

SE Mn Beekeepers Association

2016/2017 Overwinter Success Survey

Chris Schad

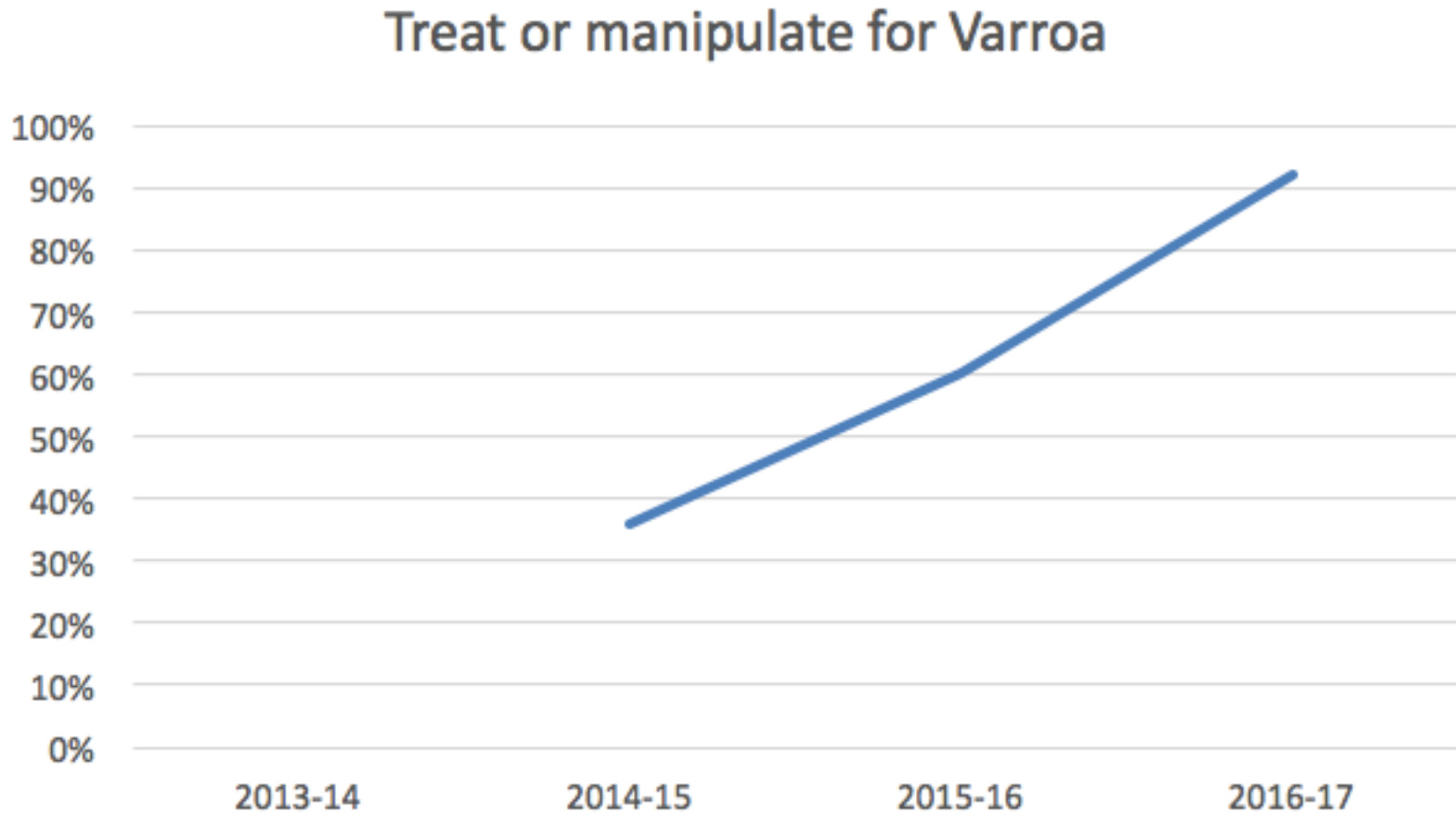
Summary of Data

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Respondents	43	68	102	101
Total Colonies	176	260	372	441
Ave Colonies	4.1	3.8	3.6	4.4
Loss Rate	60%	58%	46%	55%
BIP Winter Loss Rate*	23%	22%	27%	22%
Jan Ave Winter Low Temp**	-4F	10F	8F	13F

* Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>)

** Just for fun, data is otherwise meaningless!

“Do you treat or manipulate for Varroa?”



