

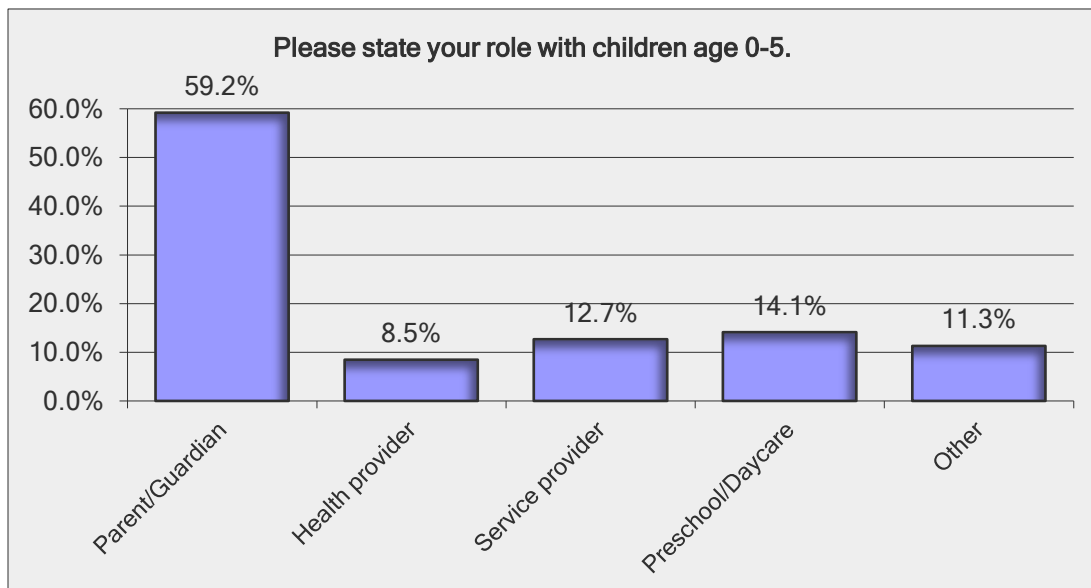
## Huron Community Resource Assessment Analysis

July 15, 2014

The South Dakota Head Start Community Resource Assessment of the Huron area began with an introductory meeting on April 1, 2014 at the First Baptist Church in Huron. Representatives from local daycares, United Way, Beadle Co. Health, Huron Head Start, Huron Regional Medical Center, Lutheran Social Services, and SD Department of Health-Bright Start, were in attendance at the meeting. A Karen translator was provided by Lutheran Social Services for Karen parents in attendance at the meeting. The survey was reviewed and questions answered. Comments were taken, and a good discussion was held between those in attendance about items of concern and ideas for getting the survey out to the community. As a result of these discussions, the survey was translated into Karen and Spanish for distribution. Many people took hard copies of the survey to distribute to those who would not have access to the survey online. The online link and reinforcing information was sent via email to those in attendance that afternoon.

The survey included Huron, one of the areas served by the Bright Start Home Visiting Program. There were 108 responses, both paper and through the online link received by the SDHSA office. Most of the respondents answered all questions, many adding additional comments.

