

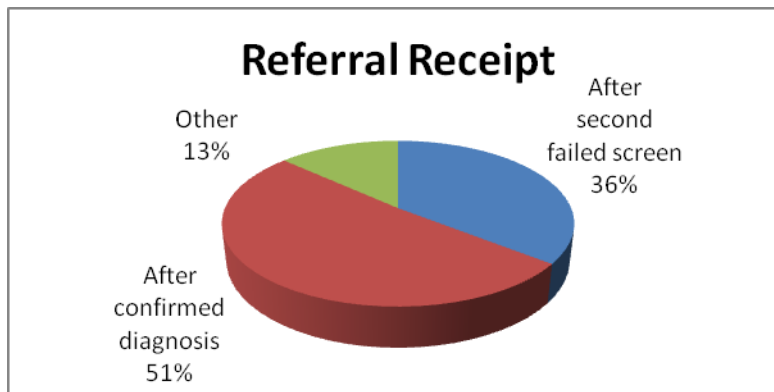
EHDI Survey Results April 2008

In collaboration with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM), the ITCA conducted a survey of all states and territories to assess the relationship between the Part C system and the state EHDI program. The purpose of the survey was to identify issues related to timely referral, Part C eligibility determination and timely implementation of services. The goal of both organizations continues to be the resolution of issues that challenge the ability of both systems to ensure timely and appropriate intervention for infants identified with a hearing loss.

The survey was distributed to all states and territories. Forty six states and territories responded to the survey. One territory indicated that they had not yet implemented an EHDI program. The data in this report reflects the remaining forty five (45) respondents. The data were analyzed by frequencies as well as by type of lead agency. Twenty eight states with Health as the Lead Agency, seven states with education as the lead and ten states with "other" as the lead agency responded to the survey. There were seven questions in the survey. The survey was kept deliberately short to encourage response.

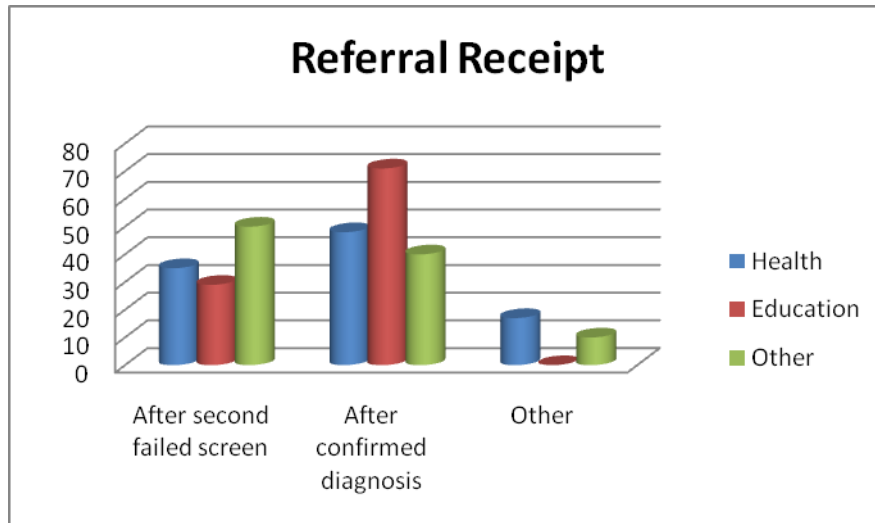
Results

Question 1: When does the Part C system receive the referral for an infant who has failed his/her newborn hearing screening?

