2020-2021 National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) Graduate Degree Programs Outcome Assessment Report

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I. Introduction

This report details analysis of the data provided by former Graduates of programs seeking reaccreditation during the 2020-2021 academic year.

II. Background

The EHAC Graduate Guidelines Section VII. Accreditation Process states:

1. The institution must follow the process shown below to have its master's program in environmental health science and protection be considered for accreditation.
    - The Council will consider accreditation of an environmental health science and protection program, following an annual schedule, upon
        - request by the program administrator,
        - submittal of the Program Self-study with supporting materials, and
        - receipt of application for accreditation fee.
    - At the time of re-accreditation, programs shall survey program graduates and employers via EHAC's online outcome assessment survey tool. All graduates since the last accreditation shall be in the pool of those to be surveyed. The survey is conducted via a link that is provided by the EHAC office to the Program Director of programs seeking re-accreditation. We ask that the Program Director send the instructions for accessing the survey to graduates. The deadline for graduate and supervisor responses is **six months prior** to the annual meeting of the EHAC Council which is usually held in June. The exact deadline will be provided in the survey instructions. The survey results will be compiled by the EHAC office. Survey results will be made available to Program Directors before the EHAC annual meeting.

      The outcome assessment tool consists of two surveys conducted through surveymonkey.com, one for graduates and the other for their supervisors. It is distributed to the reaccreditation candidate Program Directors for distribution to their graduates. The graduates then provide the supervisor survey link to their supervisors.

III. Survey context and Summary

EHAC's core mission is to accredit Environmental Health (EH) Degree Programs that provide a scientifically rigorous and practical based education, which prepares graduates to enter the EH field "work force ready" and prepared to problem solve using critical thinking skills acquired during their university education. Toward this end, EHAC is continuously identifying strengths and weaknesses related to graduates successfully entering and progressing in the EH field of their choice. Survey responses from both graduates employed in the EH field (employees) and their supervisors assist EHAC in assessing and adapting Undergraduate Requirements and Graduate Guidelines for accreditation to the ever-evolving arena of Environmental Health.

Questions for both employees and their supervisors focus on assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of an employee's knowledge, skills and abilities related to their EH job, with employees conducting self-assessments and supervisors evaluating their current employees.

The following report provides a graphic representation of the results of employee surveys only, as only one Supervisor responded, but did not complete the survey.

Table 1 presents the five EHAC accredited Graduate Degree Program going through the 2020-2021 reaccreditation process, the number of employee responses and their dates of graduation. Five total former Graduate respondents to the survey. Three respondents are currently employed in EH related professions and are the focus of this report.

Table 1. 2020-2021 Outcome Assessment Respondents

Re-accreditation Applicants	Next Accreditation Review	Initial Accreditation Year	Graduating Classes Reflected	Number of Employee Respondents (working in the EH field)	Number of Supervisor Respondents
Fort Valley State University – Graduate EH Degree Program	2021	2015	2016, 2017	3	0
Totals				**3**	**0**

IV. Employee Survey Results

A. Employee Skills

Charts 1-3 present employee self-assessments of general job skills, interpersonal office skills and skills related to interpreting data. All employees rate themselves as proficient, very proficient, or most proficient in these categories.

Chart 4 presents employee assessment of competency in EH special areas. Employees rate themselves most highly in the EH Specialty areas of Risk Management and Communication, followed by Risk Assessment, Toxicology and Epidemiology.

Chart 1.