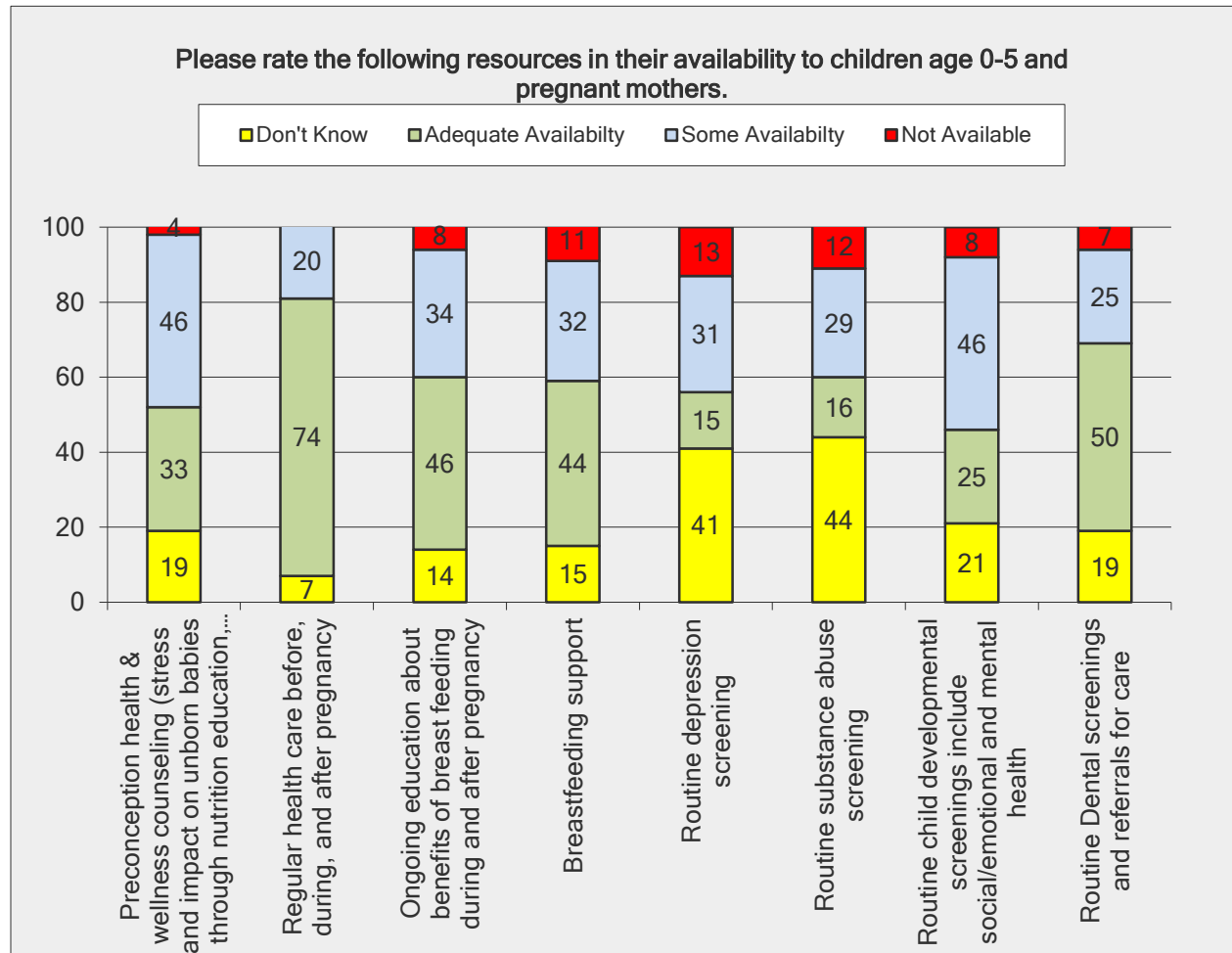
The survey was divided into four sections: Health, Family Resources, Mental Health Services, and Pre-School. This analysis will look at each area of questions, using graphs and narrative, and end with a final summation. Findings will be discussed at a Post-Survey Meeting to allow comments and discussions for using the results to address needs identified by the survey.



The survey was revised to include information about survey takers and their relationship with Early Childhood health and education concerns. Some older print versions of the survey did not include this question. Therefore, the results of this graph represent 71 respondents who answered the question. 37 survey takers did not have the option of answering this question.

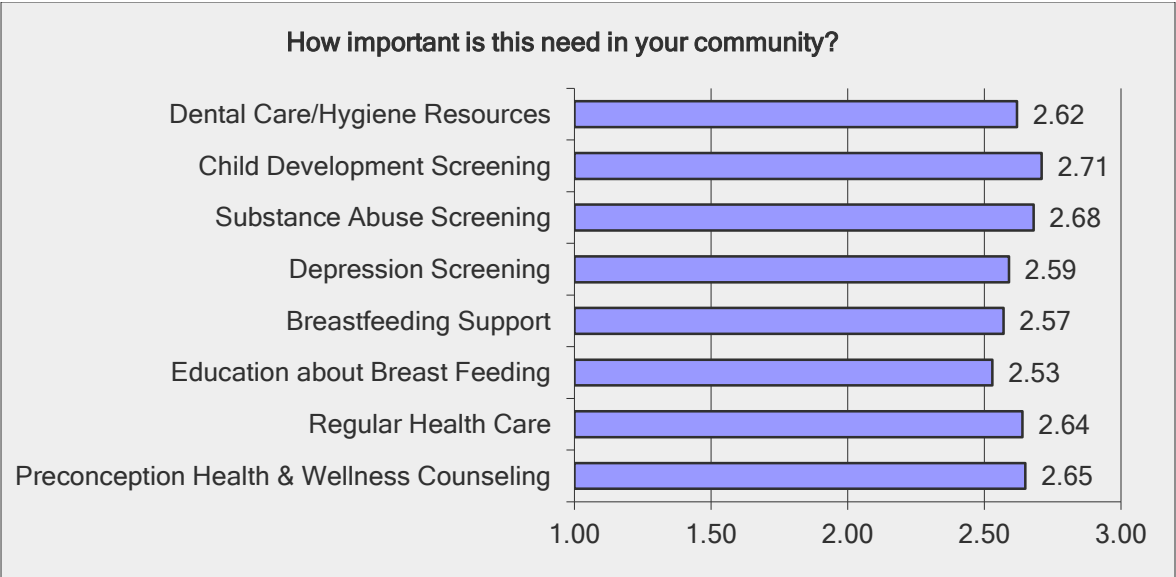
By far the largest faction represented in this survey is parents and guardians, which met our goal of getting the survey into their hands. Preschool and daycare providers represent 14% of those taking the survey. Those represented in the “other” category were grandparents, law enforcement, public transit, interpreters, and public school staff.