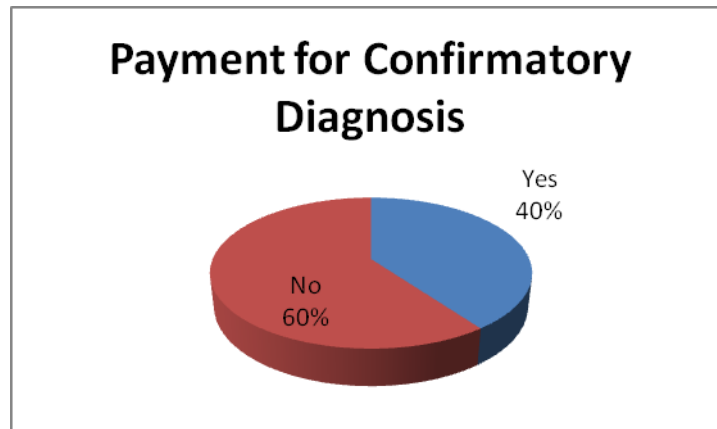


Those who responded with "other" identified that referrals come at various times and from various sources including the family themselves, after a first failed screen, when hearing loss is suspected for a child under three. One state identified that they are conducting the screening process for home births.

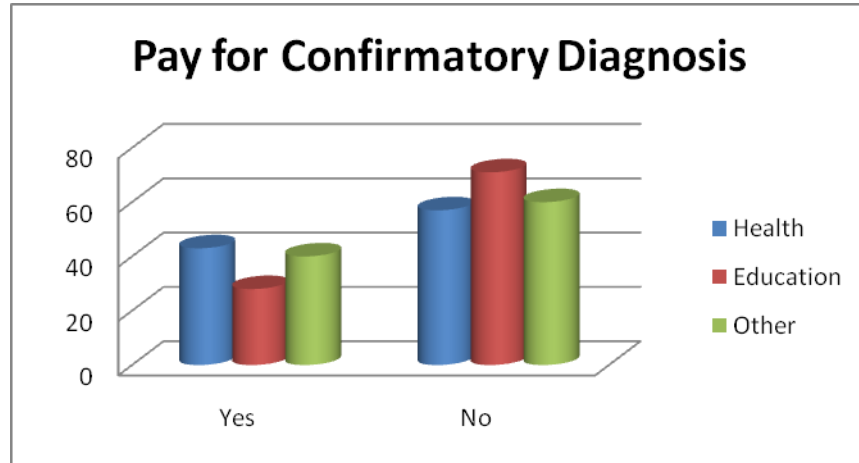
There are differences in responses to this question when analyzing by type of lead agency (Health, Education, Other).



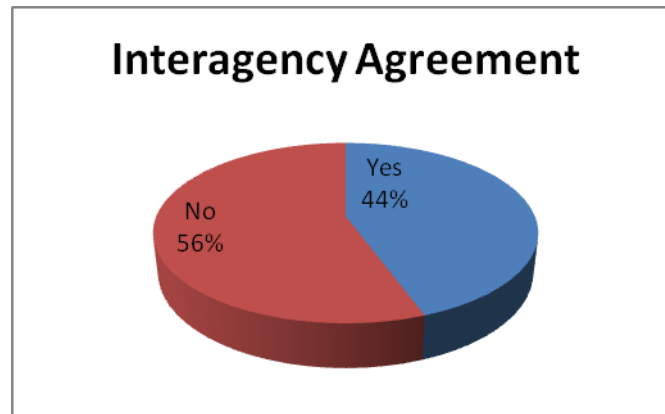
Question 2: Does Part C pay for the confirmatory diagnosis for a child with a second failed screen?



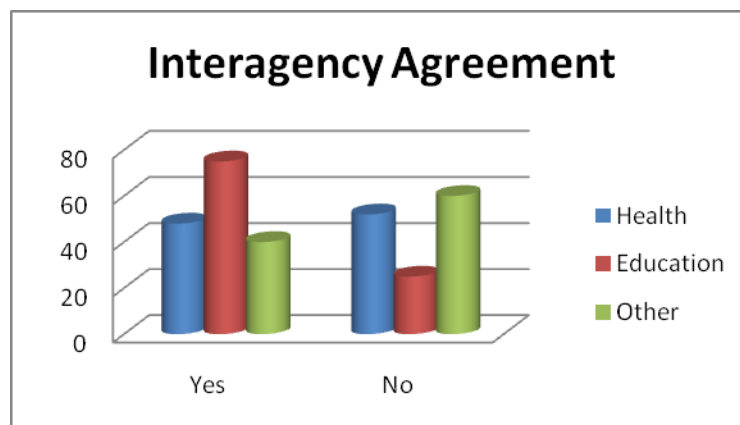
A greater percentage of education lead agencies indicated that they did not pay for confirmatory diagnostics.



