

DOH Bird Flu Survey Findings

March 3-31, 2025

Goal: To understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of State of Hawai'i residents who may be at increased risk of bird flu exposure to guide future Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) public health communication strategies.

Total Survey Responses: 420

Requirements to be eligible to respond:

- Be ≥18 years old
- Reside in the state of Hawai'i for ≥6 months of the year
- Have ≥1 poultry animal at home or had direct physical contact with any birds in the past year
- Consent to participate in the online, anonymous survey

OF THE

237

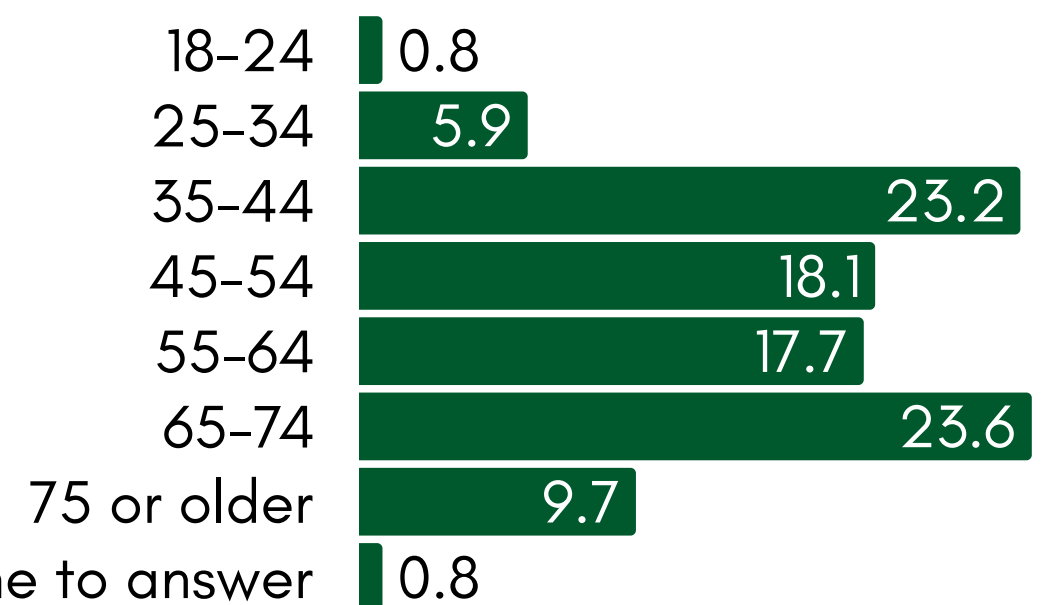
PARTICIPANTS WHO MET SURVEY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