## Health



Available & SW Available	79	94	80	76	46	45	71	75
	78%	93%	79%	75%	45%	45%	70%	74%
Not Available/ Don't Know	23	7	22	26	54	56	29	26
	23%	7%	22%	26%	53%	55%	28%	26%

The graph above shows the compiled ratings for all questions in the Health Section. The area shows an outstanding 93% of survey takers rating Regular health care as adequate or some availability. The two areas highlighted in yellow fall below 50% and are cause for concern in the knowledge or lack of knowledge of programs services dealing with depression screening and substance abuse screenings.



**Those taking the survey were asked to rate the importance of needs in their community.**

The question was ranked on a three point scale – Not Important (1), Important (2), and Very Important (3). The numbers represent an average of the rankings of all respondents. All items ranked above the “Important” level (2.0).

Child Development Screening was valued the most, followed by Substance Abuse Screening. Both of these items ranked at the 2.7 level when rounded.

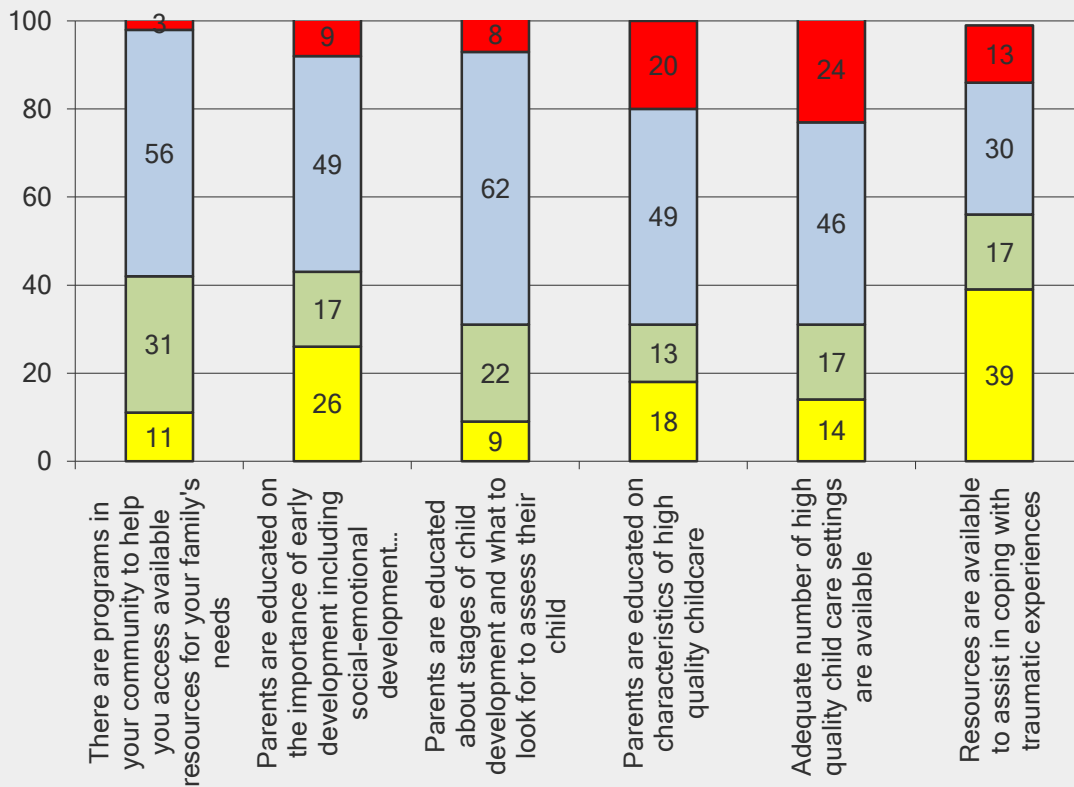
Preconception Health & Wellness, Regular Health Care, and Dental Care/Hygiene were valued at the next level (over 2.6).

Those items ranked as the least important of the assessed areas are Depression Screening, Breastfeeding Support, and Breastfeeding Education. These still rank closer to Very Important being above 2.5.

**Family Resources**

Please rate the following resources in their availability to children age 0-5 and pregnant mothers.