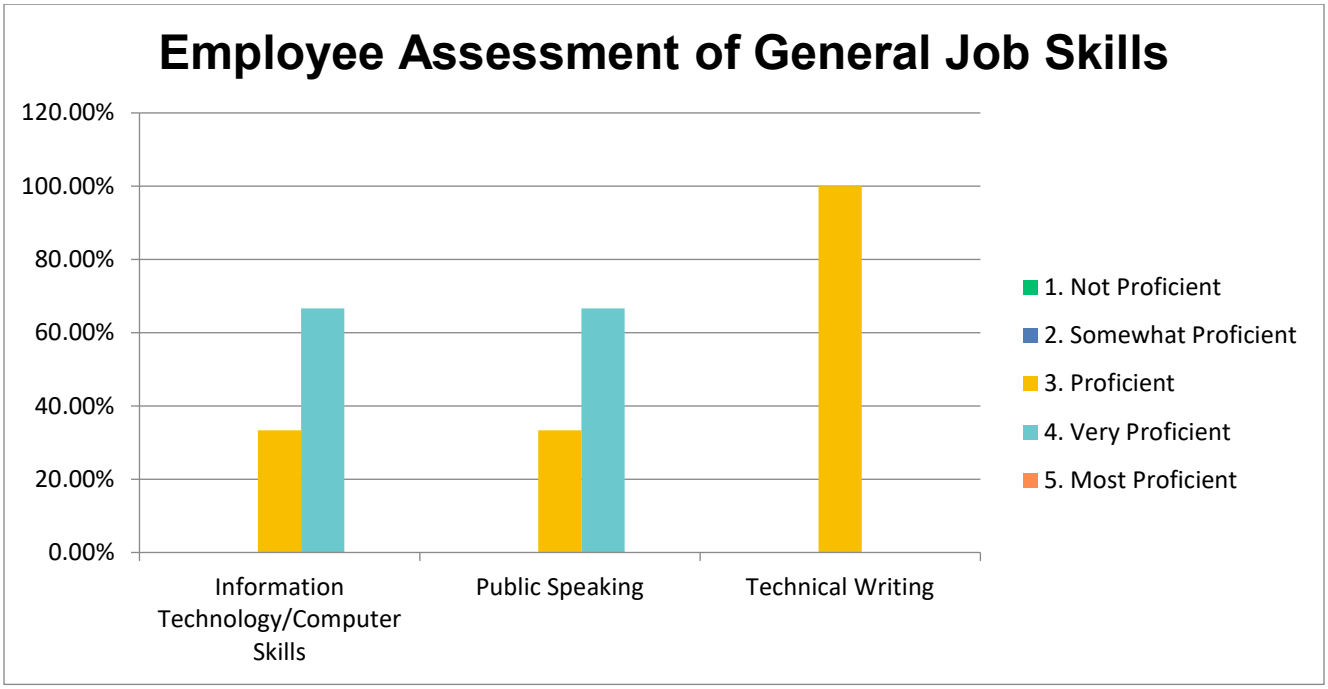


Chart 2.

