

**Spearfish/Belle Fourche
Community Resource Assessment Analysis
September 1, 2014**

The South Dakota Head Start Community Resource Assessment of the Spearfish/Belle Fourche area was released on March 26, 2014. The link to the online survey was sent to area schools, service providers, organizations, and health organizations via email with an explanation of the survey, asking their help in distributing the survey and making it known to area parents and stakeholders with Early Childhood interests. It was presented on April 15, 2014 at the Child Protection Team meeting by Bright Start staff. It was also presented at the Northern Hills Interagency meeting on the same day. The purpose of the survey was discussed and the desire to get the survey out to as many parents, guardians, service providers, and Early Childhood (0-5) stakeholders as possible. Hard copies of the survey were distributed at area offices and organizations by Bright Start nurses and mailed out by the SD Head Start office.

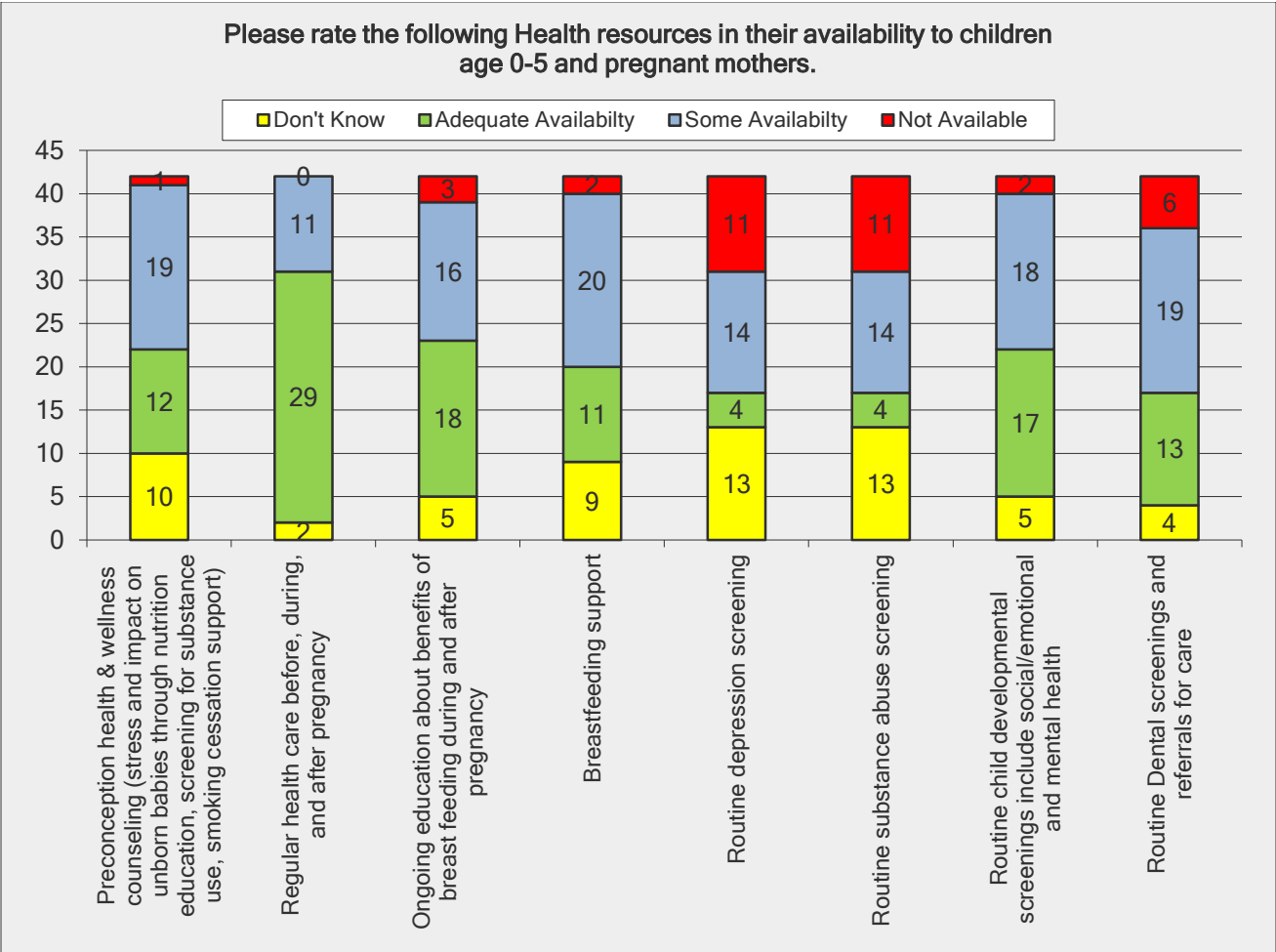
The survey included the Spearfish/Belle Fourche area, one of the areas served by the Bright Start Home Visiting Program. 53 responses were received by the SDHSA office, both paper and through the online link. Most respondents answered all questions, some adding additional comments.

