

Inform'ACTION n°30

APRIL 2009

Results of Inform'ACTION survey

The survey was conducted from the end of October 2008 to mid-March 2009 using a questionnaire available in English and French and electronic or paper formats. Links to the English and French electronic versions were sent to PPHSN members through PacNet and the bilingual printed version was sent with the 29th edition of Inform'ACTION and with our SPC greeting cards.

Results

In total, 35 questionnaires were completed by PPHSN members. Of these, 26 were received electronically and 9 on paper. Most of the paper copies were received by regular mail from January to mid-March. This shows that the use of various methods of communication is necessary in communicating with PPHSN members, and was also reflected in the results of the survey (85% of survey participants still want to receive hard copies of Inform'ACTION in addition to the electronic version).

Time is another issue. Pacific Island health professionals are busy and we can't conduct a survey within a short period of time.

It is worth noting that 51% of those who participated in the survey are health professionals from 13 Pacific Island countries and territories (i.e. core members of the PPHSN), and the other half (49%) are from PPHSN allied members and partners (WHO, CDC, ESR, IPNC, ILM, PPTC, VIDRL, UNFPA, AusAID, Australia and New Zealand Departments of Health and others). Six French-speaking health professionals (17% of total participants) also responded to the survey. In terms of gender, 63% of participants were male and 37% were female. The network membership was therefore quite well represented by survey respondents.

The results detailed below are positive, constructive and encouraging for the future of the bulletin.

1. Since when have you been receiving *Inform'ACTION* (IA)? [Year:]

	Number	%
From 1998 to 2003*	11	35.5
From 2004 to 2008**	20	64.5
Total	31	100.0

*6 out of 11 have received IA since the first issue.

**7 out of 20 have received IA since 2008 only.



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2. Did you receive the last three issues of IA (26, 27 & 28)?

	Number	%
Yes (all)	24	68.6
Some	7	20.0
None	4	11.4
Total	35	100.0

3. Did you receive the bulletin...

	Number	%
directly from SPC?	29	85.3
from your library?	1	2.9
from a colleague?	4	11.8
Total	34	100.0

4. After you read the bulletin, do you...

	Number	%
archive or shelve it?	14	42.4
give it to your library?	5	15.2
circulate it in your service?*	14	42.4
Total	33	100.0

* Among those who circulate the bulletin, it's interesting to note that IA is further distributed to at least 300 extra health professionals in the region in addition to the 826 original recipients.

5. Do you find the articles interesting? *Trouvez-vous les articles intéressants ?*

	Number	%
Yes, in general	29	82.9
Sometimes	6	17.1
Rarely	0	0.0
Total	35	100.0



6. Do you use the information published in your work?

	Number	%
Yes	25	80.6
No	6	19.4
Total	31	100.0

7. Would you like to see IA include PacNet messages on a topic that has been intensively discussed by email?

	Number	%
Yes	28	90.3
No	3	9.7
Total	31	100.0

8. Which topics would you like to see discussed in the bulletin?

Current outbreaks and re-emerging infections

Short articles written by Pacific in-country authors

The ones that are presented are interesting and relevant and timely

Outbreak control measures, infection control and notifiable disease rates

PPHSN communicable diseases and new emerging infections

Reports from colleagues (especially SPC) who attend international meetings

Anything, as long as it is of current interest and relevant to the Pacific context

Better coordination of infectious disease surveillance and response – shifting the top down-model to a bottom-up approach.

Treatment and prevention of dengue fever

Emerging infectious (and other) diseases

Country/territory plans for strengthening infectious disease surveillance systems

Notifiable/reported disease tables for PICTs – summary of public health responses for different diseases, e.g. foodborne diseases, hepatitis A, childhood diseases, dengue, etc...

Public health legislation issues in PICTs

Topical issues in general that we can all learn from

HIV/AIDS, foodborne illnesses, lifestyle illnesses, tuberculosis

Malaria in the Pacific, TB treatment and prevention, nutrition, cancer (treatment and patient care)



Training of health care workers, doctors and nurses
Issue of isolating patients with HIV and related issues
Facts (even if brief) on specific notifiable diseases
More graphs/charts on disease trends
HIV spread and interventions in the Pacific
Childhood diseases and prevention – non communicable diseases
More summaries than messages – ongoing training in field epidemiology (one short topic per issue)
Biological diagnostic methods
Arbovirosis, filariasis, leptospirosis, vector control

9. The length of the articles is

	Number	%
too short	3	9.1
too long	2	6.1
right length	28	84.8
Total	33	100.0

10. The size of the font is too small

	Number	%
Yes	5	16.1
No	26	83.9
Total	31	100.0

11. Does the fact that the pages are bilingual disturb you while reading?

	Number	%
Yes	3	9.7
No	28	90.3
Total	31	100.0



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12. IA is also available on the Internet. Have you ever looked at the electronic version?

	Number	%
Yes	22	66.7
No*	11	33.3
Total	33	100.0

*7 of the 11 who had not looked at the electronic version gave the following reasons: difficult to download, time constraints, did not know it was available on line, not enough time in the day to access, no time, internet unreliable.

13. Are you still interested in receiving a hard copy of the bulletin?

	Number	%
Yes	29	85.3
No	5	14.7
Total	34	100.0

14. Would you like to change anything in the format?

	Number	%
Yes	1	2.9
No	34	97.1
Total	35	100.0

15. Do you like the new colours (green and black)?

	Number	%
Yes	26	92.9
No	2	7.1
Total	28	100.0



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16. Would you be willing to contribute to the bulletin?

	Number	%
Yes	15	65.2
Perhaps/possibly	5	21.8
No	3	13.0
Total	23	100.0