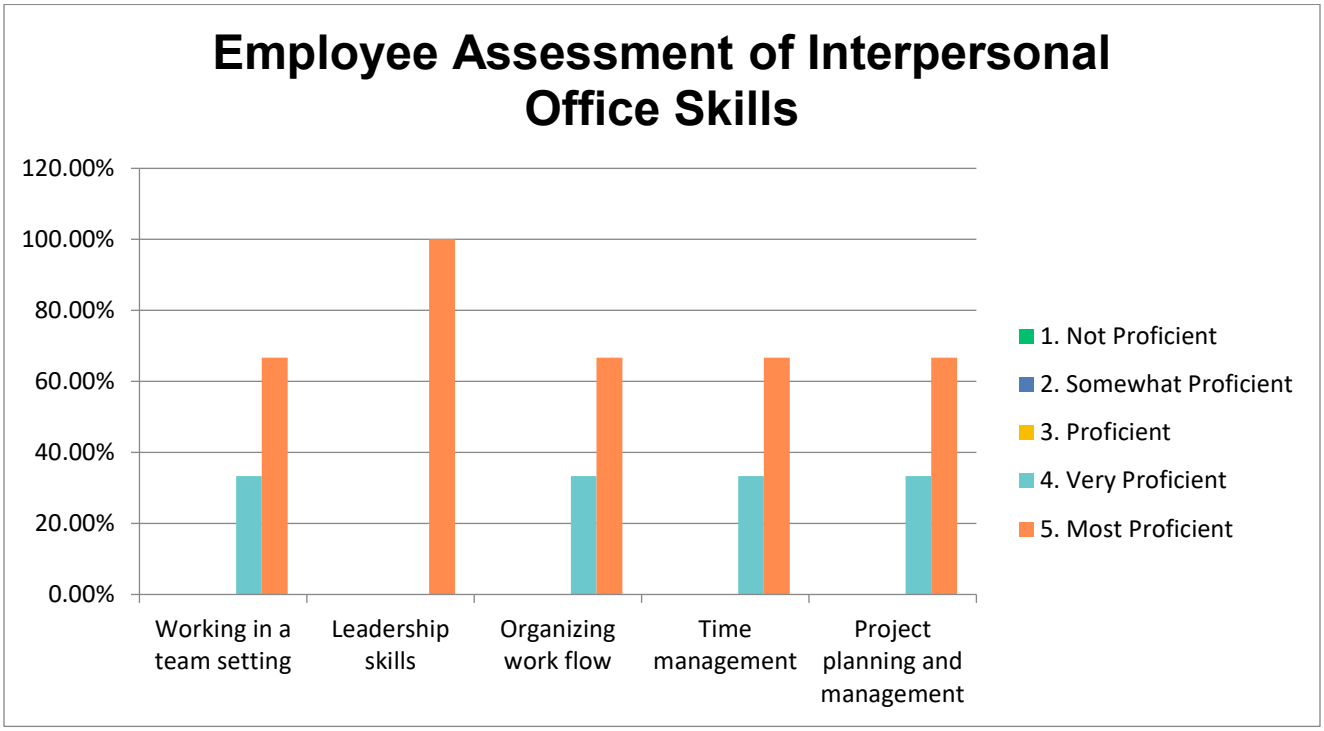


Chart 3.

