



International Survey Data and Results

When respondents were asked to rank their priorities among these four choices for a biosecurity ethic this was the response:

1. Laboratory research and clinical laboratories biologics
2. Emerging Infectious Diseases Control
3. Bioterrorism or intentional use of biological agents to cause harm
4. GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)

And . . .

When respondents were asked what was the biggest impediment to global biosecurity, choosing only one among these choices, they responded with this ranking:

- First ranked**
 ___ lack of training and information
- Second ranked (both equally)**
 ___ the unique challenges of regulating living and/or infectious biological materials
 ___ the rapid advancement of biotechnologies in the world
- Last ranked**
 ___ lack of interest from governments

And . . .

About one half of the respondents said that their countries had either or both a biosafety or biosecurity code.

Correlation?

The respondents from countries with NO biosecurity or biosafety codes were 20% more likely to rank "lack of training and information" as their "biggest impediment to global biosecurity".

Global Survey Question about the Objective of the BWTC:
 Do you think we should be concerned that there are currently offensive biological weapons activities?

- 88.6 % responded "YES"
- 7.5 % responded "NO"
- 3.9 % no response

Survey : Biosecurity Codes and Ethics BWC Participants 2009

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BACKGROUND:

The Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC), signed in 1972, in 2005 the efforts of the States parties to the Treaty began to focus on biosafety and biosecurity codes. A series of expert meetings on this topic have been held, leading up to the 2011 Seventh Review Conference.

METHODOLOGY:

The survey response rate is 20%.
 53 respondents completed surveys from among approximately 250 delegates and non-delegate attendees. A survey of priorities, opinions about impediments and concerns was conducted August 27, 2009, a day of the United Nations Meeting of Experts.

This is the highest return rate for any survey ever administered to the BTWC representatives at a UN-BWC meeting. The analysis can be informative for considering policy implications.

SUMMARY:

The anonymous survey of delegates of the BWC about their priorities for a code of ethics in biosecurity as it relates to the goals of the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention can inform delegates regarding potential policy implications.

The survey is designed to determine:

- (1) Priorities for a biosecurity ethic.
- (2) Impediments to global biosecurity.
- (3) How countries have biosafety or biosecurity codes ?
- (4) Are there any useful correlations for informing policy choices?

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS:

There is a clear need for "training and information" with regard to biosafety and biosecurity codes of conduct, particularly for countries which have not yet adopted codes of conduct for biosafety and biosecurity. This might also include training to recognize potential offensive biological weapons activities within their jurisdictions.

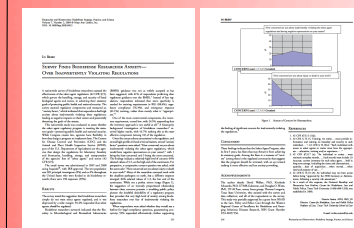
Half of the nations still lack a biosafety or biosecurity code, suggesting a focus on providing legal and scientific advice to these nations.

There is nearly unanimous agreement that we should be concerned about current offensive biological weapons activities, suggesting the continuing importance of the BTWC.



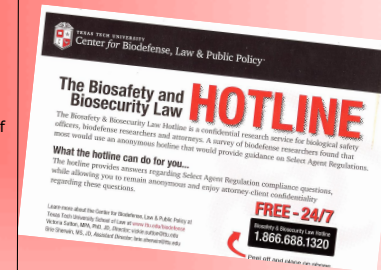
United States Survey Data and Results on Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity Regulations

A nationwide survey of biodefense researchers about their opinions and perceptions concerning the select agent regulations, 42 CFR §73, and other regulations and the effectiveness of these rules in achieving their regulatory goals of national security and protecting public health, was conducted from September 2007 through August 1, 2008.



These findings of researcher anxiety with compliance was cited by the White House in the support of President Obama's Executive Order, July 2, 2010.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/07/02/presidential-order-balances-security-and-scientific-enterprise>



In response to the survey results this resource was created for biosafety professionals, lawyers and staff:



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