

Implications for the Future of Treated Wood in Four U.S. Demand Sectors

Richard P. Vlosky
Professor and Director

Todd F. Shupe
Associate Professor

Louisiana Forest Products Development Center
School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

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Presentation Sections

- Homeowners/Home Builders
- Children's playground equipment sellers/Children's playground equipment buyers
- Implications for the Future



It extends the life span of lumber, but the Environmental Protection Agency says arsenic treated wood might cut life short for our children.

“EPA chops down potential killer”, 24 Hour News 8-Grand Rapids, MI, December 29, 2003

"I believe this is a children's safety issue,"
Crow pleaded. "If you don't protect these
children, their blood will be on your hands."

Rep. Larry Crow, Palm Harbor, Florida, after his bill to ban arsenic-treated wood from Florida's public playgrounds failed to pass.

“Wave of opponents kills Crow's treated-wood bill” St. Petersburg Times,
November 28, 2001

Pressure-treated wood linked to Mississippi couple's health nightmares

Poisoned dreams

■ As publicity increases, more people are coming forward with medical problems believed caused by arsenic in pressure-treated wood.

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By RON MATUS

Sun staff writer

Hernando, Miss.

Lynn and Thomas Milam live in a cramped travel trailer 50 yards from the dream home they never finished.

In front of the house, with its giant windows overlooking a small lake, stacks of lumber sit in a weed-ridden yard. Inside, the sawdust is so thick the Milams could write their names in it.

"It makes me sad every time I see it," said Thomas Milam, emerging from the trailer one day last week.

And for good reason: Doctors say the arsenic-treated wood the Milams were using in the house made both of them seriously ill.

And it apparently put enough arsenic in Lynn Milam's system to lead doctors, local police and even the FBI to investigate her husband for attempted murder.

What happened to the Milams has led to another product liability lawsuit against the treated-wood industry.

It is also the most dramatic example yet of illness or injury linked to chromated copper arsenate, or CCA, the potent pesticide that has come under fire for health risks ever since a Gainesville playground closed two years ago.

In this case, the alleged



TROY GLASGOW/Special to The Sun

Tom and Lynn Milam stand in front of their unfinished dream home in Hernando, Mississippi. The couple claim to have been poisoned by using arsenic-treated wood.

WOOD WORRIES

A CONTINUING LOOK AT THE CONTROVERSY OVER ARSENIC-TREATED WOOD

FOR MORE ON ARSENIC-TREATED WOOD

ONLINE: Go to www.gainesvillesun.com/ARCHIVES/articles/woodarchive.shtml

victims have unusual sympathizers in their corner — the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the local prosecutor.

The FBI put Thomas Milam under scrutiny two years ago after his wife was repeatedly hospitalized with severe vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and cramps. According to a complaint filed in a Mississippi circuit court, baffled doctors eventually found arsenic levels in her system more than 100 times above normal.

They told Lynn Milam she probably was being poisoned by her husband, and then called police.

"We thought we potentially had an attempted murder," Mississippi District Attorney John Champion said.

But the case took a bizarre

WOOD on Page 11A



ROB MACK/The Gainesville Sun

If Arsenic-Treated Wood is Too Toxic for Zoo Animals...



From the Bronx Zoo to the San Diego Zoo, wood products treated with arsenic have been banned as "unsafe for animals."

Why is Home Depot still selling these products to American families?

The nation's largest home improvement store chain sells "pressure treated" lumber made from a preservative called chromated copper arsenate (CCA). It's used in park benches, outdoor furniture, even swing sets and playgrounds.

Everyone knows arsenic can kill you. Studies show that kids ingest arsenic when it rubs off of these products and onto their hands. The National Research Council says that ingestion of arsenic, even at low levels, is independently linked to skin blotches and lung

Why Does



Think it's Safe
for Your Kids?

cancer, and that there are strong links to diabetes, high blood pressure, reproductive and respiratory problems.

Many reputable playground manufacturers no longer use arsenic-treated wood. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is considering a ban, but despite all of this evidence, Home Depot continues to keep its hand in the sale.

Next time you're at Home Depot, please ask the manager to stop putting arsenic on your wood. Don't let anybody around with your family's health.

If all else fails, Home Depot has a store where you can buy arsenic-free composite lumber (try King Kity).
staying levels of arsenic contamination. See our web site for details and information on composite lumber (try King Kity).

“The amount of arsenic that could be absorbed from playground soil and CCA treated wood is not significant compared to natural sources and will not result in detectable arsenic intake.”

“The level of arsenic in or around CCA treated wood in playgrounds and recreational facilities does not appear sufficient to adversely affect the health of children or adults.”

“Panel Finds No Danger From Playground Wood”, The Florida Physicians Arsenic Workgroup, August 8, 2002

“The risk of immediate illness from short-term exposure to chemicals from CCA-treated wood is low. Although arsenic can be poisonous at very high doses, the amounts measured on CCA-treated wood are a thousand times less than a lethal dose.”

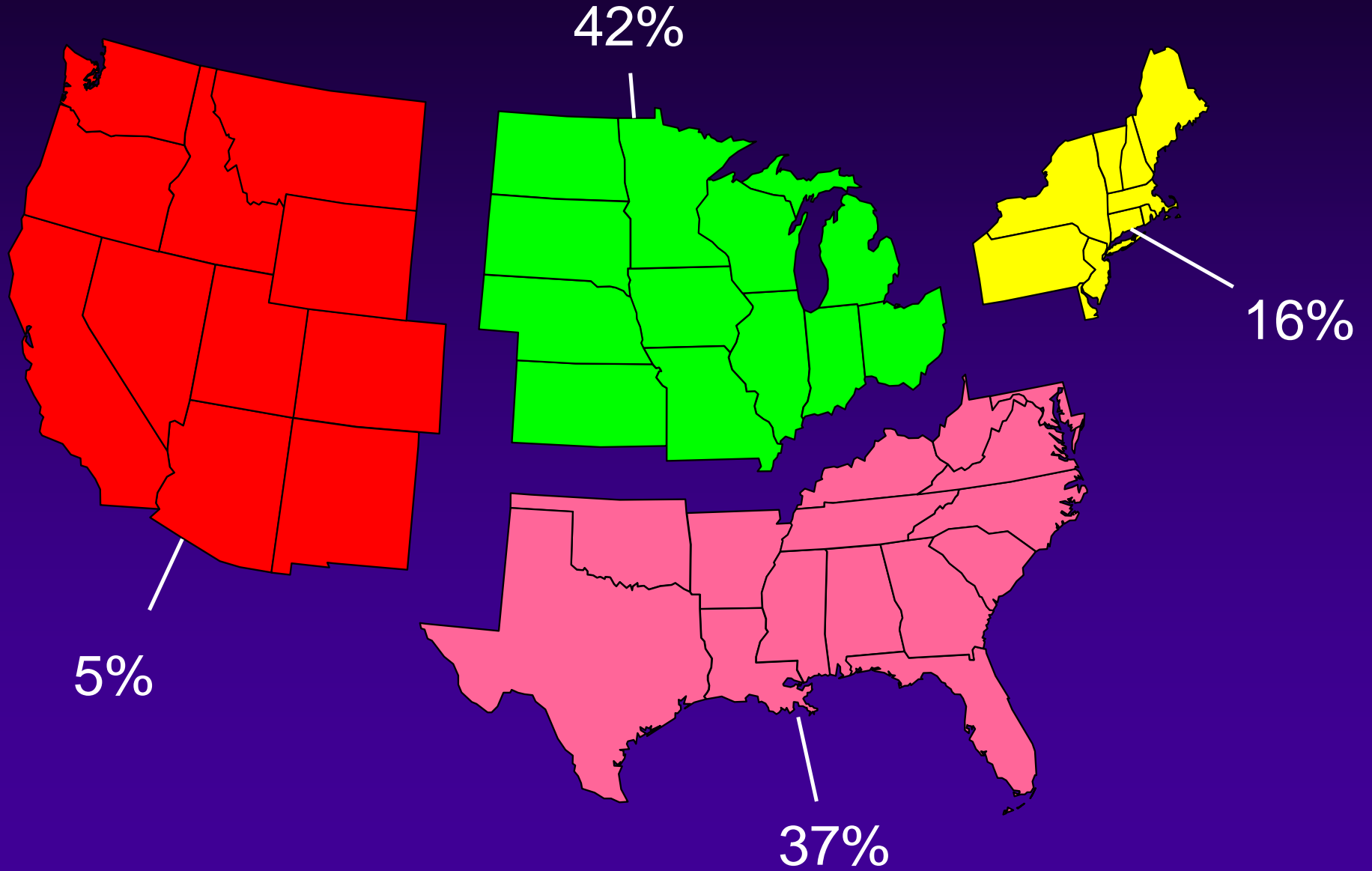
*Chromated Copper Arsenate-Treated Wood (Pressure Treated Wood).
Fact Sheet. Toronto Public Health, Canada. July 2003.*