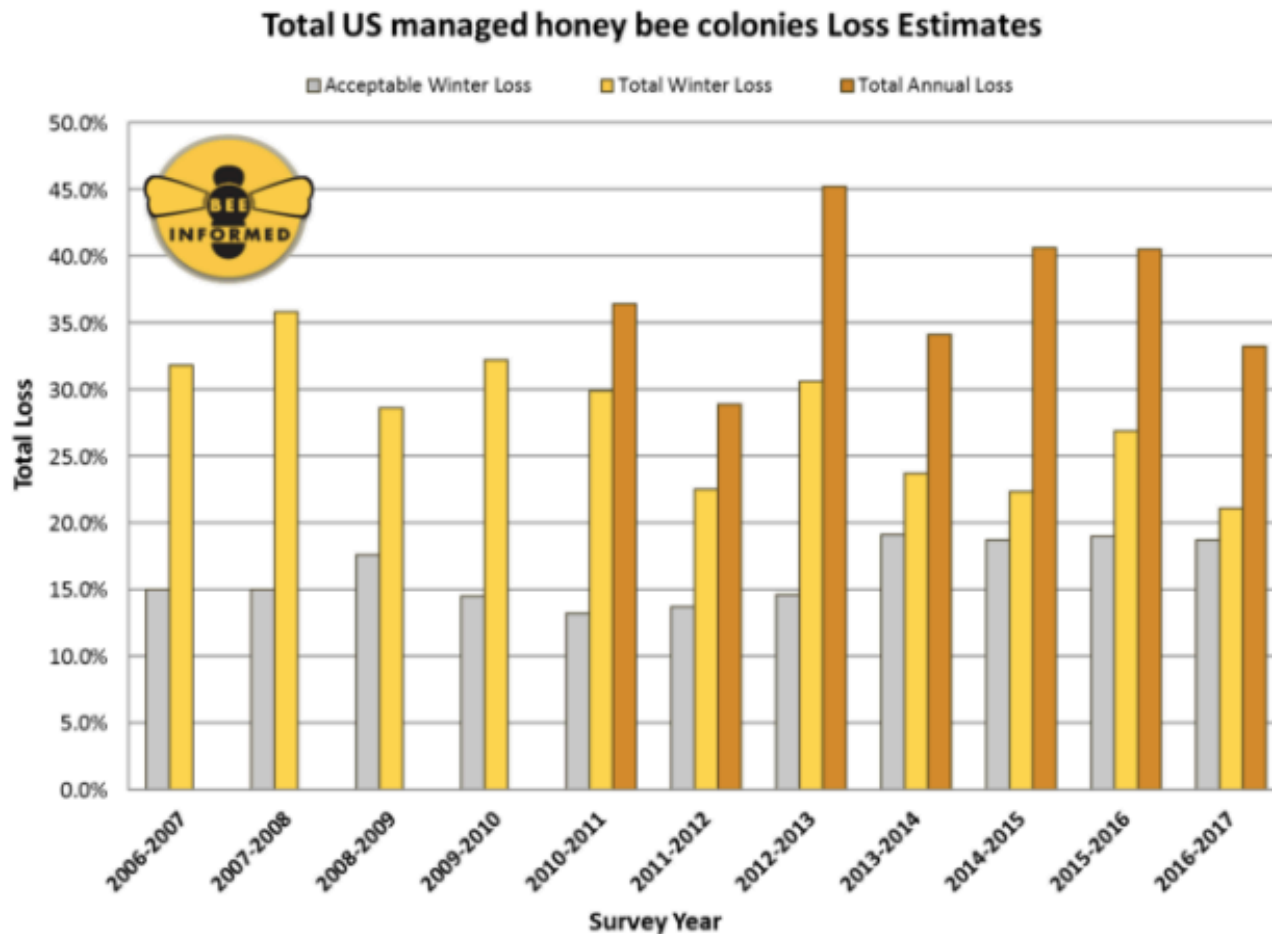
Varroa Treatments

Mite Treatments/Manipulations	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Apivar	10%	15%	11%
HopGuard	11%	8%	3%
MiteAwayQS (Thymol)	9%	19%	28%
Apilife Var	2%	2%	3%
OA Dribble/Vapor	0%	36%	36%
Apistan	9%	0%	2%
Apiguard	0%	0%	6%
Drone Comb	14%	6%	5%
Brood Break	N/A	N/A	11%

Key Takeaways

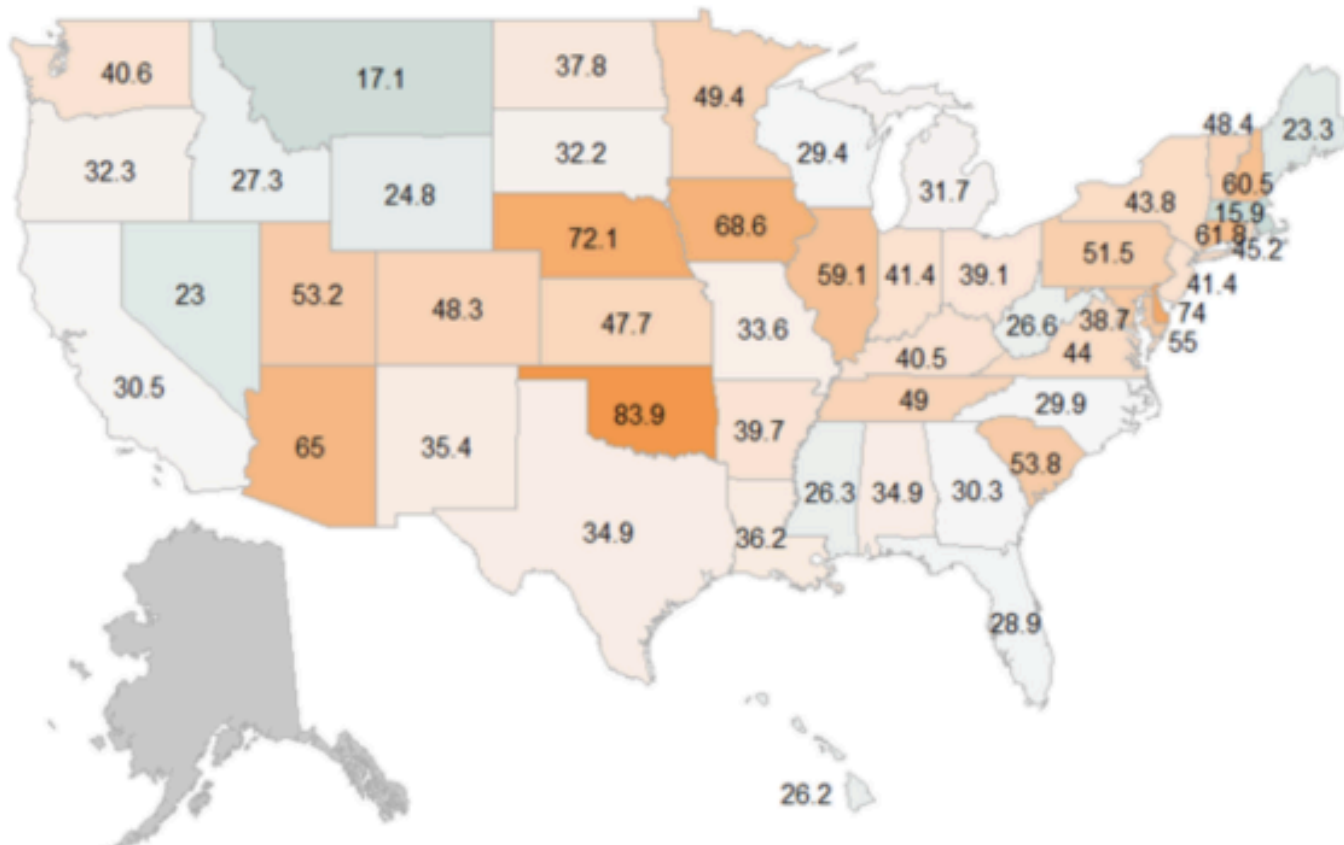
- Small number of respondents means low statistical power in the results. However...
- More respondents would be great
- Awareness of mite control is on the rise (e.g. mite counting, treatment activities)
- There has been Little or no change to fall feeding practices or to fall prep for winter (wrapping hives, emergency feed)
- Small number of respondents means low statistical power in the results...so let's look at bigger numbers.