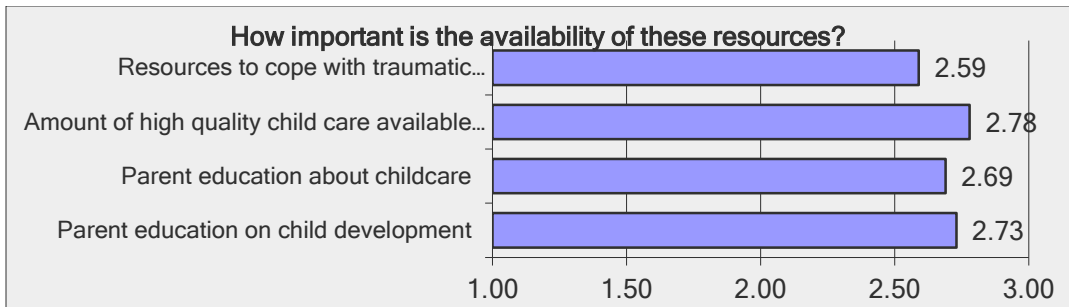
■ Don't Know 
 ■ Adequate Availability 
 ■ Some Availability 
 ■ Not Available



Available/ SW Available	87	66	84	52	63	47
Available	87%	66%	84%	52%	63%	47%
Not Available/ Don't Know	14	35	17	38	38	42
Not Available/ Don't Know	14%	35%	17%	38%	38%	42%

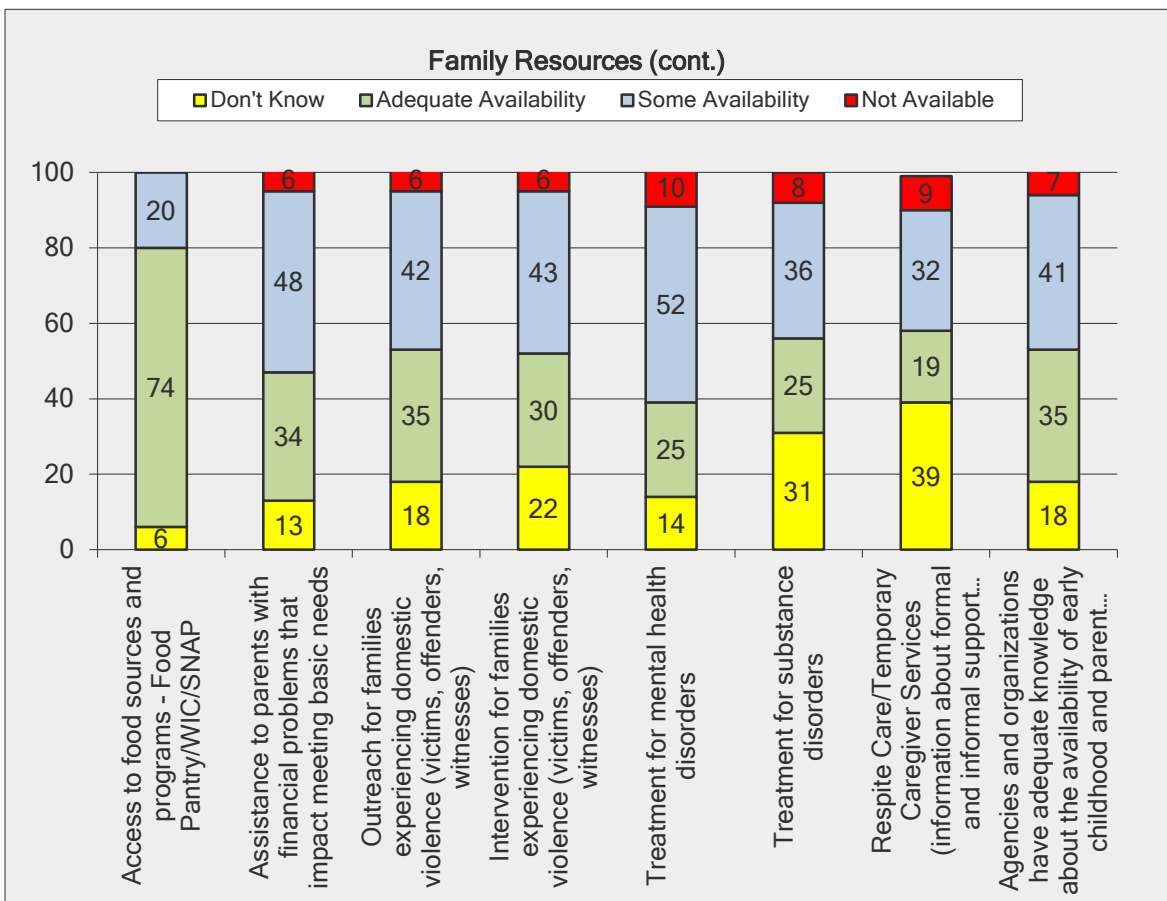
Those taking the survey indicate availability of referral and resource programs, as well as parent education concerning early childhood development. While parent education about the quality of childcare services is above 50%, it is concerning that 38% rate the service as not available or they are unaware of the service. There are also 38% of respondents who say that the numbers of childcare settings are not available, or they don't know about them.

Receiving the lowest rating of availability is resources for dealing with traumatic experiences, with only 47% aware of services and programs, and 42% not aware of those programs.



This question was ranked on a three point scale – Not Important (1), Important (2), and Very Important (3). The numbers represent an average of the rankings of all respondents. All items ranked above the “Important” level (2.0).

