

Los Angeles County Pediatric Hearing Health Online Resource: A Continued Effort to Decrease Disparities and Increase Timely Intervention Based on Pilot Data

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BACKGROUND

Approximately 1 to 3 per 1,000 infants in the United States are born with a permanent hearing loss (1) and 90% of these children are born to hearing parents (2). Undetected hearing loss can lead to delays in speech and language development, academic achievement, and social-emotional development (3). Early identification and intervention are critical; however, disparities exist that prevent many families from receiving timely support. Families of children with hearing loss are often closer to the poverty level and utilize fewer medical services compared to families of children without hearing loss (4).

In response to the need for accessible pediatric hearing healthcare, the Los Angeles Pediatric Hearing Health Online Resource was developed by CA-LEND Audiology scholars in 2024. The guide is aimed to be a comprehensive educational tool for families and professionals with up-to date information about pediatric hearing health, systems of care, and resources within Los Angeles County, as well as, key national resources.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this project was to enhance the knowledge of parents and multidisciplinary care providers who support children with hearing loss to increase timely identification, treatment, and access to hearing health care.

In year two of the project there were three goals.

- Ensure links/resources were current and up to date..
- Gather feedback from professionals and parents.
- Implement recommended changes to improve accessibility.

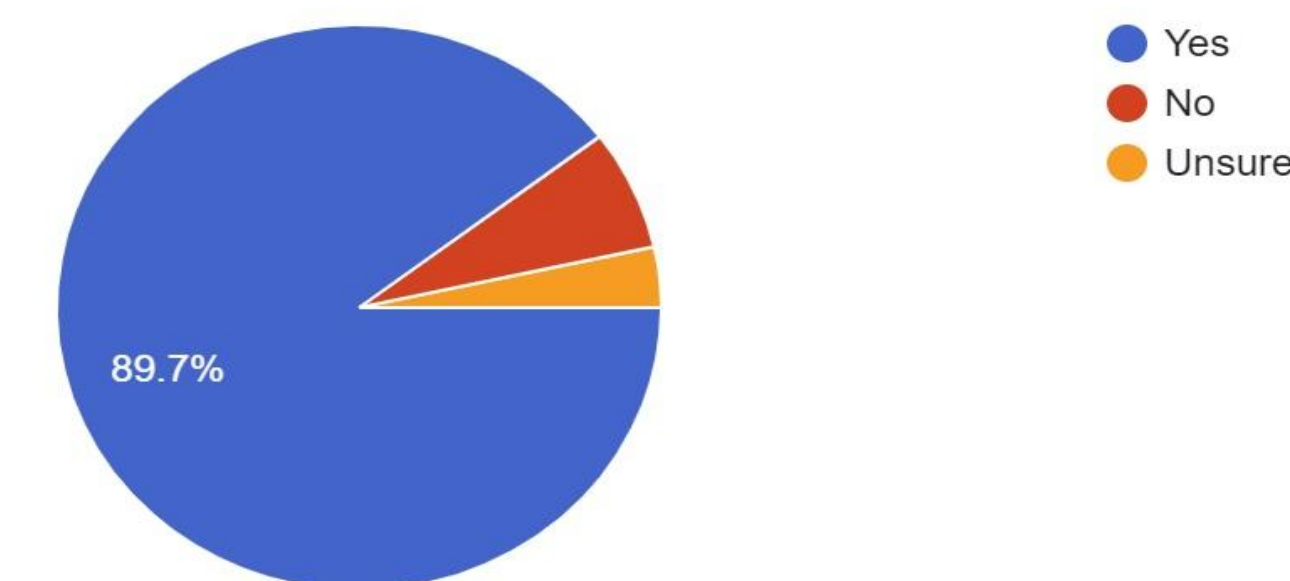
METHODS

- A resource guide was created in 2024 based on current audiologic roadmaps and local/national resources.
- The guide was piloted and disseminated to multidisciplinary teams and CA-LEND scholars. An internal team developed an online survey to collect data regarding the impact and potential utilization of this resource guide.
- Updates were made to the resource guide with current information. A condensed guide for professionals and families/caregivers was created based on survey feedback.

