

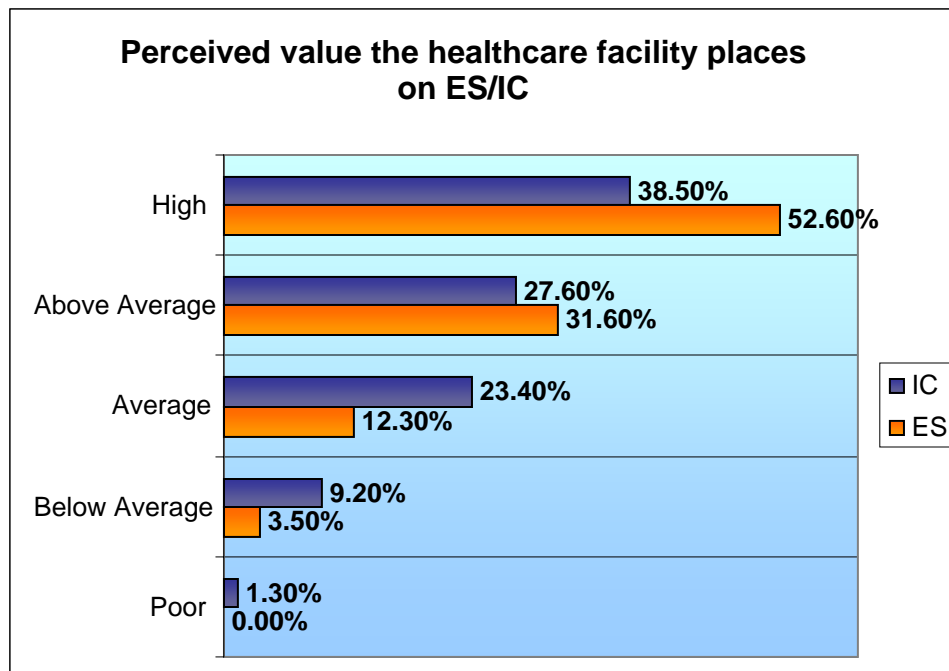
# Poll Finds Infection Preventionists and Environmental Services Professionals Want More Collaboration

December 22, 2008

The American Society for Healthcare Environmental Services (ASHES) of the American Hospital Association conducted two separate polls on the relationship between Environmental Services and Infection Preventionists. The first poll was conducted in June 2008 at the Annual Conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). The same poll was conducted in July 2008 to the members of ASHES. In total, more than 400 healthcare professionals participated.

APIC and ASHES are currently developing strategies, using this data, that will bring both professions closer in education, training, and collaboration. The first of these efforts is the continued development of infection prevention and control sessions at the ASHES Annual Conference, September 20-24, 2009 in Reno, NV. As strategies are finalized and implemented, ASHES and APIC will be making announcements to their respective memberships.

Below are the findings of the non-scientific polls conducted in 2008.



**Infection Preventionists****Environmental Services Professionals****Relationship with the ES department:**

55.3% cited having an “excellent collaboration”

**Perceived value in the healthcare facility placed on the IP department:**

38.5% cited that their facility views the ES role with high value

**Top 3 challenges related to cleaning and disinfecting:**

1. High turnover staff
2. MRSA/C.Diff and proper cleaning and surface disinfection
3. Utilizing proper, consistent and thorough cleaning principles and/or practices

Other common themes related to this question:

- Budget issues
- OR cleaning procedures
- Desire for more effective and safe multi-use disinfectant and cleaning products

**Collaboration with the ES department to resolve these issues:**

- Education and Training
- Inclusion of ES in committees, meetings, and in-service
- Enhancing communications
- Regular monitoring of staff and conditions with IP and ES staff
- Creating/revising cleaning policies

**Description of ideal relationship between IP and ES:**

- Constant and open communications
- Direct collaboration on issues, products, and concerns
- Respectful relationship
- Working as a team
- Inclusion of ES in committees, meetings, and in-service

**Relationship with the IP department:**

65.8% cited having an “excellent collaboration”

**Perceived value in the healthcare facility placed on the IP department:**

52.6% cited that their facility views the IP role with high value

**Top 3 challenges related to cleaning and disinfecting:**

1. MRSA/C.Diff and proper cleaning and surface disinfection
2. Need for updated training and educational materials for staff
3. Lack of adequate training for surface disinfection due to limited resources and turnover

Other common themes related to this question:

- Lack of collaboration from other professionals in the facility
- Lack of understanding of ES procedures from other professionals in the facility
- Desire for more effective and safe multi-use disinfectant and cleaning products

**Collaboration with the IP department to resolve these issues:**

- Enhancing communications
- Inclusion of ES in committees, meetings, and in-service
- Regular monitoring of staff and conditions with IP and ES staff

**Description of ideal relationship between IP and ES:**

- Working together in constant communications
- Respectful relationship
- Enhanced trust and confidence