

**SAGE MAINE SURVEY
REPORT:
MAINE'S HEALTH
PRACTITIONERS CARING
FOR GLBT OLDER
ADULTS PATIENTS**

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SAGE & SAGE MAINE

- ◉ Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) is the country's largest and oldest organization (founded 1978) dedicated to improving the lives of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) older adults.
- ◉ SAGE Maine, first statewide chapter of SAGE
- ◉ Needs Assessment Findings
 - (1) Create a network of health-care providers and other professionals who are knowledgeable and affirmative regarding LGBT aging issues;
 - (2) Train staff and management of long-term care services and facilities to provide a safe and comfortable environment

PURPOSE OF THE HEALTH PRACTITIONERS' SURVEY PROJECT

- Ascertain information to further understand the health care service environment in Maine for older adult Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender (GLBT) people.
- Seek the candid opinions of physicians, advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants; to provide a report that will be helpful to health professions associations and the Maine Office of Aging & Disability Services

BACKGROUND

- ◉ Estimated that about 15,000 Maine adults over the age of 60 are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual.
- ◉ “Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have unique health experiences and needs, but it is not known exactly what those experiences and needs are” (IOM, 2010)
- ◉ Older LGBT individuals face additional barriers to health because of isolation and lack of social services, and culturally competent providers

METHODS

- Survey design: 24 questions, 6 that allowed open-ended answers and/or comments
 - SAGE Maine Task Force
 - GLMA
 - UNECOM Q Med Club
- Health Practitioner Survey was distributed to leaders of various health professions organizations in Maine (Jan-March)
- Survey Monkey Data Summary Report

MAINE'S PRACTITIONER #S

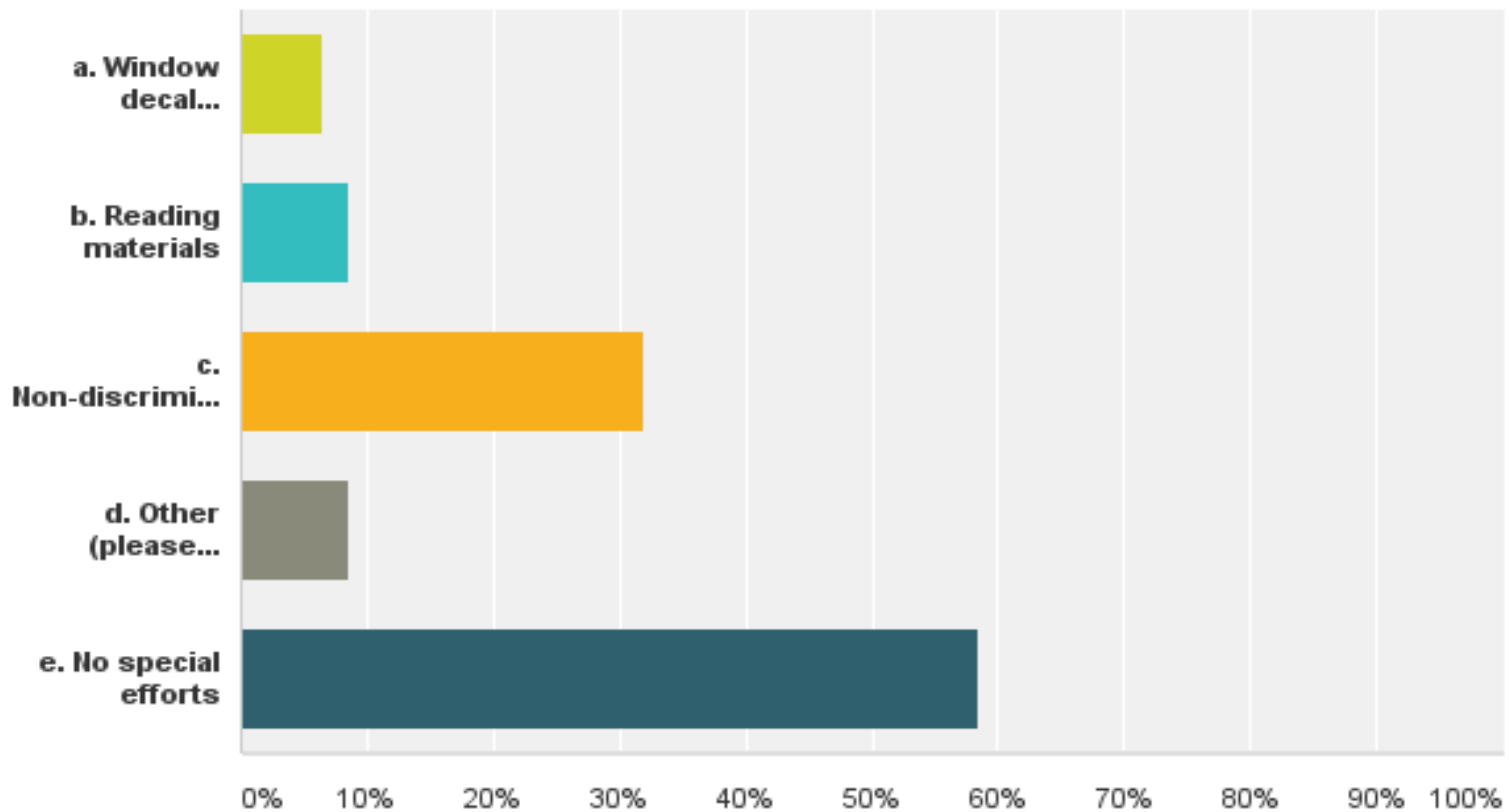
Practitioner	State Numbers	Note	Survey #s
NPs/APN	1,088	As of 5/14	43
PAs	990	Employed as of 5/13	5
MDs	3,420	2011*	43 (DO/MD)
DOs	611	2011*	43 (DO/MD)
Total	6,109		100.* 6 skipped

