Dental Hygienist Liaison Project

DHL Assessment

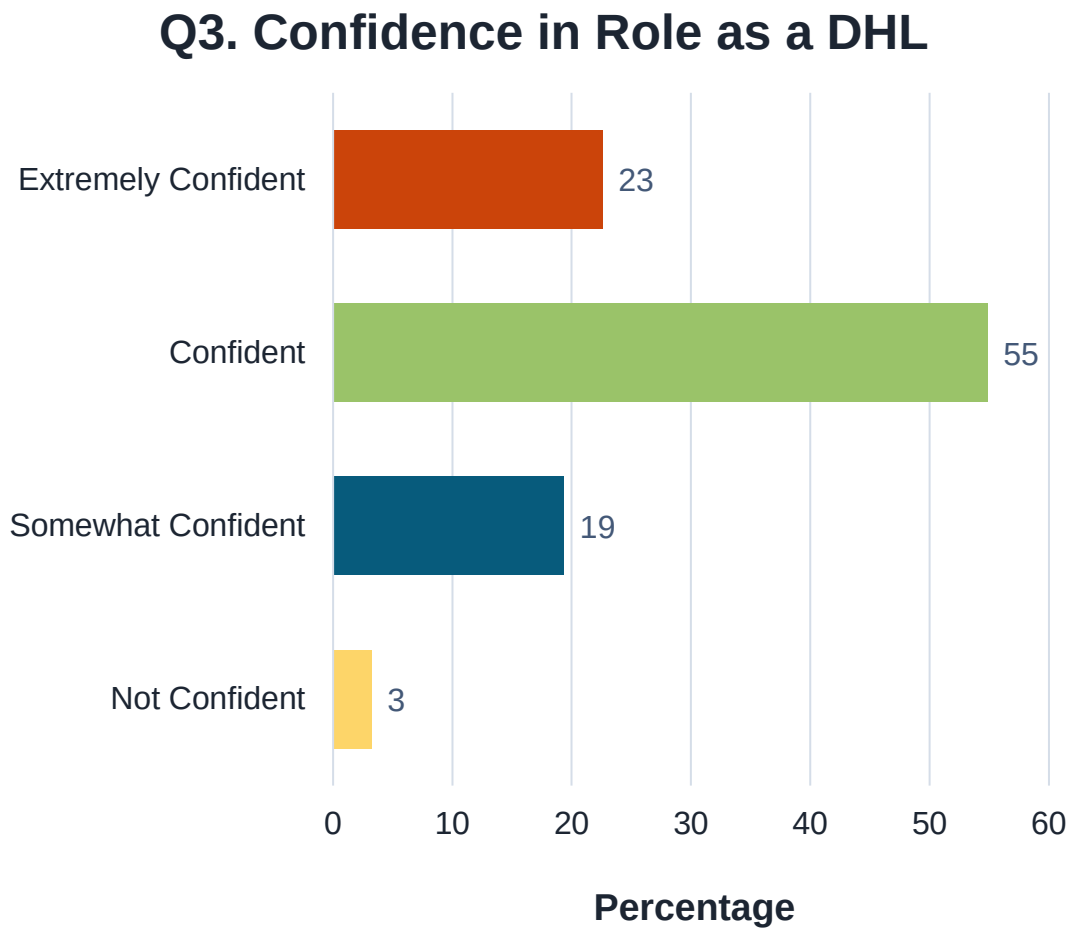
4th Quarter Webinar
September 28, 2022

National Center on
Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

Working Agenda

- Year 2 DHL Assessment
- Share your stories

DHL Annual Assessment Findings



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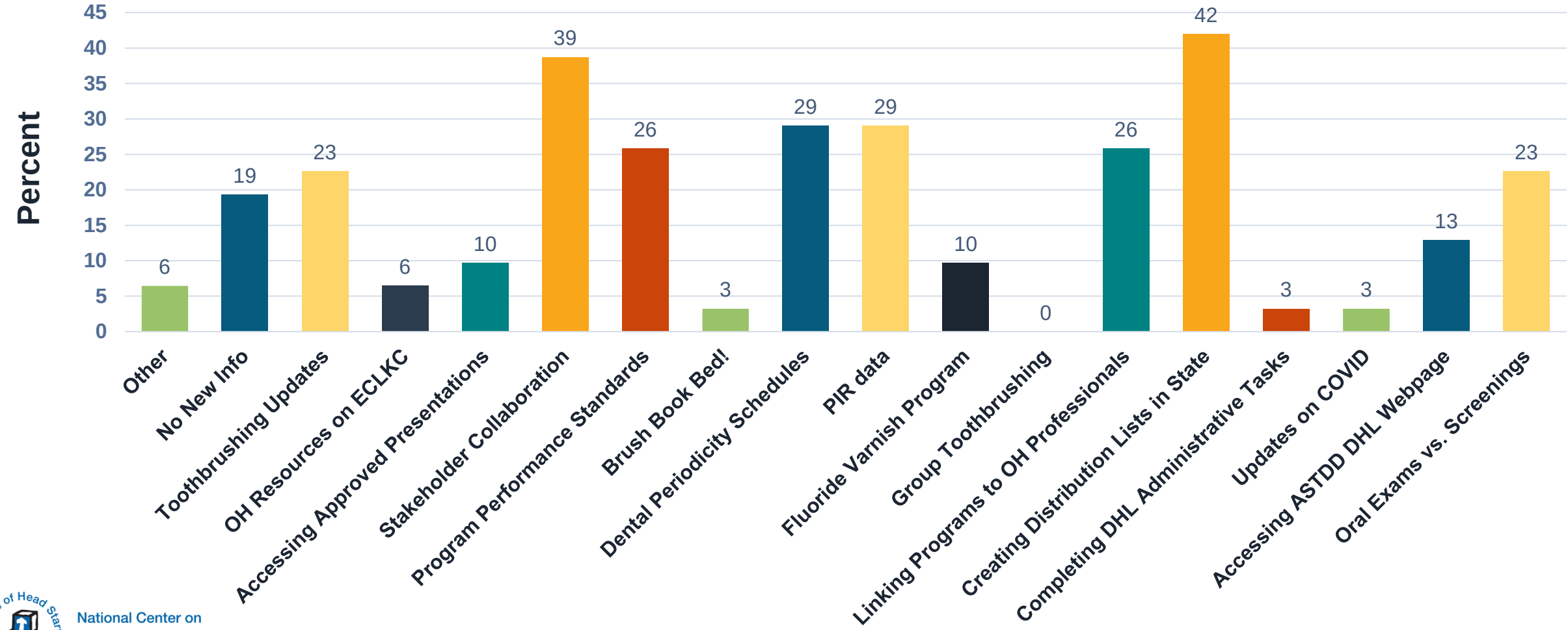
DHL Annual Assessment Findings

