

SD Head Start
Collaboration
Office Needs
Assessment
Survey Results
2021



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Purpose of the South Dakota Head Start Collaboration Office

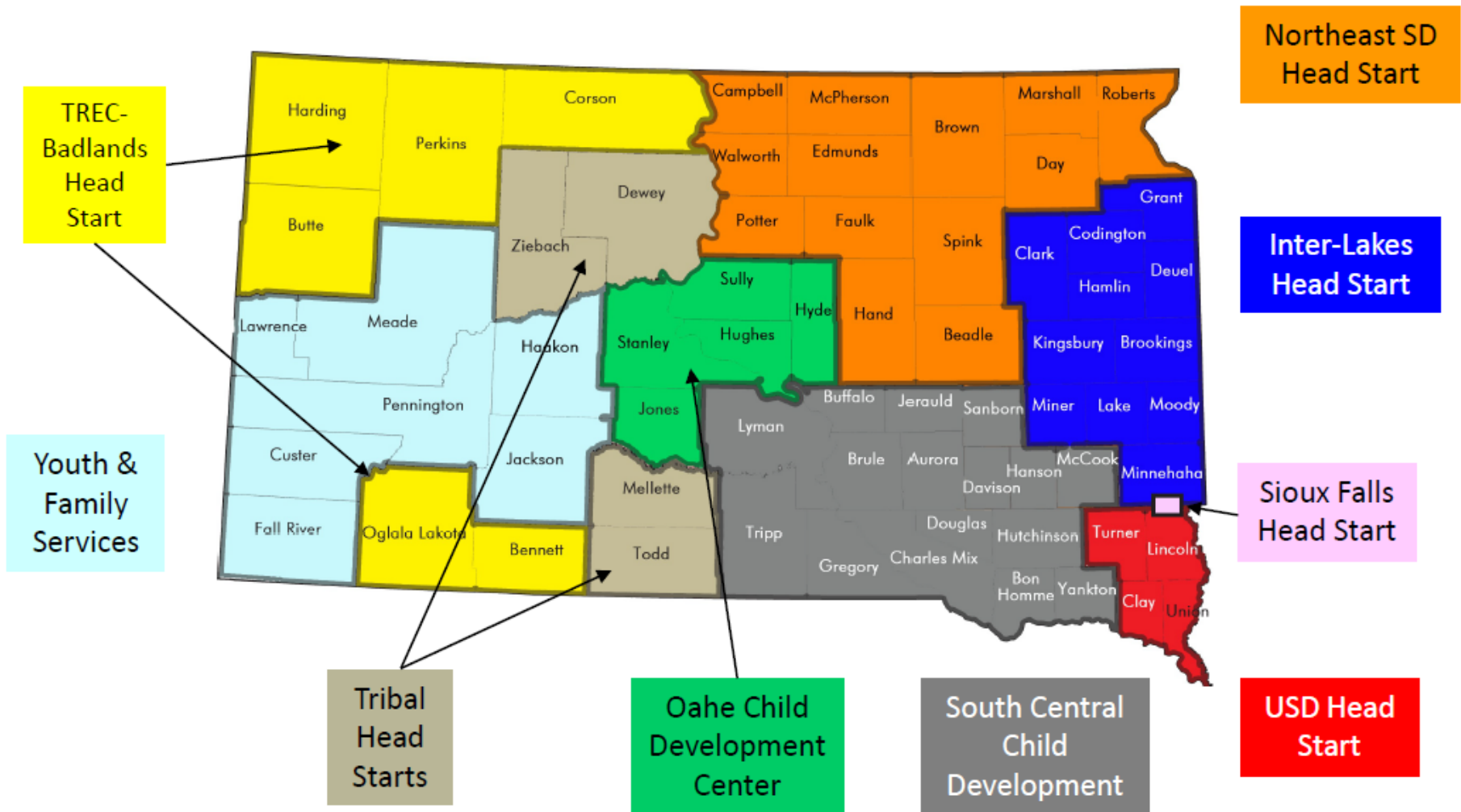
- Support the development of multi-agency and public and private partnerships at the state and national level.
- Facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and other entities that also provide services to economically disadvantaged children from birth to school entry, and their families.
- Build partnerships to leverage common interests around young children and their families.



Methods of Coordination

- Communicate during stakeholder groups with information sharing, planning, partnering, and act as a channel of information between Regional Offices and state and local early childhood systems.
- Facilitate Head Start agencies' access to and utilization of appropriate entities so Head Start children and families can secure needed services and form critical partnerships.
- Support policy, planning, partnerships, and implementation across state agency systems for early childhood that include and serve the Head Start community.

South Dakota Head Start Service Areas



Grantee Survey Distribution



16 South Dakota Head Start Grantees

8 Tribal Head Start Grantees

8 Non-Tribal Head Start Grantees



• Directors only

- Directors
- Assistant Directors
- Program Assistants
- Education Managers/Coordinators /Site Managers

- Family Service Specialists/Family Service Workers
- Health & Safety Specialists/Nurse
- Disabilities Specialists



Sioux Falls School District
Head Start

- Mental Health/Behavioral Health Specialists
- Nutrition Specialists
- Teachers and Home Visitors
- Education Coaches



Program Operations

For the purpose of this report, each staff member, depending on their primary role, will fall under one of these subparts. Many staff members are responsible for more than one role.

- Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance: [Family Service Specialist](#)
- Education and Child Development Program Services: [Teachers, Home Visitors](#)
- Health Program Services: includes health, oral health, child nutrition, child mental health, family support in health, nutrition, mental health, and safety: [Health & Safety Specialist, Nutrition Specialist, Mental Health Specialist](#)
- Family and Community Engagement Program Services: [Family Service Specialist, EHS Home Visitors](#)
- Additional Services for Children with Disabilities: [Disabilities Specialist](#)
- Transition Services: [Transition Specialist, 3-5 Education Staff](#)
- Services to Enrolled Pregnant Women: [Health & Safety Specialist, EHS Home Visitors](#)
- Human Resources Management: [Education Coaches](#)
- Program Management and Quality Improvement: [Directors/Assistant Directors, Education Managers/Site Managers](#)

Description of both Surveys

Head Start Act

Sec. 642B(a)(4)(A)

Head Start

Collaboration shall conduct an assessment that address the needs of the Head Start agencies in the State with respect to collaboration, coordination and alignment of services, and school readiness alignment.

Although the Head Start Act does not require an assessment based on needs of statewide stakeholders representing early childhood, it is the belief of the SD Head Start Collaboration Office that partnerships and connections are a shared process. Encompassing services for children and their families can have positive affects on school readiness and life success.

The 2021 Needs Assessment Survey was administered via email. Each email addressed the appreciation of services provided to children and families in South Dakota, the importance of Grantee and Stakeholder's feedback as a result, objectives of the survey and a confidentiality statement.

The survey questions were developed by the SD Head Start Collaboration Office Director and were designed to address the Office of Head Start national priorities.

- Child Care Systems
- Data Collection
- Elevating the Workforce
- QRIS
- State School Systems
- SD Regional priorities



Description of Grantee Survey

-- 200 surveys distributed
-- 145 surveys returned for a 73% return rate
-- 9 surveys incomplete, not included in data
-- Survey consisted of 13 questions

Grantee survey was designed using Survey Monkey®.

Specific to South Dakota, questions in the survey focused on:

- Collaboration between Head Start and local and statewide agencies
- Collaboration between Head Start and SD Head Start Collaboration Office
- Professional Development interests of grantee staff
- Awareness of PD opportunities in SD

Survey focused on local and statewide organizations and agencies who provide services from prenatal to age 5 in one or more of the following:

- Children with disabilities
- Children and families experiencing homelessness
- Early care and early childhood education and development
- Family literacy
- Family services
- Health, Mental Health, Nutrition
- Child welfare



Q.1. Choose the option that best describes your primary role in your program.