Most are in Primary Care

QUESTION 1

Q1 What efforts are made to welcome GLBT patients? [check all that apply]

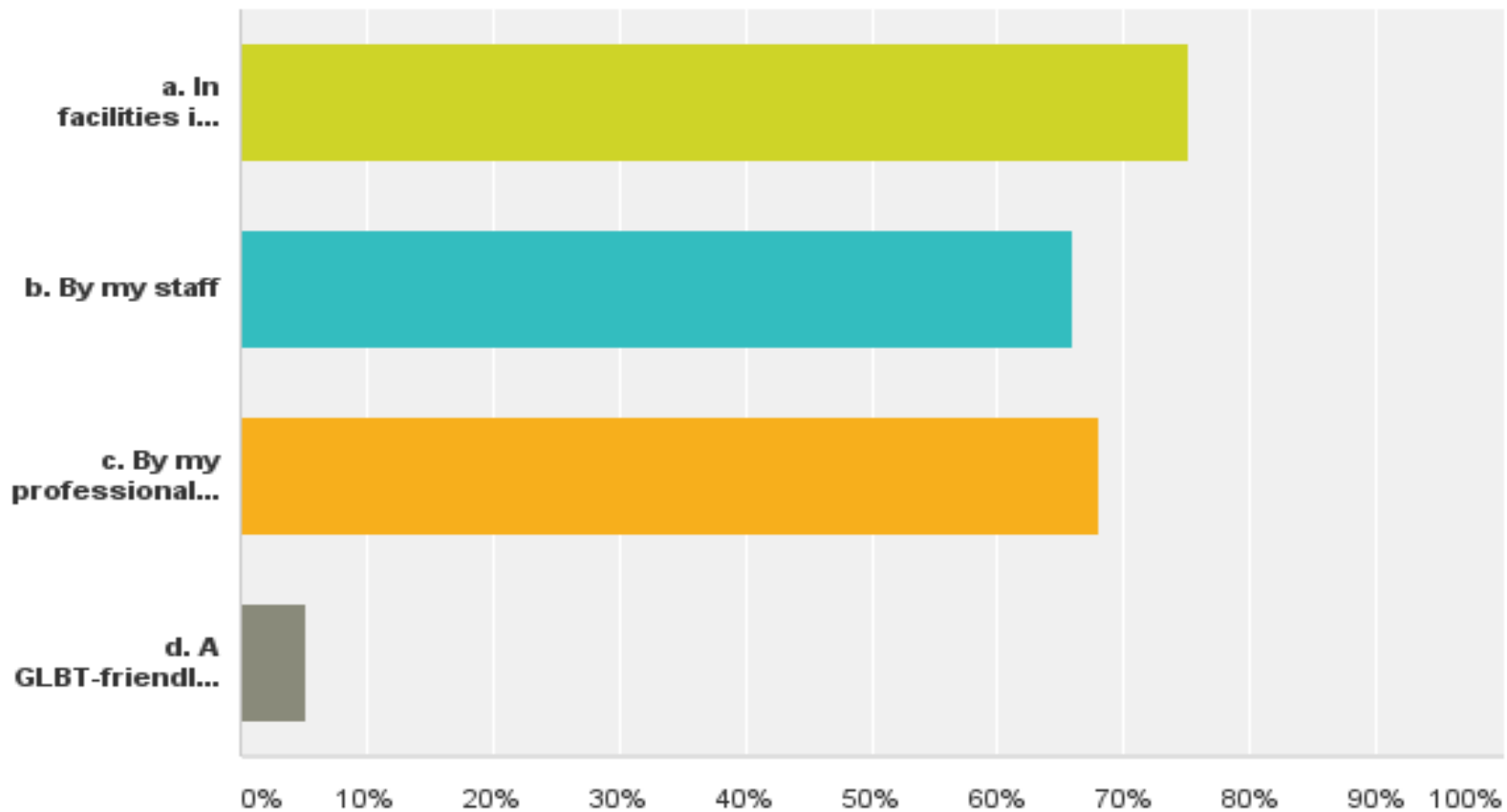
Answered: 94 Skipped: 6



QUESTION 2

Q2 I believe a GLBT-friendly environment is generally provided... [check all that apply]

