



# Community-wide Fire Ant Management Showcase Programs



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MOUNT PLEASANT  
HOUSING AUTHORITY









# Mount Pleasant Housing Authority

- **120 units (2, 3 and 4-plexes) on 22 total acres**
- **Residents: 80% elderly or disabled  
20% low income families**
- **Surveys conducted:**
  - **Fire ant mound counts**
  - **Native ant bait vials**
  - **Interviews with residents**
- **Press conference w/local media and dignitaries**
- **Treatments applied September 17, 1998**

# Supported Fire Ant Management Plan

From the Office of the Fire Ant...

...of ...

Fire Management ...



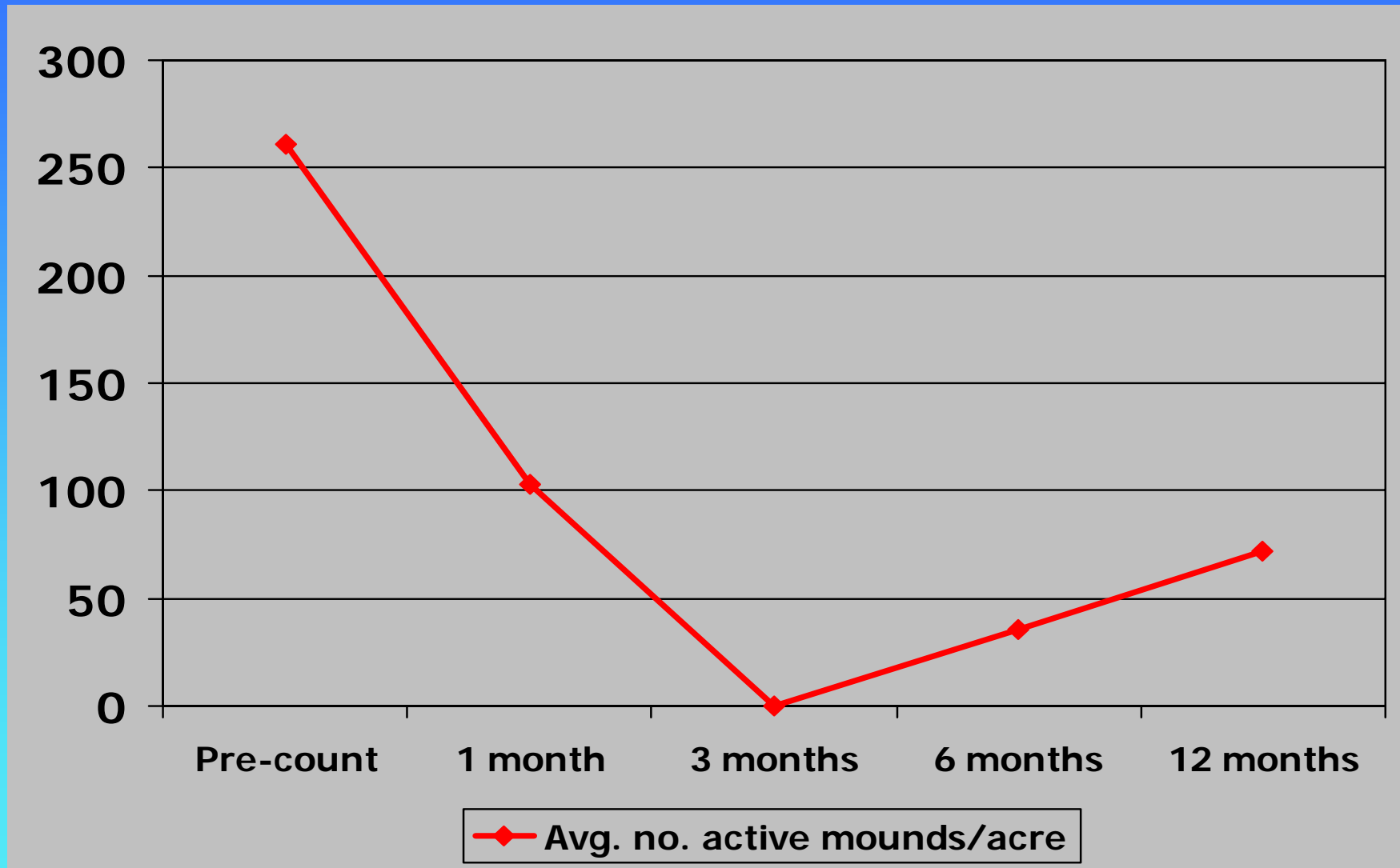
...and ...