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

Groups represented by those who took the survey are:

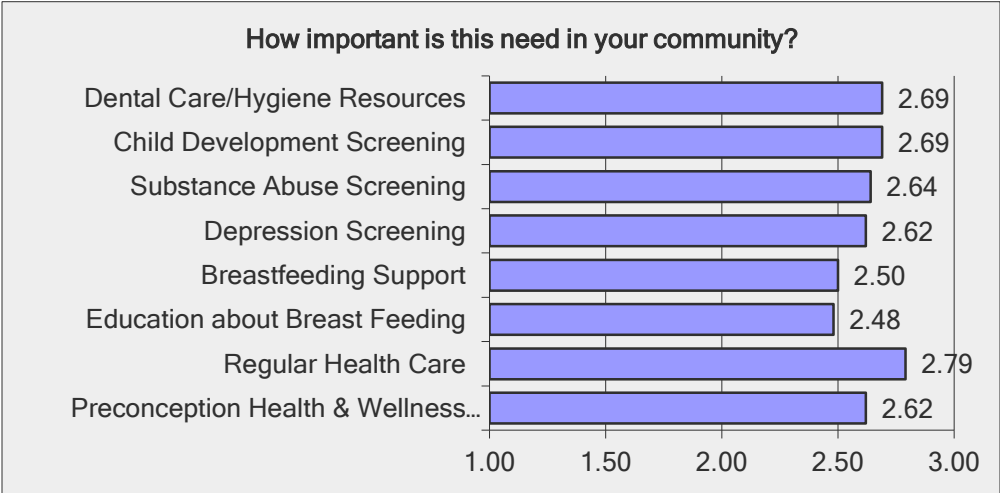
- Parents/Guardians 42.3%
- Service Providers 25.0%
- Others 21.2%
- Preschool/Daycare workers 11.5%
- Health Providers 3.8%

“Others” category includes 4H Advisor, Elementary teacher, Benefits Specialist, Community Center, Head Start staff, University personnel, Kindergarten Support, Program Educator, Children’s Ministry, and Fiscal/Human Resource.