Q4. Content Areas for More Guidance from Regional DHL Coordinator



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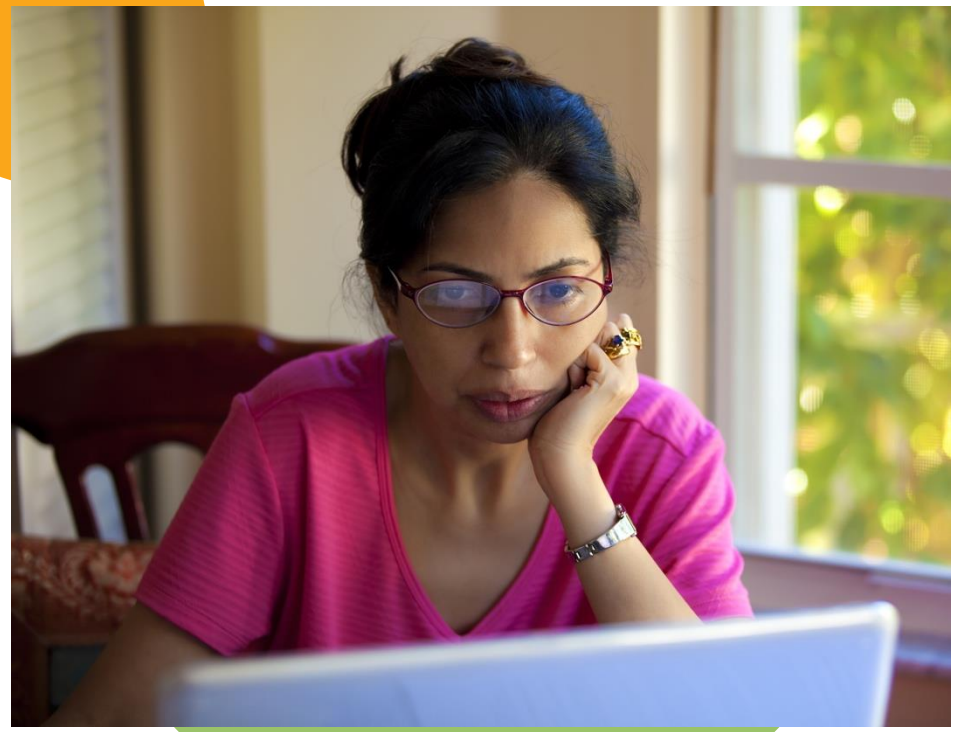
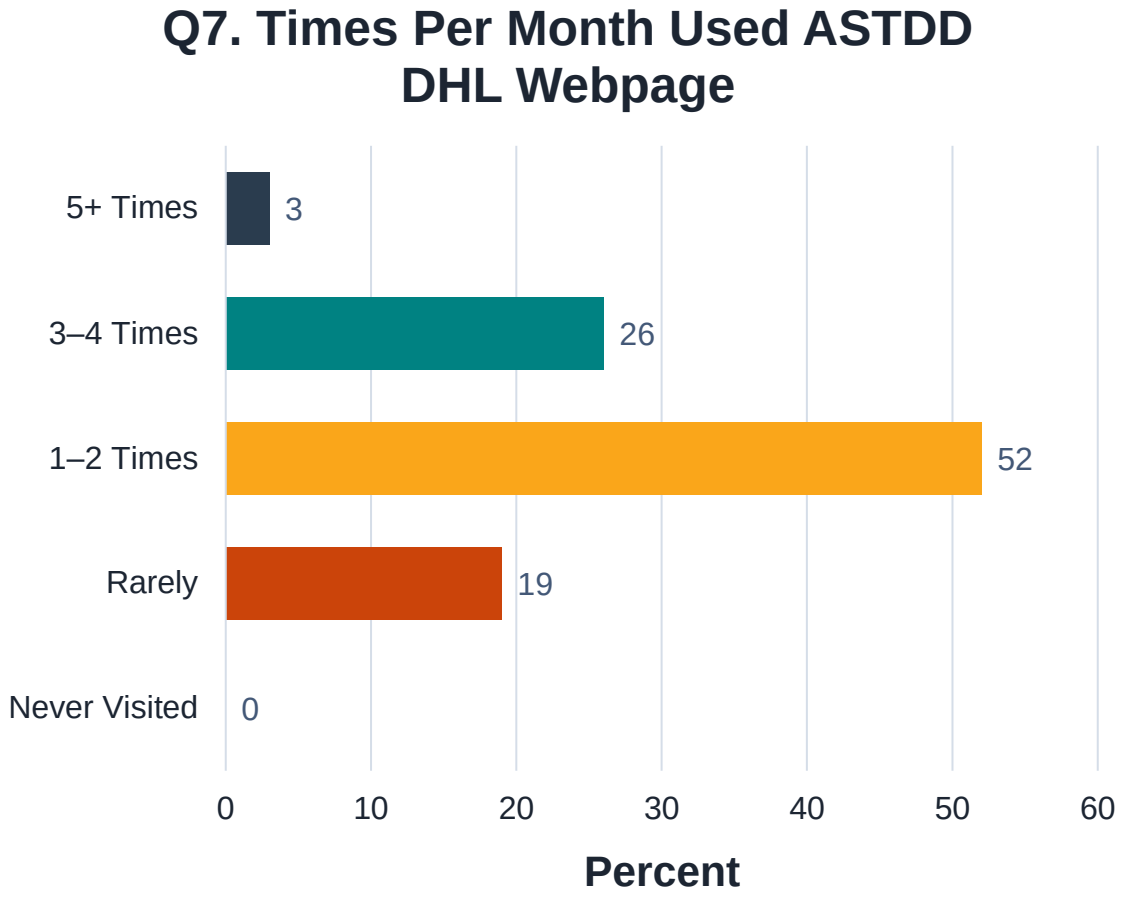
DHL Annual Assessment Findings