Homeowners/Home Builders



Homeowners

(n=451)



Home Builders

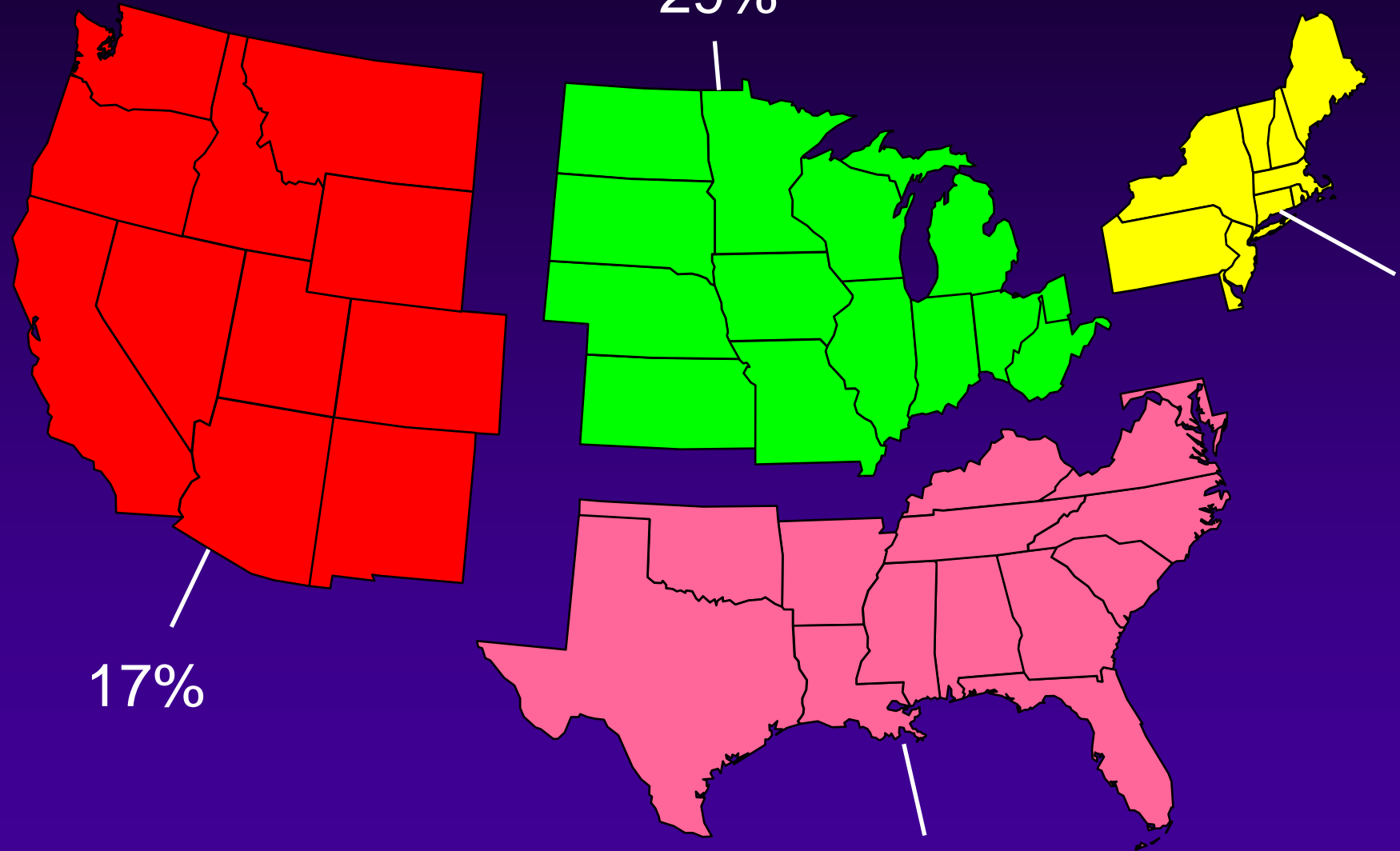
(n=116)

29%

17%

17%

38%



New House Purchase/Build Criteria

Mean Scores; Scale: 1=least important to 5=most important

	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Builder</i>
Energy efficient	4.7	4.1
Cost of the house	4.6	4.4
Resale value	4.6	4.4
Resistance to wood destroying insects	4.4	4.0
Resistance to wind damage	4.2	3.7
Resistance to flooding	4.2	3.1
Free from as many chemicals as possible	4.0	3.5

Homeowners/Home Builders

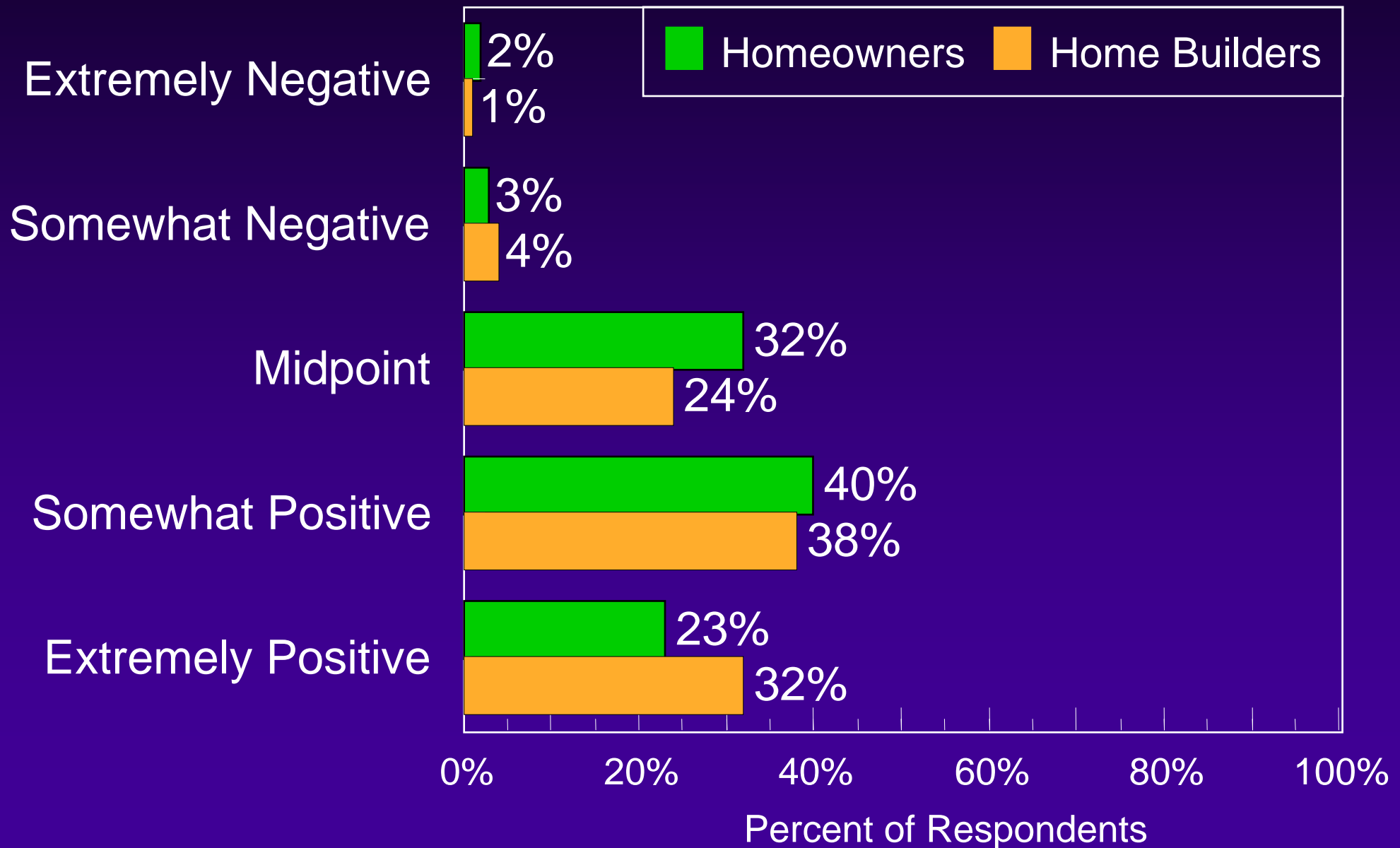
Perception of the Number of Years Materials Last in Weather Exposed Above Ground (Percent of Respondents—n=433/115)