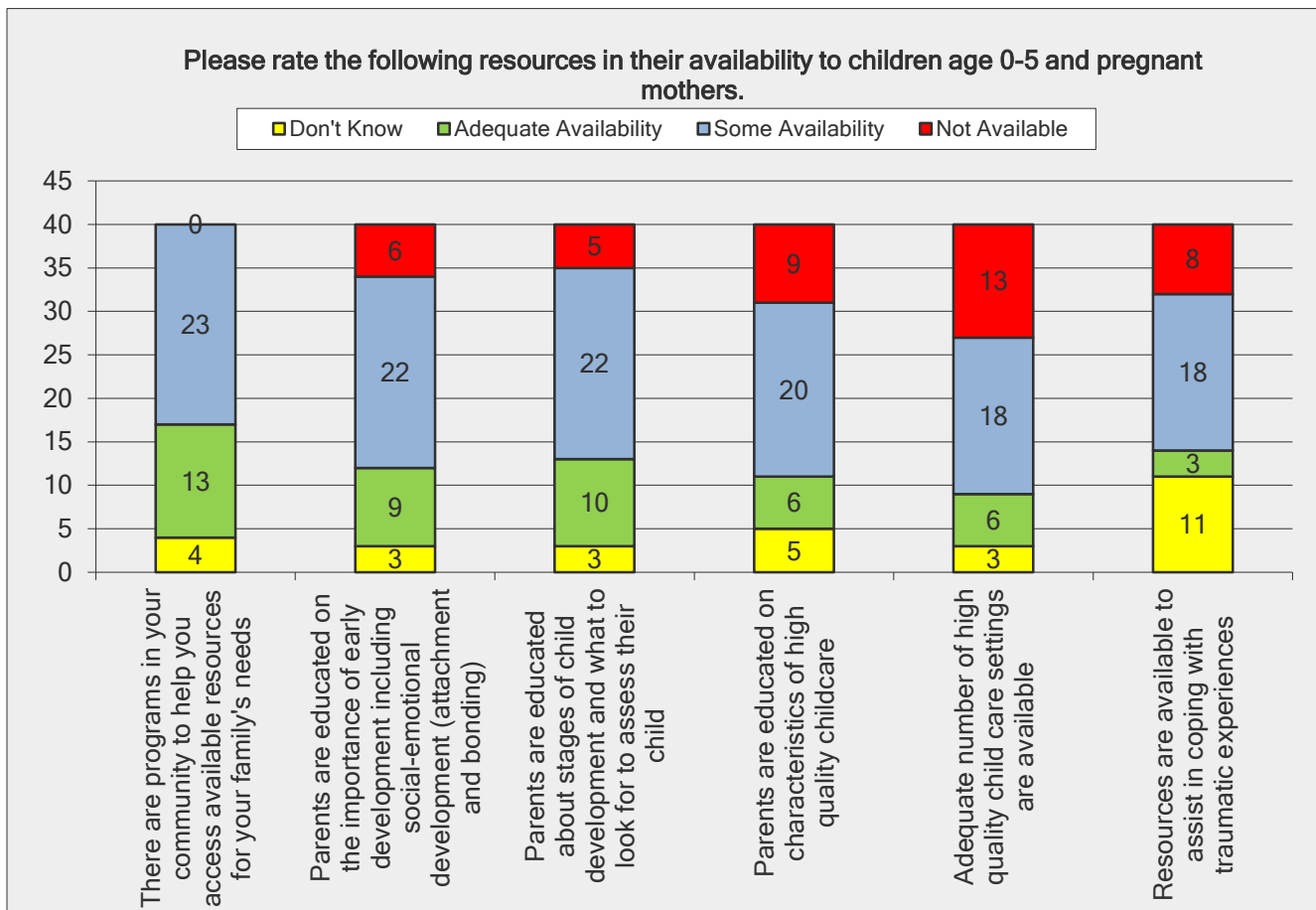


Adequate & Some Avail.	31	40	34	31	18	18	35	32
	74%	95%	81%	74%	43%	43%	83%	76%
Not Avail. or Don't Know	11	2	8	11	24	24	7	10
	26%	5%	19%	26%	57%	57%	17%	24%

Comments: Very rural areas lack all services. Dentists need to accept Title 19/Medicaid.