62%

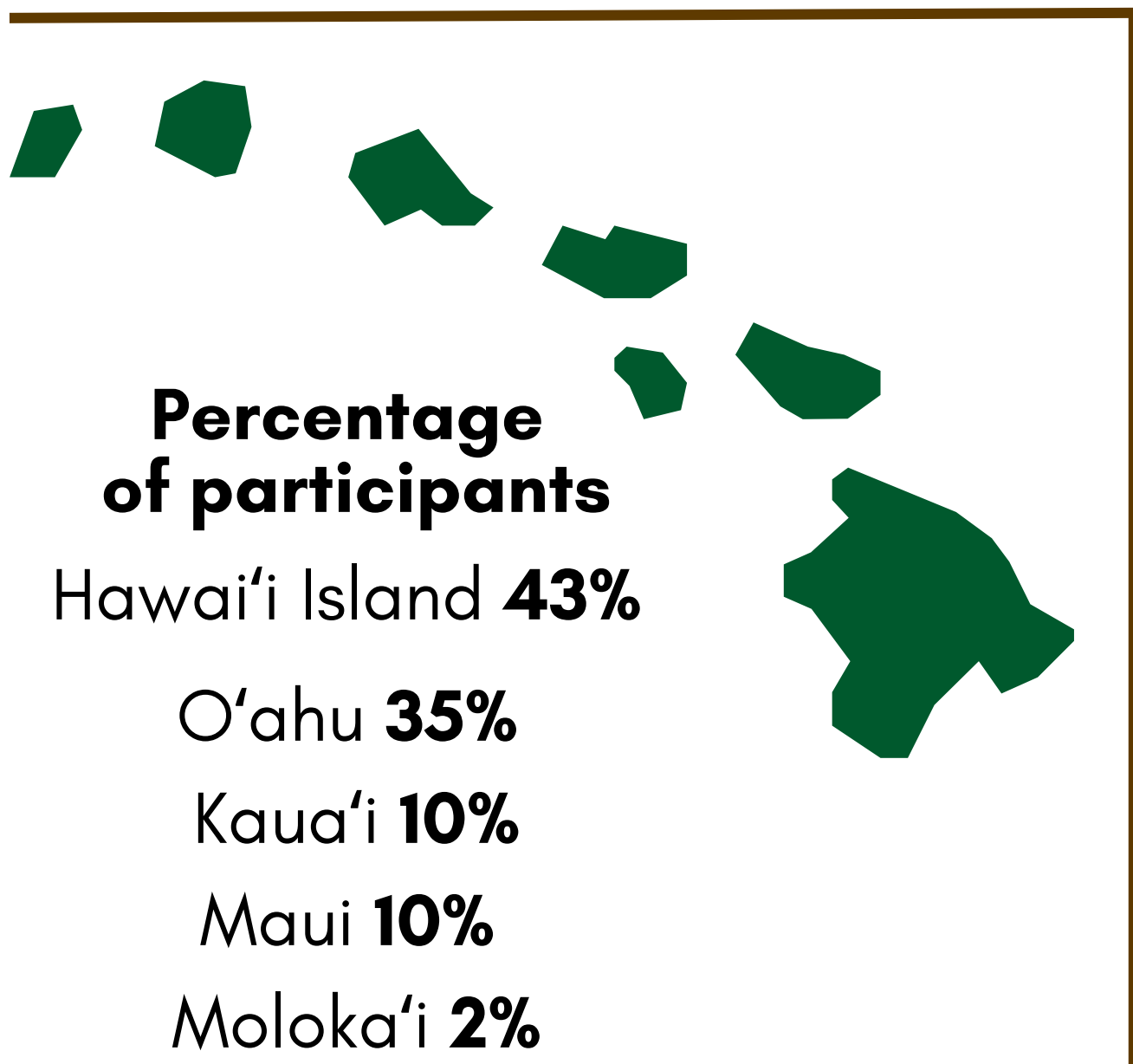
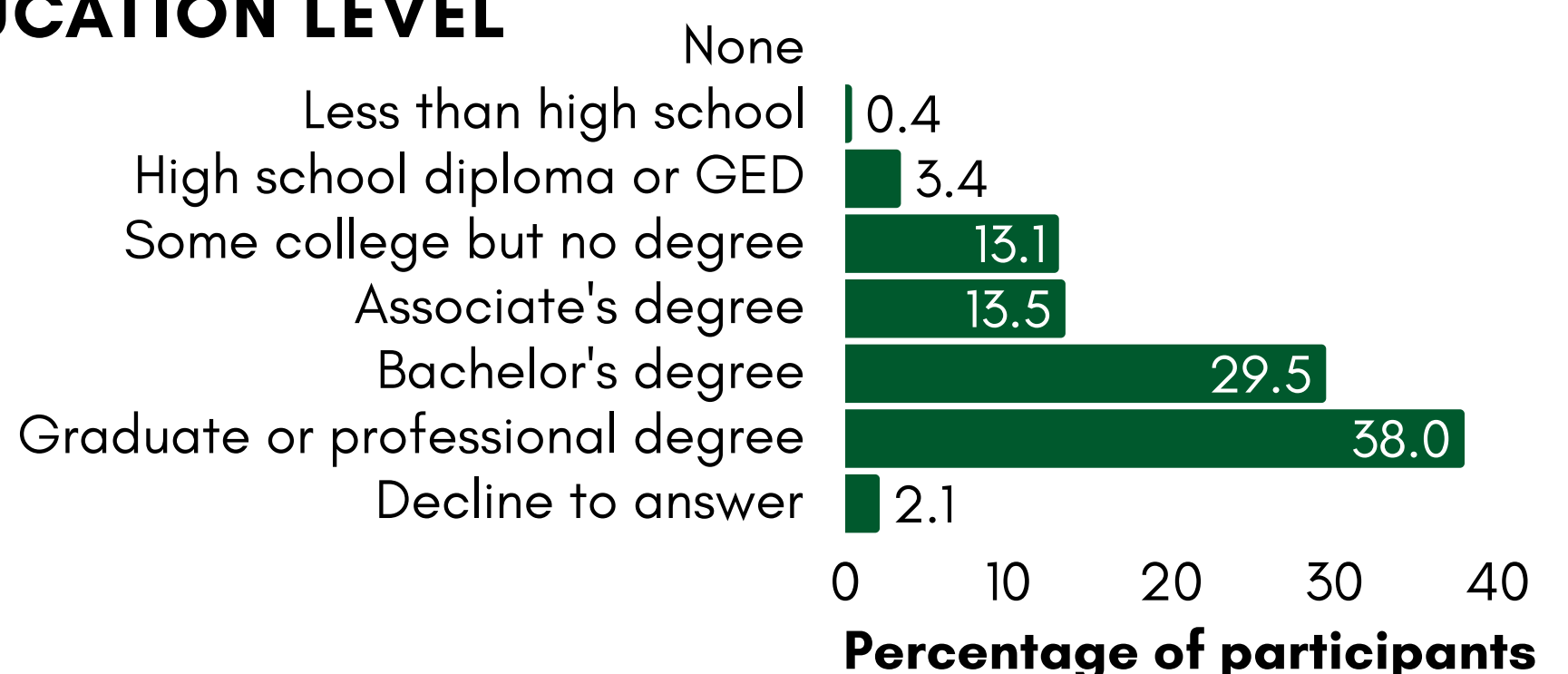
ARE FEMALE