RESULTS

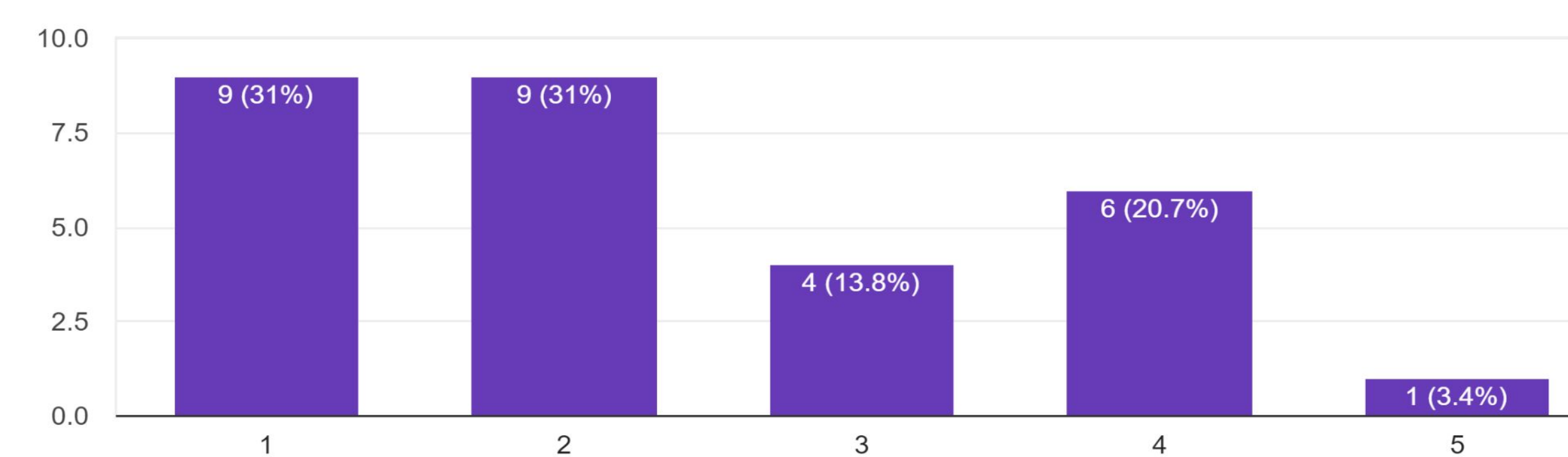
86.2% of surveyed participants were easily able to understand the guide and 89.7% indicated growth in pediatric hearing health care knowledge after review.

Did you gain knowledge about pediatric hearing health and resources after reviewing this resource guide?
29 responses



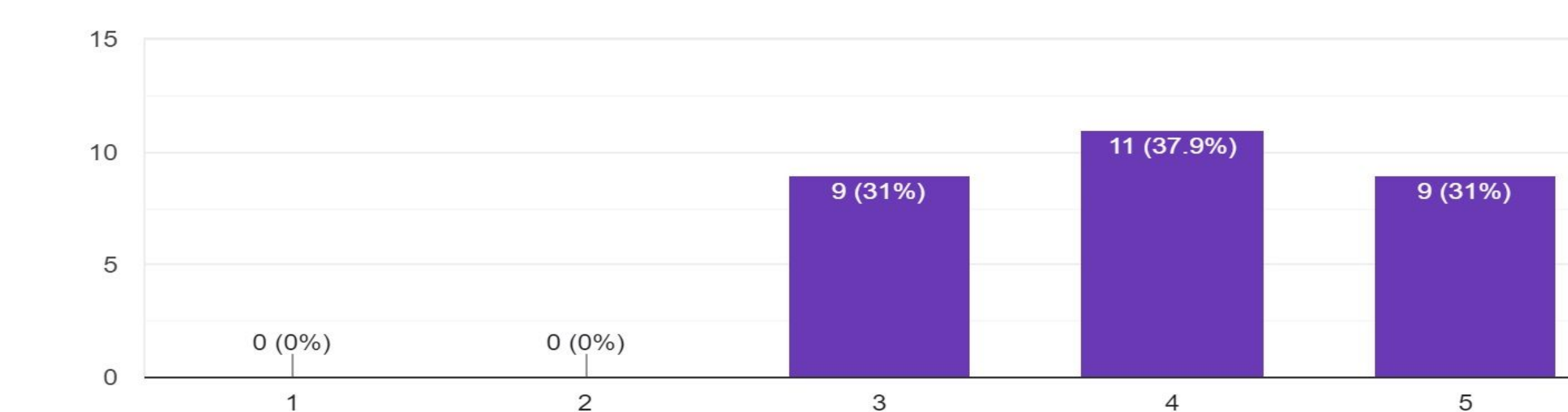
62% of surveyed participants, rated their hearing health knowledge level at a 1 or 2 out of 5 prior to reviewing the resource guide.

How much knowledge did you have about pediatric hearing health and resources prior to reviewing this guide?
29 responses



68.9% of surveyed participants, rated their hearing health knowledge level at a 4 or 5 out of 5 after reviewing the resource guide.

How much knowledge do you feel you have now about pediatric hearing health and resources after reviewing this guide?
29 responses



Surveyed participants expressed that the guide was thorough and comprehensive, but that a condensed version would support increased acceptance and ease of use in a less overwhelming way for individuals without prior knowledge about the topic. Areas of additional knowledge interest included Deaf Culture and DHH+.



CONCLUSIONS

The Pediatric Hearing Health Resource Guide and its condensed version are intended to serve as valuable educational tools for both professionals and families, with the goal of expanding awareness and to increase knowledge about hearing healthcare in Los Angeles County.

The guides will be routinely edited and disseminated 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. Which in turn will help support timely identification, diagnosis, and treatment.

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

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