Bee Informed Partnership Data

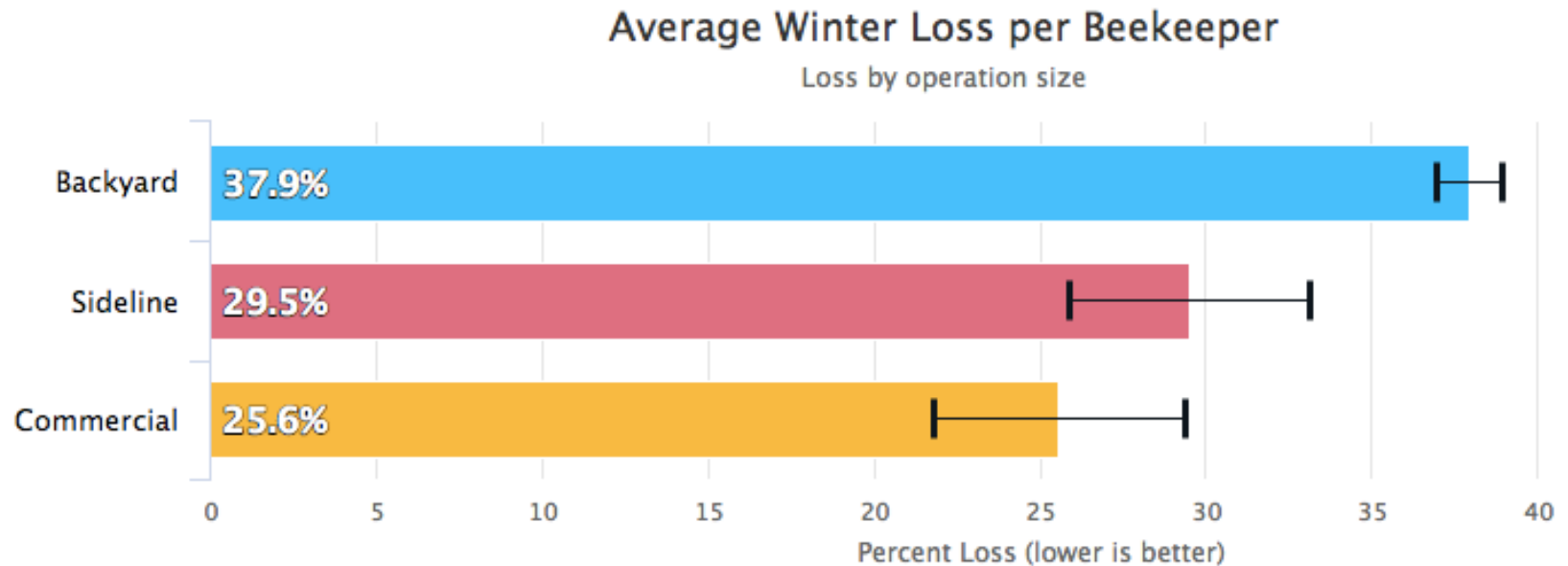


The Big Picture – Bee Informed Partnership Findings

Total Annual Loss by State - Loss Survey 2016-17



BIP - Size of Operation, All States 2017



BIP – Varroa Mgt vs None (Hobbyist, 2017)

