Public Participation on Chemical Selection

Diana Lee, Lori Copan, Robbie Welling
California Biomonitoring Program

Scientific Guidance Panel

June 10, 2008

Overview

- **Describe** public participation activities to suggest chemicals to include in the Program, and criteria for selecting chemicals
- **Present** preliminary findings on suggested chemicals to include

Public Participation – Chemical Selection

- At the December 2007 meeting, Program staff committed to undertake efforts to engage the public for input on selecting chemicals to include in the program
- Staff conducted public participation activities:
  - in-person workshops
  - teleconferences
  - public comment via email and fax
  - web-based survey in English and Spanish
- Publicized events via listserv announcements, posting on OEHHA website, emails to stakeholder organizations

Objectives for Public Participation Sessions

1) To receive input from stakeholders on the selection of chemicals for the California Biomonitoring Program
2) To disseminate general information about the Program
3) To increase understanding of biomonitoring by the public, thereby enabling them to become involved in the program's design and implementation

Content and Format of Workshops/Teleconferences

- Content:
  - Program overview
  - Importance of chemical selection for the labs
  - Chemical selection for the Program
- Format
  - ~50% of time dedicated to hearing questions and comments from participants

Workshops & Teleconferences

- **Workshops**
  - 4-hour workshops-Los Angeles, Oakland and Fresno
  - Total number of workshop participants: 71
    - 11 - Los Angeles (March 24)
    - 40 - Oakland (April 3)
    - 20 - Fresno (April 23)
- **Teleconferences** via toll-free number
  - Conducted three 2-hour calls
  - Total of 32 of lines accessed
    - April 8 – 19 lines
    - April 17 – 9 lines
    - April 28 – 4 lines

Chemicals or Chemical Categories
Identified during Teleconferences and Workshops

Chemicals or Chemical Categories	No. of related supporting comments
Pesticides	10
Metals	8
Radioisotopes	3
Phthalates	3
Perchlorate	2
Other (components of diesel fuel, chemicals in vaccines, decaBDE, Triclosan, pharmaceuticals and personal care products)	8
Total	**34**