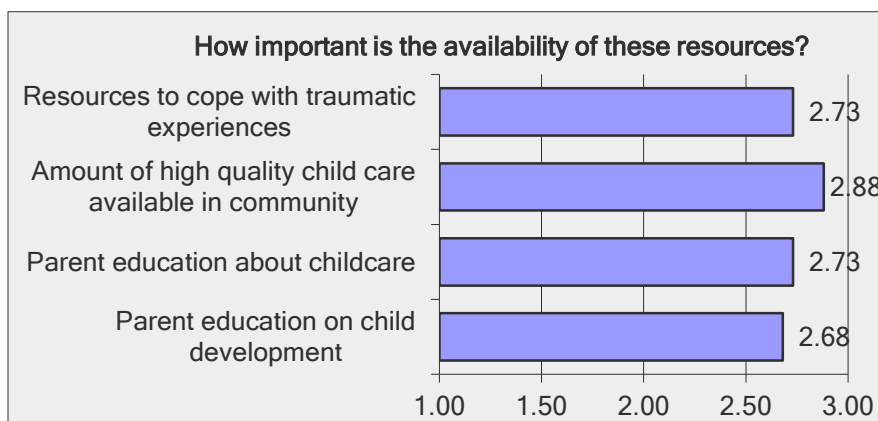


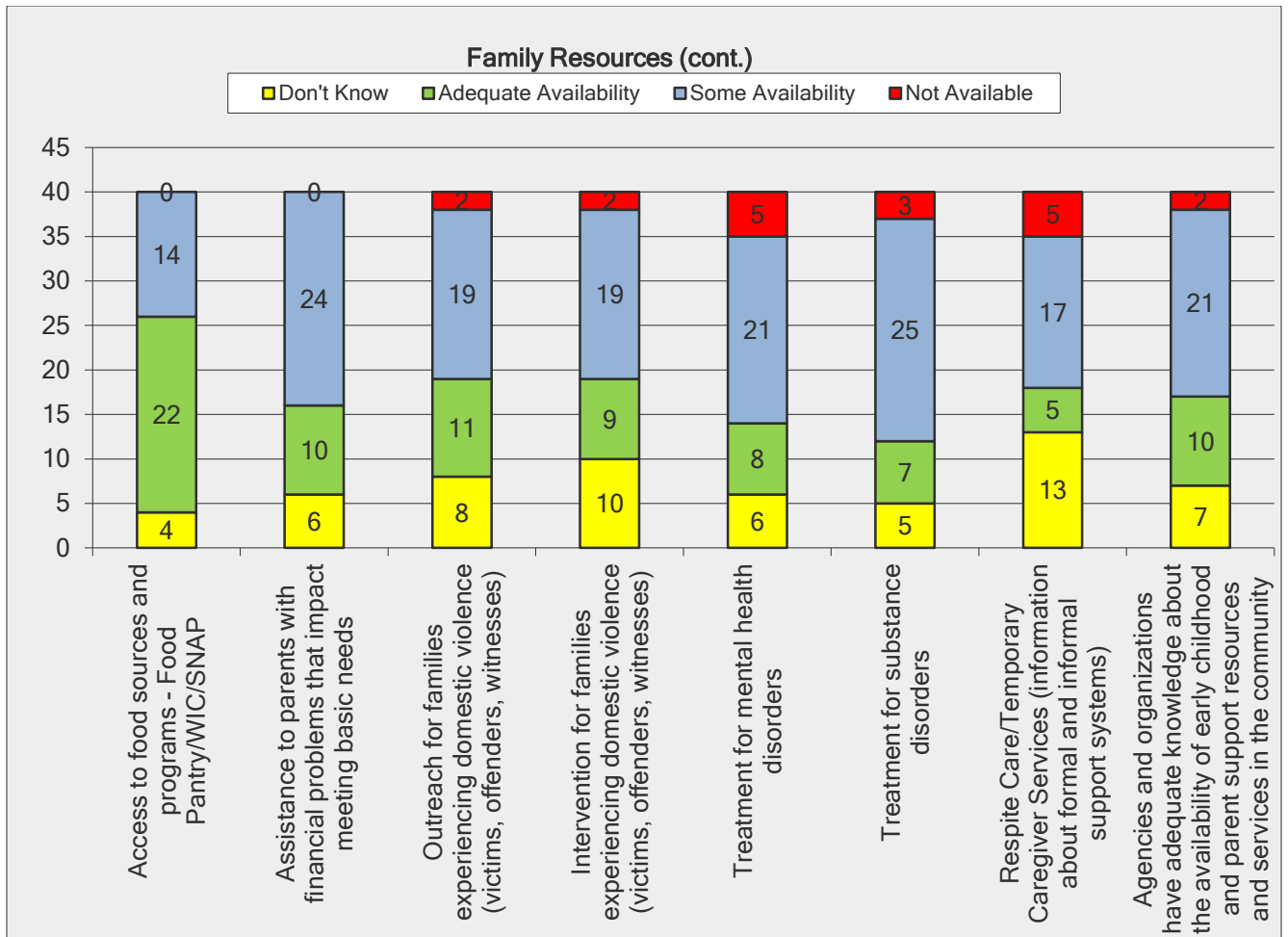
Family Resources



Adequate & Some Availability	36	31	32	26	24	21
	90%	78%	80%	65%	60%	53%
Not Avail. or Don't Know	4	9	8	14	16	19
	10%	23%	20%	35%	40%	48%

Areas of concern in this section are highlighted in yellow. Ratings show a lack in resources to cope with traumatic experiences as well as a need for more high-quality childcare settings.