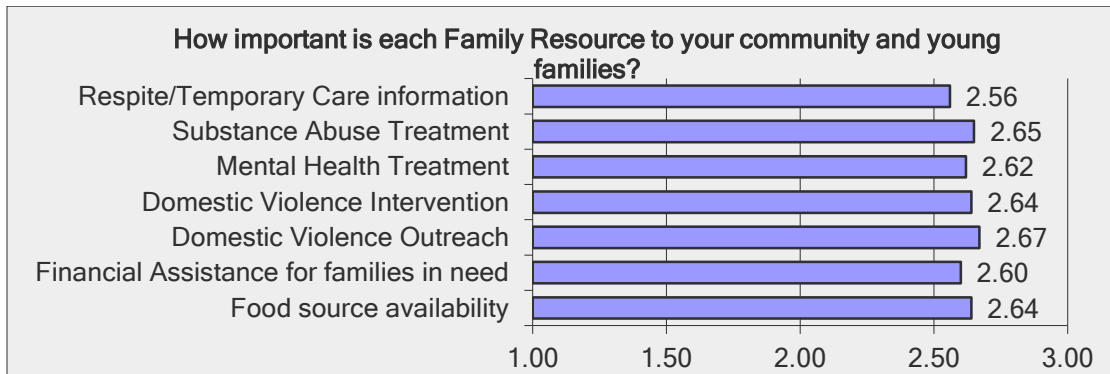
Ranking of the importance of each of the identified needs show all at 2.6 or above and closer to Very Important, with the availability of High quality childcare the most important followed by Parent education on child development next.



Available & SW Available	94 93%	82 81%	77 76%	73 72%	77 76%	61 59%	51 51%	76 75%
Not Available/ Don't Know	6 6%	19 19%	24 24%	28 28%	24 24%	39 39%	48 48%	25 25%

This section of family resources show very high availability for access to food sources (93%) and financial assistance to help families meet basic needs (81%). All areas are rated above 50%, the lowest being the availability of Respite Care or temporary relief for caregivers.

Treatment for substance abuse disorders (39% not available or unknown) could be showing the lack of services in that area, or lack of information about the services.



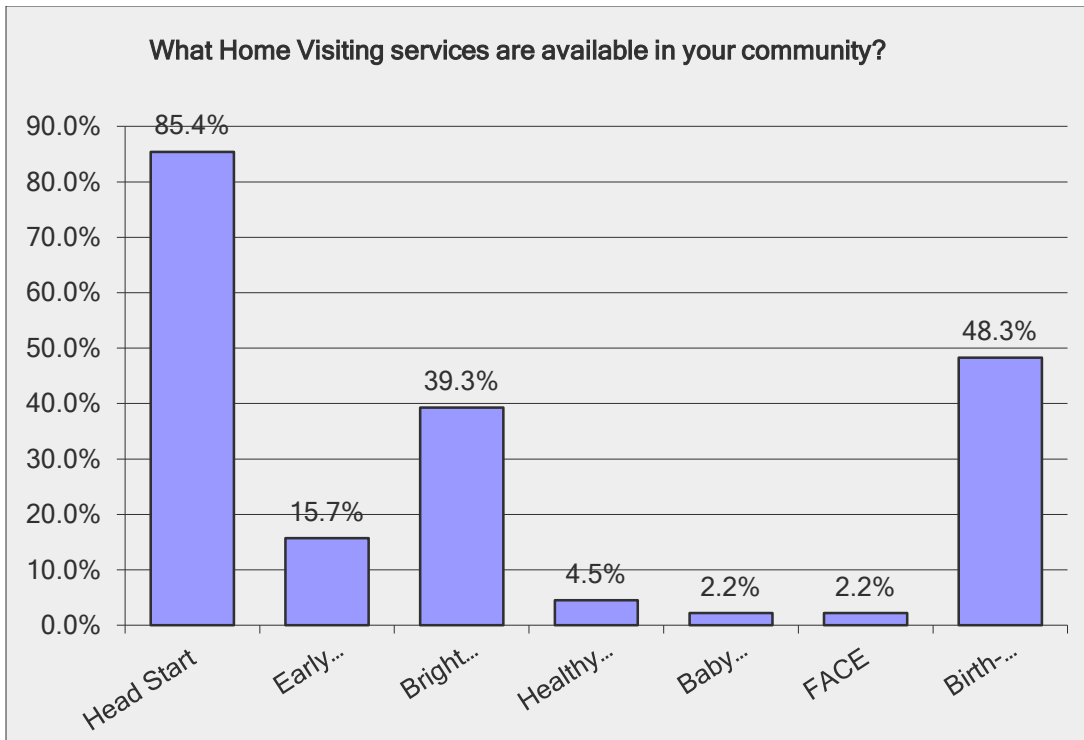
All of these rankings on the three point scale of Not Important (1), Important (2), and Very Important (3) are very close with all falling between 2.6 and 2.7 with rounding. With 2.5 being midway between Important and Very Important, the all fall closer to the Very Important range.