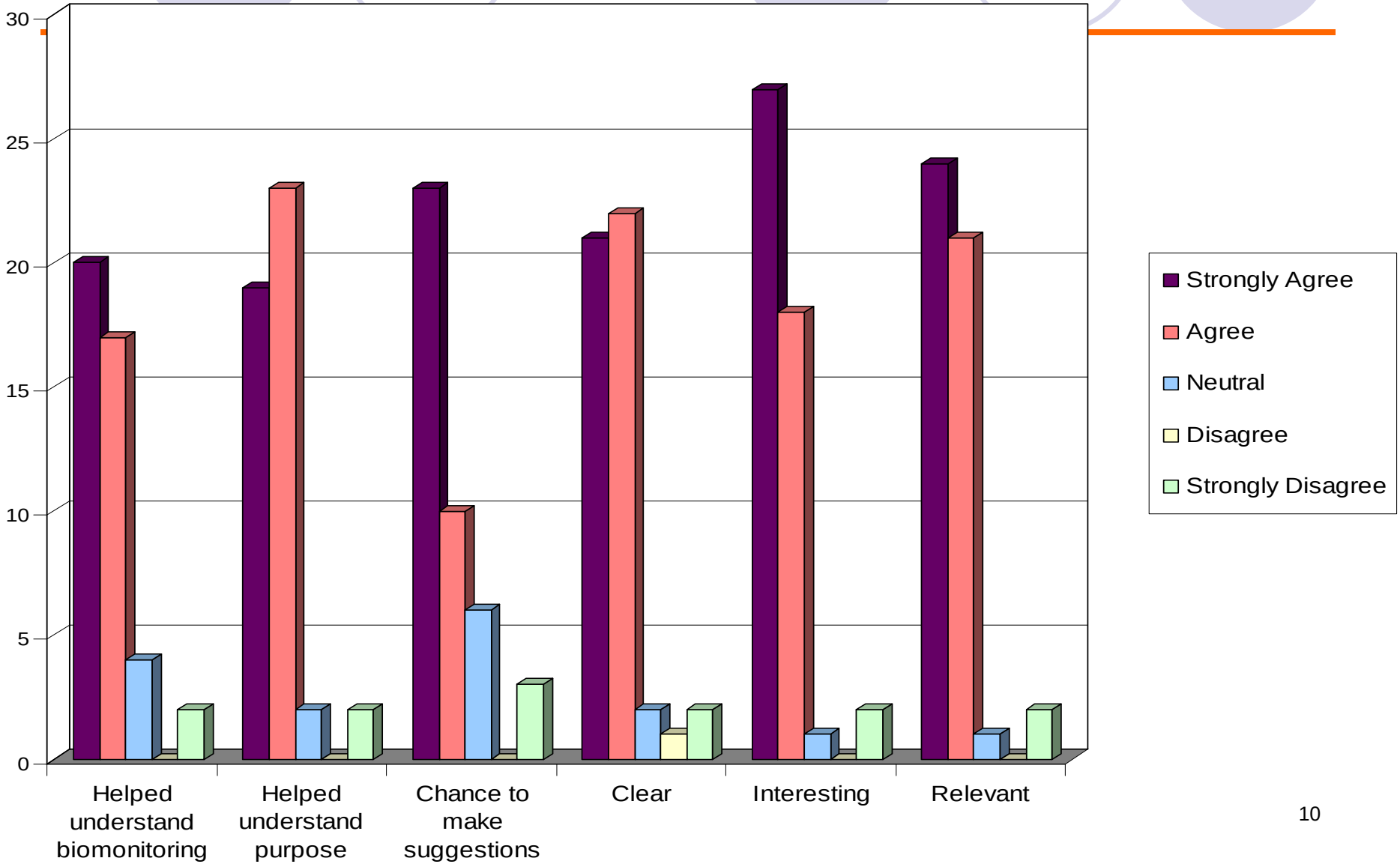
Site-Specific Chemicals

- 24 chemicals related to sites of concern to specific participants or communities
  - Metals
  - Radioisotopes
  - Persistent organic compounds

Laboratory related comments

Nature of Comment	Number
Chemicals and detection methods (comments)	**13**
Laboratory start-up and biomatrices (questions)	**13**

