



# Northeastern IPM Center Impacts



[www.northeastipm.org](http://www.northeastipm.org)



## StopPests in Housing Program (2007–Present)

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### THE NEED

High levels of pest infestations and poor-quality pest control can have significant health consequences for residents of affordable housing communities. Cockroach, rodent, and bed bug infestations can result in frequent indoor pesticide applications, increased allergy and asthma triggers in homes, and the transmission of disease pathogens. There is a clear need for better pest management training and technical assistance for affordable housing staff and residents.



**Cockroaches** cause and trigger asthma and allergies and contaminate food. Pictured here are German cockroaches, the most troublesome species in housing. Photo: S. Reese



**Rodents** such as mice and rats carry diseases, bite, destroy property, may cause fires, and trigger asthma and allergies. Photo: S. Reese



**Bed bugs** have become increasingly problematic in elderly and disabled housing. Infestations cause serious financial and mental and physical health consequences. Photo: S. Reese



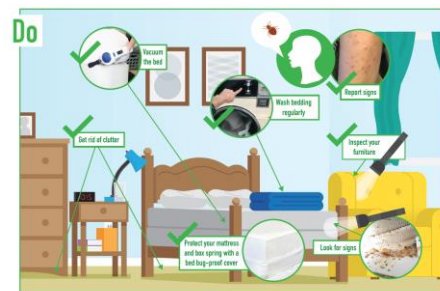
**Pesticides** are overused, which exposes residents and creates more pesticide resistance. Over-the-counter chemical sprays can make pests harder to treat. Photo: S. Reese

### THE SOLUTION: FREE IPM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

With funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, the Northeastern IPM Center established the StopPests in Housing Program to offer free integrated pest management (IPM) training and technical assistance. The goal is to help affordable-housing providers implement evidence-based, IPM strategies to prevent and reduce pest infestations, their associated allergens, and the improper and over-use of pesticides.



In 4 years, StopPests delivered over **60 free IPM trainings and on-site consultations** for federally subsidized, affordable housing sites. Over **1,470 housing professionals** were trained, impacting **88,895 affordable housing units nationally**.



StopPests creates resources to overcome IPM obstacles. This low-literacy, picture-based guide addresses the resident’s role in IPM. This resource and others are available for download at [www.stoppests.org](http://www.stoppests.org) in English and Spanish.

## IMPACTS



StopPests partner Siavash Taravati (University of California IPM) demonstrates for housing staff how to inspect for bed bugs. Photo: A. Corbett

The staff pictured here, at a Pa. housing site, purchased a heat chamber for hard-to-treat bed bug-infested items. They learned successful pest control requires teamwork and non-chemical tools. **They went from a 20% infestation rate to 0%.** Photo: M. Baranoski



- ✦ 45% of public housing residents are African American, 21% are Hispanic; this program promotes healthy housing for diverse communities.
- ✦ 79% of housing professionals who attended the training rated their overall evaluation of the course as excellent.
- ✦ Post-training housing sites report an increase in the use of insect monitors. Two housing sites reported they purchased over 6,500 bed bug monitors to aid in early identification and treatment of infestations.
- ✦ Training attendees report the most frequently adopted recommendations are:
  - An increase in staff and resident education efforts
  - A change in IPM policy
  - A change in pest control contract
  - An increase in pest inspections
- ✦ When we work with committed sites to implement an IPM approach—with multiple tools and proactive inspections—bed bug infestation rates can drop by 20%, reducing costs tenfold.



From 2016–2020, **279,769 visitors** accessed the IPM in affordable housing resources at [www.stoppests.org](http://www.stoppests.org), and **10 webinars** were held on IPM topics with **5,293 housing professional attendees**.

## POST-TRAINING SUCCESS STORIES

**Tennessee:** Pest proofing (exclusion) during renovations and monitoring, which was conducted by maintenance, allowed the pest management professionals to effectively stop cockroach infestations where they had once been widespread. Their next HUD inspection revealed zero cockroaches. **Pest monitoring and exclusion work.**

**Illinois:** Maintenance workers sealed each crack and crevice between apartments in a 107-unit high rise and were able to stop the spread of pests, which were freely walking between units along heating pipes. They reduced infestations from 19% of units to 2%. **Pest exclusion works.**

**Wisconsin:** In April of 2015, a housing authority hired an IPM coordinator who received training and resources from StopPests. After 2 years and dedicated work with residents, in a 159-unit building, infestations were reduced from 25% of units to 1%. **StopPests training works.**

## WEBSITES

[www.stoppests.org](http://www.stoppests.org)

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