	<i>0-10 Years</i>		<i>11-25 Years</i>		<i>More than 25 years</i>	
	HO	HB	HO	HB	HO	HB
Concrete	2%	1%	24%	16%	73%	83%
Steel	6%	7%	22%	35%	72%	58%
Naturally durable species (cedar, redwood)	19%	29%	56%	55%	25%	17%
<i>Treated lumber products</i>	18%	16%	67%	63%	15%	22%

Homeowners/Home Builders

Overall Perception About Treated Wood

(n=433/115)

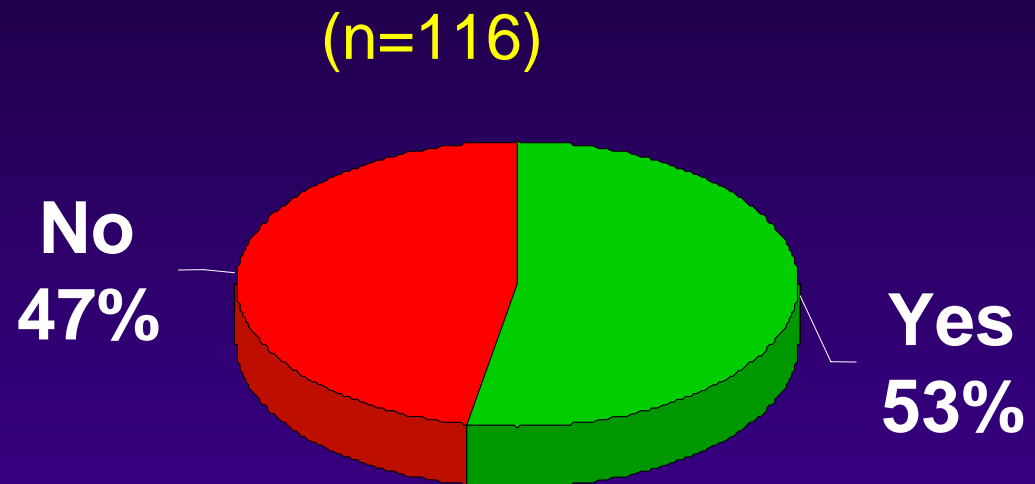
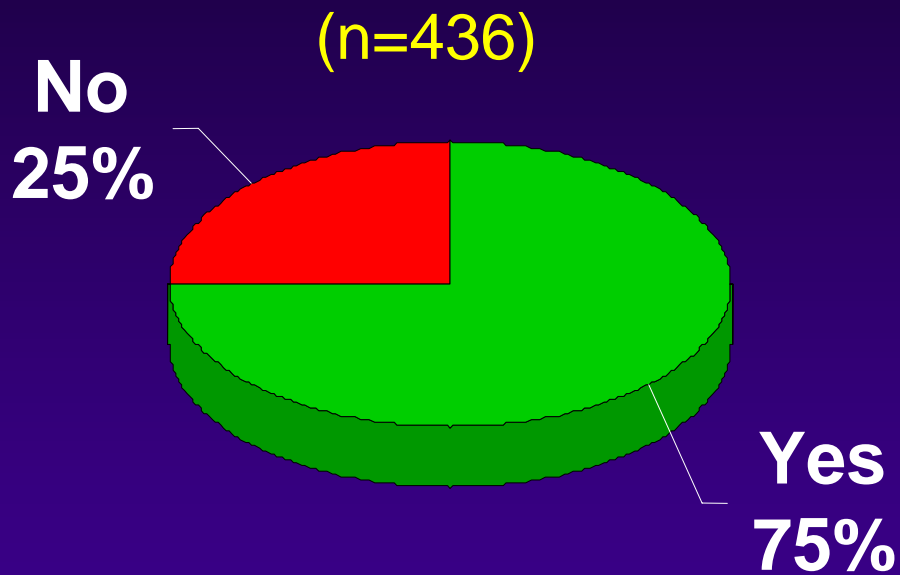