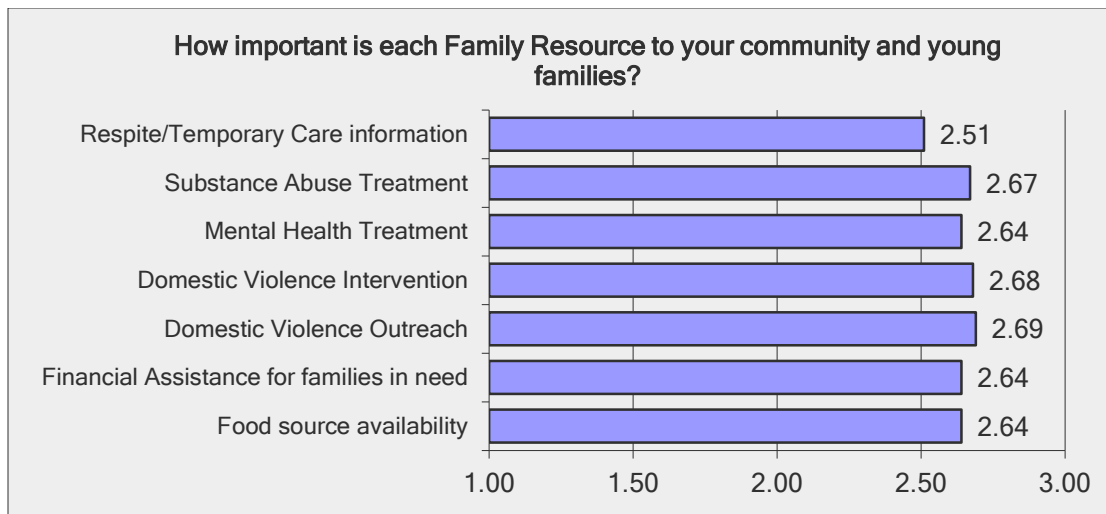




Adequate & Some Avail.	36	34	30	28	29	32	22	31
	90%	85%	75%	70%	73%	80%	55%	78%
Not Avail. or Don't Know	4	6	10	12	11	8	18	9
	10%	15%	25%	30%	28%	20%	45%	23%

These areas of Family Resources show good to exceptional availability. The one area of concern is the provision of support for Respite Care/Temporary Relief for Caregivers. Programs of this type provide for relief of the stress of constantly being responsible for the total care of a family member who might otherwise require permanent placement in a facility outside the home

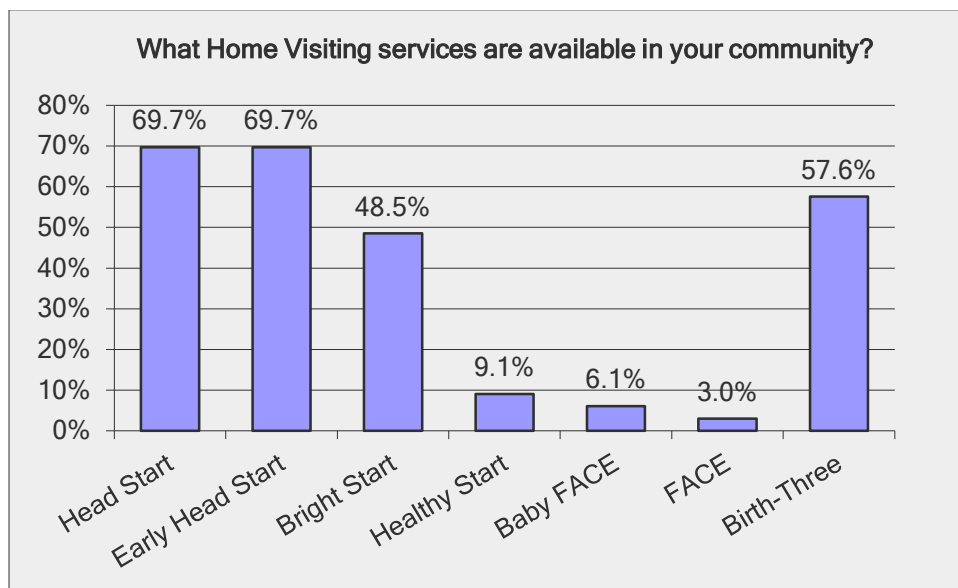
Family Resource Comments: Getting services to the extreme rural areas of this region seems to cause difficulties and was mentioned in several comments. Travel to Rapid City for services is a hardship for many parents. Mental Health resource availability for those needing financial assistance was also questioned. Other comments state that services that are available are not used to capacity.



Are there barriers to accessing to the services above ? What are those barriers?