www.astdd.org/head-start-state-dental-hygienist-liaisons-information

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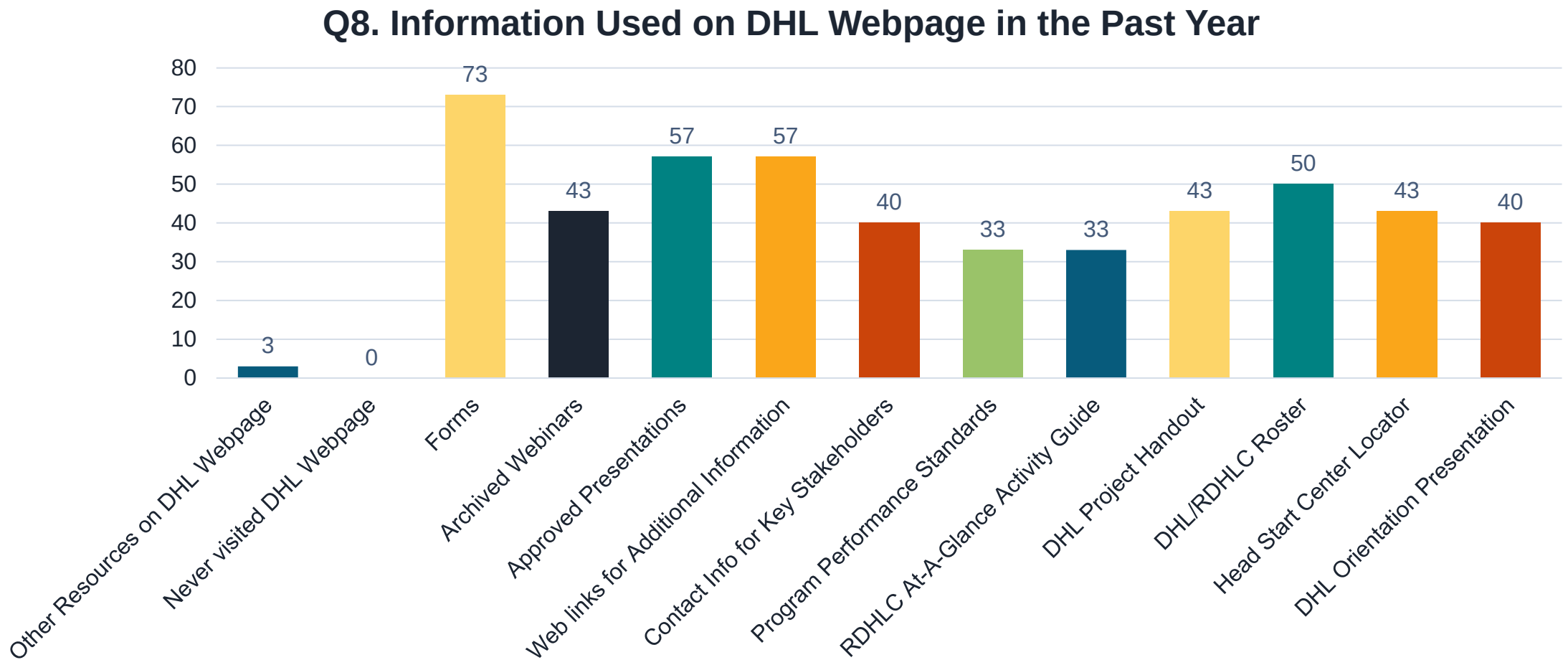
DHL Annual Assessment Findings