Q.2. My primary role is with...

In previous years, grantee directors and program component managers completed the survey sent by the SDHSCO. Given their knowledge of their program, they provided data that represented the needs of the program. This year, the 2021 Needs Assessment included classroom teachers, home visitors, and education coaches. This provided an in-depth perspective of professional development educators felt would enhance the quality of services they provide as a teacher, a home visitor, or as an education coach.

Q.1. Table 1 List of primary roles included on survey: Director or Assistant Director, Education Manager or Site Manager, Disabilities, Transition, Literacy, Mental Health, Family Services, Health & Safety, and Nutrition Specialists. Classroom Teacher and Home-Based Home Visitor (HS and/or EHS). “Other” category gave staff the opportunity to state a different title that was not listed. For this report, those were added to a category that was part of question 1. (i.e. Education Coordinator = Education Manager, Nurse = Health & Safety Specialist, etc.)

Q.2. Respondents could choose Head Start, which is the 3-5 programs, Early Head Start (EHS), which is the prenatal to age 3 programs, or both, which offers prenatal to age 5 services. **54%** = Head Start **18%** = EHS **30%** = Both

Q.3. Which Head Start/EHS program?

Q.3. 8 Non-Tribal programs were listed for better direct collaboration in the areas of concern. The following are response rates:

- Youth & Family Services (YFS): **23%**
- Inter-lakes Community Action Partnership Head Start (ICAP): **19%**
- Oahe Child Development Center (OCDC): **14%**
- South Central Child Development (SCCD): **11%**
- Northeast SD Head Start (NESD): **10%**
- USD Head Start: **10%**
- TREC-Badlands Head Start: **7.5%**

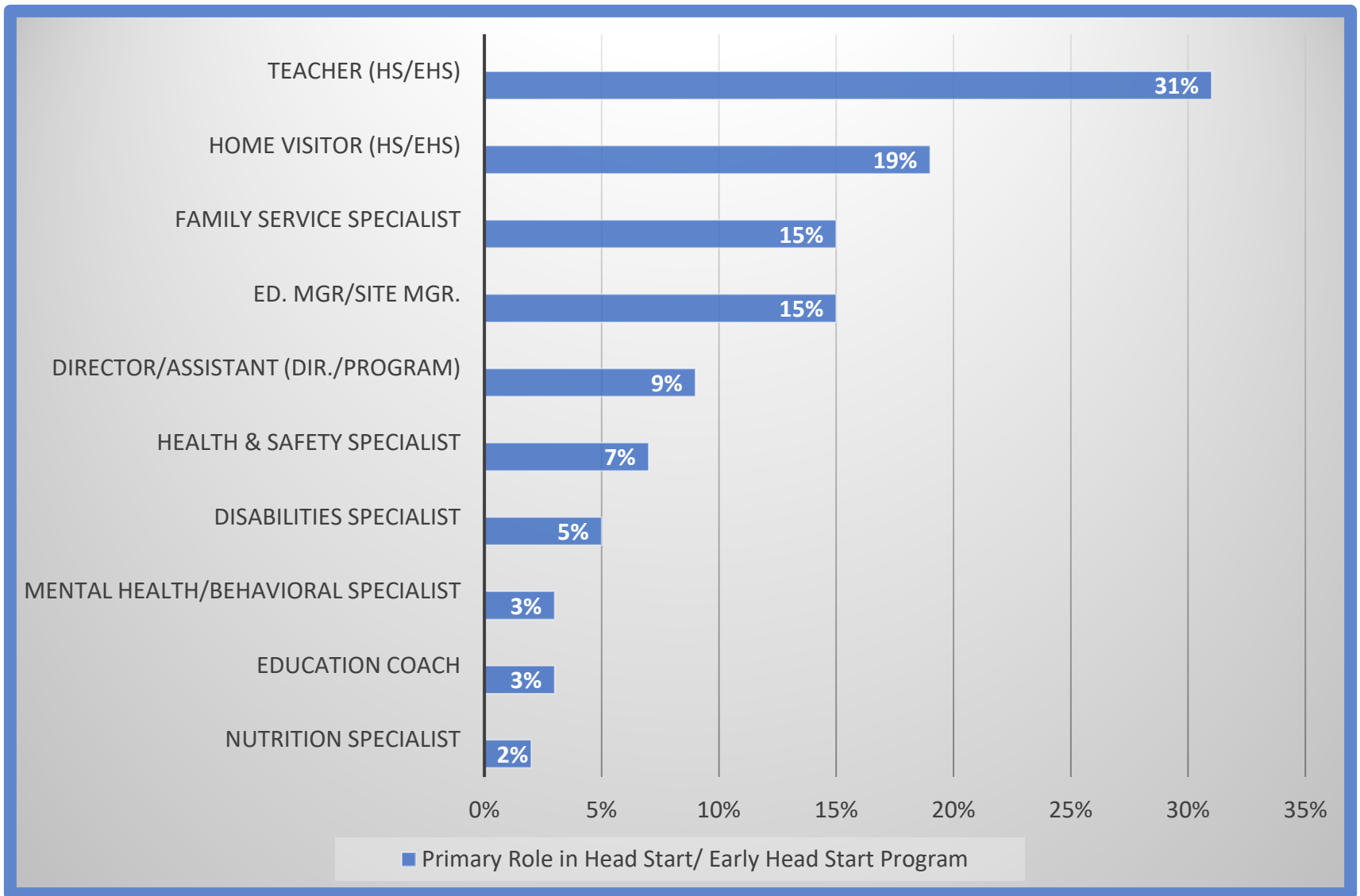
Q.4. Is your program licensed by the state?

Q.4.

- Yes: **58%**
- No: **16%**
- Unsure: **27%**

- Home-Based Head Starts/Home-Based EHS options do not have to be licensed since service environments are in each individual household of the enrolled child.
- It is common for Head Start staff to be uncertain of programs licensing status..

Q.1. Table 1 Primary Role



Q.5. through Q.10.

Collaboration for the survey was considered “working directly with some one, or an agency, in order to provide services for children and families enrolled in the HS programs”. The following six questions given to grantees were based on their position at their HS/EHS program. Respondents were given the opportunity to answer with:

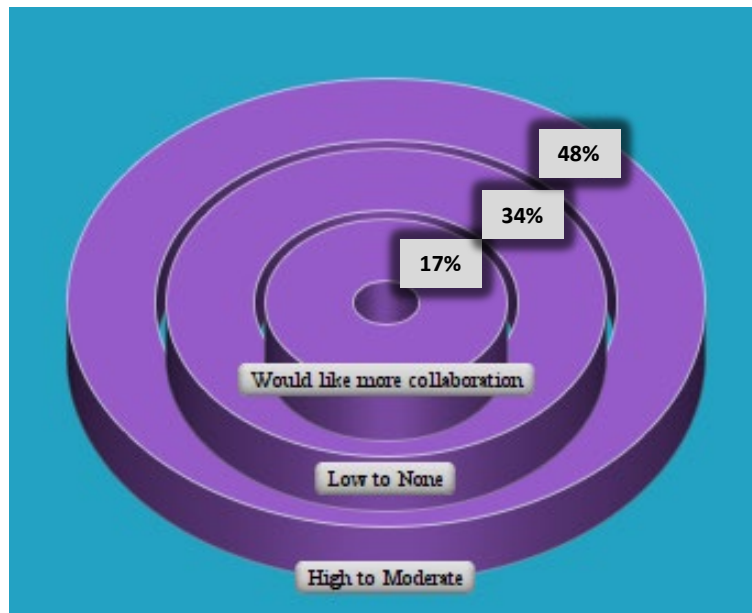
- ✓ High to moderate level collaboration
- ✓ Low level to no collaboration at all
- ✓ Not applicable to my current position
- ✓ Would like *more* collaboration

The SD Head Start Collaboration Office (SDHSCO) has ongoing communication with the agencies/entities included in these questions. The results of the survey will give the SDHSCO scope for maintaining, improving, or building collaboration levels between grantee agencies and local and statewide community connections.