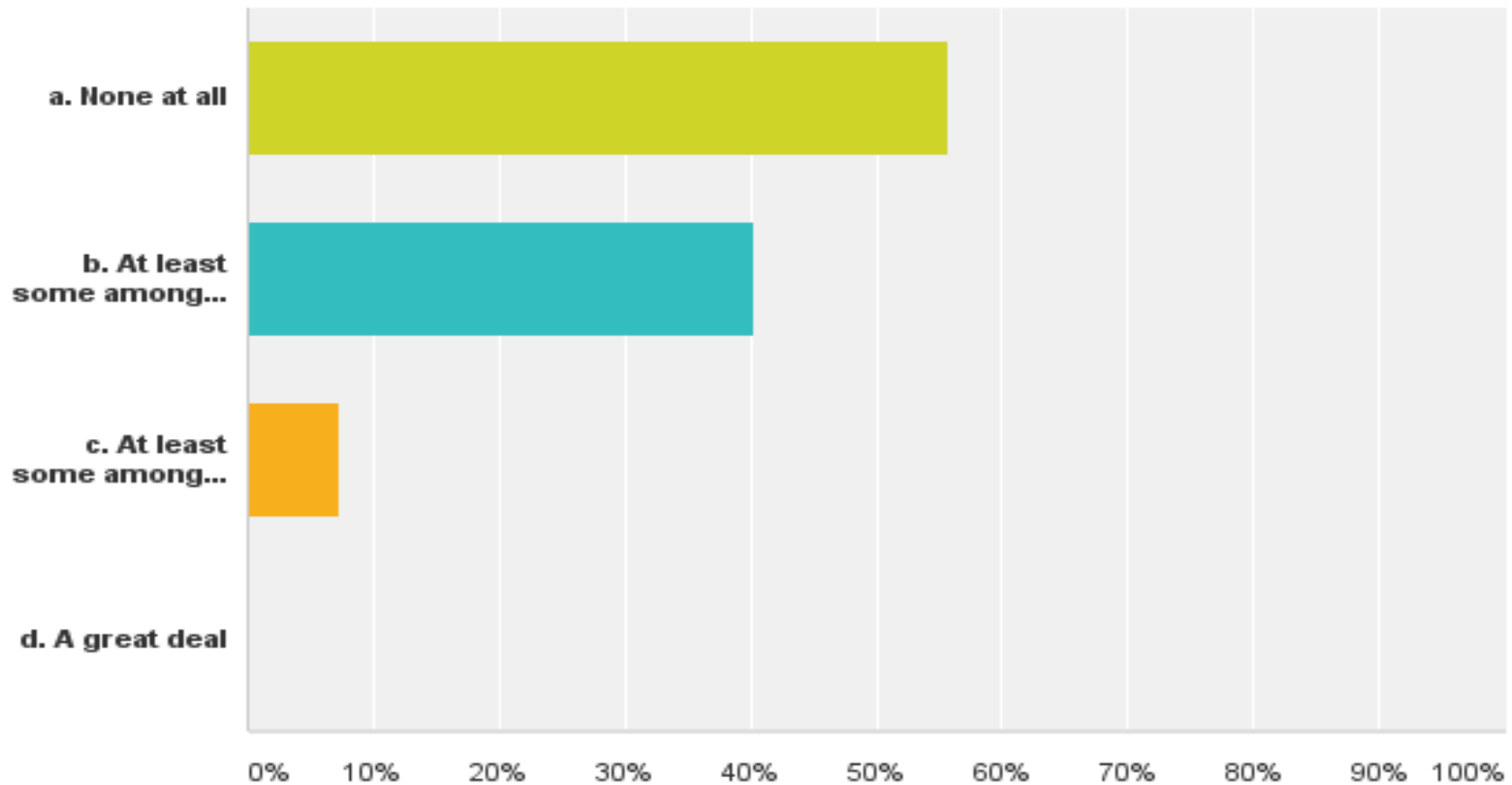
Answered: 97 Skipped: 3



QUESTION 3

Q3 To what extent do you think that there are anti-GLBT attitudes within your practice?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 3



QUESTION 4

- ◉ Q4. Is GLBT training provided in your practice environment?
- ◉ Training examples: “training focused on GLBT sensitivity, health disparities, and unique health needs”
- ◉ 14.5% provide GLBT training in their practice