Homeowners

Home Builders

**Willingness to Use
Treated Wood Your Home?**

**Concern about Using
Treated Wood in
Home Construction?**

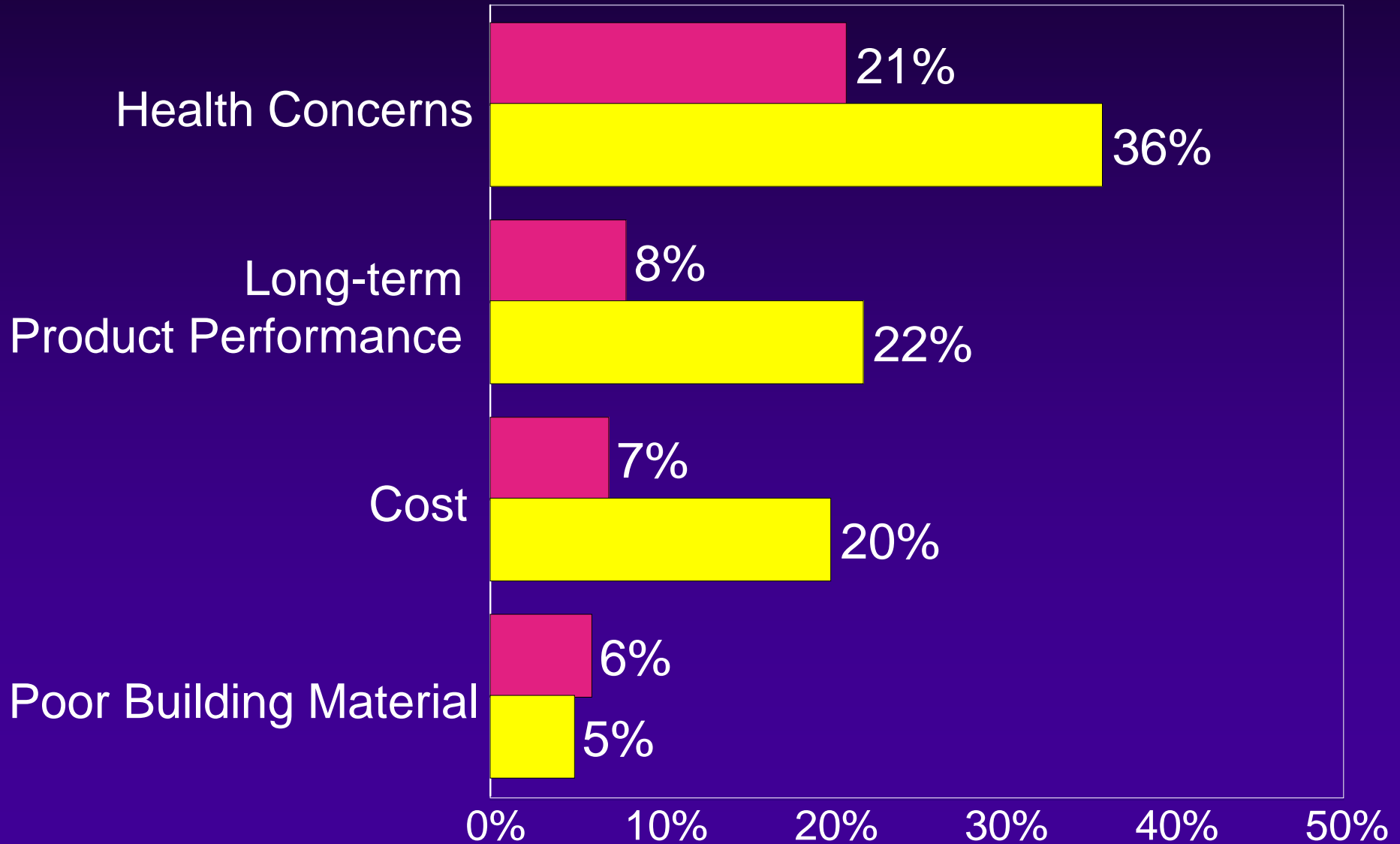


Homeowners/Home Builders

Concerns About Using Treated Wood

Percent of Respondents/ Multiple Responses Possible

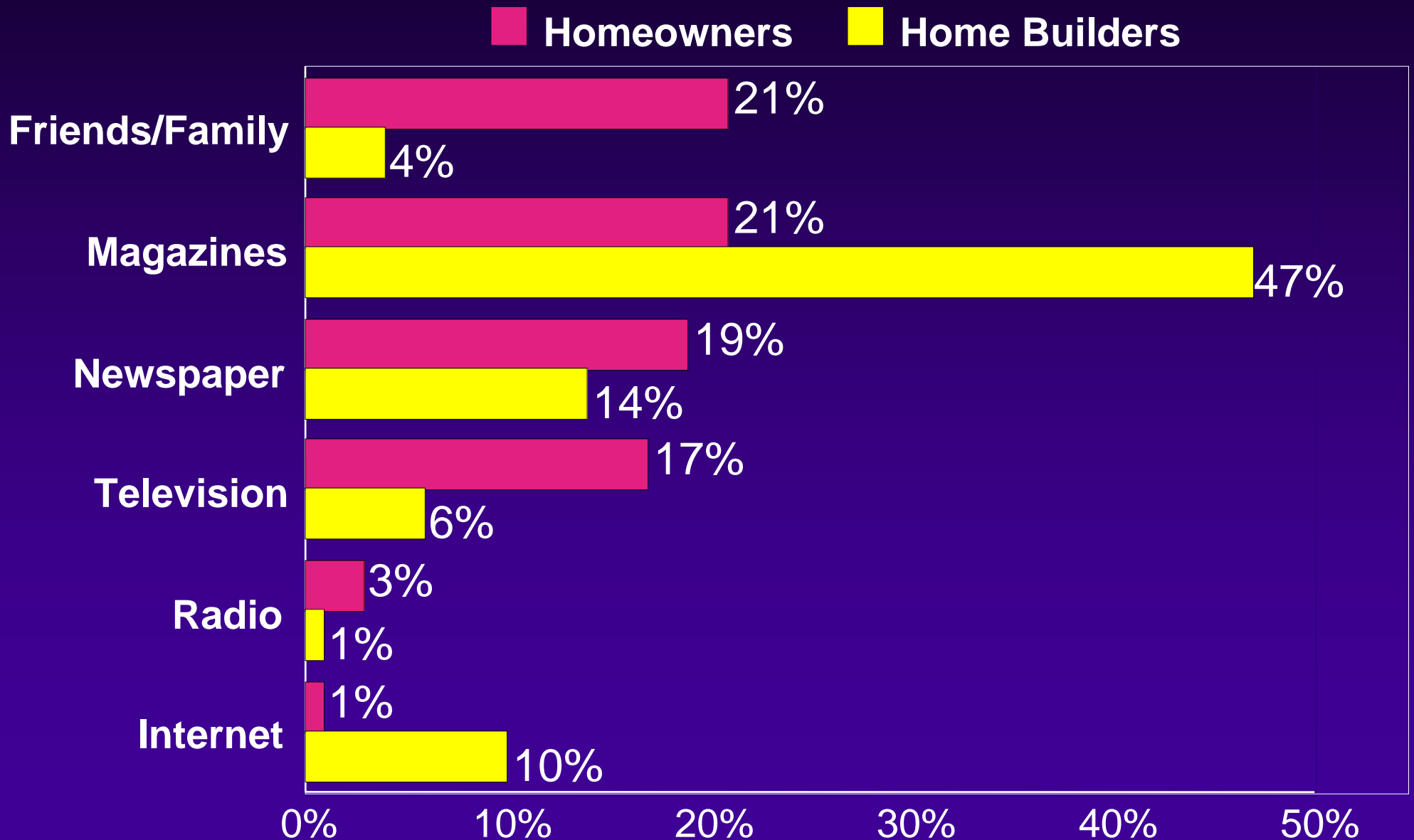
■ Homeowners ■ Home Builders



Homeowners/Home Builders

How Opinions Regarding Treated Wood Were Formed

Percent of Respondents/ Multiple Responses Possible

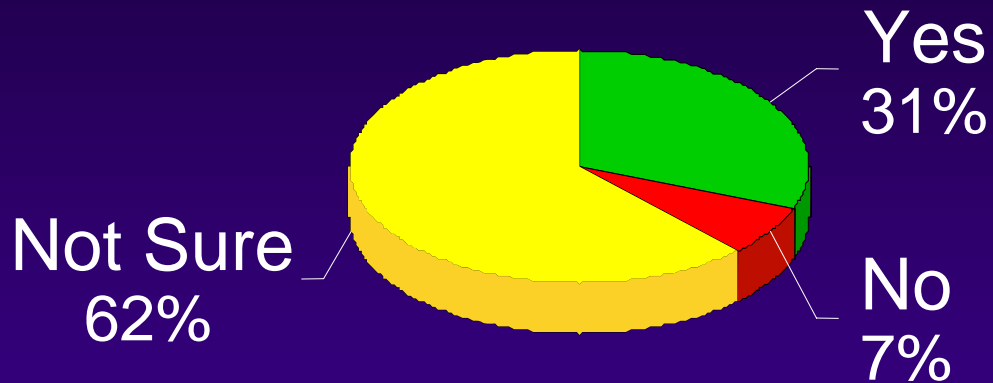


Homeowners/Home Builders

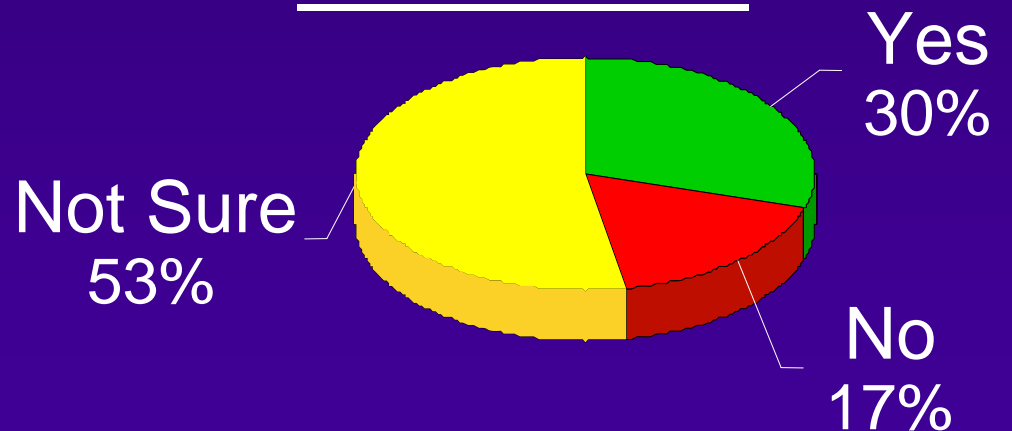
Are Some Types of Treated Lumber Safer Than Others?

(n=441/114)

Homeowners



Home Builders

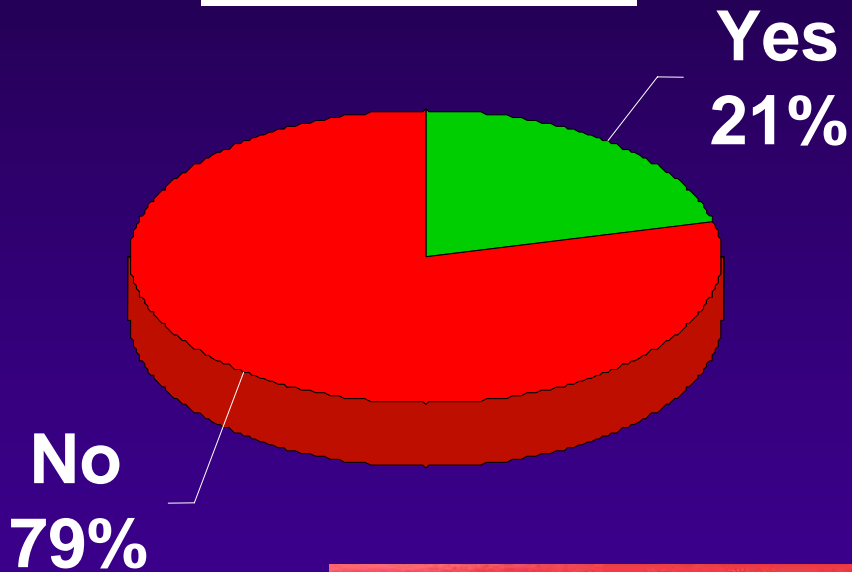


Homeowners/Home Builders

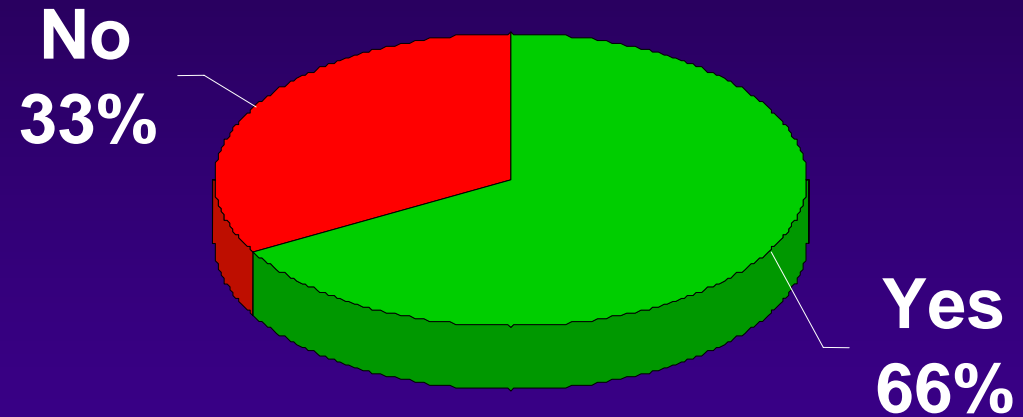
Knowledge of Treated Wood Consumer Information Sheets

(n=442/114)

Homeowners



Home Builders



Safe Handling Information for CCA Preserved Wood

CAUTION : ARSENIC IS IN THE PESTICIDE APPLIED TO THIS WOOD