When analyzing results of the survey, Q.5. through Q.10. are based on collaboration between grantees and statewide or local agencies/entities who deliver similar services for children and families.

Q.5. Level of Collaboration with SD DSS



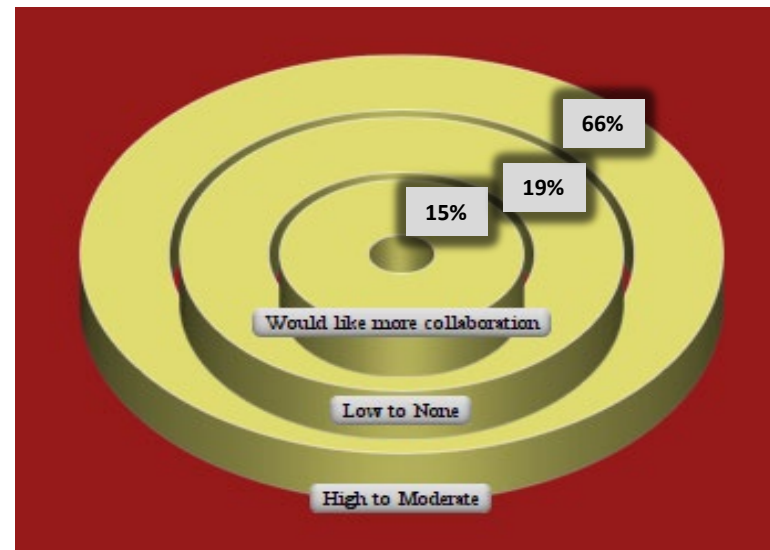
Head Start grantees have collaboration with Department of Social Services. Three divisions of DSS were included in the survey.

- ❖ **Childcare Services (assistance, subsidy, support, childcare listings):** enrollments, resources, and referrals for families
- ❖ **Child Protection Services (child protection, foster care):** Pre-service training on child abuse and neglect, as needed for reporting, referrals to Foster parent trainings
- ❖ **Economic Assistance (TANF/SNAP/CHIPS):** recruitment for program year, referrals for families

Three programs within the Department of Education were included in the survey:

- ❖ **Part C / Birth to Three:** EHS Educators and Disabilities Specialists collaborate with Part C Early Intervention Providers when serving same families.
- ❖ **McKinney-Vento:** EHS and HS grantees collaborate with this program when identifying homeless children. ** Grantees indicated a greater need for collaboration with this program.
- ❖ **Child and Adult Nutrition:** Head Starts collaborates with CANS when planning and delivering meals at their programs.

Q.6. Level of Collaboration with SD DOE

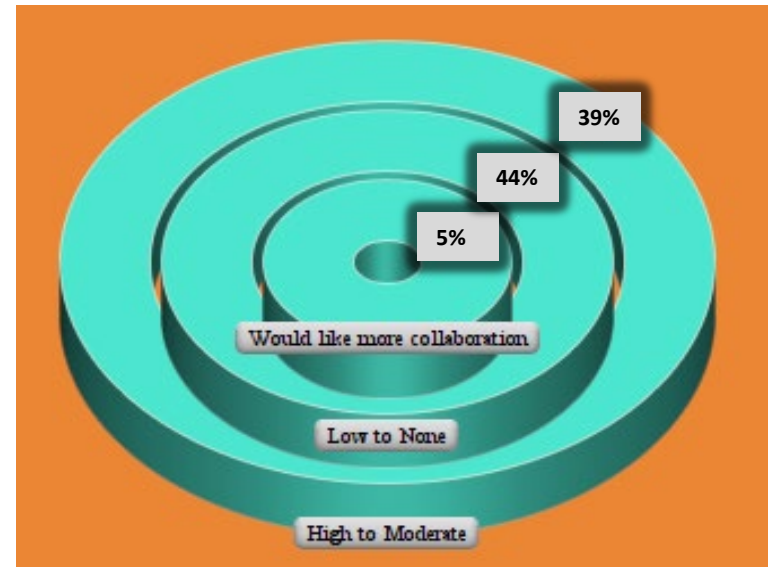


The survey included the following programs from the Department of Health:

- ❖ **WIC:** Head Start collects health information in collaboration with the SDWIC program.
- ❖ **Prenatal Services:** Early Head Start programs provide services to pregnant women enrolled in the program.
- ❖ **Newborn Hearing Screenings (EHDI):** Hearing screening for every newborn prior to discharge from hospital.
- ❖ **Bright Start Home Visiting:** Registered nurse provides prenatal services for *first-time* pregnant women until the child turns 2 or 3 years. EHS provides services to all pregnant women until the child turns 3. Collaboration occurs as a referral system between the two programs when applicable.
- ❖ **Vital Records:** Birth Certificates and Immunization records for enrollments

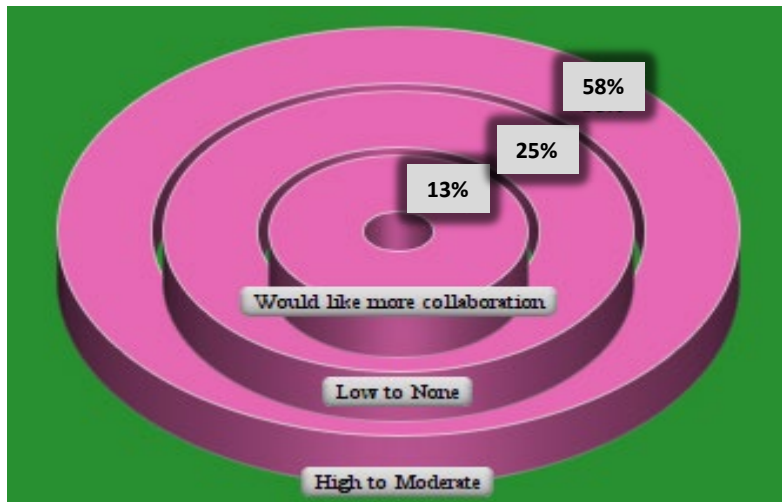
Grantees identified collaboration with WIC was high, but others would be an opportunity to build on a connection when providing similar services for prenatal and B-5.