Domestic Violence Outreach and Substance Abuse Treatment are ranked the most important of these services.

### **Are There Barriers to Accessing the Services Above?**

This question was presented as an open text box. Respondents entered non-restricted and non-cued comments. Recurring barriers listed by those taking the survey include, in order of the most frequently cited barrier:

- Language was cited by 39% of those responding to this question
- Transportation was cited as a problem for 17%
- Awareness of services available to families – 17%
- Trust and stigma of seeking out help
- Funding of programs

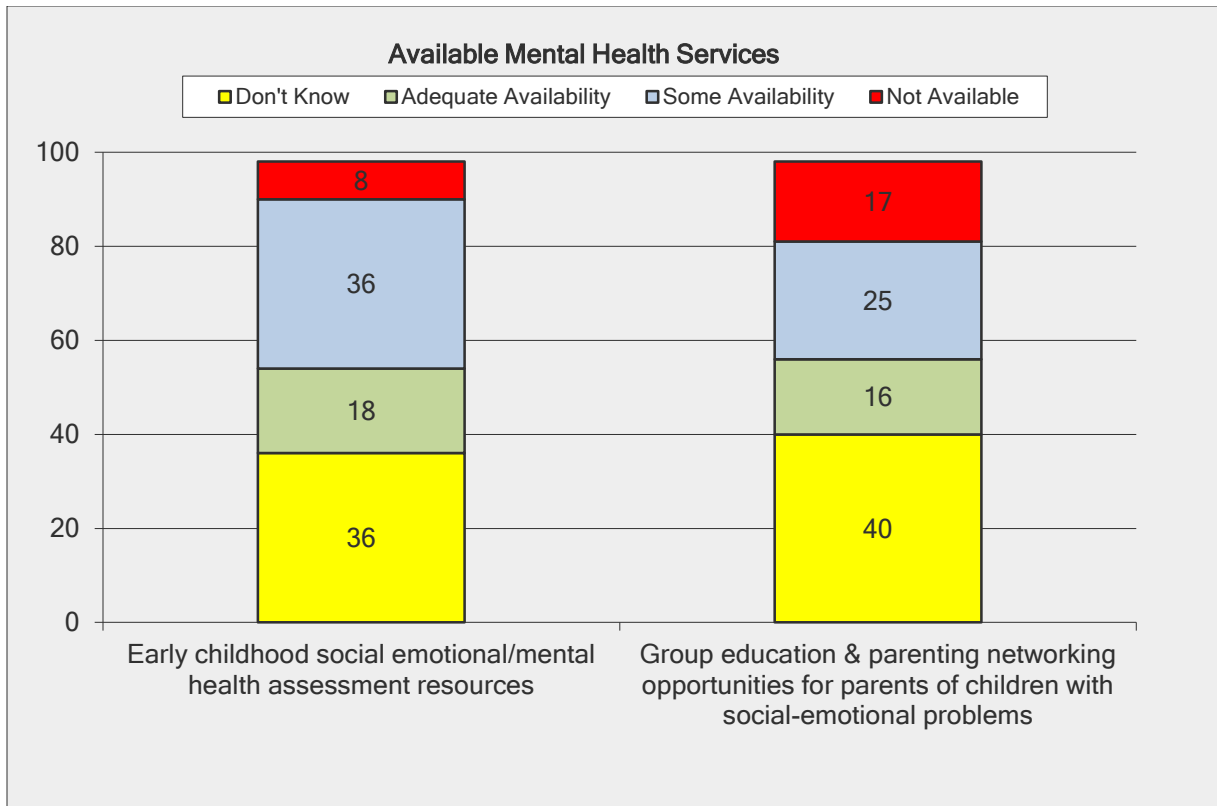


Other services listed in comments were Preschool Partnership Program, Home Health, Home Based Family Services through Community Counseling.

### What Informal Neighborhood Resources Exist?

This question was an open-ended comment section, with respondents citing other resources and programs in their communities.

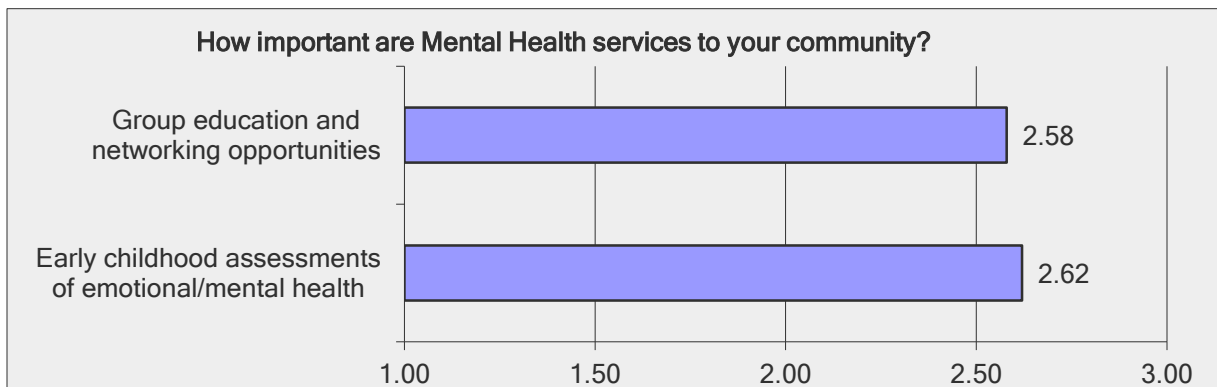
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) was listed by 35% of those who answered this question. Churches were listed by 25%.



