

Let's Hear from Audiologists about EI: Findings from the EI SNAPSHOT Audiology Survey

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What is the role of an Audiologist w/in EI?

Beyond diagnosis and referral

Lead EI hearing screening efforts?

Monitoring hearing?

Hearing aid management?

Training EI staff and family?

Communicate auditory needs?

Member of interdisciplinary team?

Part of family's IFSP?

Role of Ed. Audiologist: <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearingandkids/2016/need-educational-audiologists/>



Research Questions

1. What are characteristics of audiologists serving families of infants and toddlers birth-3 who are DHH?

- What are characteristics of EI services delivered?
- What are strengths?
- What are challenges?

2. How do audiologists engage with EI & EHDI?

- Referrals
- Teaming, training, consultation
- Family support



Survey Methods

- 10 states invited to participate
- States ID'd EI providers and audiologists serving DHH, including Part C, Schools for Deaf and private providers
- Providers received email from their state administrator with hyperlink to online survey
- Completed survey using Qualtrics online data system
- Presenting aggregate data for:
 - 402 EI providers
 - 187 Audiologists



Audiology Survey: (n=187)

- Experienced respondents: Over half > 15 yrs experience.
- Majority had at least half of caseload comprised of children birth to three
- Most worked in a hospital setting



EI providers: Do you coordinate with the following partners?

	Yes <i>we coordinate well with them</i>	Yes <i>but our coordination needs some work</i>	No
Child care providers	63%	29%	8%
Other therapists outside of your program	51%	40%	8%
Primary care providers (e.g., pediatricians)	42%	44%	14%
Audiologists	72%	22%	6%
Family support organizations	39%	48%	13%
Language interpreters for family if needed	66%	27%	7%

Audiologist Communication with Early Intervention

Provide requested audiological info about a child to EI?	90%
See a child referred to you from EI?	83%
See child who is DHH and refer to EI because not already receiving services?	81%
Consult with EI staff about a client's needs to inform your or their services?	68%
Consult with EI staff about a client's progress to inform services?	59%
Receive a copy of an IFSP for a client?	32%
Provide requested training to EI providers on hearing-related issues?	21%
Receive an invitation to participate in an IFSP meeting?	16%
Participate in an IFSP meeting?	13%

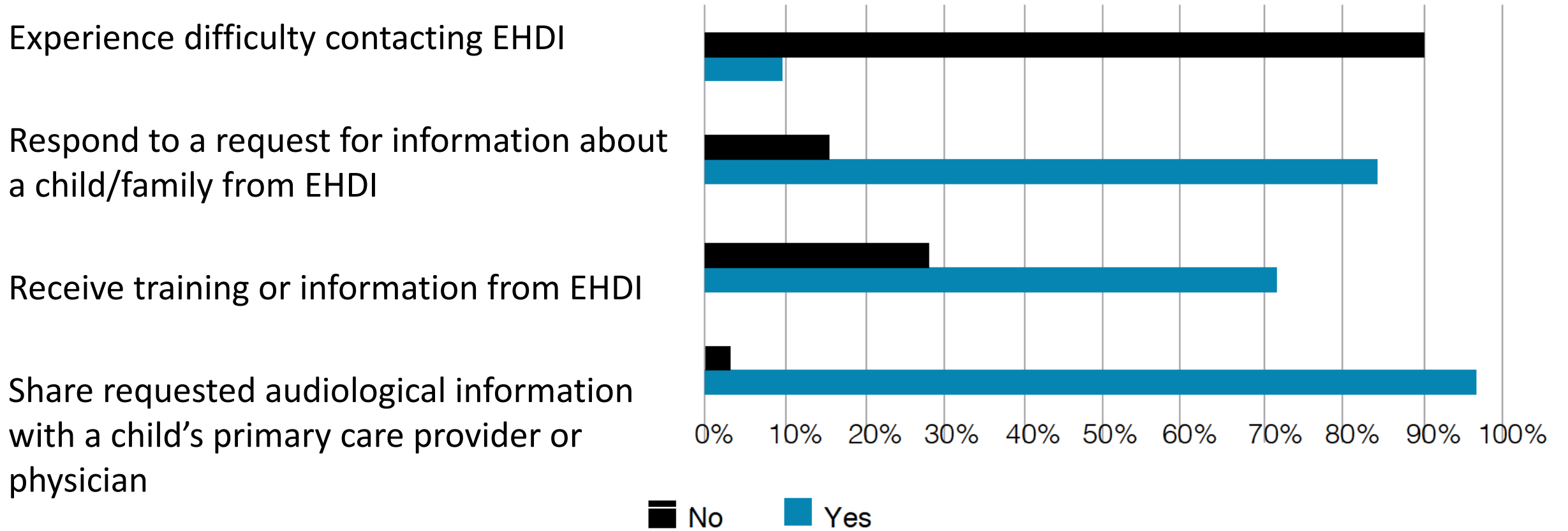
What challenges do families of infants & toddlers who are DHH face? (from audiologist perspective)

- Language/cultural barriers, and communicating the importance of hearing aids/ EI Transportation
- Limited access to services outside of metro areas, esp. pediatric audiologists & DHH trained EI providers
- Accessing places that will accept Medicaid/EHDI funding for hearing aids
- Lack of unbiased info regarding communication options provided at diagnosis, EI enrollment
- Family support programs; dealing with grief after diagnosis
- ***Families like to make contact with another family in our area, however this has been easier with facebook. Parents that I encounter typically do not want this information right away which is different that what our state likes to do. I find that they are more ready and open for it 1-2 years after diagnosis.***