...of ...





# Fire Ant Mound Numbers - The Actual Problem

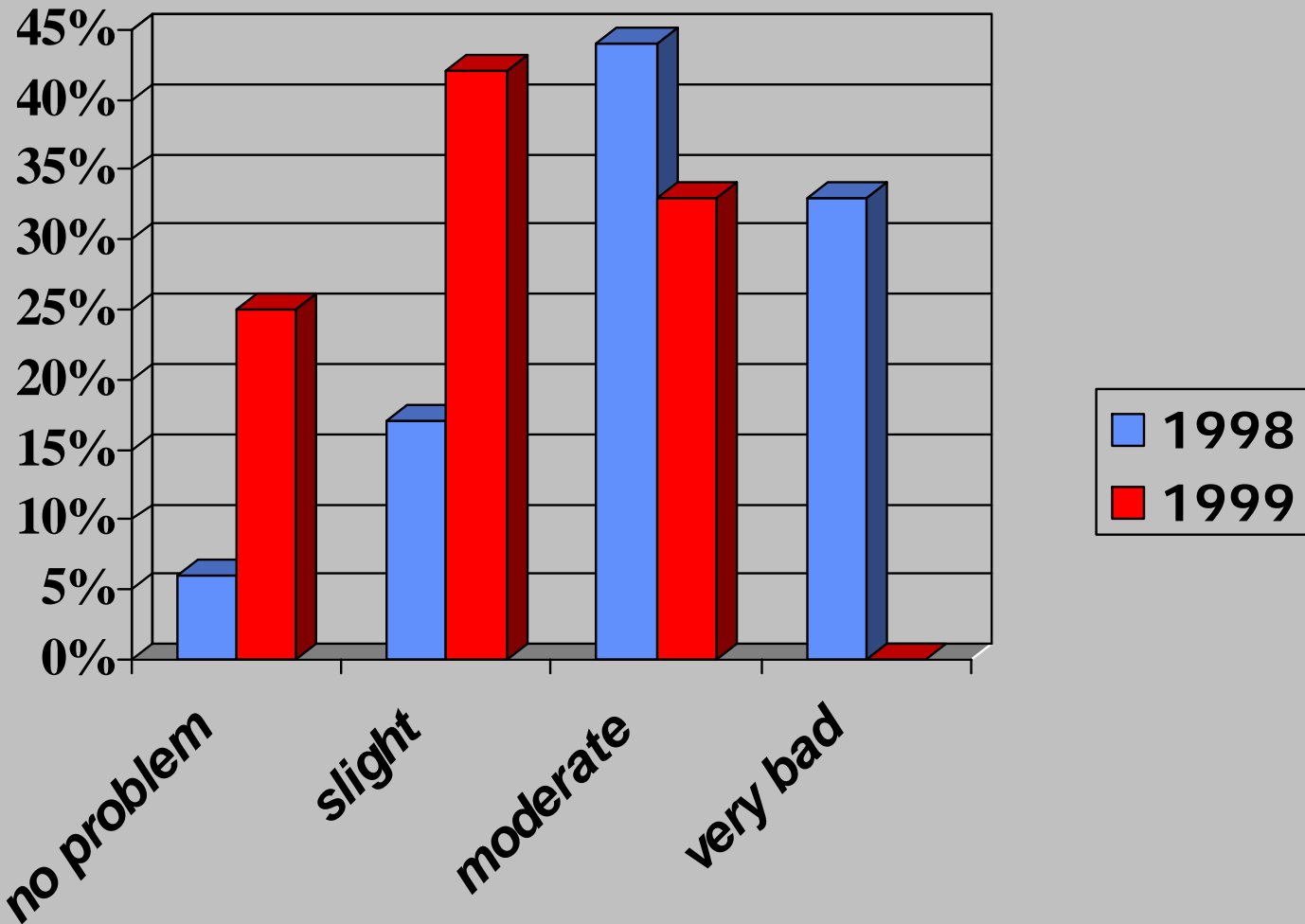




# Resident Interviews

**“How big a problem are fire ants  
in this neighborhood?”**