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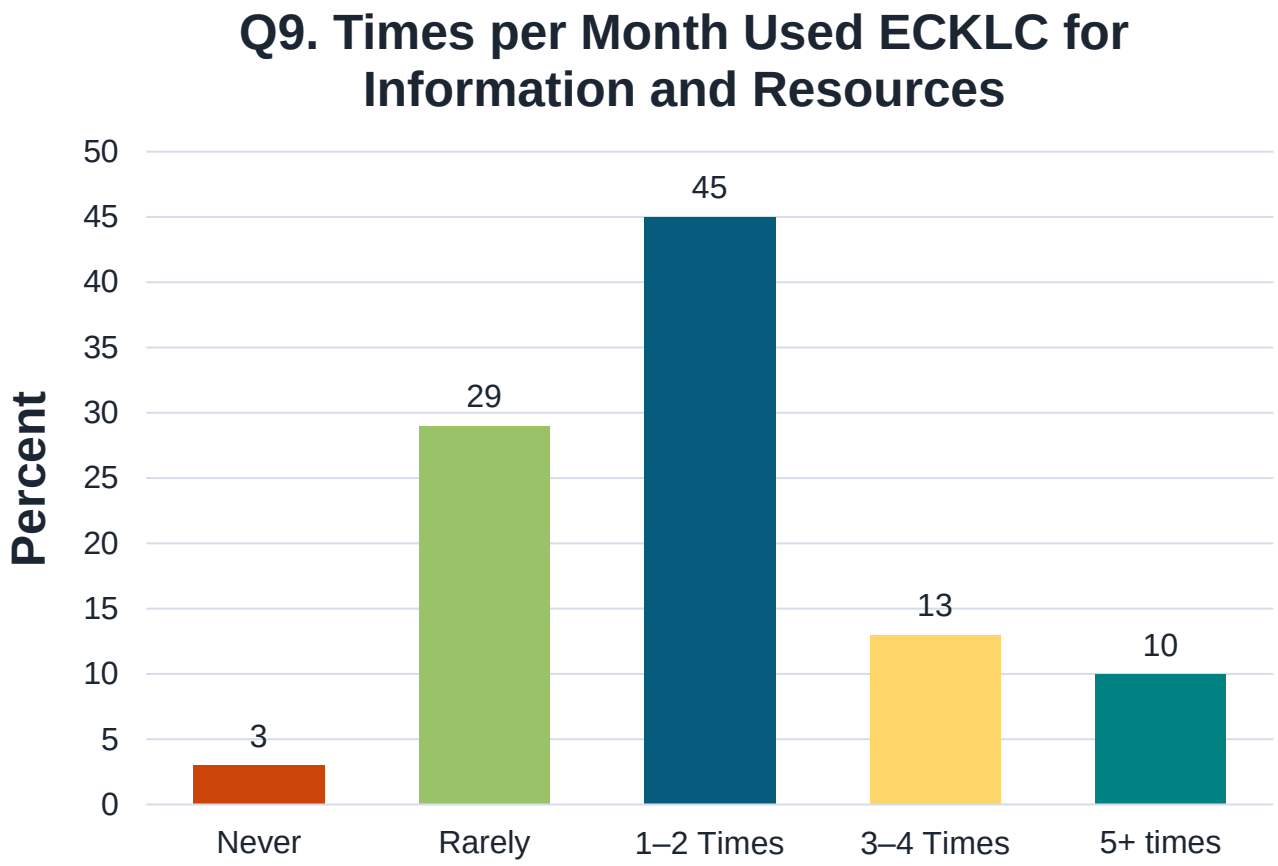