- ◉ 69% do not provide trainings
- ◉ 16.5% don’t know if GLBT trainings are conducted in their practice environments.

QUESTION 5

Q1. How comfortable are you with providing medical care to GLBT patients?

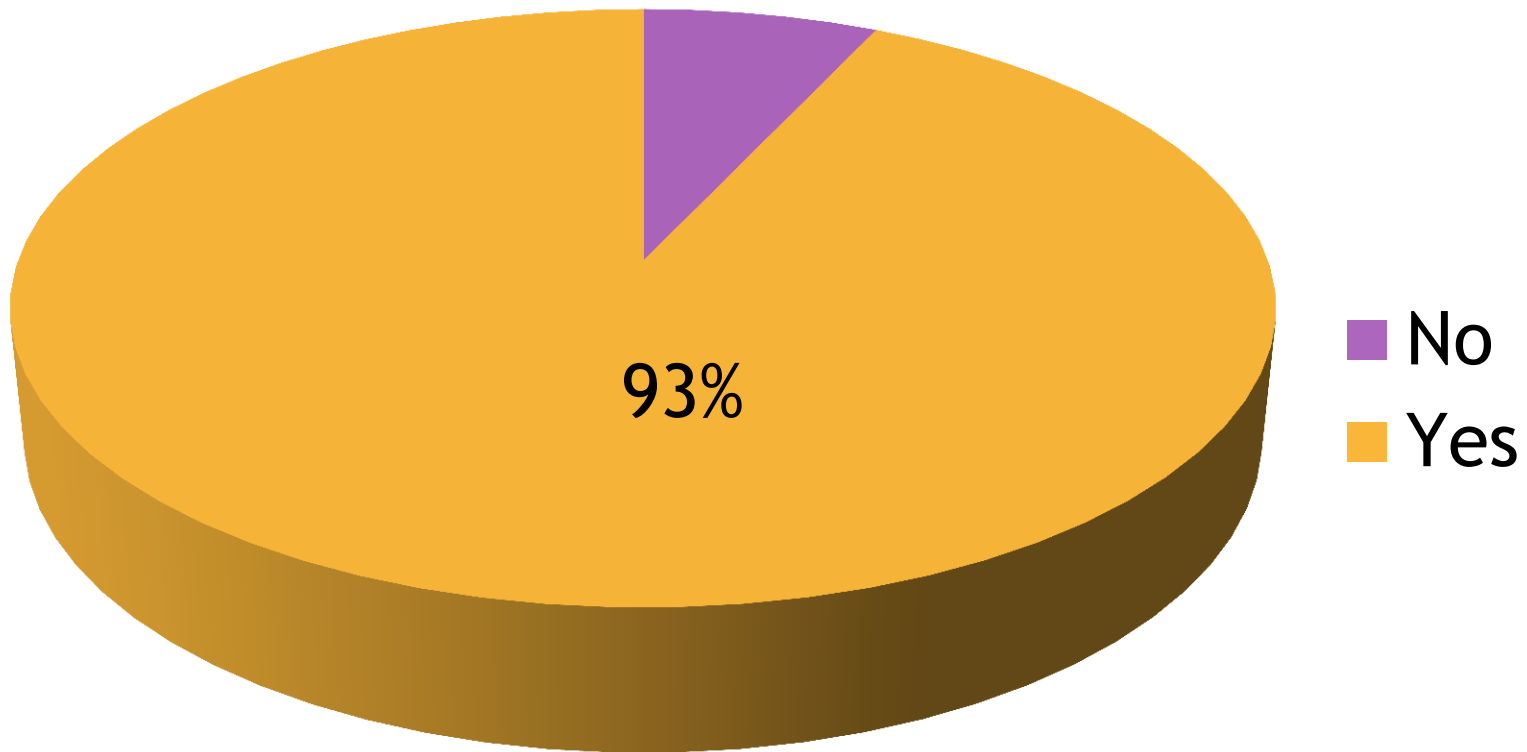
- 82% are very comfortable with providing medical care to GLBT patients
- 16% are somewhat comfortable
- 2% answered that they are somewhat uncomfortable with providing care to GLBT patients
- 4 people didn't answer the question