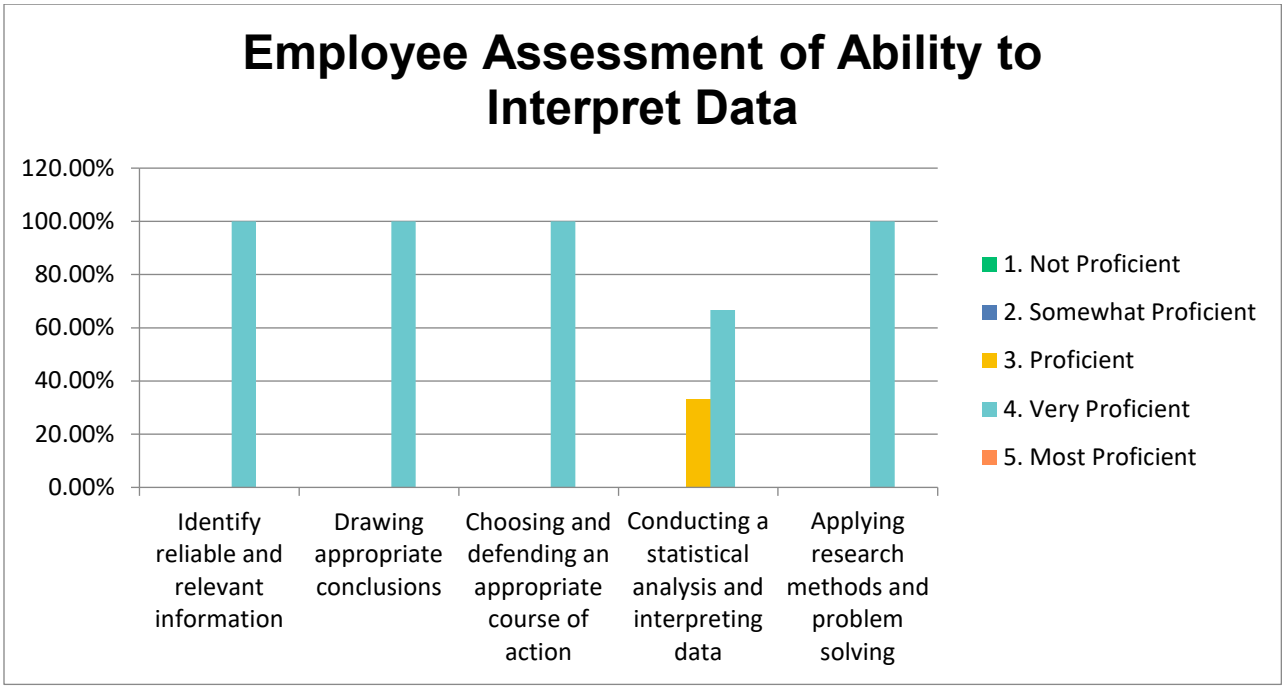
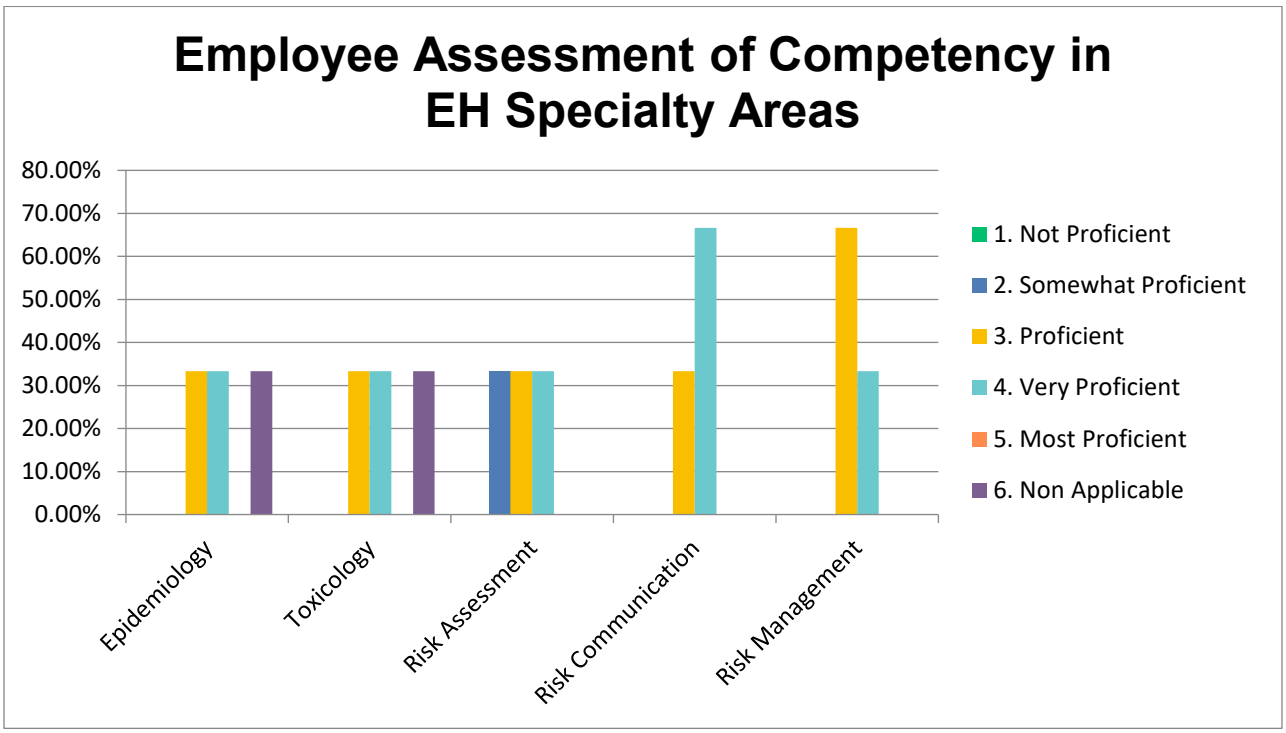