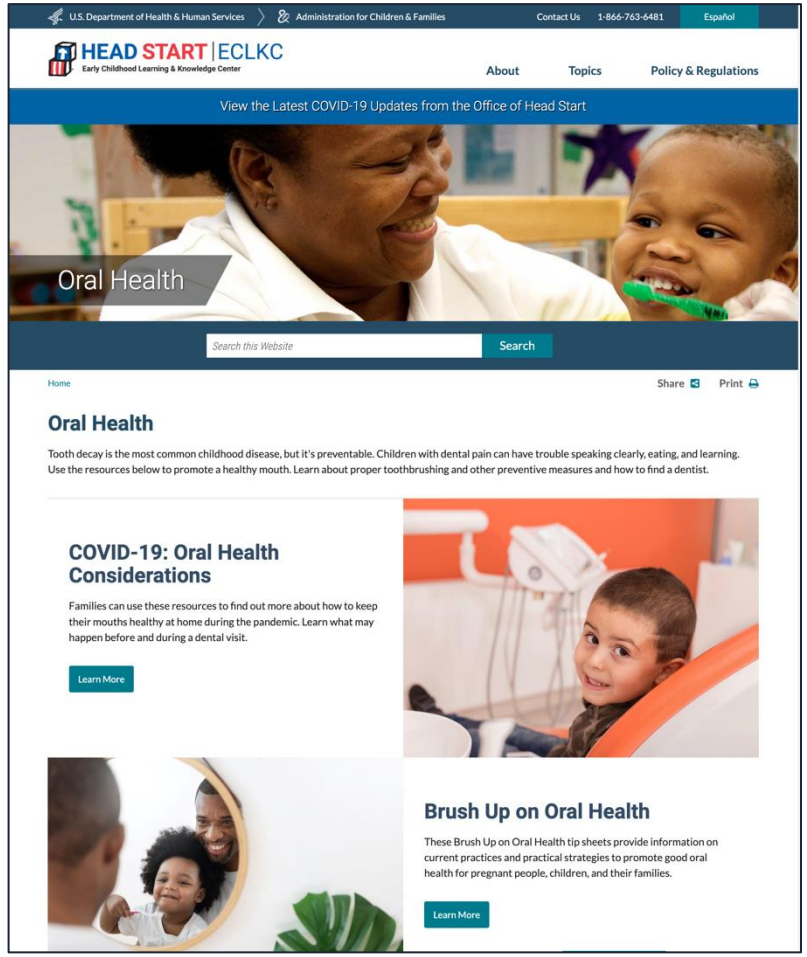

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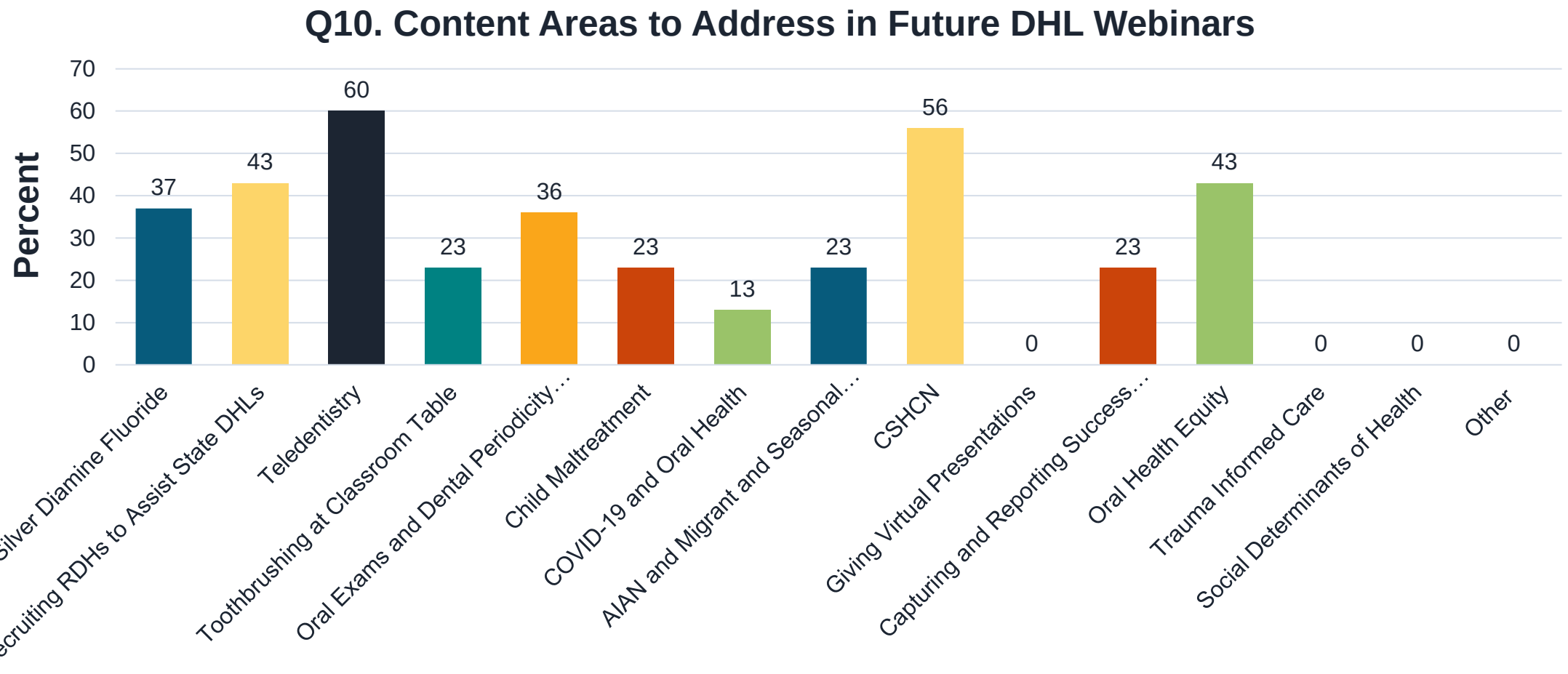
DHL Annual Assessment Findings



