knew treatment options for Chagas disease.

RESULTS

Are you familiar with Chagas Disease/aka American Trypanosomiasis?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>n = sample size</th>
<th>Question 1: % answered no</th>
<th>Question 2: % who answered not sure</th>
<th>Question 3: % who answered not sure</th>
<th>Question 4: % who answered not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarians</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Vector Control</td>
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<td>71.4</td>
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<td>54.5</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>81.8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSION

• ~50% of kissing bugs were positive for *T. cruzi*.
• Prevention of this disease is currently limited to general education, vector control such as bed netting, and screening of any donated blood.
• As many individuals said they were aware of Chagas disease they were unable to give further details.
• Note that at the end of each survey, all participants listened to a short educational talk to spread awareness. There is an increased need for further education as the disease continues to spread throughout the United States.

REFERENCES