Q.7. Level of Collaboration with SD DOH

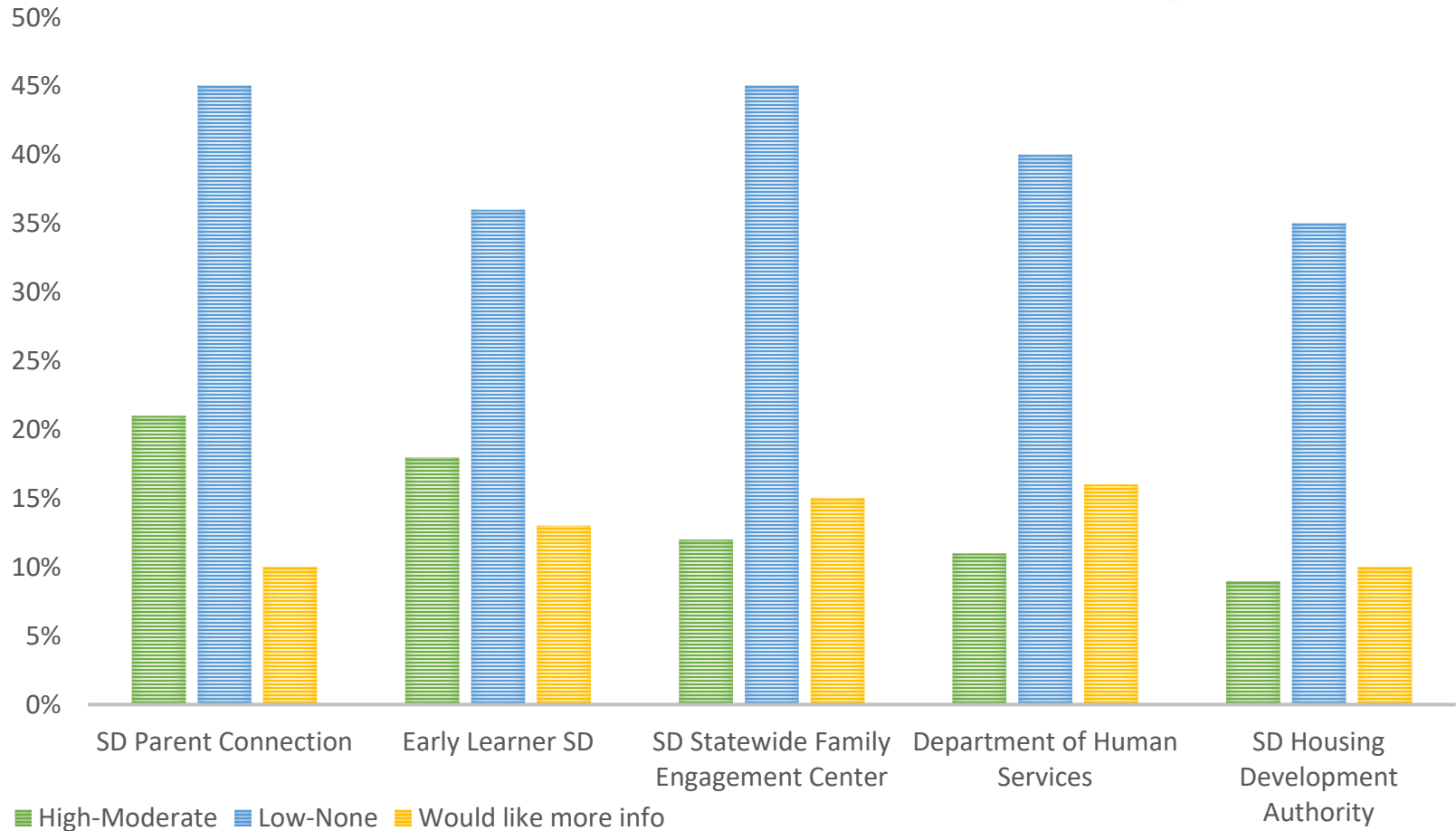


Q.8. Level of Collaboration with local School Districts

Grantees indicated they have high collaboration with their local districts. 58% felt they have regular communication regarding Kindergarten Transitions, Special Education, district preschools, and participating in shared activities such as district trainings and events. As seen in the pie chart on the collaboration with the DOE and McKinney-Vento, grantees stated they would like collaboration with their local district Homeless Liaisons by working together to recruit and enroll children experiencing homelessness.



Q.9. Level of collaboration with statewide South Dakota agencies



Rankings showed an opportunity for more collaboration with statewide agencies. Parent Connection (PTAC) and Department of Human Services provide support and resources in special education. The SD Statewide Family Engagement Center provides resources in early childhood and works closely with Parent Connection to provide parenting classes in early childhood topics. Early Learner SD acts as an advocate for childcare and other early childhood agencies. SD Housing for the Homeless Consortium can be used as a referral for those children and families experiencing homelessness.

Q.10. Level of collaboration with programs, organizations, and agencies in service areas

High to Moderate Level Ranking

1. Medical Providers
2. Mental Health Services-Child and/or Family
3. Dental Providers
4. Food Pantries/Feeding SD
5. Parenting Classes-Common Sense, Responsive Parenting, other

Grantees indicated a greater collaboration in health and nutrition supports and services in their local communities. Each Head Start program has a Health & Safety Specialist (includes oral health), Mental Health Specialist and Nutrition Specialist. Specialists communicate, collaborate, and make referrals, when necessary, with community health and nutrition providers to provide concrete services to children and families enrolled in HS/EHS.

Grantees collaborate with their local Parent Education Partners who provide parenting classes in South Dakota.

Low to None Level Ranking

1. Substance Misuse Prevention and Treatment Services
2. Community Health Centers (i.e., YMCA)
3. Law Enforcement
4. Support for Military Families
5. Adult Education for Parents

Grantees indicated Substance Misuse as the number one opportunity for more collaboration.

The results are indicative of preventative services and provide opportunity to reach out for more support for children and families.

Other entities included in the survey not ranked in top 5:

- Libraries or Museums (educational activities)
- Childcare-Private or public childcare centers or family home childcare.
- Employment and/or Training Services for parents
- Domestic Violence Centers
- English Language Learners (ELL) Services.

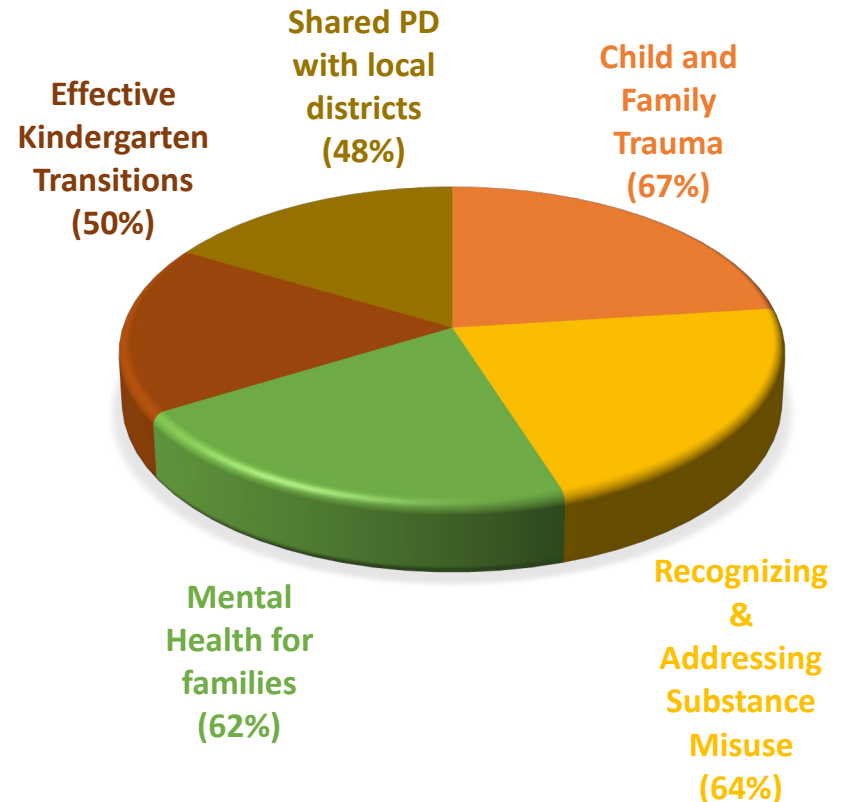
Q.11. What learning opportunities would you participate in?

Using a whole-child approach, Head Start provides comprehensive services in Education, Health & Safety, Nutrition, Mental Health, Disabilities, and Family Services. Family Services includes providing information, resources and/or referrals to help families better meet their needs and reach their goals. To provide these services at the highest degree possible, Head Start staff seek out trainings, webinars, conferences or other professional development opportunities to build on or increase knowledge of their current skills.

The top three interests revolved around the overall mental health well-being of the child and the family. Not only are Head Starts grantees seeing an increase of mental health concerns, but COVID-19 has added a further need for mental health education.

Every year, approximately 1300-1500 children enrolled in Non-tribal Head Starts in South Dakota, are projected to attend Kindergarten the following year. Having effective transitions and participating in shared PD between the districts and Head Starts can prove valuable for both.

TOP 5 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY INTERESTS



129 responses

Q.11. (cont.)