Workshop Evaluations

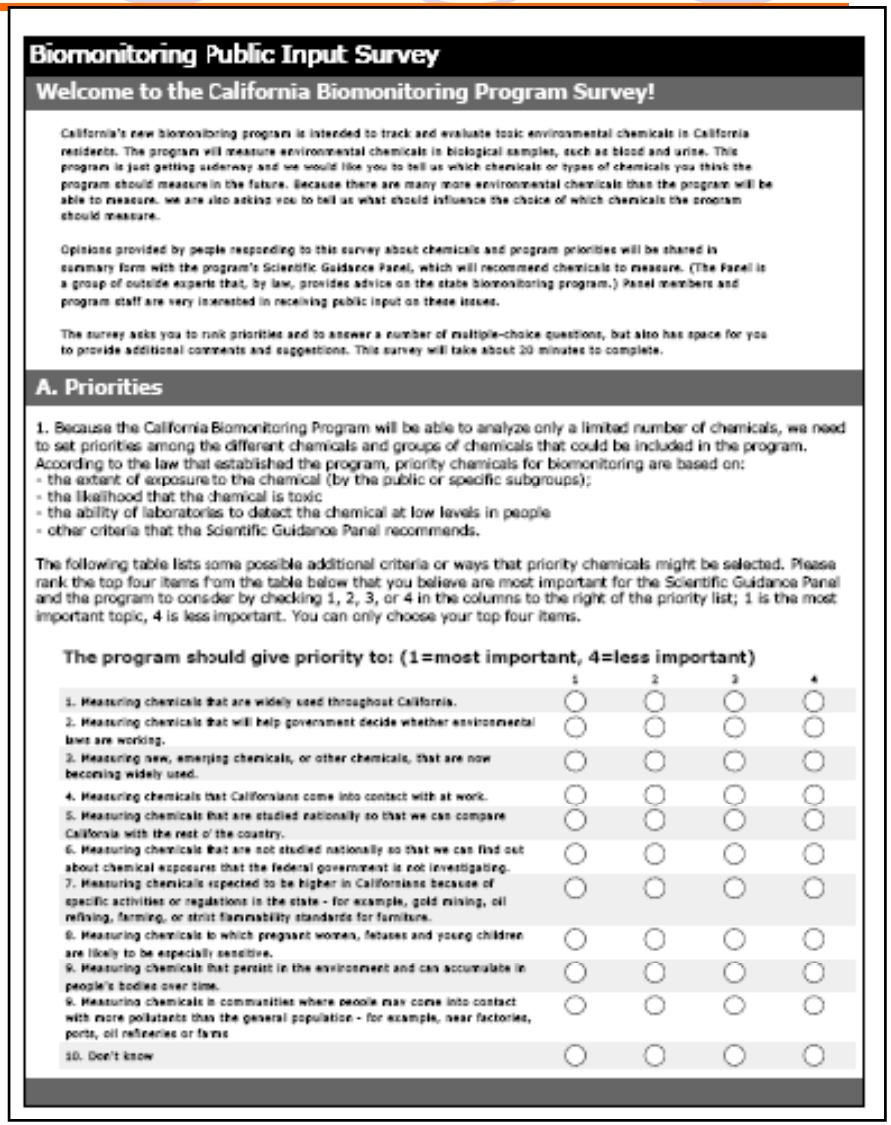


Specific Chemicals or Products in Public Comments Submitted Via E-mail

Number of Submissions	Chemicals or Products Suggested
12	Bisphenol A Caffeic acid Chemicals present in dryer sheets and fabric softeners Chemicals used in the dry cleaning industry Decamethylcyclopentasiloxane (D5) Depleted uranium Fire retardants Formaldehyde Lead Mercury Pesticides Phthalates Radionuclides Second hand tobacco smoke Solvents Triclocarban Triclosan

Web-based Survey Overview

- Survey available on-line April 8 to May 7, 2008 through SurveyMonkey
- Available in English and Spanish
- 2 major parts regarding chemical selection
  - criteria Program should use to select priority chemicals
  - categories of chemicals; importance
- Multiple choice and open ended responses



Biomonitoring Public Input Survey

Welcome to the California Biomonitoring Program Survey!

California's new biomonitoring program is intended to track and evaluate toxic environmental chemicals in California residents. The program will measure environmental chemicals in biological samples, such as blood and urine. This program is just getting underway and we would like you to tell us which chemicals or types of chemicals you think the program should measure in the future. Because there are many more environmental chemicals than the program will be able to measure, we are also asking you to tell us what should influence the choice of which chemicals the program should measure.

Opinions provided by people responding to this survey about chemicals and program priorities will be shared in summary form with the program's Scientific Guidance Panel, which will recommend chemicals to measure. (The Panel is a group of outside experts that, by law, provides advice on the state biomonitoring program.) Panel members and program staff are very interested in receiving public input on these issues.

The survey asks you to rank priorities and to answer a number of multiple-choice questions, but also has space for you to provide additional comments and suggestions. This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

A. Priorities

1. Because the California Biomonitoring Program will be able to analyze only a limited number of chemicals, we need to set priorities among the different chemicals and groups of chemicals that could be included in the program. According to the law that established the program, priority chemicals for biomonitoring are based on:
- the extent of exposure to the chemical (by the public or specific subgroups);
- the likelihood that the chemical is toxic
- the ability of laboratories to detect the chemical at low levels in people
- other criteria that the Scientific Guidance Panel recommends.

The following table lists some possible additional criteria or ways that priority chemicals might be selected. Please rank the top four items from the table below that you believe are most important for the Scientific Guidance Panel and the program to consider by checking 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the columns to the right of the priority list; 1 is the most important topic, 4 is less important. You can only choose your top four items.

