

Los Angeles County Pediatric Hearing Health Online Resource: an Opportunity to Decrease Disparities and Increase Timely Intervention

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BACKGROUND

- Approximately 1 to 3 per 1,000 infants in the United States are born with a permanent hearing loss in one or both ears (1).
- Ninety percent of children with hearing loss are born to hearing parents (2).
- Undetected hearing loss can put children at risk for delays in speech and language development, academic achievement, and social and emotional development (3).
- Lifetime costs at the local, state, and federal level are significant for children born with hearing loss (4).
- Access to timely and appropriate identification, diagnosis, treatment and intervention is critical, but disparities exist that prevent access to hearing healthcare. “Compared with families of children without hearing loss, families of hearing impaired children live closer to the poverty level and utilize some medical services with less frequency.” (4).
- To reduce disparities, providers who work with infants and children need a greater understanding of hearing health, hearing healthcare systems, and the need for timely intervention (5).
- Additionally, families of children with hearing loss need access to trusted support and resources (6).

OBJECTIVE

The Los Angeles Pediatric Hearing Health Online Resource was created as an educational tool for pediatric multidisciplinary providers that work with infants and children and the families they support.

It provides a comprehensive, up-to-date list of Los Angeles County pediatric hearing health centers, Los Angeles County systems of care and resources, and key national resources.

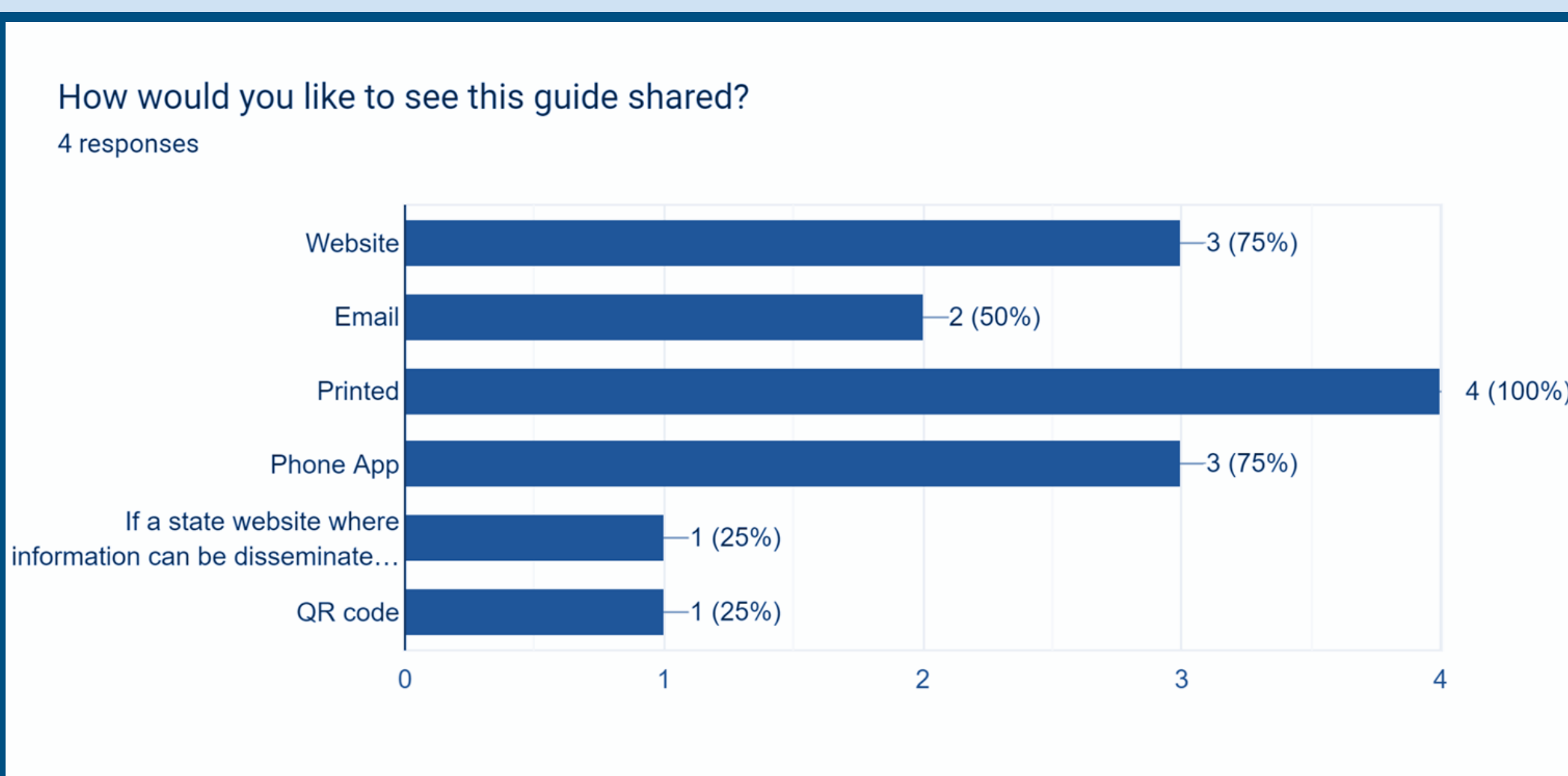
The goal of this project is to increase knowledge of current information on pediatric hearing health care and management to promote timely and appropriate pediatric hearing healthcare.

METHODS

- A web search was conducted gathering information of current online pediatric audiology roadmaps/ resource guides as well as current Los Angeles County Systems of care and local resources.
- Educational information was primarily obtained by literature search informing the development of best practice guidelines and data conveyed in the current resource guide.
- A multidisciplinary team of professionals and parents their input to ensure the resource was accessible and beneficial for families and professionals.
- The guide was piloted and disseminated online to support access and utilization.
- During the piloting phase, an internal team developed an online survey to collect data regarding the impact and utilization of the resource guide.

RESULTS

- 100% of surveyed participants indicated that the resource guide would be beneficial for professionals and families.
- 100% of participants regardless of their hearing health knowledge, expressed that the guide offered valuable educational support and knowledge.



- All participants requested use of this resource guide to be used with their team of professionals or families of children with hearing loss. Requests were placed for the guide to be tailored to different geographical regions.



CONCLUSIONS

The Pediatric Hearing Health Resource Guide is intended to serve as a valuable educational tool for both professionals and families, with the goal of expanding awareness and to increase knowledge about hearing health in Los Angeles County.

The guide will be routinely edited and piloted among different professionals and families. Through ongoing feedback, we aim to ensure that the guide is up to date and provide the most current evidence-based information to support knowledge growth in the field of hearing health.

Based on additional feedback, the guide can be updated to include or emphasize resources in other geographic regions. This will increase the geographical footprint and number of professionals and families that can benefit from the guide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project was supported in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Grant 5 T73MC11044 and by the Administration on Disabilities (AOD) under the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCDEDD) Grant 90DDUC0106-01-00 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusion are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government infer any endorsements.

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