- NEVER BURN TREATED WOOD • WEAR DUST MASK & GOGGLES WHEN CUTTING OR SANDING WOOD
- WEAR GLOVES WHEN WORKING WITH WOOD

Ask for the Consumer Safety Information Sheet or
call 1-800-282-0600. www.ccasafetyinfo.com

Homeowners/Home Builders

Entity Trusted to Provide Consumers with Treated Wood Safety and Handling Information

Homeowners

Environmental organizations

A wood industry association

State government

Individual wood products companies

Home Builders

Individual wood products companies

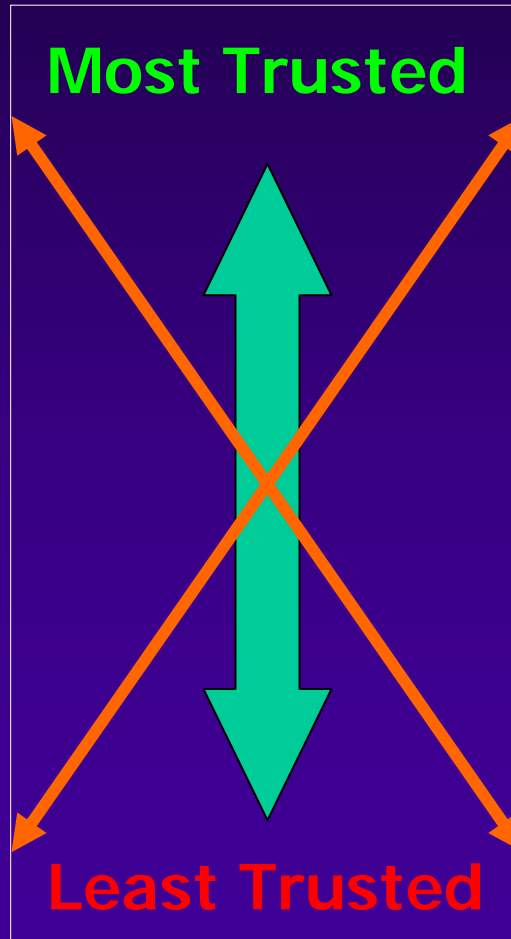
State government

A wood industry association

Environmental organizations

Most Trusted

Least Trusted



Homeowners/Home Builders

Treated Wood Applications in Current Residence/ In Homes Built in Past 12 months

<i>Application</i>	<i>Homeowners</i>	<i>Home Builders</i>
Decks	52%	94%
Landscaping timbers	50%	78%
Outdoor structures	37%	76%
Outdoor furniture	17%	22%
Wall/roof/floor framing	15%	46%
Home exteriors	14%	25%
Permanent wood foundations	8%	24%