**54 of the 98 people (55%)** responding to this question rate Early childhood social emotional/mental health assessment resources as available. **44 (45%)** rate it as not available.

**41 of the 98 (42%)** respondents cite availability to education and networking for parents of social-emotional children. **57** respondents, or **58%** rate the service as not available or non-existent.

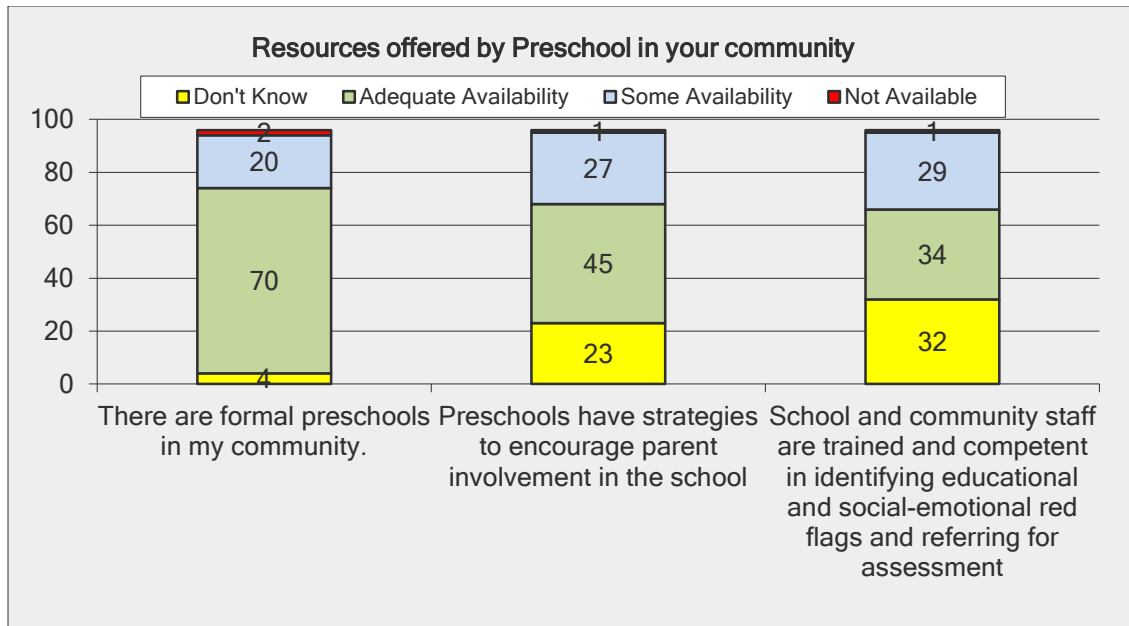
While assessment of early childhood social emotional and mental health problems is available, there is a high percentage of respondents who are unaware of the service. The low rating for the second item, education and networking opportunities, shows an area of concern for helping parents deal with social emotional children.



Using the three point scale ranking used throughout this survey, both mental health early childhood services are ranked at the 2.6 mark, beyond midway to Very Important.

## Preschools

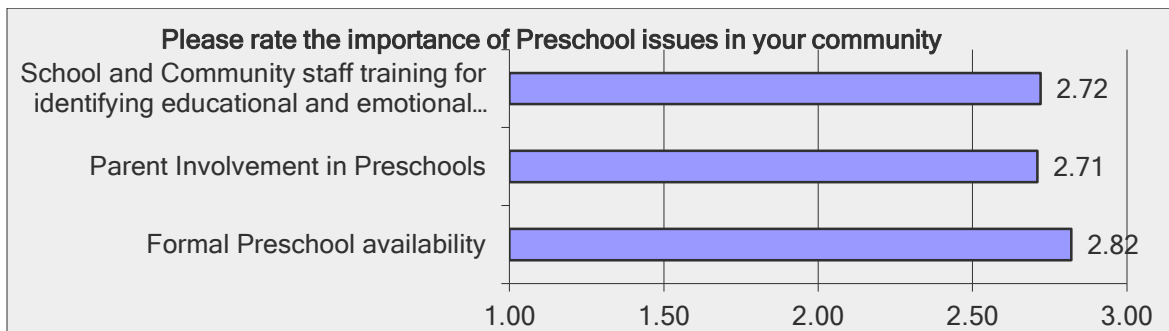




Available/ SW Available	90	72	63
	94%	75%	66%
Not Available/ Don't Know	6	24	33
	6%	25%	34%

The availability of formal preschools in Huron is very high. The level of parent involvement has also received a high rating. The rating for school and community staff training in identifying red flags in children is good. The third of respondents who are unaware or who cite no availability could be an area of concern.