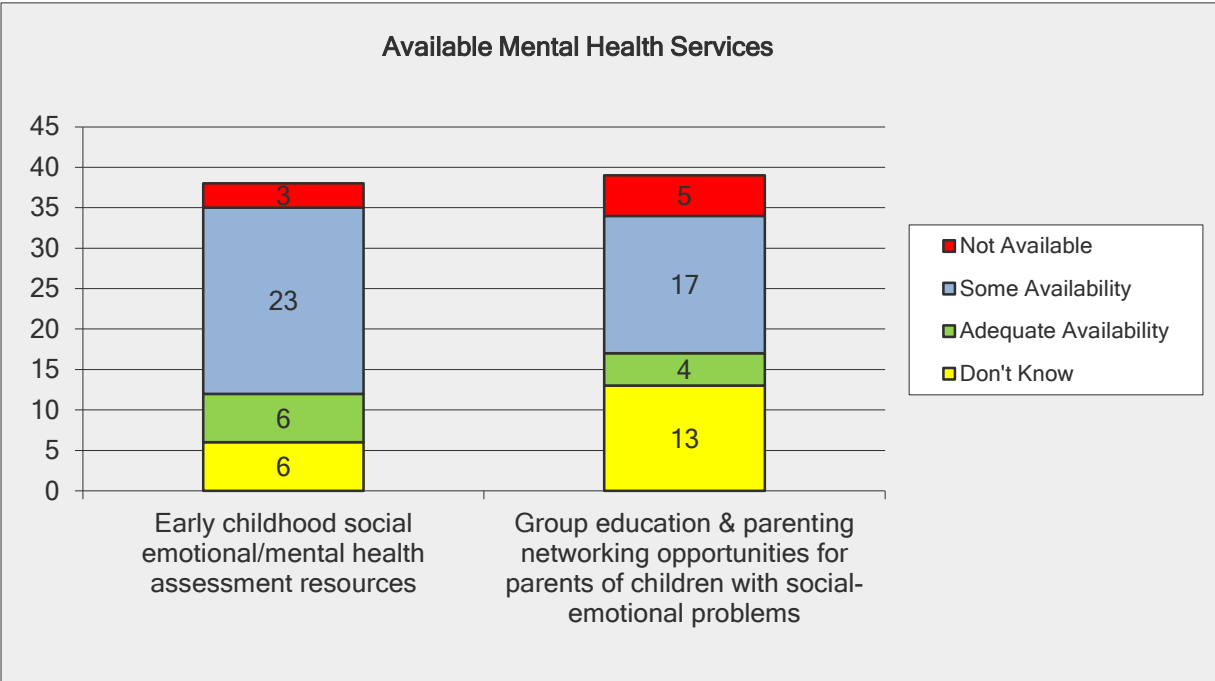
This question was presented as an open text box. Respondents entered non-restricted and non-cued comments. Recurring barriers listed by those taking the survey include, in order of the most frequently cited barrier:

- Transportation – lack of vehicle or money to travel to services
- Lack of Knowledge of Existing Services or the Importance of Issues
- Distance to Services due to Rural settings
- Collaboration/Coordination between organizations/service providers



What informal Neighborhood resources exist? (church/organization sponsored) Please list.

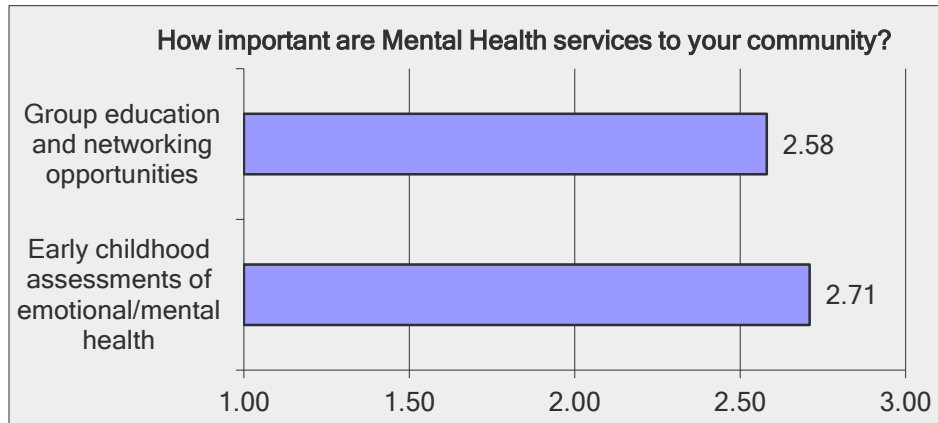
This question was an open-ended comment section, with respondents citing other resources and programs in their communities. First Step Childcare, Ministerial Association, Connection Church, Countryside Community Church, Good Shepherd Free Clinic, Neighbor Works, Community Food Pantry, Zonta, and the Free Store were cited as neighborhood resources in the area.