Treated Wood Safety Issues

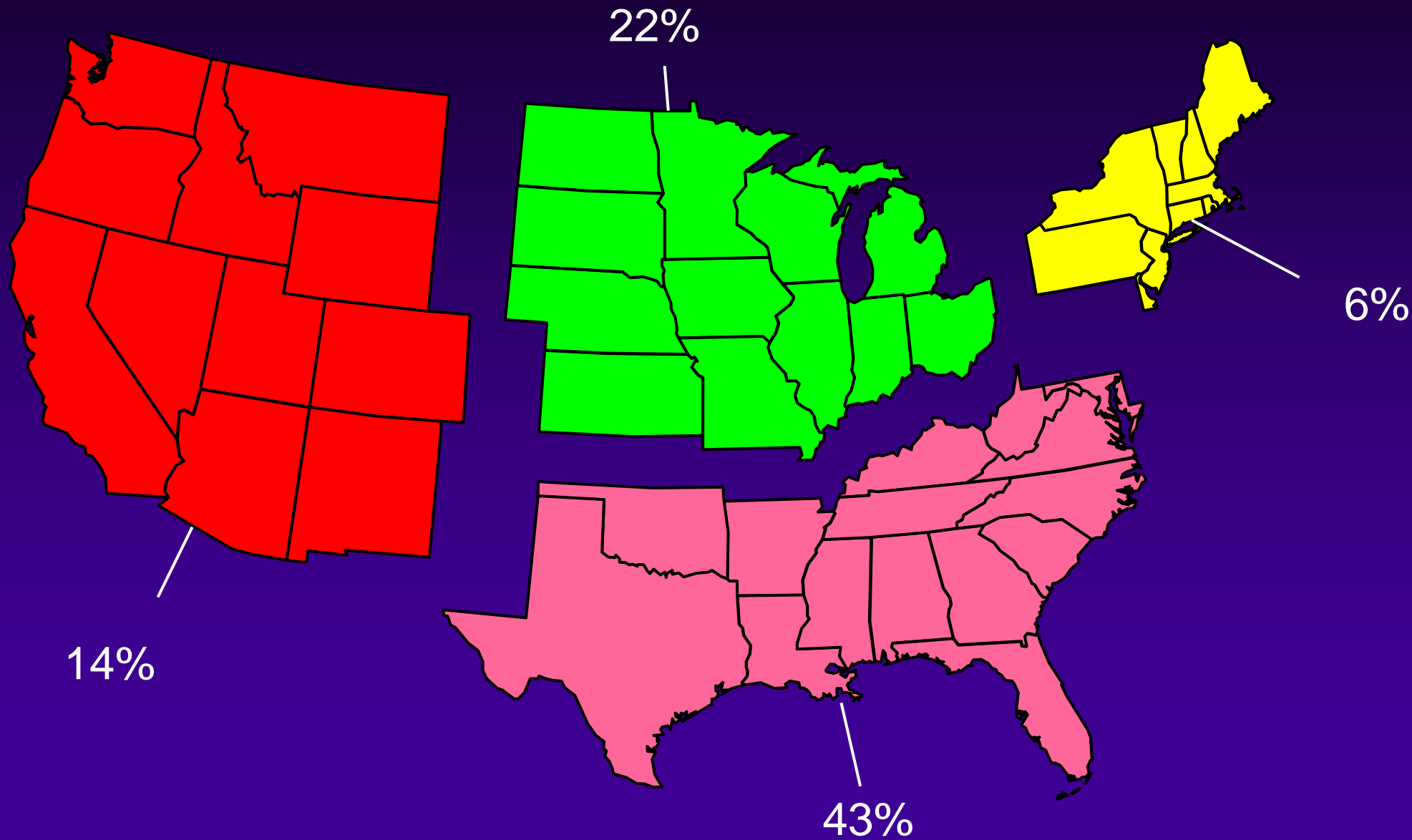
Safe	Homeowner	Home Builder
Treated lumber is safe for outdoor human contact applications	69%	61%
With proper use, handling and disposal of treated lumber is entirely safe	56%	61%
Treated lumber is safe to builders	47%	51%
Treated lumber is safe to children for outdoor play equipment	41%	42%
Treated lumber is safe to be near pets or farm animals	38%	38%
Unsafe		
Treated lumber is safe to residents for indoor applications	17%	27%
Treated lumber is safe for food handling	9%	5%

Children's Playground Equipment Manufacturers/Users



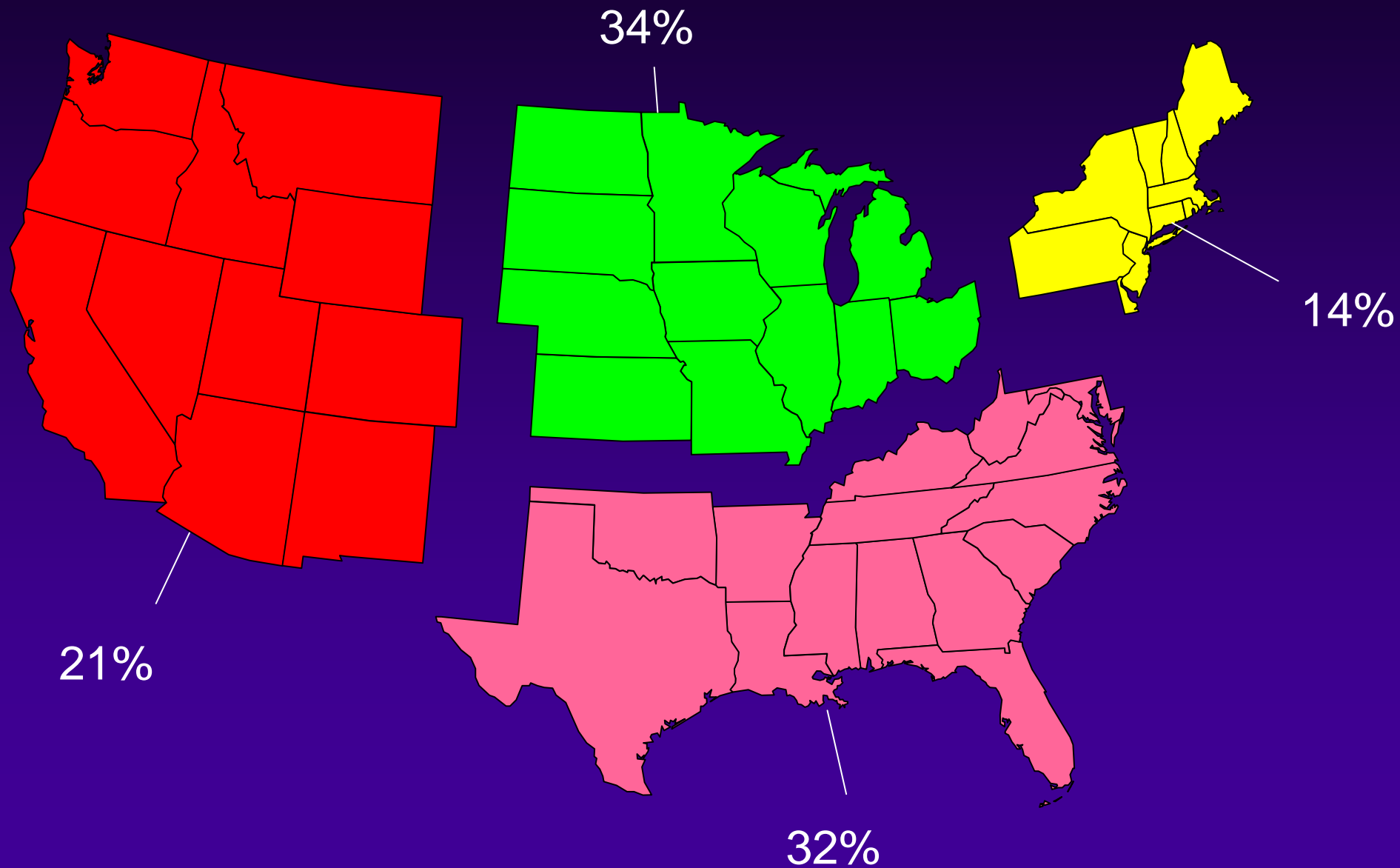
Children's Playground Equipment Manufacturers