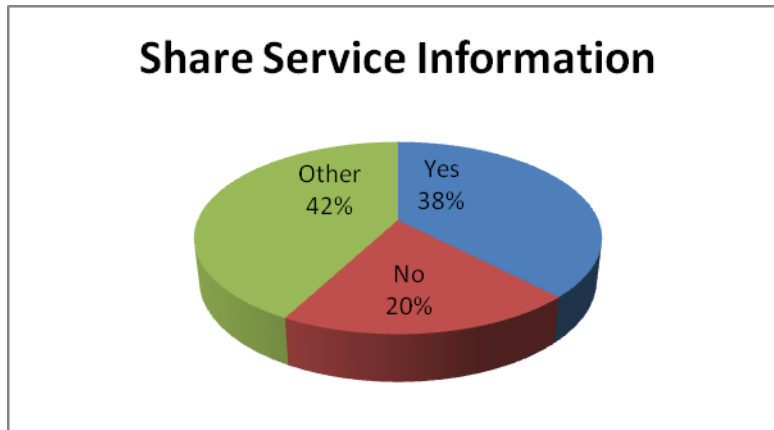
Question 3: Do you have an interagency agreement with your EHDI program?



Several states indicated that they did not need an interagency agreement as the EHDI program was either in the same agency or in the same section. The responses to this question by type of lead agency were consistent with this same information as fewer health agencies reported that they had an interagency agreement.

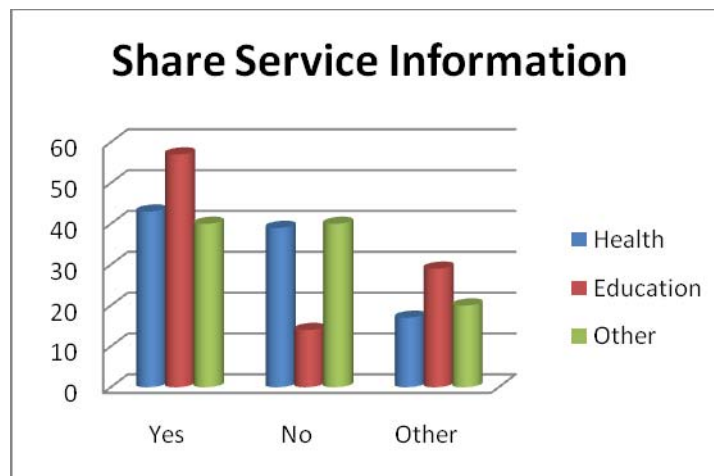


Question 4: Do you share IFSP service information with the EHDI program for children who are enrolled in Part C who have a hearing loss?

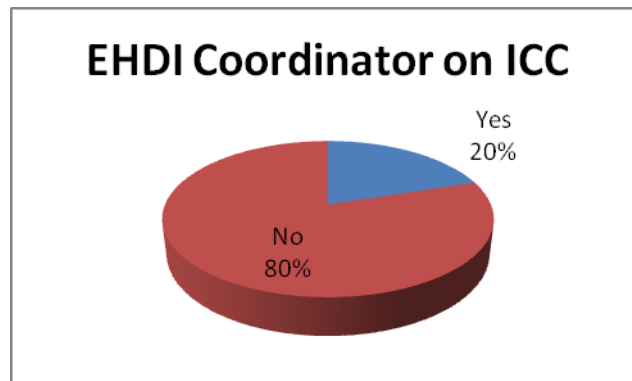


The majority of states that indicated "Other" stated that they do share information with parent permission. Other states indicated that because they were in the same agency or administered jointly, they were able to share information without parental permission.