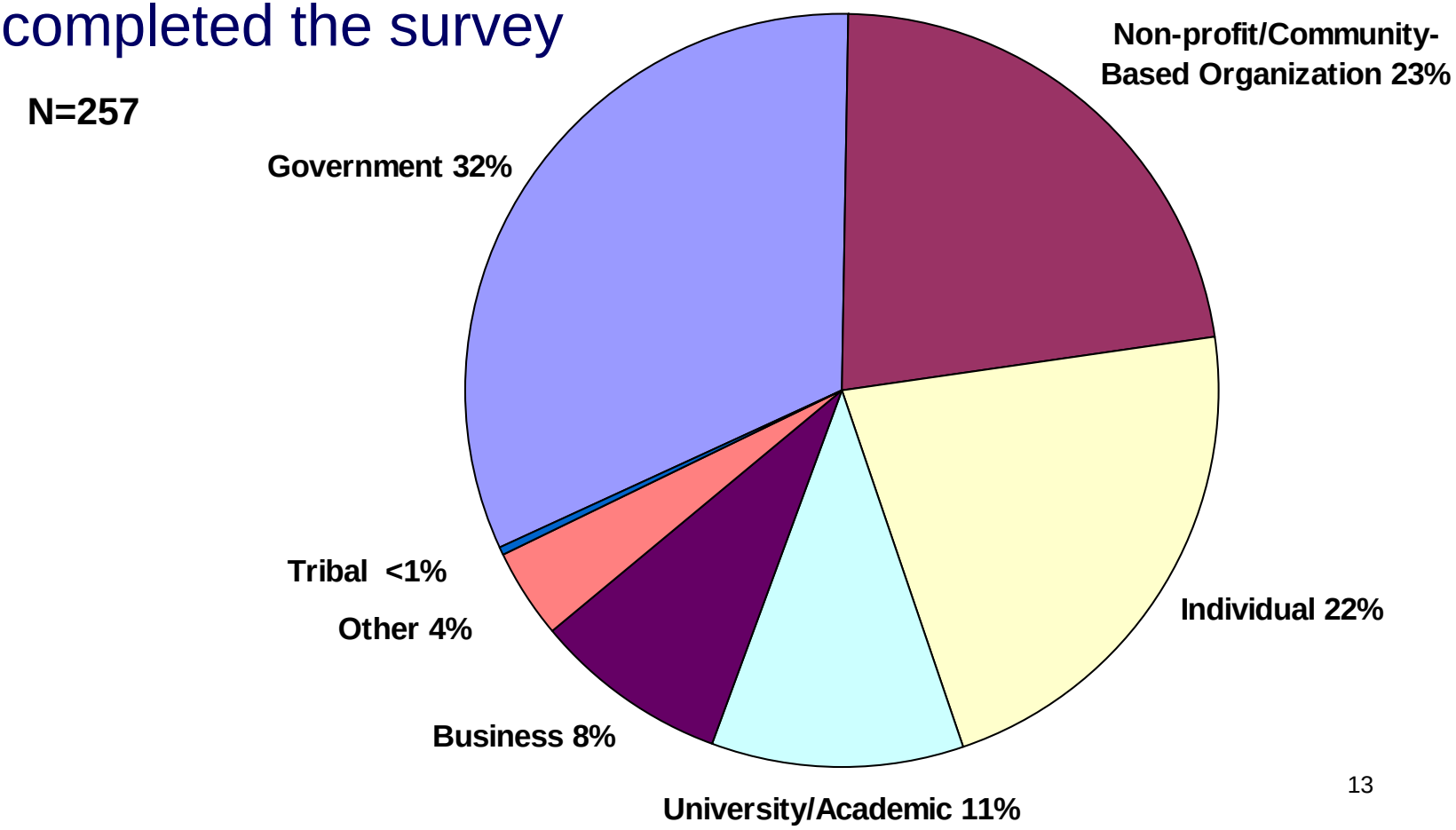
The program should give priority to: (1=most important, 4=less important)