(n=52)

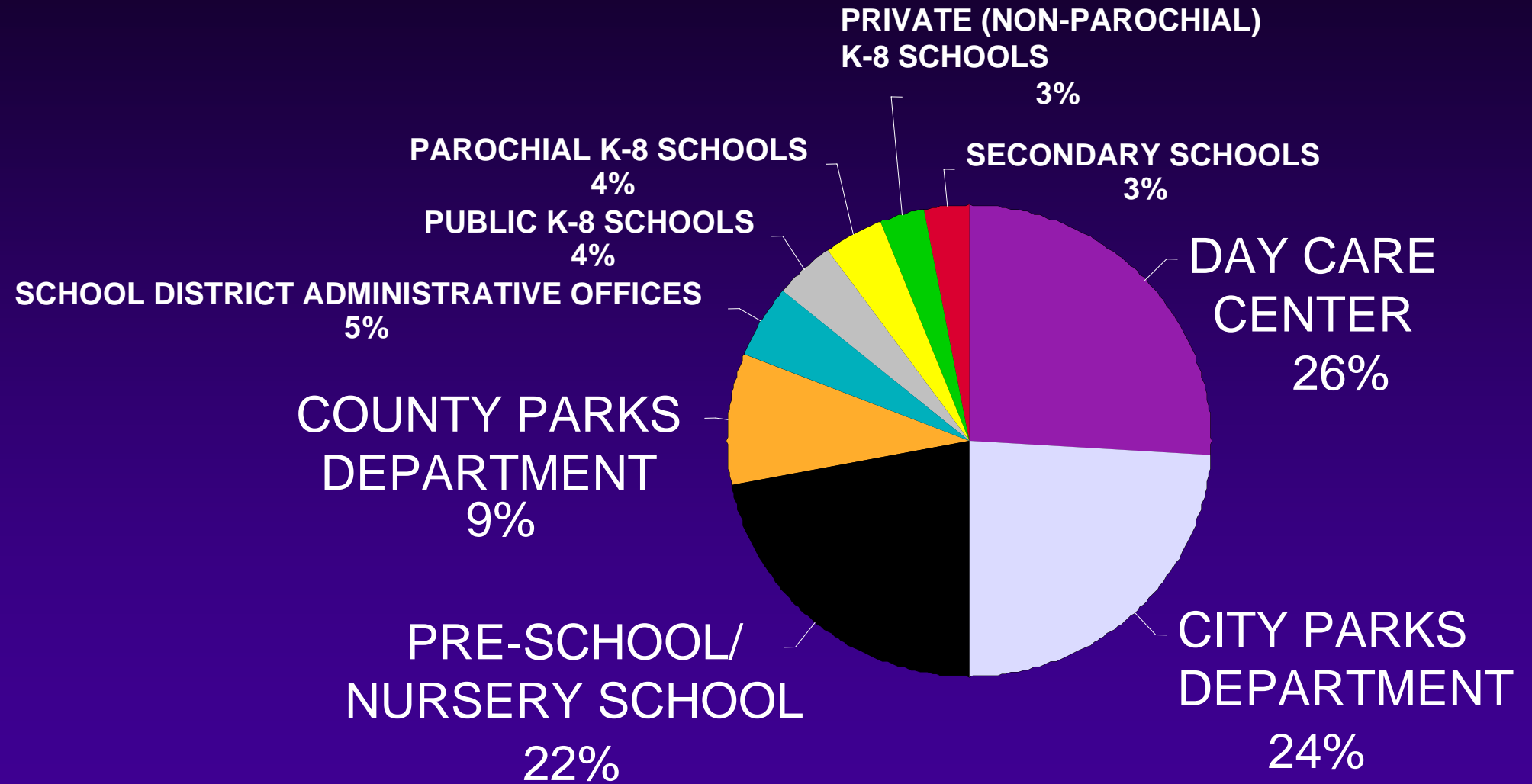


Children's Playground Equipment Users

(n=431)