Virtual Networking with Stakeholders: 47%

Early Childhood prenatal-5 topics: 46%

Understanding IFSP's and IEP's: 26%

Utilizing SD Early Learning Guidelines: 26%

Utilizing the Crosswalk: 22%

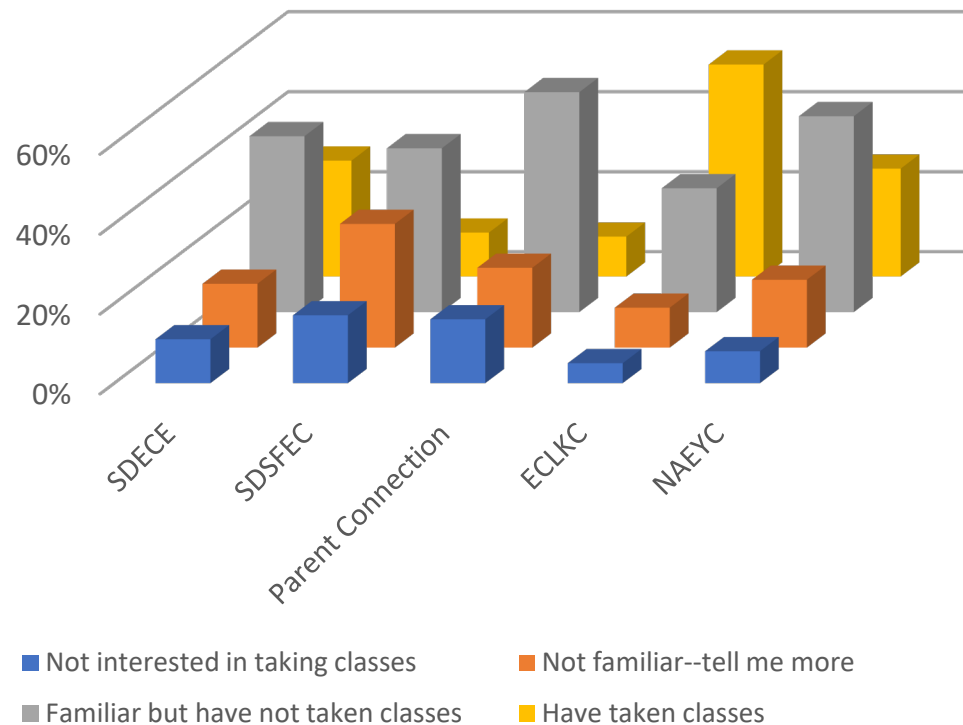
Utilizing SDStepAhead website: 19%

Other suggestions of trainings:

Conscious Discipline, effects of screen time and importance of bedtime routines, and anything related to home-based, not just classroom based.

Q.12. How familiar are you with the following online professional development programs?

Online Professional Development



Professional Development Training Opportunities

(SDECE) SD Early Childhood Enrichment: Early childhood development, health and safety, and quality practices.

(SDSFEC) SD Statewide Family Engagement Center: Family Engagement, literacy, child development, special education topics, trauma, and more.

SD Parent Connection: Special education topics, health, behavior, and more.

(ECLKC) Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Center: Prenatal to age 5 early childhood topics related to Head Start.

(NAEYC) National Association for the Education of the Young Child: Research-based early childhood content aligned with NAEYC standards.

	I would like information from HSCO on an “as needed” basis.	I would like regular communication with HSCO until sufficient to my needs.	I would like to take part in collaboration projects related to this.	I currently have ongoing collaboration and do not need any more.
Work with state efforts to collect longitudinal data regarding children once enrolled in a Head Start program.	20%	23%	25%	5%
Improve consistency and coordination with local education agencies for effective transitions from Head Start to Kindergarten.	26%	18%	19%	18%
Increase connections with other early childhood entities in SD.	27%	19%	19%	15%
Increase partnerships with agencies or programs that are relevant to reducing the impact of substance misuse for children and families.	43%	18%	18%	8%
Partnerships with statewide homeless networks and Homeless Liaisons.	39%	8%	18%	8%
Participation in statewide quality rating system (QRIS) (Preschool Levels of Excellence)	21%	13%	16%	7%

Q.13. What level of collaboration would you like with SD Head Start Collaboration Office?

In order to provide the greatest support to meet the needs of enrolled children and families, participants were asked to choose which level of collaboration they would like with the SD Head Start Collaboration Office.

Grantee Summary

The Needs Assessment survey provided results from which to measure and guide the work of the SD Collaboration Office to support the priorities of the Office of Head Start. High quality EHS/HS programs need significant resources and connections to be successful. Critical to this success are strong working relationships with partners in South Dakota.

Collaboration Strengths

Working collectively with the following State agencies, Head Starts continues to provide high quality services for enrolled children and their families.

- DSS: Continuing interaction around Childcare Services, Child Protective Services, and recruitment of eligible children using TANF lists
- DOE: Ongoing communication Part C Birth-3 Services and Child and Adult Nutrition Services
- DOH: Information sharing with WIC Services and Vital Records (Birth Certificates)

Head Start programs have identified assets as having connections with their local community agencies to provide consistency of services to children and families enrolled in the program.

- Participation in local school districts Transition Services, District Pre-K communications and having blended classrooms (HS & district), and Special Education Services (Part C and Part B)
- Communication and information sharing with Medical and Dental Providers
- Working with Mental Health Providers to provide on-site services for enrolled children
- Connecting families to other Nutrition Services such as food pantries or Feeding South Dakota
- Confidentially referring families to Domestic Violence Centers
- Communication with Childcare centers
- Connecting families to parenting classes

One of the responsibilities for Head Start Collaboration Offices (HSCO) includes assisting Head Start agencies to collaborate with public and private entities. Continuing communication between SDHSCO and SD Head Start Directors occurs via meetings, networking, and emails. The annual survey gives the SDHSCO the awareness of needs each program may have for improving services to children and families.

Grantee Summary cont.

Collaboration Opportunities

Head Start considers the full range of strengths, interests and needs of each child and family. Connecting families with all available services and resources they need to achieve their goals. Grantees identified a need for increasing collaboration with statewide and local agencies providing similar and/or additional services for children and families.

Statewide

- DSS: Adoption/Foster Care Services and utilizing the online Childcare listings for families to identify childcare options
- DOE: McKinney-Vento Services related to Head Start
- DOH: Linking pregnant women to prenatal services, assist with awareness of Newborn Screenings (EHDI) to pregnant women, and ongoing referral systems between EHS and Bright Start Home Visiting
- Increase and/or continue a partnership with Parent Connection, SD Family Engagement Center, Department of Human Services, Early Learners SD, and SD Housing Development Authority for information, resources, referrals and parent trainings

Local

- Create a partnership with local district Homeless Liaison to assist HS in identifying, recruiting and enrolling pregnant women and B-5 children experiencing homelessness
- Increase shared educational activities with local school districts
- Increase shared professional development opportunities with local school districts
- Increased knowledge and more information around Substance Misuse Prevention, Treatment, and Statewide Services available
- Partnerships with Community Health Centers (i.e., YMCA), Libraries and Museums to support positive child and family outcomes
- Build on collaboration with those that provides services for families looking for employment, training, education, and English Language Learning
- Increase partnerships in the areas of law enforcement, support for Military families, and access to domestic violence centers

Professional Development Opportunities

Understanding definitions and impacts of trauma and substance misuse can help prepare educators as they interact with children and their families. Grantees expressed that knowing how to support mental health and the well-being of children and learning how to have sensitive conversations with families can have positive outcomes.

Grantees identified working collaboratively with school districts on shared professional development opportunities as a need. Working together also included Kindergarten transitions.