All States

Average Winter Loss per Beekeeper

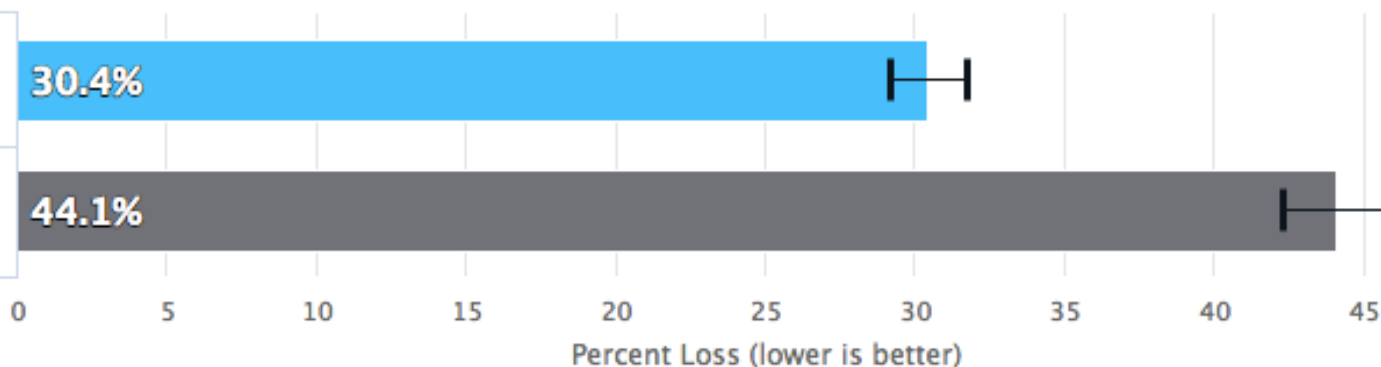
Used Varroa Treatment

Used Varroa Treatment

30.4%

Did Not Use Varroa Treatment

44.1%



Minnesota

Average Winter Loss per Beekeeper

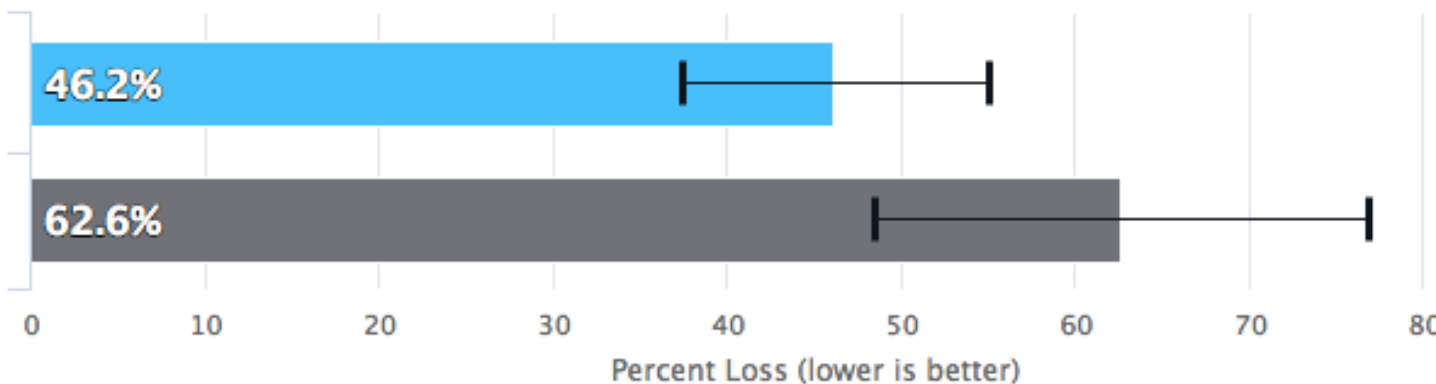
Used Varroa Treatment