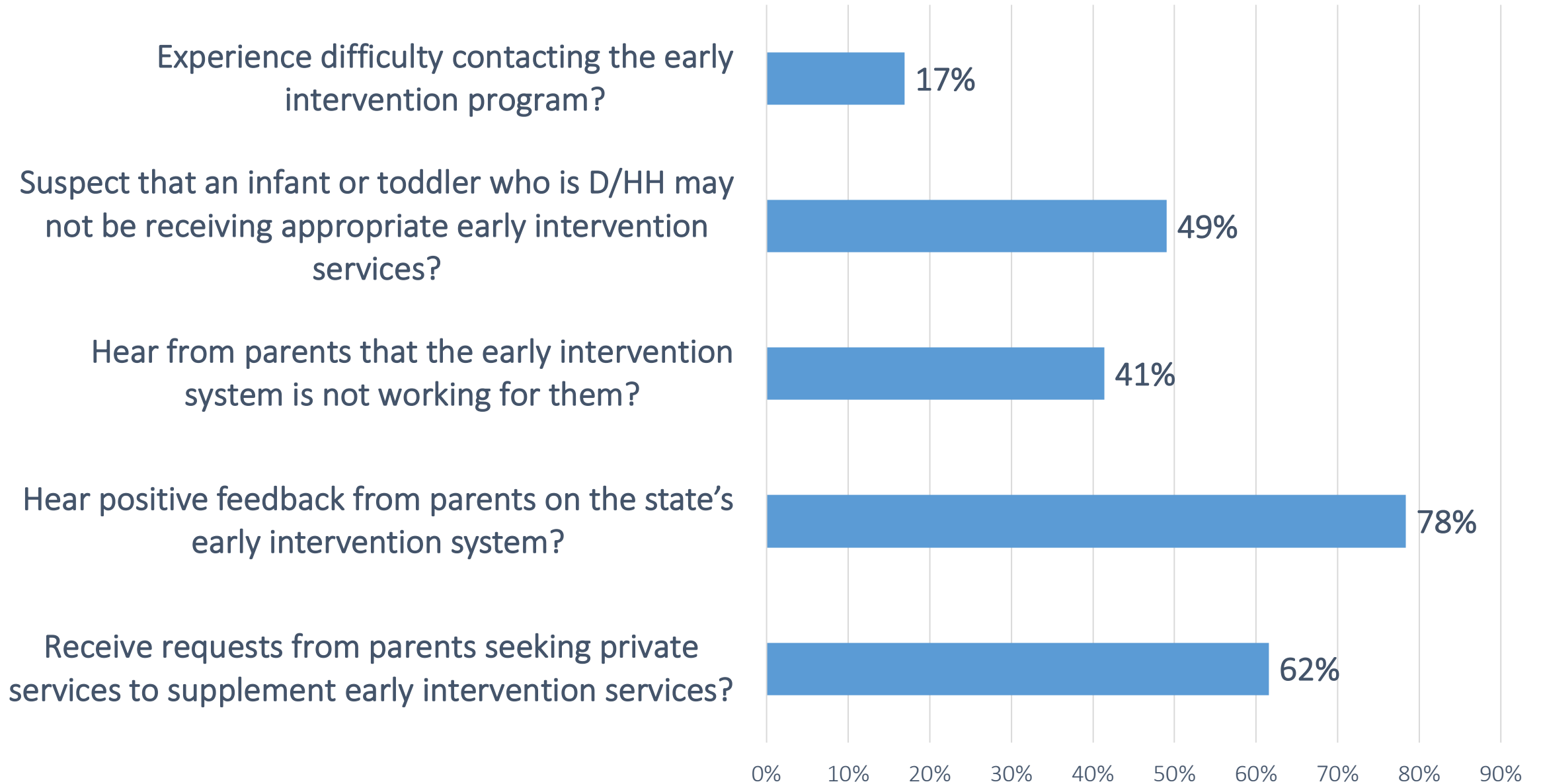
EI Service Coordinator Report of Coordination with Other Partners (n=180)

With whom do you work?	Yes - we coordinate well with them	Yes - but our coordination needs some work	No
Child care providers	73%	22%	5%
Other therapists outside of your program	55%	41%	4%
Primary care providers (e.g., pediatricians)	48%	43%	10%
Audiologists	69%	25%	6%
Family support organizations	44%	48%	7%
Language Interpreters for family if needed	69%	26%	5%

Audiologist Report of Communication with EHDI



Audiology Challenges and Successes with EI



Other Research: From Loyola, et al (2017) JEHDI 2(2): 17-23

Only 78% of pediatric audiologists reported ever making direct referral.

Barriers to making a direct referral:

- Parent resistance to the referral
- Audiologist unsure of state EI referral protocol
- Direct referral was too time consuming (18%),
- Unsure of the eligibility criteria for EI in his/her state (8%),
- Direct referrals out of the scope of practice for an audiologist (7%)

ASHA survey with Ed. Audiologists showed:

Greatest challenges reported by educational audiologists:

- *Budget constraints (66%)*
- *Limited understanding of my role by others (61%)*

<https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/2016-Schools-Survey-Educational-Audiology-Trends.pdf>

State strategies to support coordination with audiologists

- Streamlined, online referral systems
- DHH-specific EI Service Coordinators

Comments?

Questions?

For more EI SNAPSHOT findings:

Supporting Frontline Responders: Tuesday, 11:00 – 11:30

- **How Many clicks does it take:** Tuesday, 11:30 – noon
- **EHDI and Part Collaboration:** Tuesday, 3:00 – 3:30

Thank you!