# Resident's Opinion of the Problem



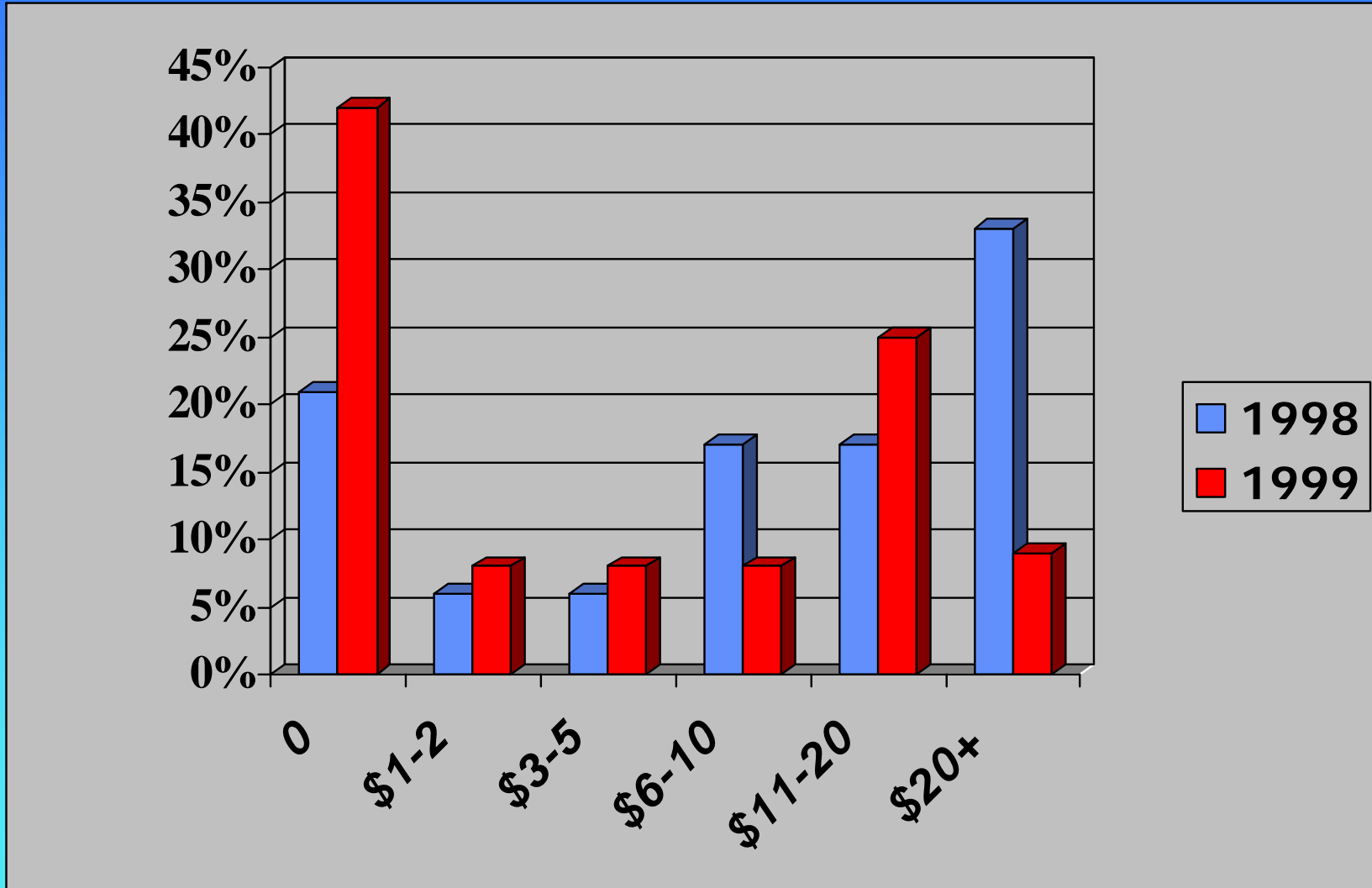


# Resident Interviews

“About how much do you spend  
per year *controlling* fire ants now?”

