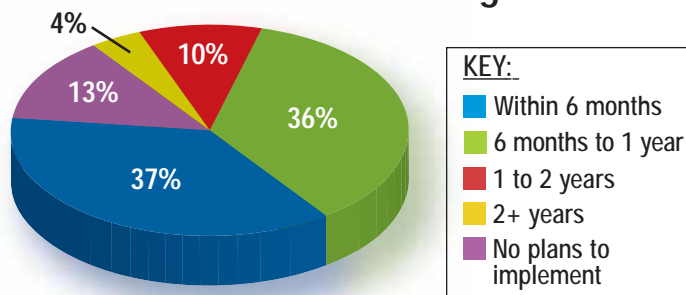


Environmental Monitoring



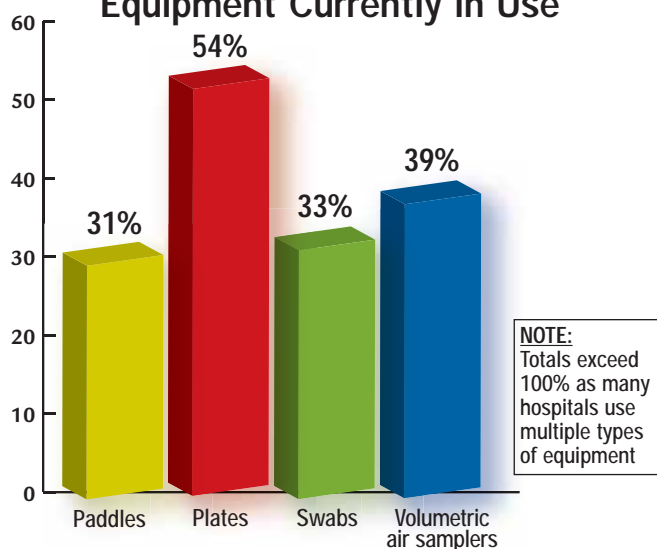
Projected Implementation of Environmental Monitoring Plans



62% of hospitals currently have a monitoring plan in place, and of those without one, 87% plan to implement one in the near future.

Environmental monitoring is another area where a lot of change is occurring, providing opportunities for improvement. The majority of monitoring is being done by pharmacy (66%), with outsourced providers (20%) and laboratory (9%) in distant second and third place. Pharmacy departments performing their own monitoring report somewhat higher satisfaction with their processes (82%) than those using outsourced providers and the lab (satisfaction rates of 74% and 79%, respectively). Most pharmacies conducting their own monitoring activities utilize laboratory department incubators (61%), rather than their own (34%).

Equipment Currently in Use



NOTE: Totals exceed 100% as many hospitals use multiple types of equipment

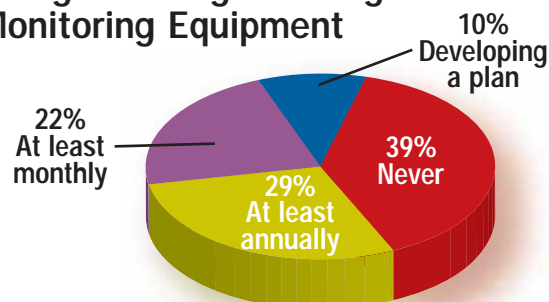
Hospitals report using a variety of equipment to conduct their environmental monitoring. Of note are volumetric air samplers, which enjoy a 39% adoption rate.

Satisfaction with Current Processes



Dissatisfaction is reported by 28% of respondents, and only 13% rate their processes as excellent, suggesting there is room for improvement in this area.

Conducting Challenge Testing on Monitoring Equipment



Challenge testing of monitoring equipment on a dirty surface is being conducted by 68% of institutions. While 39% of institutions are not conducting challenge tests, another 10% are in process of developing a plan, again demonstrating the change that is occurring in environmental monitoring.

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