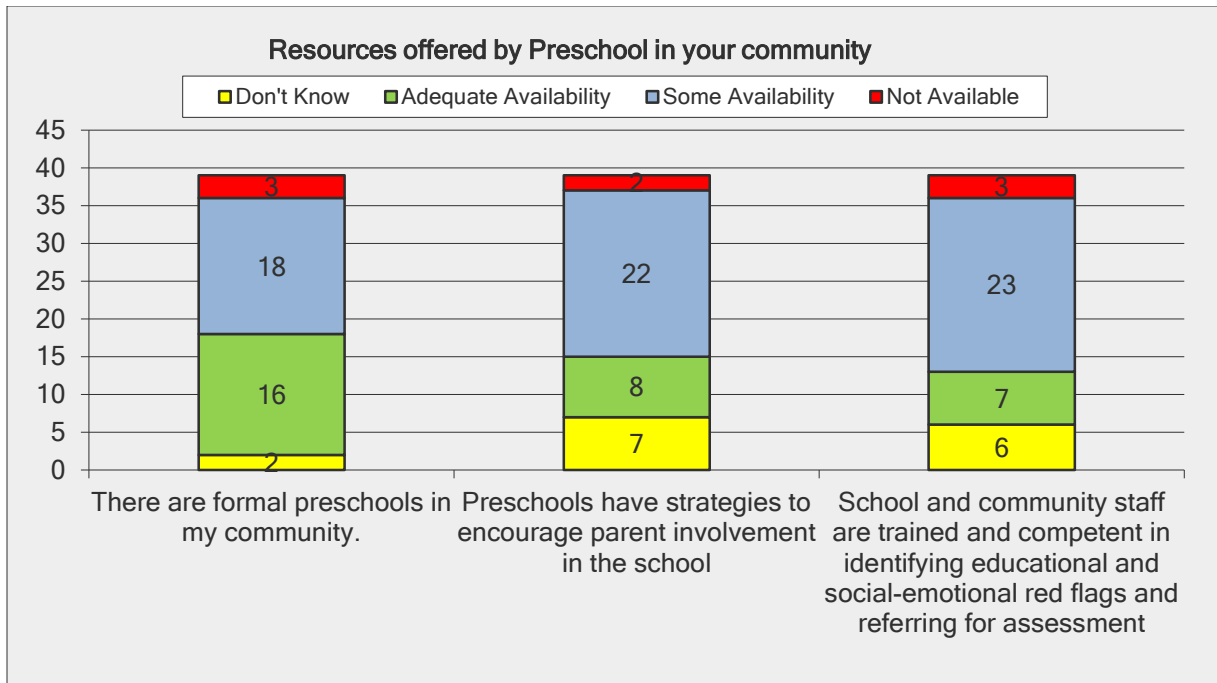
Of the 39 people who answered this question on the survey, **29 (74%)** indicated that there was adequate or some availability to Early Childhood Social-emotional /Mental health assessments, while **9 (23%)** cited that the resource was unavailable or they were unaware of its existence.

21 (54%) were aware of networking or group opportunities for parent of children with social-emotional problems. **18 (46%)** responded there was no availability or they were unaware of the program.

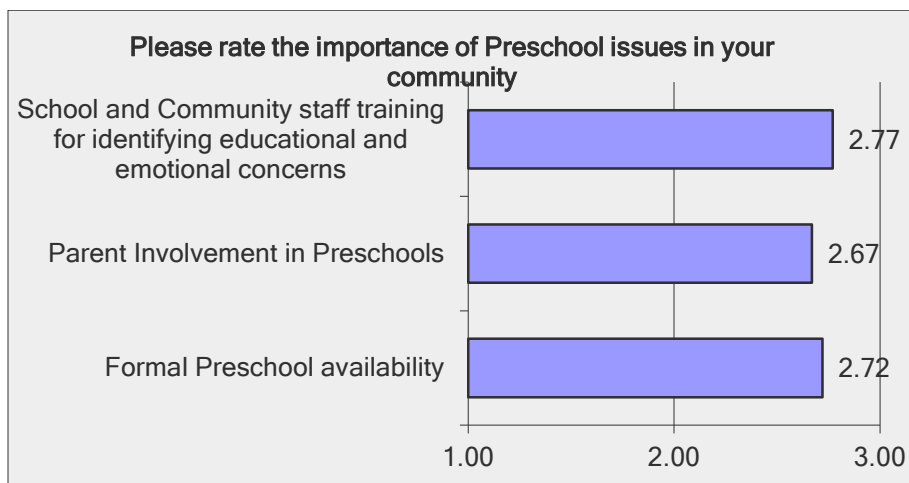
This area could be an area of concern with the higher numbers citing no availability or don't know about services.