QUESTION 6

- Q6. How comfortable are you in interacting with GLBT persons in general [outside of your medical practice]?
- 90%: Very comfortable
- 10%: Somewhat comfortable
- 3 practitioners didn't respond to this question

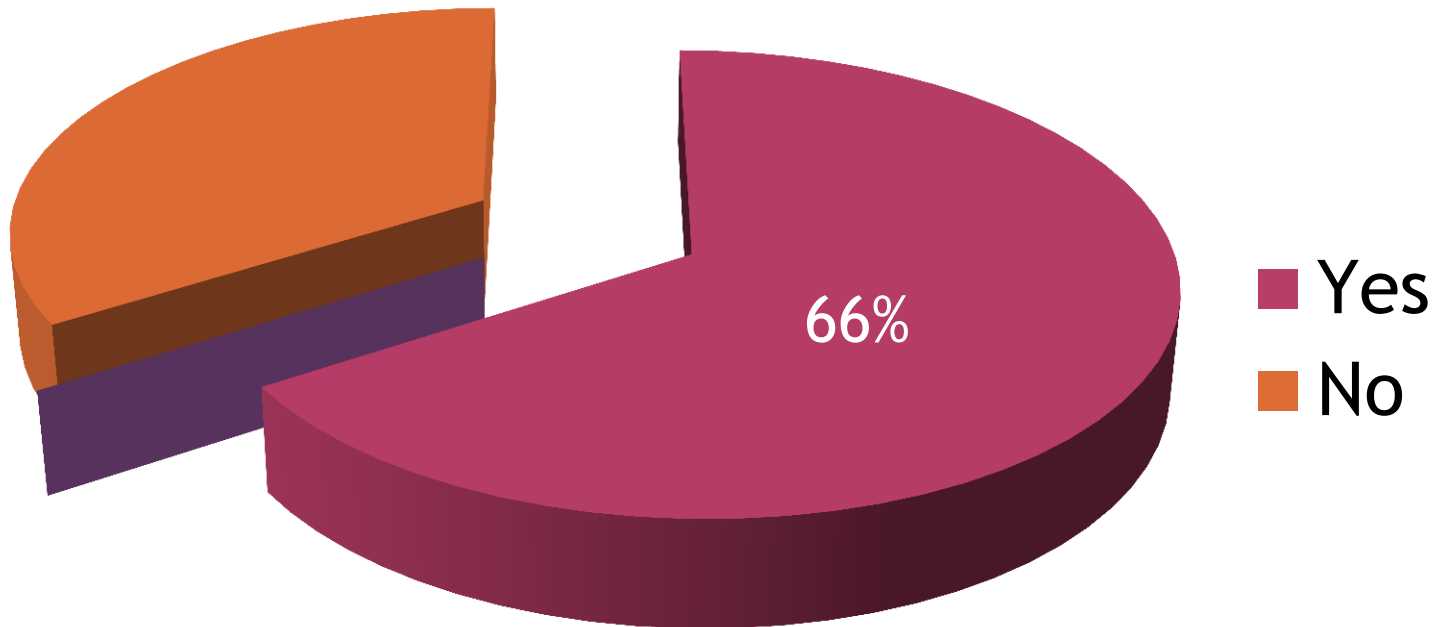
QUESTION 7

Self Identified GLBT Patients



QUESTION 8

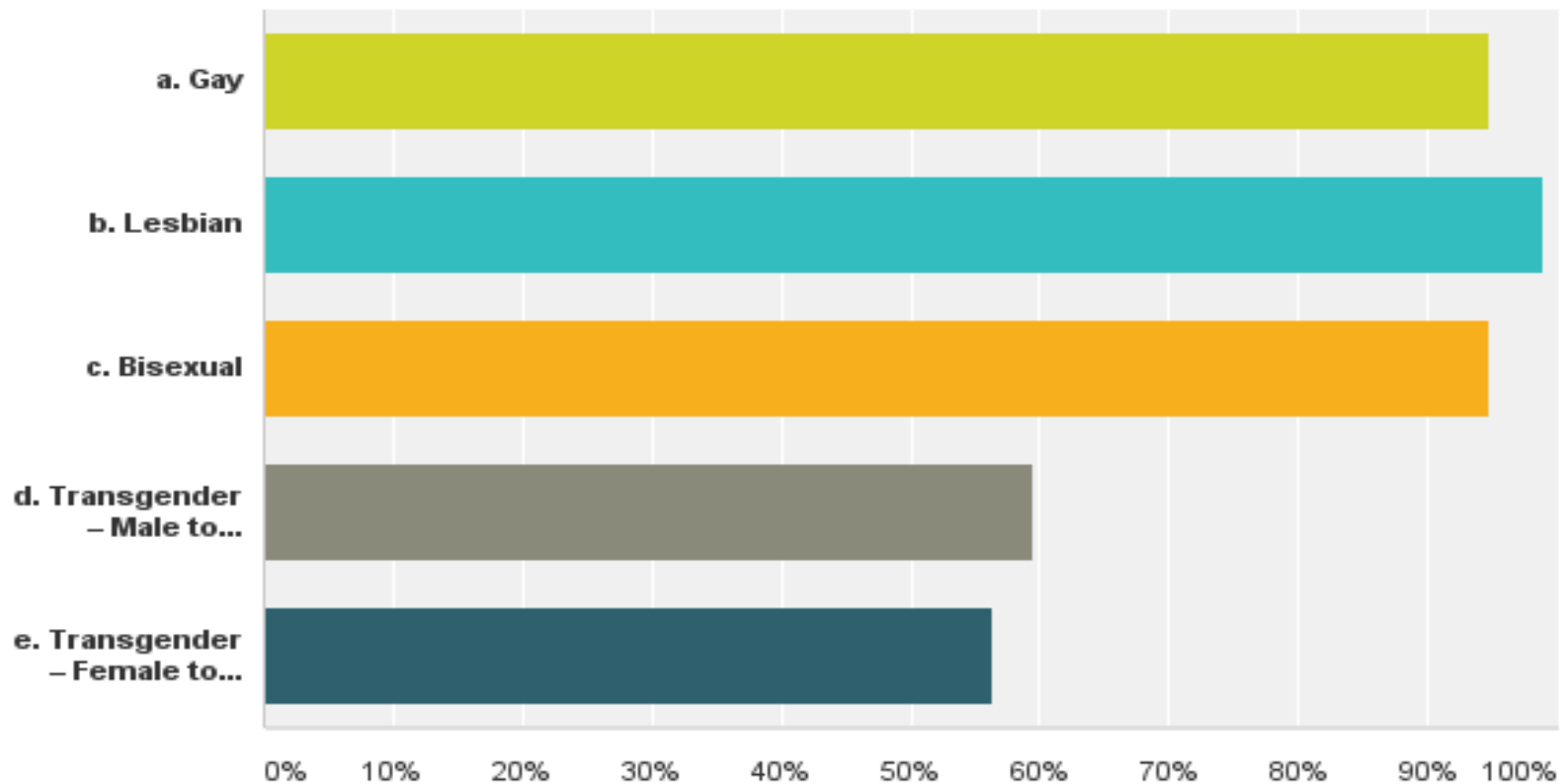
Older GLBT Patients



QUESTION 9

Q9 For which GLBT patient population do you feel competent to care? [check all that apply]