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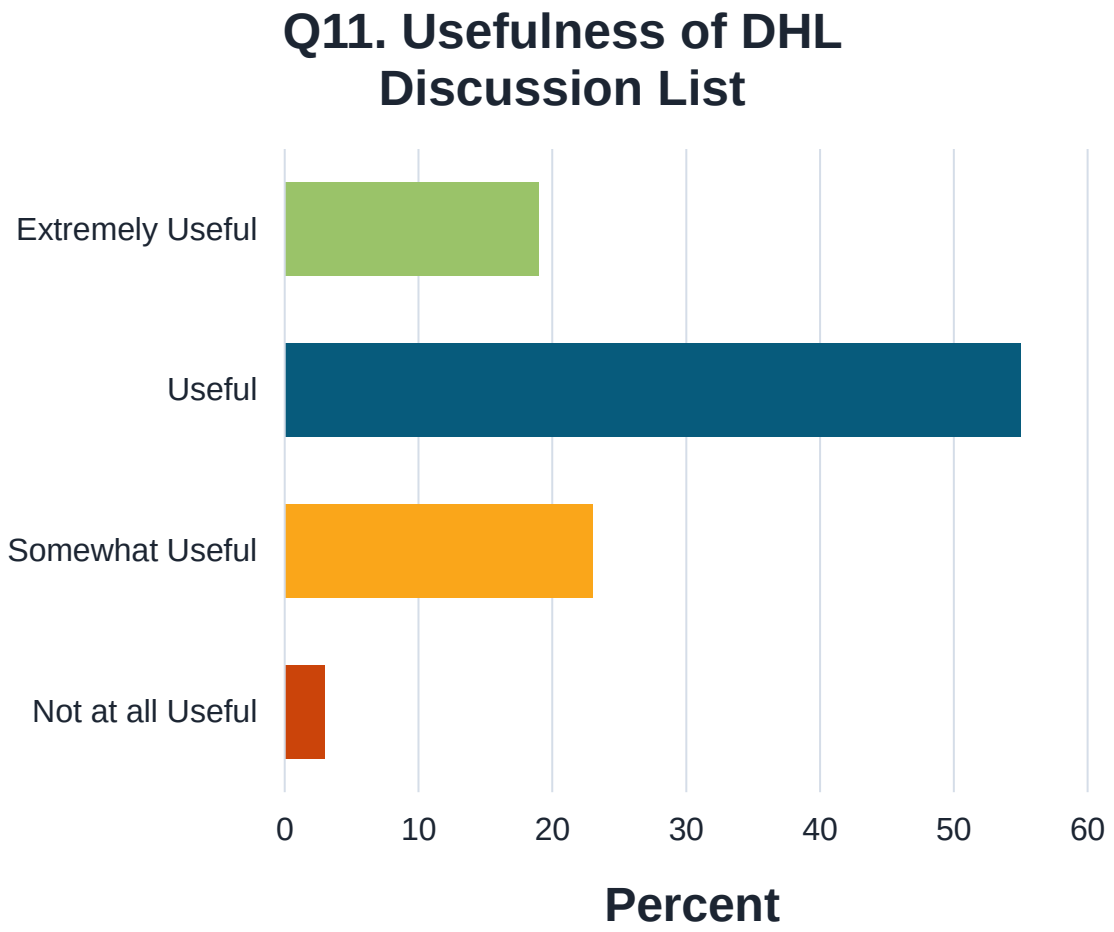
DHL Annual Assessment Findings



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DHL Annual Assessment Findings

Q12. Additional Information Requested to Receive on DHL Discussion List

Sharing DHL Experiences, Issues Collaboration

- Share DHL state activities
- Tips to connect with Head Start programs

Sharing Resources, Best Practices, Select Topics, Advocacy

- Send resources that can be forwarded to programs
- Flag hot topics to share with stakeholders

Additional Comments

- Webpage is well-designed and includes needed information
- Content and webinars are enjoyable
- New to DHL position and not familiar with discussion list yet

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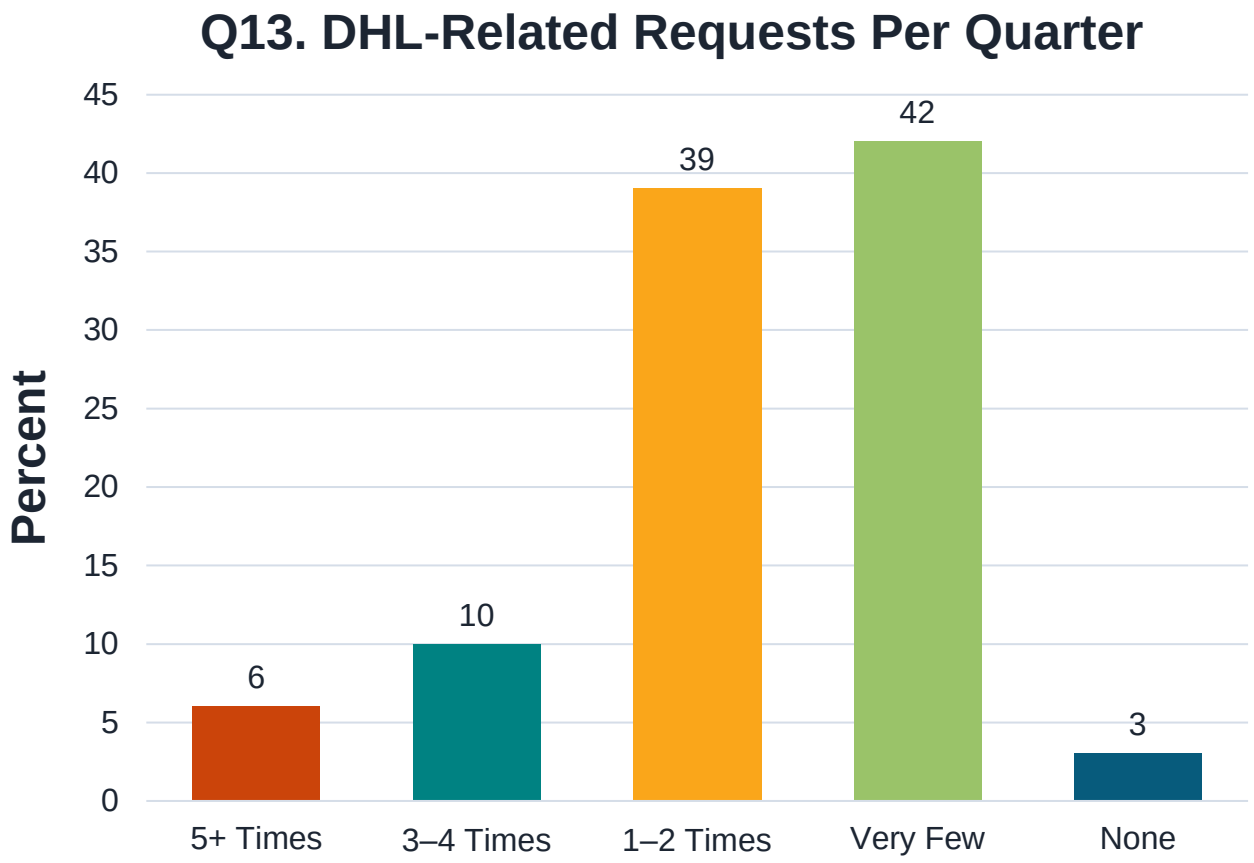
DHL Annual Assessment Findings