Used Varroa Treatment

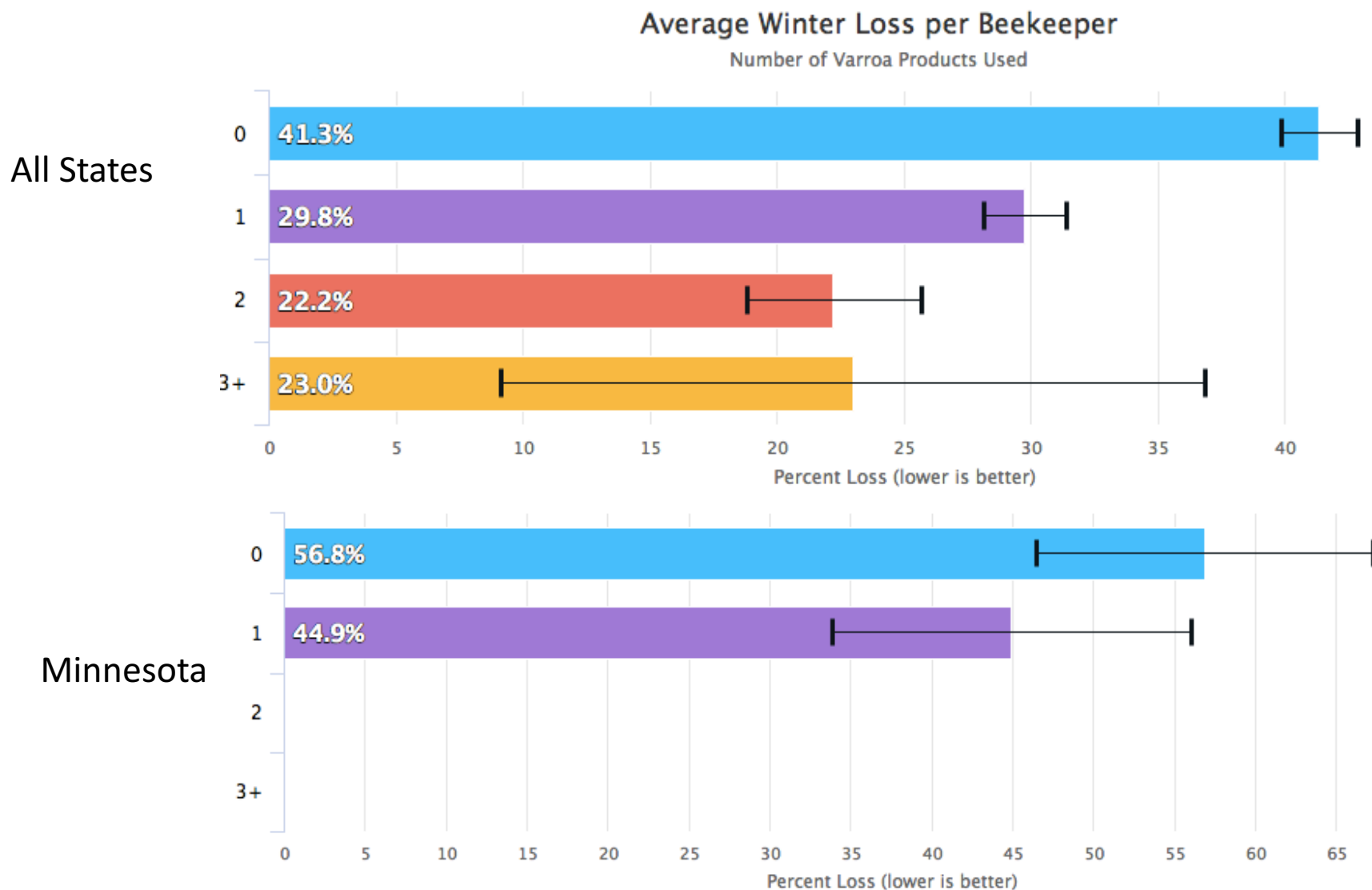
46.2%

Did Not Use Varroa Treatment

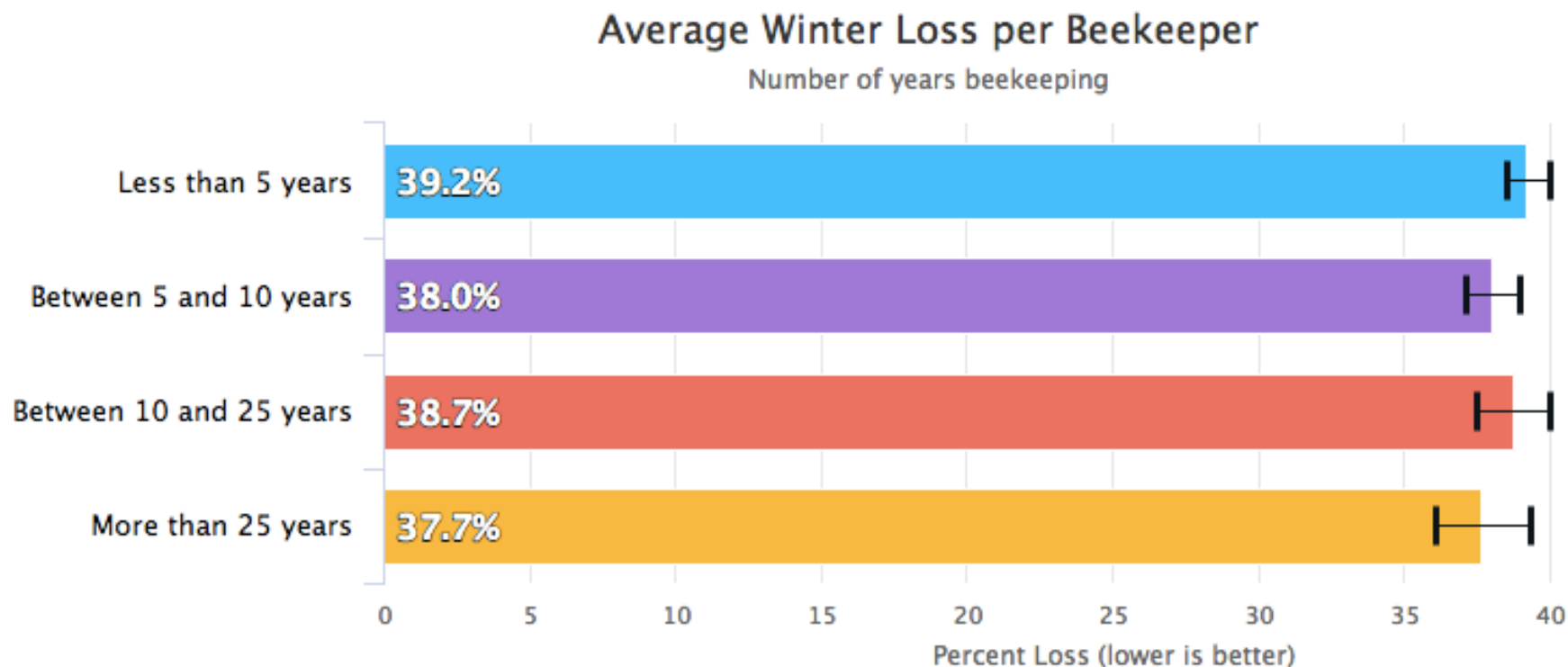
62.6%



BIP– Nbr of Varroa Products (Hobbyist, 2017)



BIP – Years of Beekeeping



Key Takeaways

- Larger operations have fewer losses
- Years of experience does not correlate to fewer losses
- Varroa management (versus none) does correlate to fewer losses
- Use of more Varroa products does correlate to fewer losses
- Minnesota beekeepers, especially hobbyists, overachieve on loss rates
- Losses occur in winter and summer – both matter and are significant.