	1	2	3	4
1. Measuring chemicals that are widely used throughout California.	○	○	○	○
2. Measuring chemicals that will help government decide whether environmental laws are working.	○	○	○	○
3. Measuring new, emerging chemicals, or other chemicals, that are now becoming widely used.	○	○	○	○
4. Measuring chemicals that Californians come into contact with at work.	○	○	○	○
5. Measuring chemicals that are studied nationally so that we can compare California with the rest of the country.	○	○	○	○
6. Measuring chemicals that are not studied nationally so that we can find out about chemical exposures that the federal government is not investigating.	○	○	○	○
7. Measuring chemicals expected to be higher in Californians because of specific activities or regulations in the state - for example, gold mining, oil refining, farming, or strict flammability standards for furniture.	○	○	○	○
8. Measuring chemicals to which pregnant women, fetuses and young children are likely to be especially sensitive.	○	○	○	○
9. Measuring chemicals that persist in the environment and can accumulate in people's bodies over time.	○	○	○	○
9. Measuring chemicals in communities where people may come into contact with more pollutants than the general population - for example, near factories, ports, oil refineries or farms	○	○	○	○
10. Don't know	○	○	○	○

Affiliation of Survey Respondents

- 319 persons responded to survey (1-Spanish)

~80% completed the survey



Chemical Categories
1. Metals
2. Farm pesticides
3. Home or school pesticides
4. Chemicals in plastic
5. Fire retardants
6. Chemicals applied to consumer product surfaces
7. Chemicals in personal care products
8. Chemicals in cleaning supplies
9. Chemicals in the workplace
10. Chemicals from burning trash
11. Chemicals from burning coal, oil or gasoline
12. Chemicals in drinking water
13. Chemicals from industrial plants or hazardous waste sites
14. Chemicals found in food
15. Other chemicals you listed

STEP 1 - Which chemicals should the Biomonitoring Program measure in Californians…

Indicate:

- ❍ Important
- ❍ Somewhat Important
- ❍ Not Important
- ❍ Don't Know

STEP 2

If **Important** or **Somewhat Important** – list or describe specific chemicals or products