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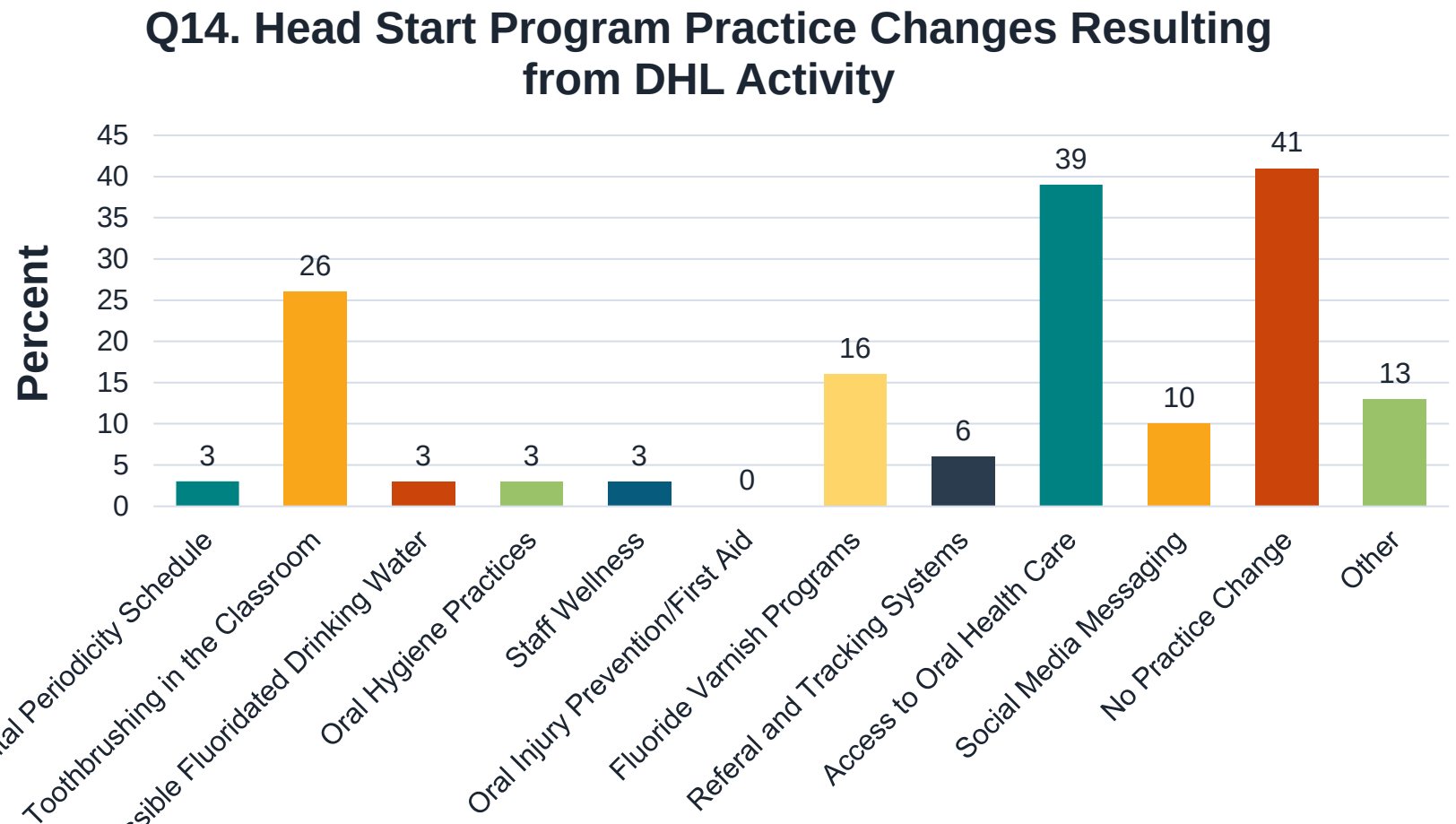
DHL Annual Assessment Findings