Chart 4.



B. Course Relevance

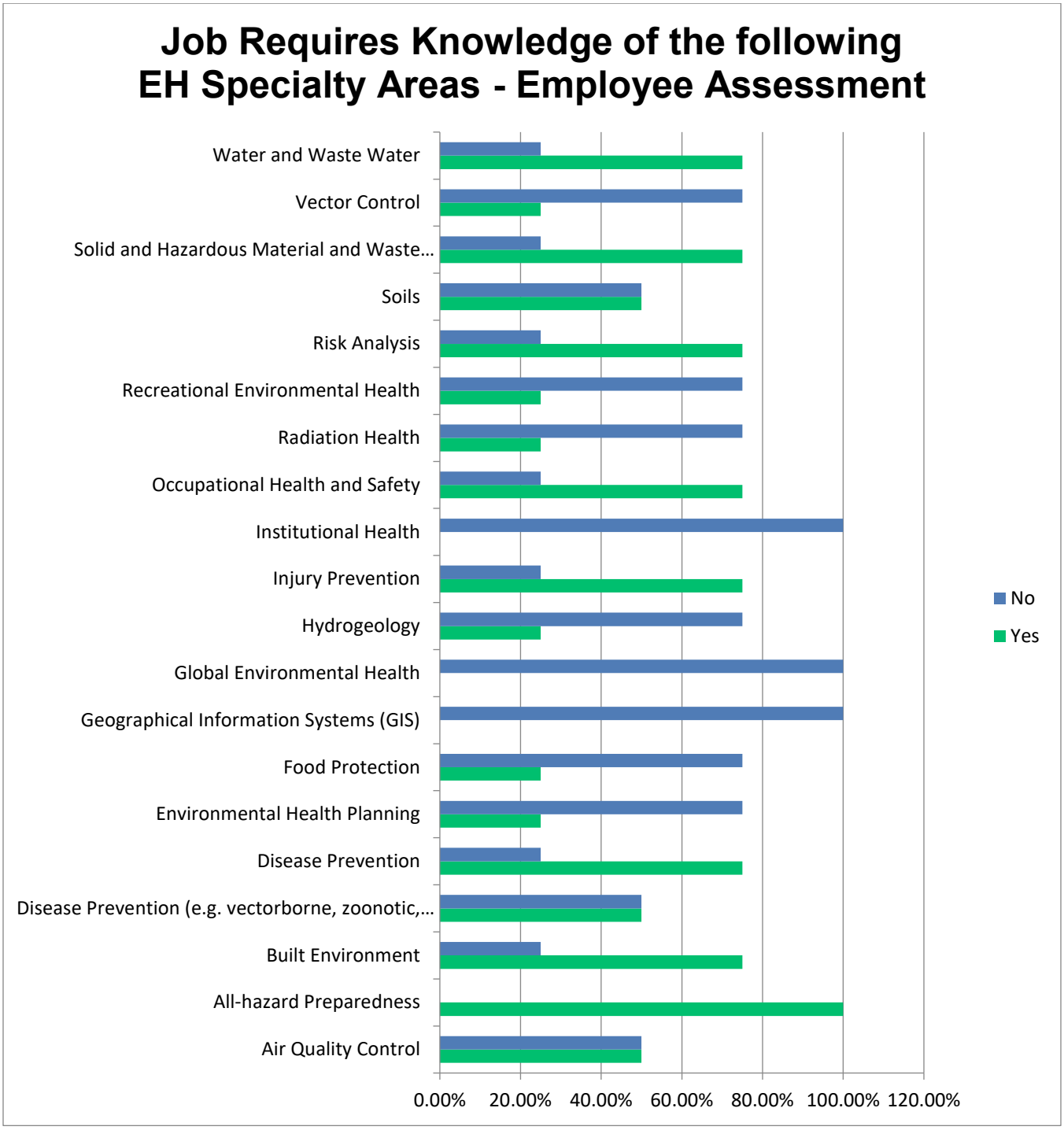
Employee respondents were asked to answer yes or no if their job requires knowledge in a number of EH practice areas (Chart 5). The EH specialty areas cited as necessary by at least 50% of employees include:

- Air Quality Control;
- All-hazard Preparedness;
- Built Environment;
- Disease Prevention
- Disease Prevention (e.g., vectorborne, zoonotic);
- Injury Prevention;
- Occupational Health and Safety;
- Risk Analysis;
- Soils;
- Solid and Hazardous Material and Waste Management; and
- Water and Waste Water.

Knowledge was less necessary and cited by 30% or less of survey respondents in the following EH Specialty areas:

- Environmental Health Planning;
- Food Protection;
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS);
- Global Environmental Health
- Hydrogeology;
- Radiation Health
- Recreational Environmental Health; and
- Vector Control.