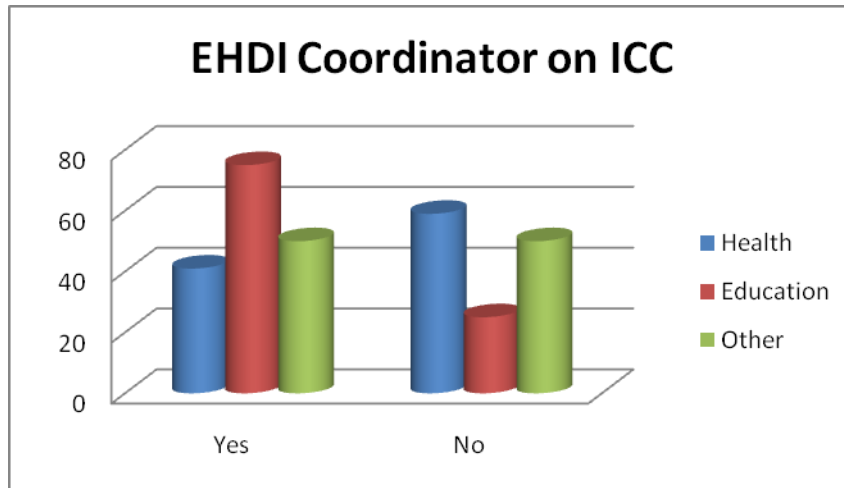
While the chart below indicates that Education lead agencies share information more frequently than the other categories, it is important to remember that most of states that responded "other" indicated they shared information with parent permission.



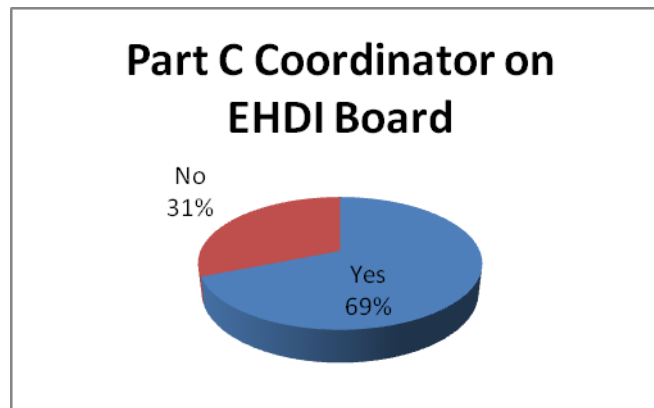
Question 5: Does your EHDl Coordinator sit on the ICC?



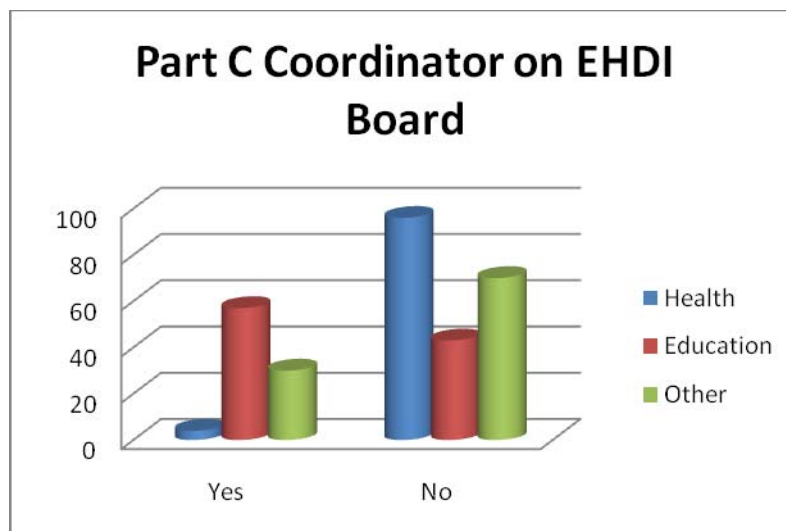
Several states indicated that because EHDl was either in the same agency or administered jointly, that there was no need for separate representation. The data by lead agency supports this position.



