

# Northeastern IPM Center Partnership Grant Impacts



## Assessing and Controlling House Mouse Infestations in Multi-family Dwellings (2020)

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### THE NEED

- In the U.S., the house mouse is one of the most common indoor pests, with significant public health implications.
- House mice cause significant losses to human food through direct feeding and food contamination.
- **Current house mouse management is not effective.**



Tight social networks can exist within a space as small as 2 m. Dynamic nests, along with human resources such as food, shelter, and water, allow carrying capacities to be high. Photo: S. Sked & C. Wang.



Rodents such as mice carry diseases, bite, destroy property, may cause fires, and trigger asthma and allergies. Photo: Ed Freytag, City of New Orleans, Bugwood.org.

### IMPACTS

- A housing authority (Linden in New Jersey) who adopted the house mouse IPM program **reduced their house mouse infestations by at least 80%** and **lowered the need for placing rodenticides in apartments.**
- **Chocolate spread was preferred over commercially available bait matrices.** Building-wide monitoring, using novel attractants, is necessary to target treatments for effective management of house mice in multi-family buildings.



Bait layout in a Protecta EVO bait station. Photo: S. Sked & C. Wang.



A bait station placed beside the stove in a kitchen. Photo: S. Sked & C. Wang.



A bait station with two toxic baits and three dollops of chocolate spread. Photo: S. Sked & C. Wang.



A TrapRite box with two snap traps for determining house mouse elimination after treatment. Photo: S. Sked & C. Wang.

### WEBSITES

[www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/the-ipm-toolbox/reducing-pest-infestations-in-multifamily-housing-research-updates-on-mice-and-cockroaches/](http://www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/the-ipm-toolbox/reducing-pest-infestations-in-multifamily-housing-research-updates-on-mice-and-cockroaches/)