Stakeholder Survey Responses



developmental disabilities



Description of Stakeholder Survey

-- 116 surveys distributed
-- 82 surveys returned for a 71% return rate
-- 5 surveys incomplete, not included in data
-- survey consisted of 11 questions

The SD Head Start Collaboration Director utilized the 2019-2020 Needs Assessment distribution list. With some changes and additions, targeted stakeholders were those that provided similar services to pregnant women, children birth to age 5 and their families.

Stakeholder survey was designed using Survey Monkey[®].

Agencies, Programs, Organizations specializing in: (*new stakeholder)

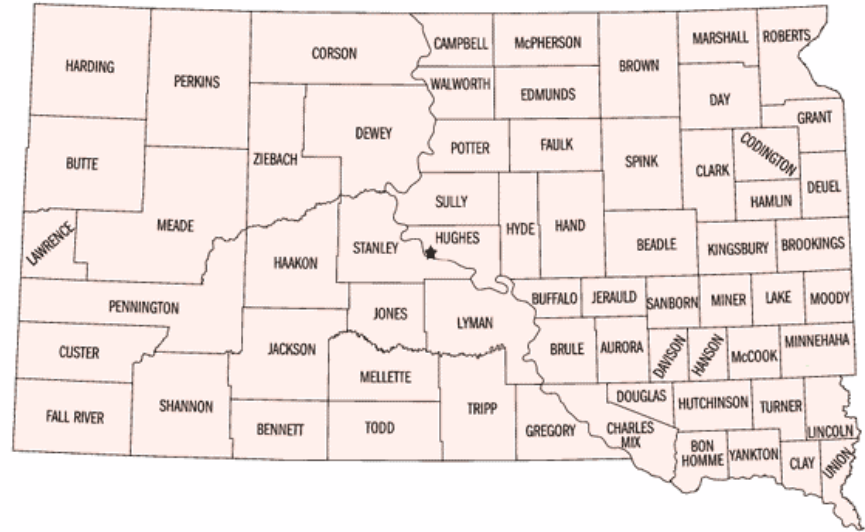
- Children with disabilities
- Children and families experiencing Homelessness
- Children in Foster care
- Child Education/Development
- *Nutrition & Physical Activities
- Family Service and Family Literacy
- Prenatal to young child Health (medical and dental)
- Mental Health for children and families
- Professional Development for Head Start staff
- Higher Education including *DOE Learning and Instruction Division
- Early Care (childcare licensing/assistance)
- *Economic Assistance
- Prevention of child abuse or *domestic violence
- Educational programs (SD State Library, *Museums, *Science Centers
- *United Ways of SD
- Quality Improvement: childcare/centers



Q.1. First and Last Name
Q.2. Agency or Program

Q.1. Stakeholder names are not included in this report.

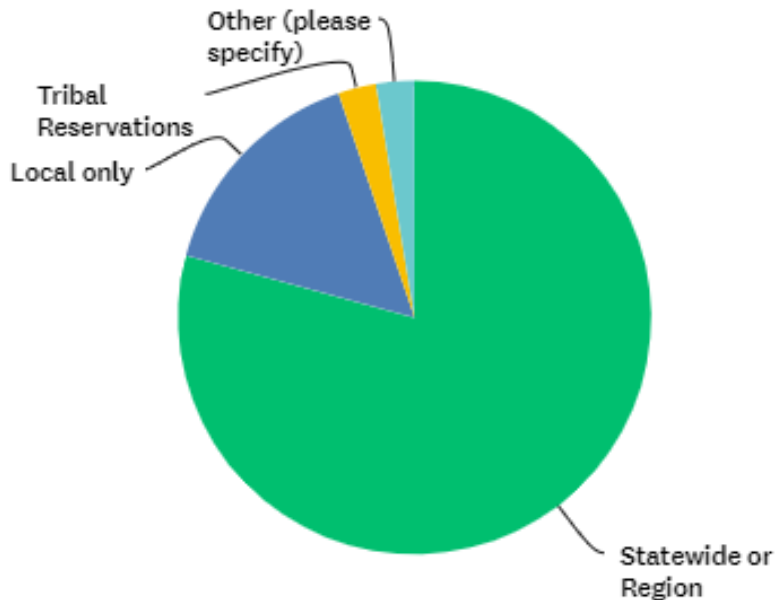
Q.2. Page 19 symbolizes agencies and programs included in the survey data. Page 20 represents the specialty of services agencies provide that parallel with Head Start services.



Q.3. Where do you provide services in South Dakota?

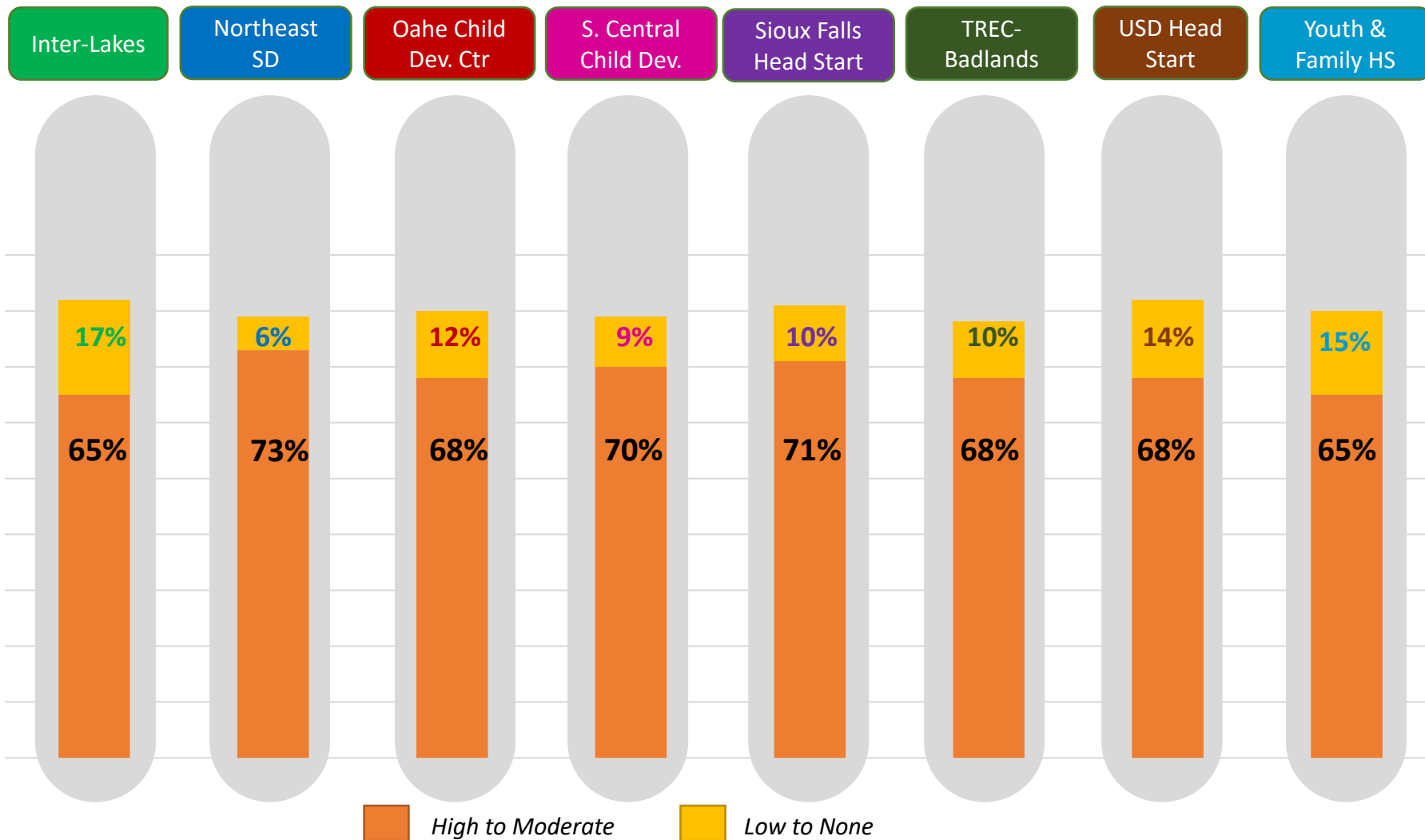
79% of stakeholders denoted they provide services statewide or by region. Region areas cover portions of South Dakota by counties, but regions will include ALL counties in total. 16% stated they deliver services locally only. It is not specific if it is local by county or by town. 3% provided services on Tribal Reservations. 3% answered Other:

- “Do not provide direct services”
- “Some counties (not all) and some tribal communities”



Q.4. Rate your current collaboration with each Head Start

Results indicate stakeholders also responded the need for more collaboration between their agency and Head Start. Although Head Starts have good partnerships within their communities they serve, enhancing relationships with statewide stakeholders will further provide support for children and families. 30% of statewide stakeholders identified they would like more collaboration with one or more of the Head Starts



**Q.5. If you checked the box to have more collaboration with HS agencies, what services could your agency provide that would align with Head Start services?
Please summarize what services...**

36 stakeholders gave a small summarization of the services they offer in their agency. Although some of these agencies currently work with individual Head Start programs based on their location, every stakeholder would like more collaboration with all grantees.

Health and Safety
Oral Health
Mental Health
Nutrition

Parent and Family
Child Welfare
Homelessness
WIC

Child Development
Literacy
Non-Profits
Data Collection

B-3 Home Visiting
B-3 Intervention
Newborn Screening
3-5 Special Education

Agencies specified collaboration in the areas of information-sharing about their program, providing related online links and sharing resources for staff to utilize for their programs.

Stakeholders indicated professional development opportunities for Head Start staff. Examples would be special education and early childhood topics, early literacy, family engagement, research and grant writing, child assessments, ACE trainings, and Positive Behavioral Interventions.

Higher Education Institutes are interested in collaborating regarding Head Start workforce for graduates.



Yes

41% of stakeholders provided their contact information for the SDHSCO to help support collaboration with Head Starts. Some of these respondents have prior connections with one or more Head Starts but they expressed the need for more collaboration, especially with those they have yet to work with.



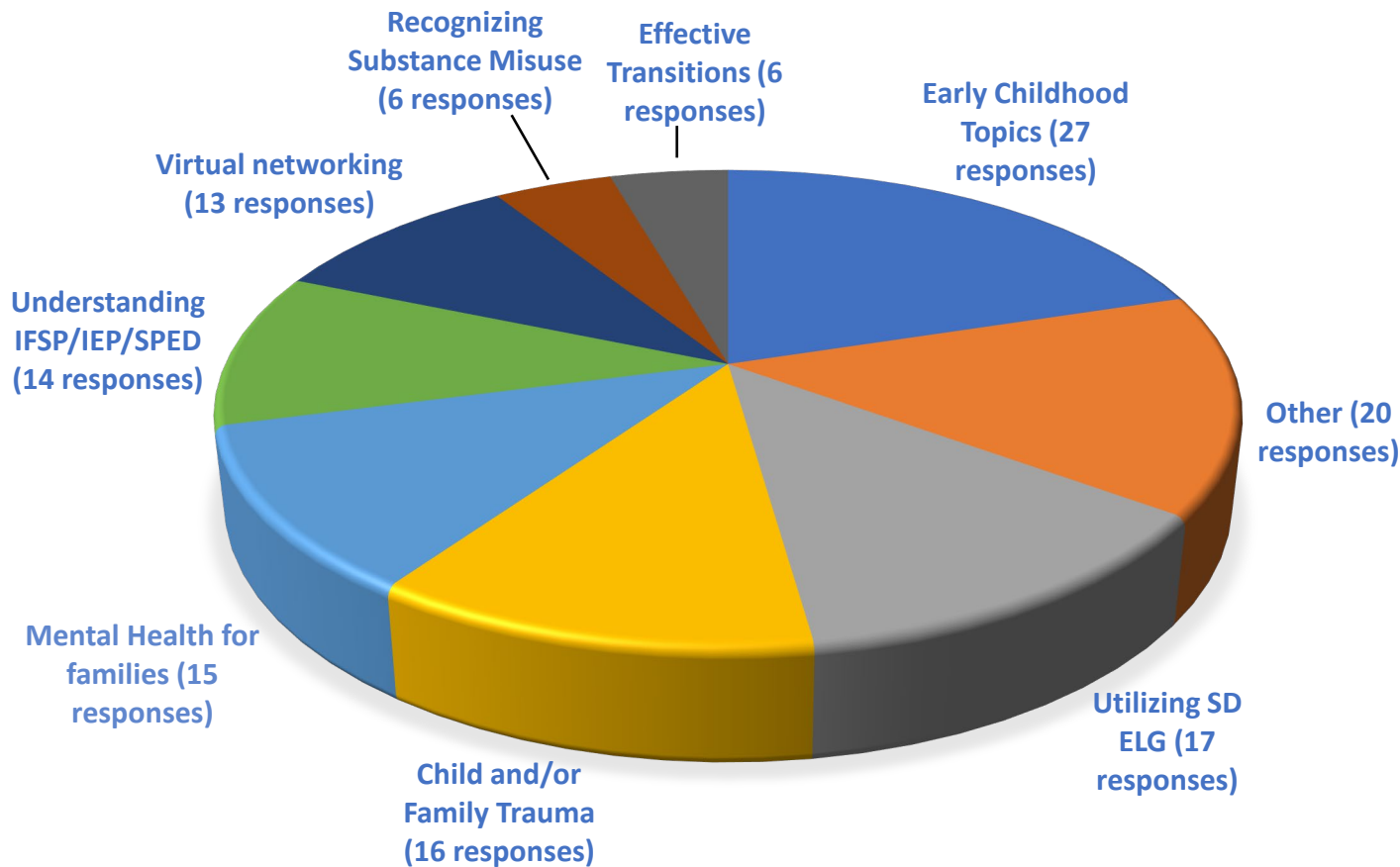
No

59% of stakeholder respondents chose not to provide contact information within the survey. Majority of stakeholders have an existing connection with the SDHSCO and/or an existing collaboration with their local Head Start.

4 respondents skipped this question.

Q.6. Would you like the SD Head Start Collaboration Office Director to contact you for more information about connecting to the Head Starts?





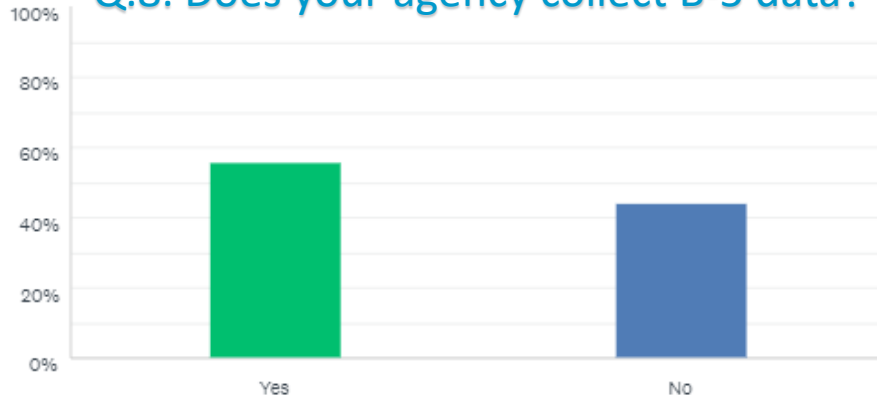
Q.7. Does your agency offer any of the following topics for Early Childhood educators in South Dakota? Check all that apply.

Most stakeholders offer trainings in Early Childhood. Utilizing the SD Early Learning Guidelines, Child and/or Family Trauma, Mental Health for families, Understanding IFSP's, IEP's, and Special Education and Providing Virtual Networking were also topics offered from various stakeholders across the state.