Comments: Comments for this area of the survey were limited, but state that what services were available were closed due to lack of funding. Other comments state if Mental Health services are available, parents are not aware of them.



Adequate & Some Availability	34 87%	30 77%	30 77%
Not Avail. or Don't Know	5 13%	9 23%	9 23%



Are there informal preschool resources in your community? Please list.

Those who responded to this open-ended question listed Early Childhood Connections, First Step Childcare, Bright Beginnings, M & M Daycare, Miss LeAnn's, Home School, and in-home daycares.

Data Findings/Summary

Highest “Adequate” Rankings	
Regular Health Care before, during, after Pregnancy	29
Access to Food Sources – Pantry, WIC, SNAP	22
Breastfeeding Education	18
Routine Child Development Screenings	17
Availability of Formal Preschools	16
Routine Dental Screenings	13
Programs for Accessing Resources for Family Needs	13
Highest “Some Availability” Rankings	
Treatment for Substance Disorders	25
Financial Assistance for Basic Family Needs	24
Programs for Accessing Resources for Family Needs	23
Early Childhood Social-Emotional/Mental Health Resources	23
School/Community Training for Educational/Social-emotional Red Flags and Referrals from assessments	23
Parents Educated on Importance of Early Development (Attachment & Bonding)	22
Parents Educated about stages of Childhood Development	22
Area Preschools Encourage Parental Involvement	22
Highest “Not Available” Rankings	
Adequate Numbers of High Quality Child Care Settings	13
Routine Substance Abuse Screening	11
Routine Depression Screening	11
Parents Educated on Characteristics of High Quality Childcare	9
Resources for Coping with Traumatic Experiences	8
Routine Dental Screenings and Referrals for Treatment	6
Parents Educated on Importance of Early Development (Attachment & Bonding)	6
Highest “Don’t Know” Rankings	
Routine Depression Screenings	13
Routine Substance Abuse Screening	13
Temporary Relief for Caregivers (Respite/Substitute Caregiver)	13
Group Networking for Parents with Social/Emotional Child	13
Resources for Coping with Traumatic Experiences	11
Preconception Health & Wellness Counseling	10
Intervention for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence	10

Data Summary of Available Community Resources

Identified Strengths:

- Regular Health Care before, during, and after Pregnancy
- Programs to help families access resources to meet basic needs
- Access to Food Programs and Sources
- Formal Preschools in the Community
- Assistance for Parents with financial problems in meeting basic needs
- Routine Child Development Screenings (social-emotional/mental health)

Identified Weaknesses/Needs:

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

Most Important Community Needs Ranking:

- | | |
|--|------|
| ➤ Amount of High Quality Child Care available | 2.88 |
| ➤ Regular Health Care before, during and after pregnancy | 2.79 |
| ➤ School & Community Staff Training for ID of Educational/Emotional Concerns | 2.77 |
| ➤ Resources to cope with Traumatic Experiences | 2.73 |
| ➤ Parent Education about Childcare | 2.73 |
| ➤ Formal Preschool Availability | 2.72 |
| ➤ Amount of High Quality Childcare Available | 2.71 |

Considerations:

It is difficult to gauge the validity of the results found due to the small number of respondents to this survey. While there were only 53 responses, the identity percentages of those who took the survey is representative of the entire community (listing on page 1) and included responses from over 40% parents/guardians.

Community Comments/Discussions:

The results of this survey were presented on September 9, 2014 at the Northern Hills Interagency meeting in Spearfish. There were 14 people in attendance.

The group was pleased with the high rating for the availability of food sources, since that had been a focus area for them in recent years.

Funding is the primary challenge to better Mental Health and Traumatic Experiences resources. Mental Health care is a priority for the group and the area, and funding and Medicaid coverage are obstacles to broader services. The group realizes that there are needs for more services and suggest the most ideal method for providing mental health services would be home-based.

The group expressed a need for more Traumatic Experiences counseling. At this point the most available service for Traumatic Experiences is for domestic abuse and sexual assault. These are handled by the Domestic Violence Shelter. Rapid City has received a grant for traumatic experience resources and some of the Spearfish/Belle Fourche area may be able to benefit from that. This would provide for referrals to area counselors.

There was a good discussion about preschool quality and licensing standards in South Dakota. Concern about the lack of requirements for licensing reduces quality and stable environments for children.