

Panel discussion

# **How does water quality affect health in rural communities?**

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Brad Garmon

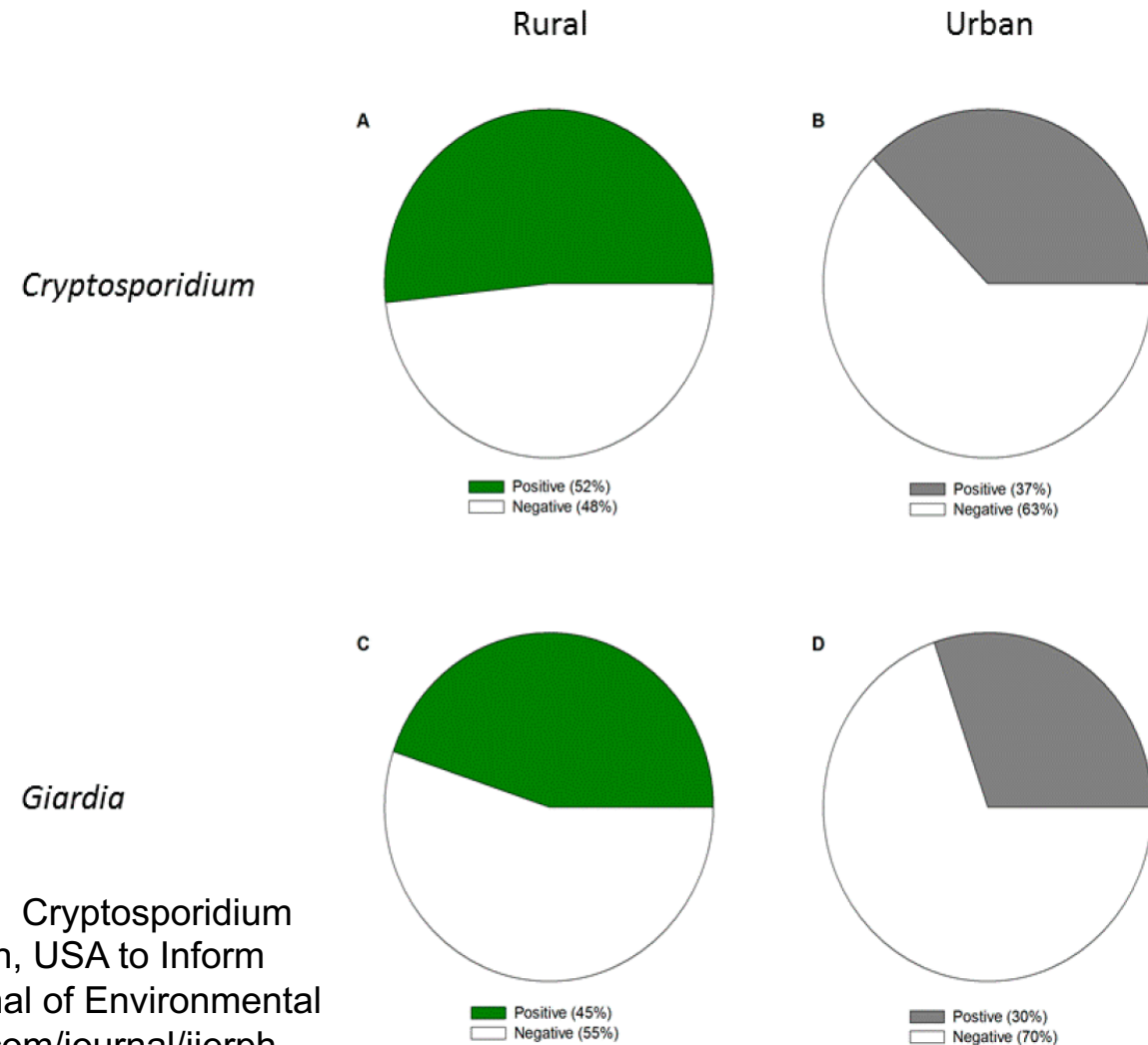
Director, Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation  
Industry

Rob Sisson:

Commissioner, International Joint Commission

**Figure 4.** Percent of positive samples for (A) *Cryptosporidium* at rural sites (n = 29), (B) *Cryptosporidium* at urban sites (n = 51), (C) *Giardia* at rural sites (n = 29), and (D) *Giardia* at urban sites (n = 33). Samples were collected across Michigan from 2004–2014 from both surface and groundwater sites.

Rural areas had a higher incidence of disease compared to urban areas based on the total number of disease cases



# Panel Discussion

- Outbreak data tell us ground water and small communities are more at risk of waterborne disease yet outbreaks are only the tip of the iceberg (the plane crashes). There are obvious links. If we don't monitor we don't know.
- How well are we monitoring health in our rural communities both the population and health of the environment?
- What do we need to do better? And how might we do this?
- Do you have some recommendations?
- Do you have some examples we can learn from?