# Resident's Reaction to the Problem

## Annual Expenditure on Fire Ant Pesticide

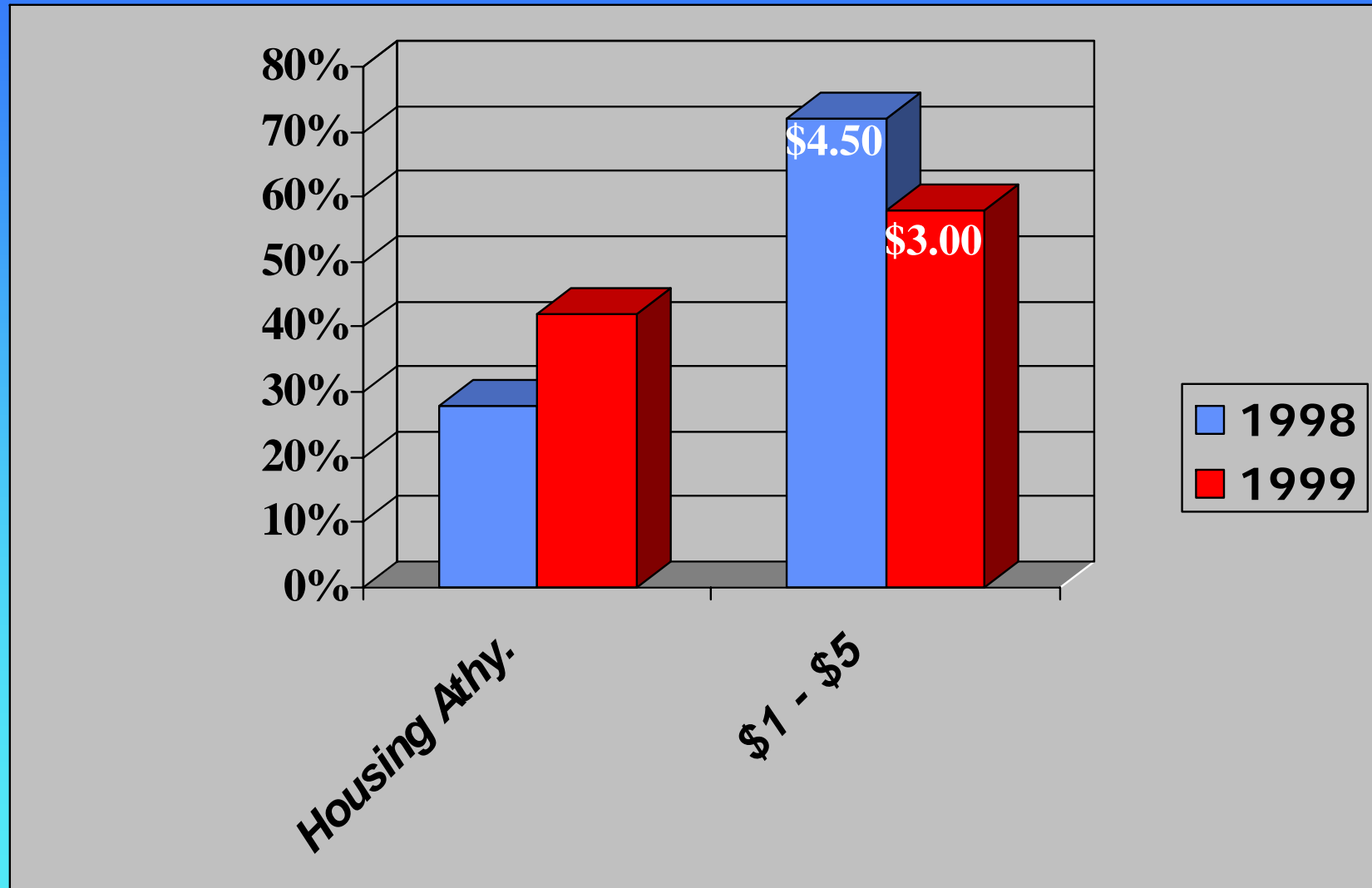




## Resident Interviews

**“... How much would you be willing to pay per year if everyone else in the neighborhood paid the same amount?”**  
**[For a community-wide treatment]**

# Acceptance of Community-wide Management





# Summary

- Treatments yielded 100% control in 3 months and maintained 70% control for 1 year
- On a scale of 0 - 3 (none to very bad), resident average opinion of the fire ant problem dropped from 2.1 to 1.1
- Average per unit expenditure dropped from \$12.50 in 1998 to \$7.08 in 1999.
- Treatments were made with < 25 lbs of product. At ~ \$8.00/lb, that comes to less than \$1.50 per unit were a plan to be implemented.



## **A Happy Ending**

**Due mainly to resident physical disability and low income, acceptance of community-wide fire ant management was lukewarm. However . . .**

**The Department of Housing and Urban Development has changed their fund allocation system. The complex manager is planning to use part of the money to not only make treatments, but also purchase a bait spreader and utility vehicle.**