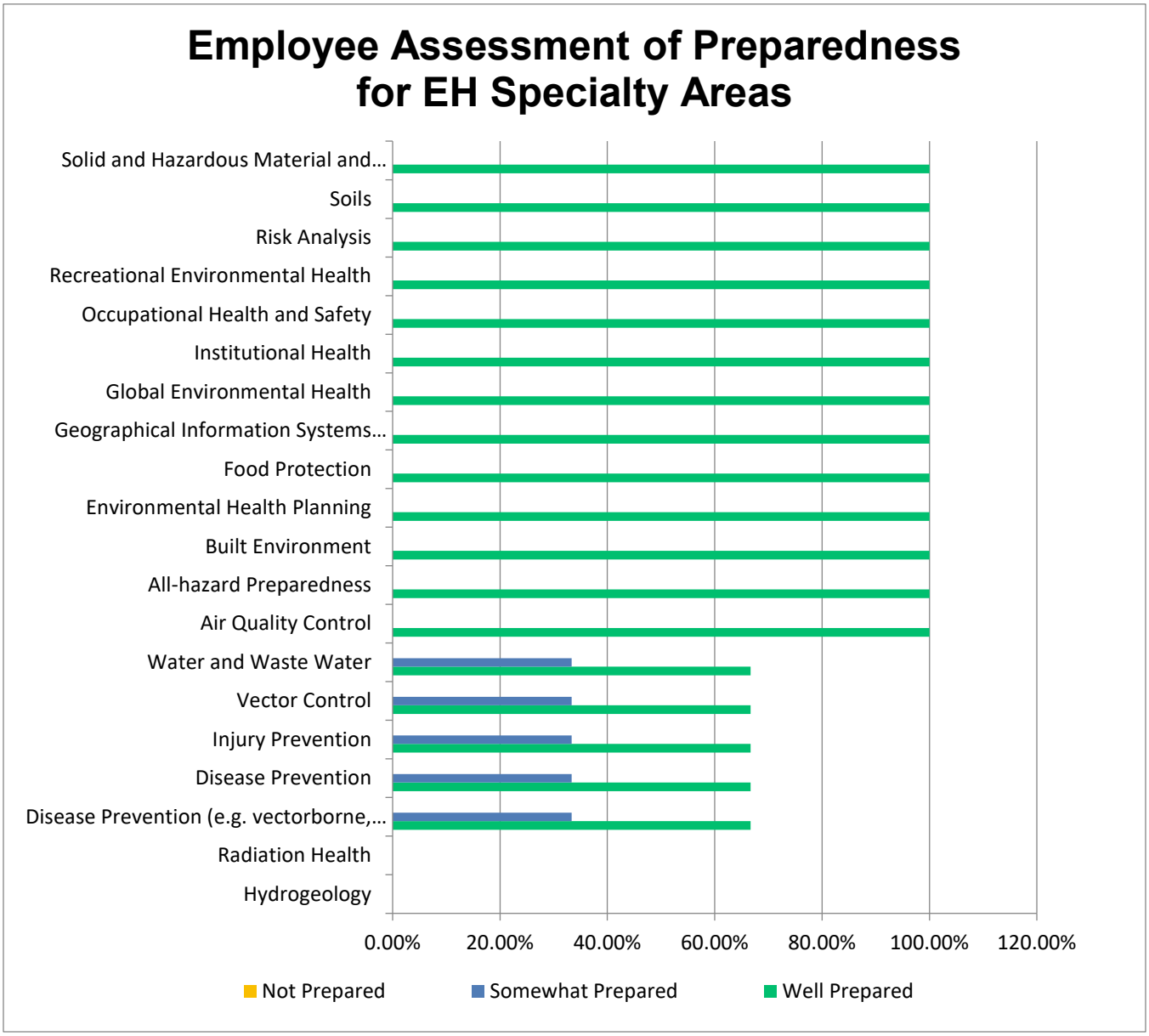
Chart 5.


Job Requires Knowledge of the following EH Specialty Areas - Employee Assessment
Water and Waste Water
Vector Control
Solid and Hazardous Material and Waste...
Soils
Risk Analysis
Recreational Environmental Health
Radiation Health
Occupational Health and Safety
Institutional Health
Injury Prevention
Hydrogeology
Global Environmental Health
Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
Food Protection
Environmental Health Planning
Disease Prevention
Disease Prevention (e.g. vectorborne, zoonotic,...
Built Environment
All-hazard Preparedness
Air Quality Control
0.00%
20.00%
40.00%
60.00%
80.00%
100.00%
120.00%
No
Yes

C. Specialty Area Program Preparation

Employee respondents were asked to answer yes or no if they were well-prepared in the following EH specialty areas by their graduate degree programs. All of respondents report being well Prepared or Somewhat Prepared for all specialty areas except hydrogeology and radiation health (Chart 6). Hydrogeology and radiation were reported as not relevant to respondents employment.

Chart 6.



D. Employee Workplace Data

As previously mentioned, three respondents are currently employed in the Environmental Health field. Respondents work in the following sectors of the EH field:

- Non Profit Organizations;
- Local or Federal Government Agencies; and
- Educational Institutions.

Employees report working in Food Protection Water and Waste Water and Admissions at an educational institution.

Two employees report making $30 to $40,000 per year, while a third employee reports an annual salary of less than $20,000 a year.

E. Employee Data on Continuing Education and Professional Development

No respondents report having achieved a Master's Degree, although one respondent is currently pursuing a Master's Degree.

F. Professional Recognition

No professional recognitions were reported by respondents, while one employee reports receiving an academic award in 2017.

G. Credentials Achieved

No credentials were reported by respondents.

V. Supervisor Survey Results

No Supervisors surveys were completed.