Stakeholders had the opportunity to check "Other". The following topics were included in their responses:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ~~Hands-On EC Materials | ~~Parenting Classes | ~~Health |
| ~~Advocacy/Professionalism/Support | ~~Literacy | ~~Behavior |
| ~~American Sign Language (ASL) | ~~Licensing/Quality Programs | ~~Secondary Education |
| | | ~~Funding info on Behavioral Health |

Q.8. Does your agency collect B-5 data?



56% of agencies collect data for children birth to age 5. Seven respondents skipped this question.

Stakeholders were not asked *specific* data collected; however, the YES-NO results give the SD HSCO an opportunity to connect with agencies and collaborate on relevant early childhood data.

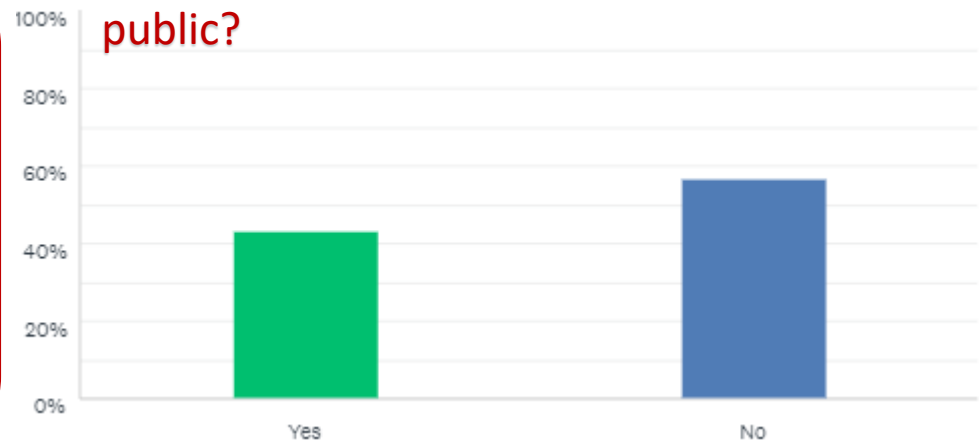


43% of stakeholders share their data with the public.

These represent:

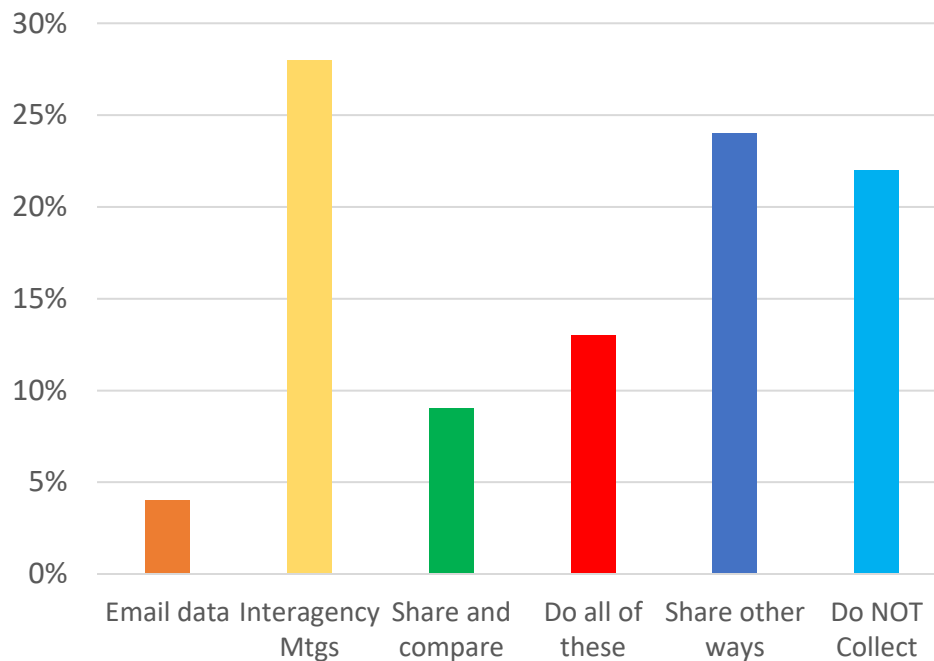
- State agencies such as DOE, DOH, and DSS
- South Dakota United Ways
- Post-secondary institutions and early childhood education centers
- Local agencies

Q.9. Does your agency report this data to the public?

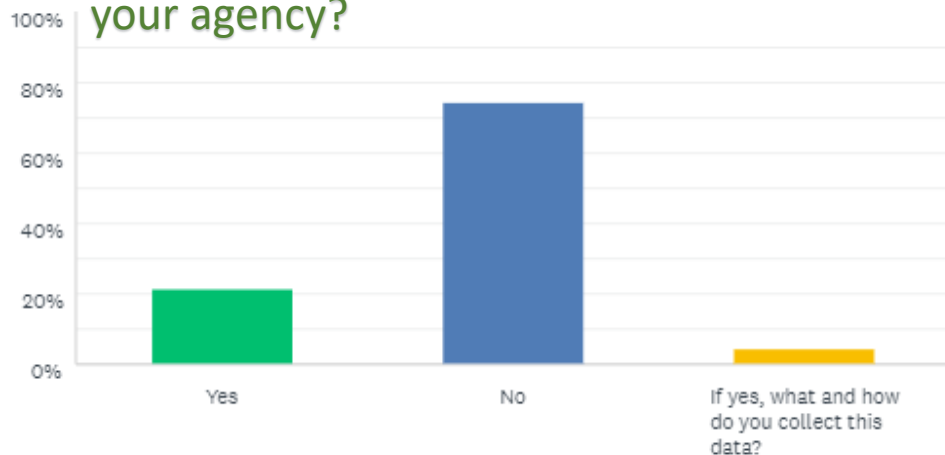


Q.10. Do you currently collaborate with other early childhood entities regarding data you collect? If yes, check all that apply.

- 22% of respondents did not collect data for their agency.
- 4% of agencies share data via email.
- 28% of stakeholders share their data at Interagency or Advisory meetings.
- 9% share their data with other early childhood entities to compare and use for effective decision-making
- 24% utilize their data in other ways
 - Research for Higher Education publications
 - Collaborate with certain agencies
 - Different age-range of data
 - Data used for reporting and funding
 - Shared internally



Q.11. Do you utilize SD Head Start data in your agency?



74% of stakeholders do not utilize Head Start data in their agency.

Working collaboratively on data sharing would improve services for children and families.

Head Start Data Collection Points

- Enrollment
- Staff Qualifications
- Dental, Health and Disability Services
- Family Information
- Education Services including Curricula, Assessment, Screening Tools, and Staff Observation Tools

Stakeholders Summary

Collaboration with Grantees

Stakeholders provide tangible supports and resources for staff and families. As Head Start staff, families and stakeholders work together, parents become valued members of their community and can progress toward their goals for themselves and their children. The results of the survey displayed SD agencies can provide similar or additional services in health, mental health, nutrition, child development, disabilities, and services to help parents reach their goals. Collaboration between Head Start and local agencies can help toward parents' educational advancement, economic mobility, and child welfare services.

Collaboration with SDHSCO

The HSCO has existing valuable connections with many stakeholders in South Dakota. The outcomes of the survey offers greater opportunities for new collaborations between agencies and HSCO director.

Professional Development

Stakeholders identified comparable professional development opportunities that grantees stated were of importance.

- Child and Family Trauma
- Mental Health
- Substance Misuse
- Effective Transition

Data

Data is used to continually improve support for children and families and is used in program planning and goal-setting. Sharing similar data between Early Childhood entities and Head Start is an opportunity working together to enhance services to mutual children and families.

Results of the 2021 Needs Assessment will be used in determining collaboration, goal-setting, and strategic planning of the 2021 SDHSCO Continuation Grant.