Children's Playground Equipment Users



Children's Playground Equipment Manufacturers/Users

Playset Materials Manufacturing/Purchase Criteria

Scale: 1=Not Important at All; 3=Somewhat Important; 5=Very Important

Manufacturers

Users

Free from as many chemicals as possible

Minimize health risks

Long-term performance

Cost of the play set

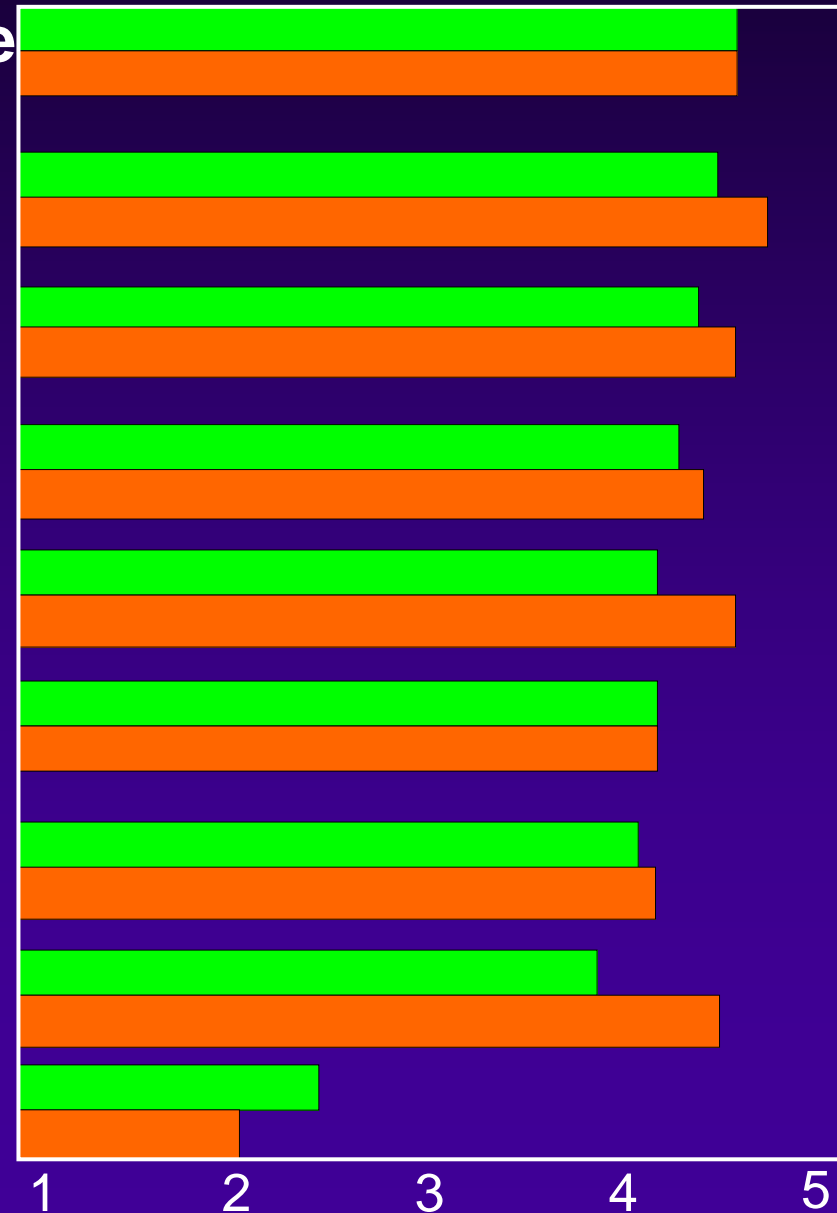
Effective years of service

Resistance to harsh climate

Resistance to wood destroying insects

Low maintenance

Resale value



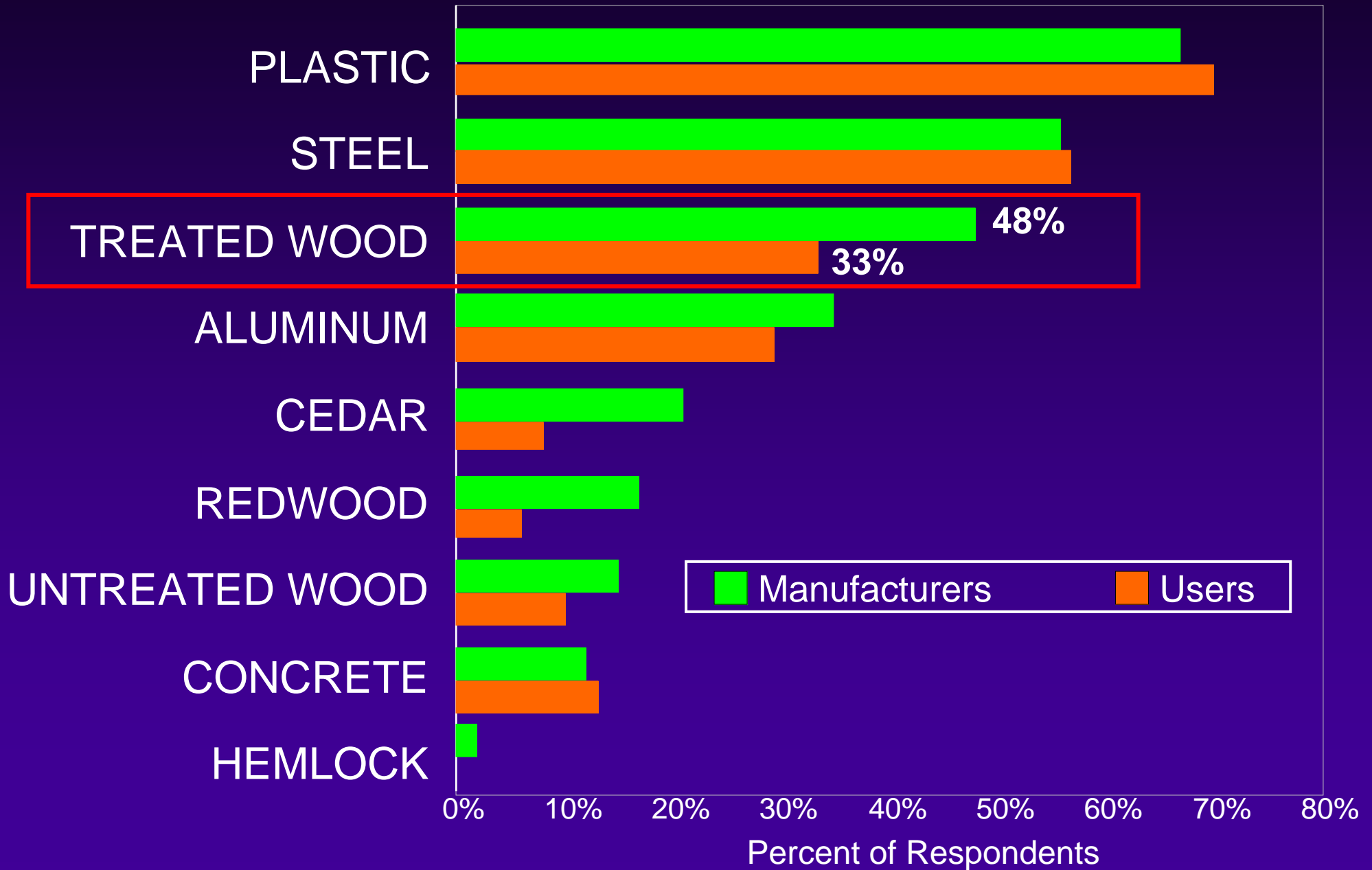
Perception of the Number of Years Materials Last in Weather Exposed Above Ground
(Percent of Respondents—n=52/431)

	<i>0-10 Years</i>		<i>11-25 Years</i>		<i>More than 25 years</i>	
	M	U	M	U	M	U
Concrete	4%	6%	33%	36%	62%	59%
Steel	7%	7%	54%	36%	40%	56%
Naturally durable species (cedar, redwood)	64%	33%	31%	61%	5%	5%
<i>Treated lumber products</i>	23%	42%	52%	49%	25%	10%

Children's Playground Equipment Manufacturers/Users

Playset Materials: Manufacturing/Currently Installed

(Percent of Respondents—n=52/394)



Children's Playground Equipment Manufacturers/Users

Entity Trusted to Provide Consumers with Treated Wood Safety and Handling Information

Manufacturers

Centers for Disease Control

Playground equipment mfgrs.

Treated wood companies

Environ. Protection Agency

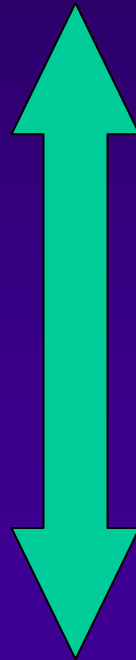
Federal government

State government

Chemical mfgrs.

Depts. of education

Most Trusted



Least Trusted

Users

Centers for Disease Control

Environ. Protection Agency

Depts. of education

State government

Federal government

Playground equipment mfgrs.

Treated wood companies

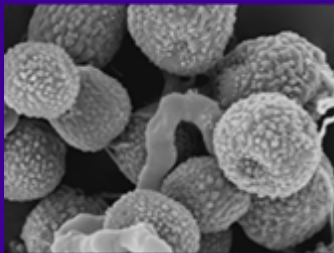
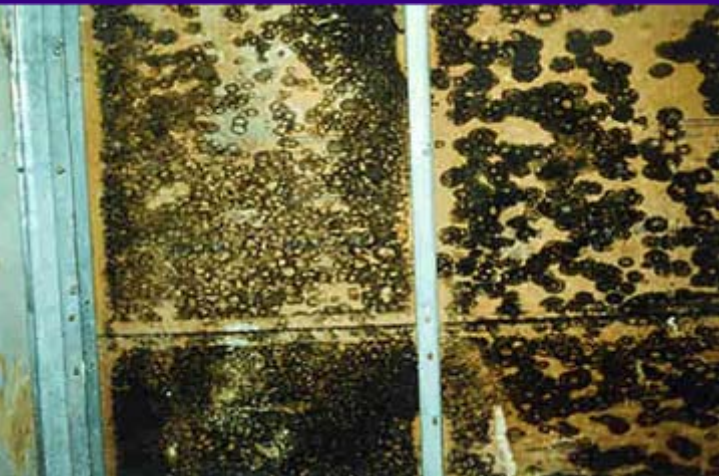
Chemical mfgrs.

Current Treated Wood Issues & Concerns



Mold

Toxic mold (*Stachybotrys chartarum* or *Stachybotrys atra*)



Substitutes

Plastic wood, Steel, Concrete, etc.



Recycling Out-of-Service Treated Wood



Housing Durability Termites



Liability/Litigation



What Does the Future Hold?



The future for wood preservation is bright!



- Wood will continue to need protection from degrading factors, such as decay, insects, and fire.
- New preserving technologies hold promise.
- Innovation & research must continue to be a priority.

What To Do?



Treated wood education targeting all demand sectors

Don't ignore the challenges



Be proactive

Fear not the future



What To Do?

Brand & Promote!



Questions?



For More Information, Contact:

Richard P. Vlosky or Todd F. Shupe
Louisiana Forest Products Development Center
School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-4527/6432
Fax: (225) 578-4251

Email: vlosky@lsu.edu
tshupe@agcenter.lsu.edu