• Healthcare-associated infections due to multiply-resistant organisms cause significant morbidity and mortality in acute care settings.
• Antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASP) are one practice used to limit resistance and are especially crucial given the lack of new antimicrobials in development.
• The aim of this study is to describe the presence of ASP in a national sample of acute care hospitals and examine the engagement of Infection Preventionists (IPs) in antimicrobial stewardship activities.

**METHODS**

• In winter of 2018, we conducted an electronic survey of IPs working in acute care who are members of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).
• An initial invitation email was sent out directly by APIC and reminders were included in a weekly e-blast over a period of 6 weeks.
• Overall, 255 IPs participated in the survey.

**RESULTS**

• Majority (79%) of IPs reported the presence of an established ASP; another 13% reported that ASP activities are conducted without a formalized ASP.
• The majority (88%) reported that an IP was a member of the core ASP team.
• Few reported budgeted financial support (14%) and specific time commitment in IP job description (9%) for ASP activities.
• Half agreed that IP role in ASP is well-defined (46%) and that IPs have adequate AS knowledge to participate in ASP (59%).
• Reported barriers for IP participation in ASP included:
  • Time (41%)
  • No allocated FTE (23%)
  • No defined IP role or responsibility (20%)
  • Lack of knowledge (18%)

**CONCLUSIONS**

• This survey represents a current snapshot of the implementation of ASP policies in U.S. acute care hospitals and identifies important barriers to IP engagement in ASP activities.
• Future work should focus how best to facilitate IP participation and engagement in ASP activities.

**REFERENCES**


![Figure. ASP Activities in Place.](Image)