

# MODULE ONE (continued)

---

## BED BUGS: HISTORY, RESURGENCE AND HEALTH CONCERNS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

CITY OF ABILENE



# IMPACT OF BED BUGS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

**Bed Bugs are not known to transmit diseases, i.e., not a VECTOR (mosquito, flea, tick).**

**They are a PEST (i.e., fire ant, wasp, cricket) of significant public health importance.**

**Feed on human blood.**



**Bed Bugs cause a variety of negative physical health, mental health and economic consequences.**

**Many people have mild to severe allergic reactions to the bites with effects ranging from no reaction to a small bite mark.**



**In rare cases, anaphylaxis occurs (severe, whole-body reaction.)**



**Bites can also lead to secondary infections of the skin such as impetigo, ecthyma, and lymphangitis.**



**Bed Bugs may also affect the mental health of people living in infested homes.**

**Reported effects include anxiety, insomnia and systemic reactions.**

---



# **Bed Bug Infestations are an Economical Burden on Society:**

---

- **Losses from Health Care Costs**
- **Lost Wages**
- **Lost Revenue**
- **Lost Productivity**



**When a community starts to experience Bed Bug infestations, control is often more challenging because:**

- Local public health departments have very limited resources to combat this problem and Bed Bugs frequently are not seen as a priority.**
- Municipal codes struggle to identify those responsible for control of Bed Bug infestations.**
- Tenants and landlords often dispute who is ultimately responsible for the cost of control and treatment.**

- **Treatment costs are high and transient populations make it difficult or impossible to assign responsibility**

---

- **Pesticide resistance and limited choices make treatment even more difficult. Some Bed Bug populations are resistant to almost all pesticides registered to treat them**

---

- **Pesticide misuse is also a public health concern**

# RESOURCES

**“Joint Statement on Bed Bug Control in the United States from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),”**  
**[www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Bed\\_Bugs\\_CDC-BPA\\_Statement.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Bed_Bugs_CDC-BPA_Statement.htm)**

**“Bed Bugs 101—History & Resurgence,”**  
**[www.bedbugcentral.com/bedbugs101/topic.cfm/history-resurgence](http://www.bedbugcentral.com/bedbugs101/topic.cfm/history-resurgence)**

**“Bed Bugs—Public Health Sanitation Program,” Texas Department of State Health Services,**  
**<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/phs/bedbugs.aspx>.**