Other

- Negative impact of COVID on staffing, enrollment
- Most programs are returning to pre-COVID classroom toothbrushing activities
- Need more information

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DHL Annual Assessment Findings

Q16. How Head Start Programs are Using *Resources to Make You Smile!*

Using Information

- Programs include information in their media outlets
  - Newsletters
  - Websites
- Share newsletter with program staff, health mangers, and state collaboration officers
- Share topic-specific information with individual parents

Using Recipes

- Include recipes in programs' snack schedules
- Use recipe testing at the program to provide a connection to parents
- Staff share stories of how their children at home like or dislike a recipe

n = 21

DHL Annual Assessment Findings

Q21. Most significant challenges faced in fulfilling role as a DHL

Theme	Key Challenges
Provide services; lack of time, funding; geography; travel	• Enough time to participate in meetings and connect with partners across the state • Travel to multiple centers and recruiting volunteers for events • More time to dedicate to the DHL project
Establish and maintain contacts; staff and stakeholder turnover	• Keeping up with recent and frequent staff turnover • Making connections with Head Start programs and groups in the state • Maintaining accurate and up-to-date lists of Head Start centers and health managers
Limited access to care	• Finding oral health professionals willing to see children with unmet need and who covered by Medicaid • Navigating how to help programs meet their children's oral health needs • Understanding how PIR data can be used to improve access to care
COVID-19	• Unable to work with Head Start programs for the past 2 years because of COVID • Pandemic worries persist • COVID-created challenges including limited enrollment and staff shortages
Additional Comments	• Schedule conflicts with Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting dates • Steep learning curve

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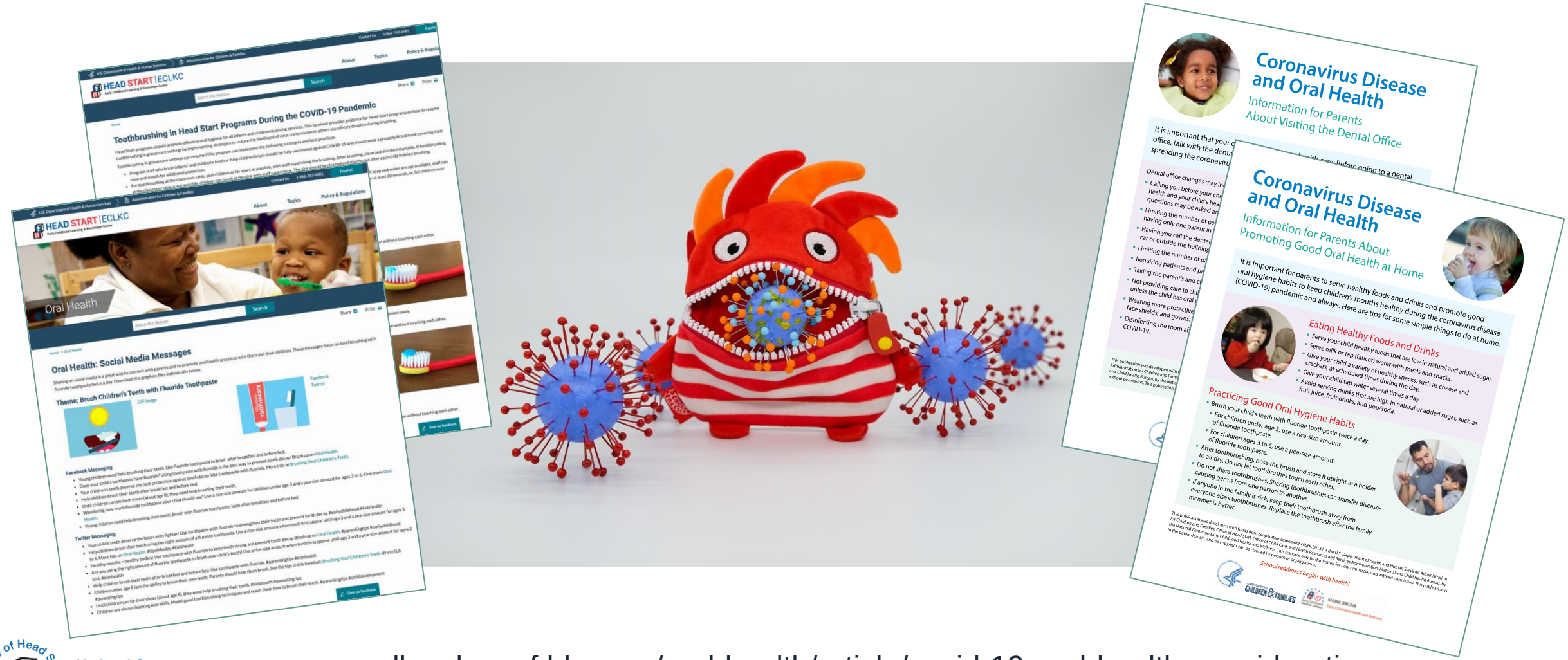
COVID-19 and Oral Health



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eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/oral-health/article/covid-19-oral-health-considerations
eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/oral-health/article/oral-health-social-media-messages

Share Your Stories

- Successes
- Challenges
- Lessons Learned

Next Steps

- Evaluation
- Changes in Terminology-
  - Annual DHL Stipend to become DHL Expense Allowance
- Year Three webinars-polling

National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

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