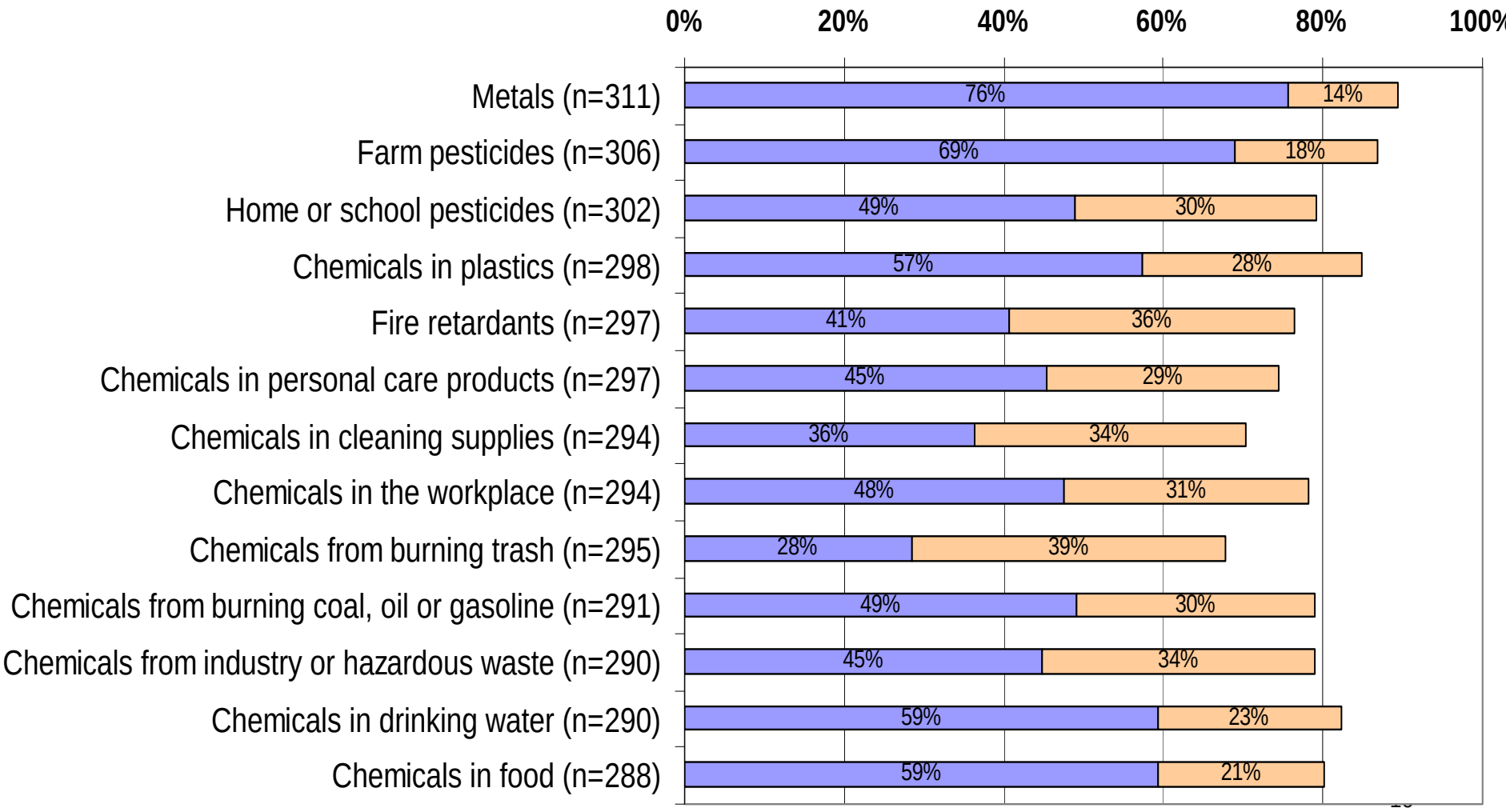
STEP 3

Indicate **four most important** categories of chemicals.

Examples of chemical categories

- Pesticides used in or around homes or schools – for example, to control fleas, ticks, weeds, or insects in the home or yard
- Chemicals found in personal care products – for example, cosmetics, nail polish, shampoo

Proportion of Respondents Rating Chemical Group as Important or Somewhat Important



Opportunity to name chemicals or products

Example:

If you answered Important or Somewhat Important, you may list or describe below any specific chemicals in personal care products that you think the program should measure.

- Received wide variety of responses overall
  - Over 300 different chemicals or chemical types named
- Some frequent repeats
  - Over 50 mentions of lead, mercury, phthalates, Bisphenol A

Survey - Most Frequently Mentioned Chemicals

- Lead
- Mercury
- Bisphenol A
- Arsenic
- Dioxin
- Cadmium
- Chromium
- Glyphosate
- Formaldehyde
- Perchlorate
- Chlorpyrifos
- Benzene
- Deca-BDE
- Perfluorooctanoic acid

On 2003-2004 CDC List

Survey - Most Frequently Mentioned Chemical Classes

- Phthalates
- Polybrominated Diphenyl Eithers
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Pyrethroids
- Parabens
- Heavy Metals
- Organophosphates
- Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