AGE (YEARS)



EDUCATION LEVEL



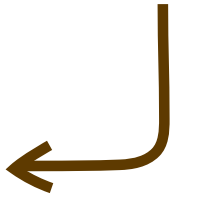
Knowledge of bird flu protective measures

Of **224 respondents** who keep backyard flocks:

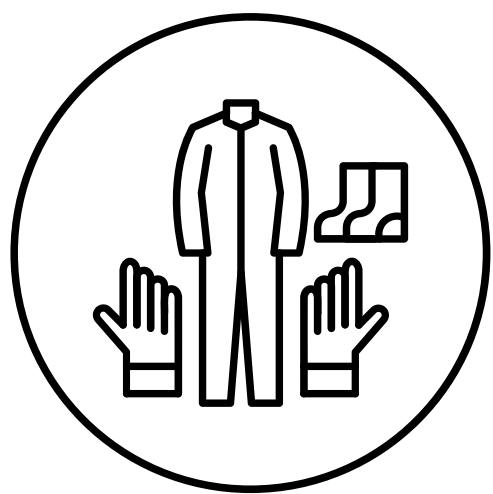
65% **were not at all familiar** with the USDA's Defend the Flock recommended practices to prevent bird flu



Click here



2/3 of respondents **don't know** how to properly and safely remove and dispose of dead birds



HOW TO REMOVE DEAD BIRDS

- Wear disposable gloves or turn a plastic bag inside out and use it to pick up the carcass
- Double-bag the carcass and throw it out with the regular trash
- Wash your hands and disinfect your clothing and shoes after handling a dead wild bird
- Be mindful of any health symptoms that may develop afterward

Of **117 respondents** who said they know what agency or organization to contact to report a group of dead birds:

27% knew to report it to DAB

20% said they would contact DOH first



Multiple or unusual illnesses in poultry, livestock, or other wild birds or animals should be reported to the **Hawai'i Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity (DAB) Animal Industry Division** at **808-483-7100**, Monday to Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or 808-837-8092 during non-business hours and holidays, or email dabice@hawaii.gov.

HOW BIRD FLU SPREADS

From Animals to Humans	Among Birds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with sick or dead birds • Handling the feces, bedding (litter), or materials that have been touched by, or close to, birds or other animals on a farm with H5N1 influenza virus infection • Consuming raw, unpasteurized, milk or dairy products from infected animals • By eating meat from infected wild animals that is not fully cooked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct, bird-to-bird contact (e.g., fecal-oral routes, saliva, feather dander) • Contaminated surfaces or materials (e.g., manure, egg flats, crates, other farming materials/equipment) • People's clothing, shoes, or hands • Consuming prey infected with avian influenza virus • Contact with virus in contaminated water bodies

BIRD FLU SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Humans	Birds: Domestic Poultry & Wildlife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough • Sore throat • Conjunctivitis ("pink eye") • Runny nose • Fatigue • Headache • Muscle ache • Diarrhea • Vomiting • Breathing difficulties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dies unexpectedly of no apparent cause • Lack of energy (lethargy) • Decreased appetite • Difficulty breathing • Discharge from the eyes or nose • Coughing • Sneezing • Twisting of the head and neck (torticollis) • Stumbling or falling down (ataxia, motor control deficits) • Runny diarrhea • Producing fewer eggs than normal • Producing discolored, irregular, soft-shelled, or misshapen eggs • Ruffled or fluffed up feathers • Tremors • Seizures • Swimming in circles (waterbirds) • Cloudy appearing eyes (due to corneal opacities)

Health information sources



76% Their Doctor



6% Hawai'i Department of Health Website



5% Online or Print News Articles

WHAT IS DOH DOING?

- **Understanding** Hawai'i residents' awareness and needs around bird flu
- **Disease surveillance:** analyzing wastewater treatment plant samples collected across all counties
- **Regular meetings** with federal, state, and local work partners to stay up-to-date on disease detections and public health guidelines

Proportion of respondents who find health information from the following sources very or somewhat trustworthy:

89% Their Doctor and Health Facilities

46% Family and Friends

84% State of Hawai'i Government Websites

36% Television

73% Other Health and Wellness Providers

18% Social Media Sources

68% Federal Government Websites

Trusted sources of health information on bird flu (click each one for more information):

63% Online or Print News Articles



For questions about the DOH Bird Flu Survey, please contact the DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division, Flu Surveillance Team at doh.flu.surveillance@doh.hawaii.gov.

Hawai'i residents who recently visited or worked on a farm in another state with known or suspected H5N1 animal infections should contact the DOH Disease Reporting Line at (808) 586-4586 for a telephone risk assessment.