Comments to this section mention the works of the Preschool Partnership Program and its effectiveness in bringing early childhood and public education together for regular meetings to share information and resources.



**Are there Informal Preschool Resources in your community?** This question was an open-ended comment section, with respondents citing other Preschool resources and programs in their communities. - No other informal preschools were cited. The Preschool Partnership Program was again mentioned for their coordination and collaboration work.

<b>Highest “Adequate” Rankings</b>	
Regular health care before, during, and after pregnancy	74
Access to food sources and programs - Food Pantry/WIC/SNAP	74
There are formal preschools in my community	70
Routine Dental screenings and referrals for care	50
Ongoing education about benefits of breast feeding	46
Preschools encourage parent involvement in the school	45
Breastfeeding support	44
<b>Highest “Some Availability” Rankings</b>	
Parents educated about stages of development & assessment	62
Programs to help families in need find resources	56
Treatment for mental health disorders	52
Education on importance of early development/social-emotional	49
Education on the importance of high quality childcare	49
Financial Assistance for Parents in meeting basic needs	48
<b>Highest “Not Available” Rankings</b>	
Adequate number of high quality childcare settings	24
Parent Education on characteristics of high quality childcare	20
Group Networking for Parents with Social/Emotional Child	17
Routine Depression Screening	13
Resources for Coping with Traumatic Experiences	12
Routine Substance Abuse Screening	11
Breastfeeding Support	10
<b>Highest “Don’t Know” Rankings</b>	
Routine Substance Abuse Screening	41
Routine Depression Screening	41
Group Networking for Parents with Social/Emotional Child	40
Resources for Coping with Traumatic Experiences	39
Respite Care/Temporary caregiver	39
Early Childhood Social/Emotional Assessment	36

## **Data Summary of Available Community Resources**

### **Identified Strengths:**

- Regular Health Care Before, During, and After Pregnancy
- Access to Food Sources and Programs
- Formal Preschools in the Community
- Programs to Help Families Access Resources to Meet Basic Needs
- Parents Educated on Stages of Child Development
- Financial Assistance for Families to Meet Basic Needs

### **Identified Weaknesses/Needs:**

- Education and Support Networking/Groups for Parents of Children with Social-Emotional Problems
- Routine Substance Abuse Screenings
- Routine Depression Screenings
- Resources for Coping with Traumatic Experiences
- Respite Care/Temporary Care-Relief for Primary Caregivers

### **Most Important Community Needs:**

- Availability of Formal Preschools (2.82)
- Adequate Amount of High Quality Childcare (2.78)
- Parent Education on Child Development (2.73)
- School/Community Staff Trained to Identify Educational and Emotional Concerns (2.72)
- Parent Involvement in Preschools (2.71)
- Child Development Screenings (2.71)

### **Considerations:**

Language and cultures play a definite role in the findings of this survey. Several groups worked hard to ensure that the survey was completed by members of the Karen and the Spanish communities in Huron. Discussion of the reading comprehension level of the survey questions raised a concern of the ability of some respondents to accurately answer questions.

Initial surveys were read to several Karen in attendance at the initial meeting. Dakota Provisions utilized translators to administer the survey. Those translating the survey obtained approval for alternative language for wording not existing in the respective languages.

### **Community Comments/Discussions:**

During a Post-Survey meeting held on July 15, 2014 a group of 15 early childhood stakeholders discussed the findings of this survey.

The group found one area of discrepancy in the results. They cited a need for more child care in Huron, even though the survey indicated 62% adequate/some availability and 38% not available/don't know for the amount of quality childcare settings. It was noted that there is a prominent need for infant care. Lutheran Social Services is working with a group of Karen mothers to start a daycare for Karen children in hopes of meeting part of the need.

While the group did not express any other major discrepancies in the findings of the survey, there were several items which were brought forth. The weakness found in Substance Abuse Treatment was clarified. The only treatment available is outpatient.

Language continues to be a major problem in Huron as well as problems with assimilation into the community. The city, school district, health services, and businesses have already done a lot to enhance their services and prepare their staff, but there are always new challenges. One problem is that while orientation to help with cultural differences is provided for the Karen community, less than half get the information about it and attend. Illiteracy among the culture is high, which limits the means of distributing information.

The Preschool Partnership Program works to teach language, social skills, and cultural norms to new culturally different populations entering the community, before those children enter Kindergarten. The entire assimilation process can be traumatic for children and families.