On 2003-2004 CDC List

Survey - Most Frequently Mentioned General Types

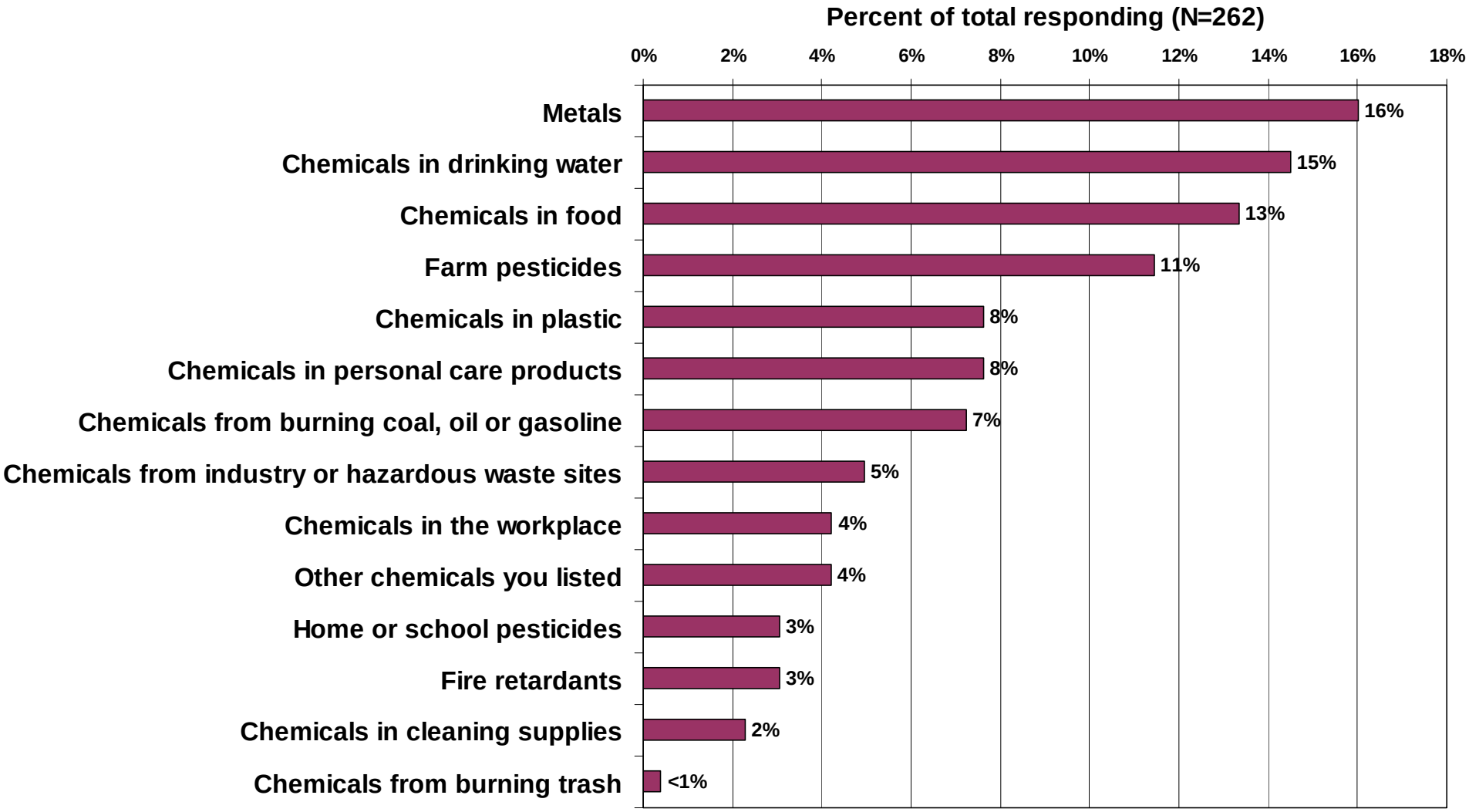
- Pesticides
- Pharmaceuticals
- Endocrine disruptors
- Solvents
- Fragrances
- Bioaccumulative or persistent
- Diesel exhaust
- Fluorinated polymers
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Hormones
- Particulate Matter

“Tell us your four most important categories of chemicals”