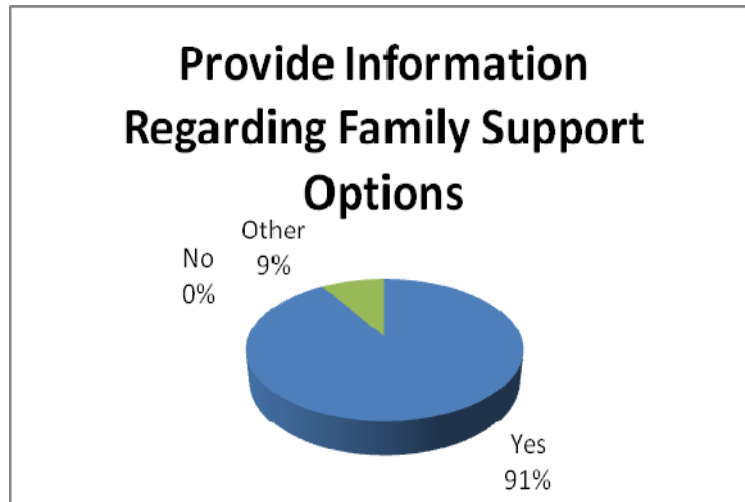
Question 6: Do you sit on the EHDI Advisory Board?



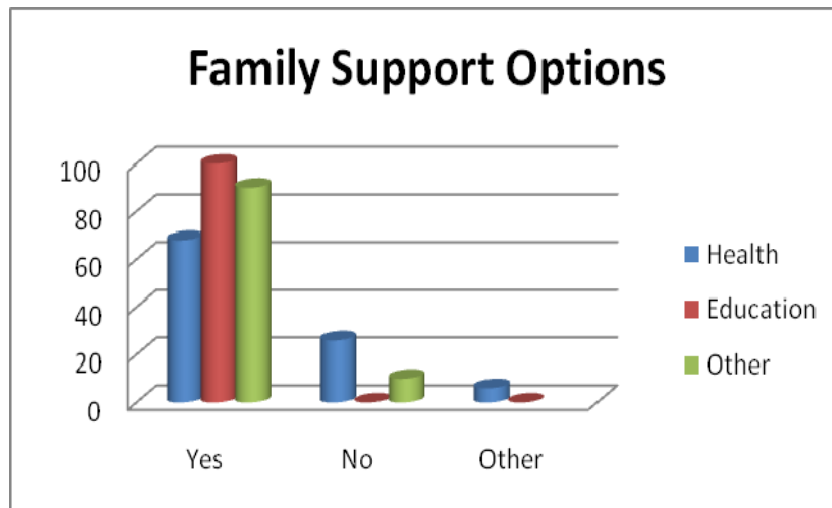
Again, several states indicated that because EHDI was either in the same agency or administered jointly, that there was no need for separate representation.



Question 7: Do you provide information to families of children with a hearing loss regarding their family support options?



States that responded "other" indicated that information about family support was shared by someone other than the lead agency. There was no significant difference across lead agency types when the question is adjusted to look at family support options provided by the lead agency and other entities.



Conclusion

The ITCA is grateful to all states and territories who responded to the survey. The information gathered during this process helps to identify what is working well in the state partnerships between Part C and EHDI. The information also documents the challenges that still remain to ensure an outcome of timely referral, eligibility determination as well as service identification and implementation. Both ITCA and NCHAM are committed to continuing the dialogue and activities to ensure this outcome. The ITCA hopes the information contained in this report will be used in conversations between state Part C and EHDI programs as a means to further understand each other and address shared challenges.

For additional information regarding this survey, please contact the ITCA office at ideaitca@aol.com or 317-251-0125.