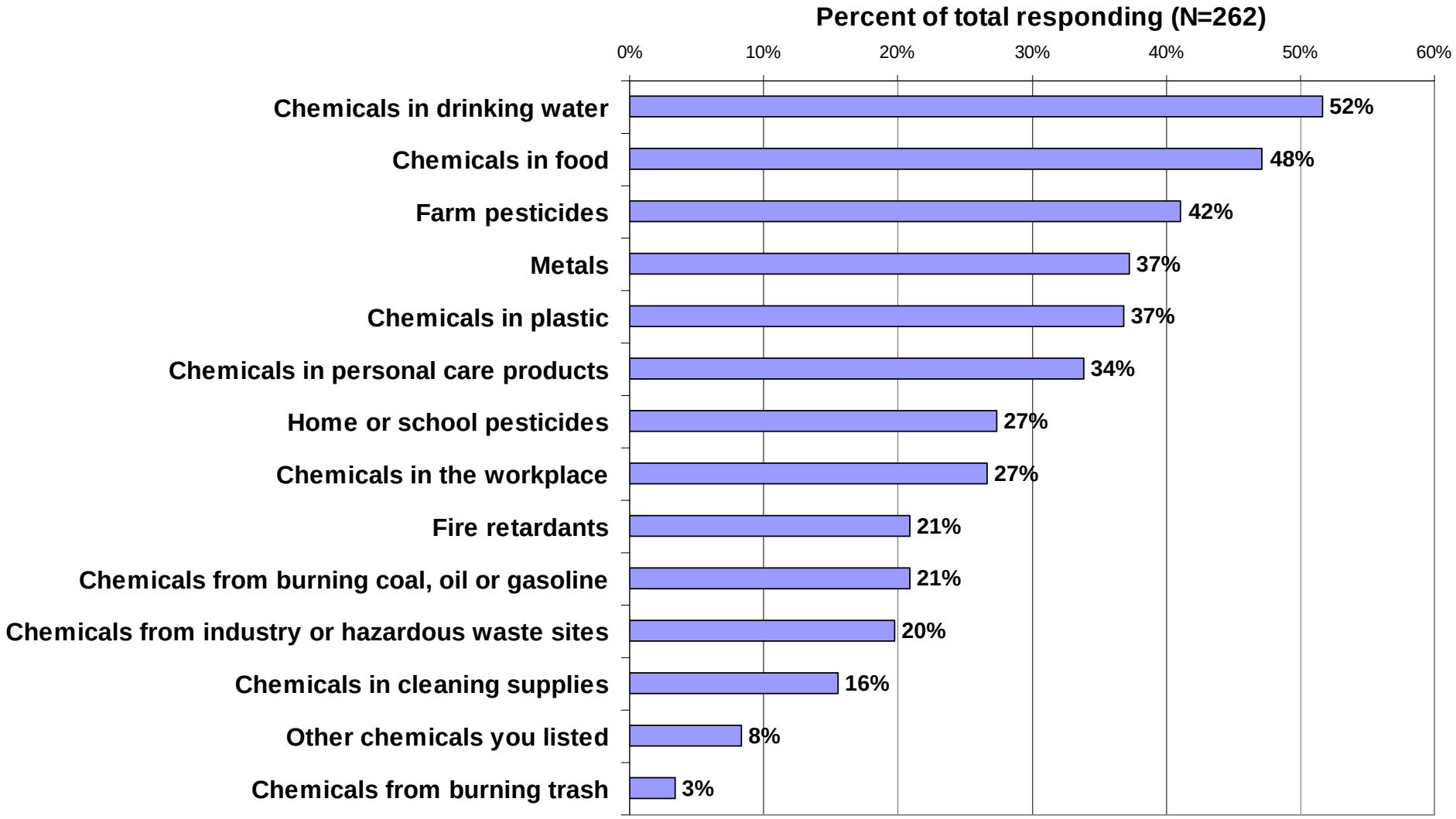
- 1 = most important, 4= less important

	1	2	3	4
Metals	○	○	○	○
Farm pesticides	○	○	○	○
Home or school pesticides	○	○	○	○
Chemicals in plastic	○	○	○	○
Fire retardants	○	○	○	○
Chemicals in personal care products	○	○	○	○
Chemicals in cleaning supplies	○	○	○	○
Chemicals in the workplace	○	○	○	○
Chemicals from burning trash	○	○	○	○
Chemicals from burning coal, oil or gasoline	○	○	○	○
Chemicals in drinking water	○	○	○	○
Chemicals from industrial plants or hazardous waste sites	○	○	○	○
Chemicals in food	○	○	○	○
Other chemicals you listed	○	○	○	○

Chemical Group Considered Most Important by Survey Respondents



Chemical Groups Considered Among the Four Most Important by Survey Respondents



Summary

- Public participation activities yielded valuable information and contacts for the Program – **CONTINUE THE DIALOG**
- Common themes with respect to suggestions for chemicals
  - Metals, pesticides, chemicals affect children, pharmaceuticals, hormonally active agents, persistent or bioaccumative