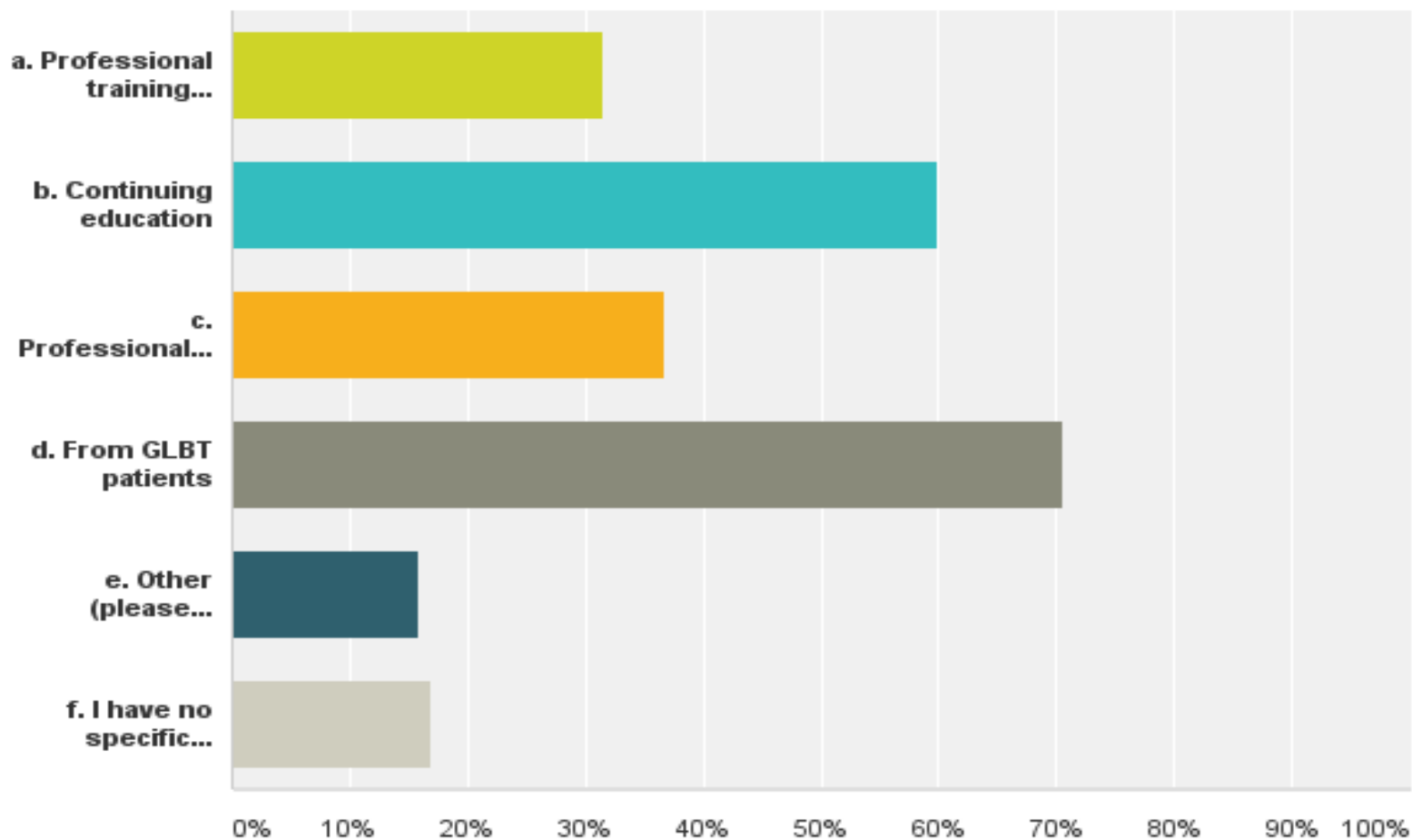
Answered: 94 Skipped: 6



QUESTION 10

Q10 How have you acquired knowledge of GLBT health care? [check all that apply]

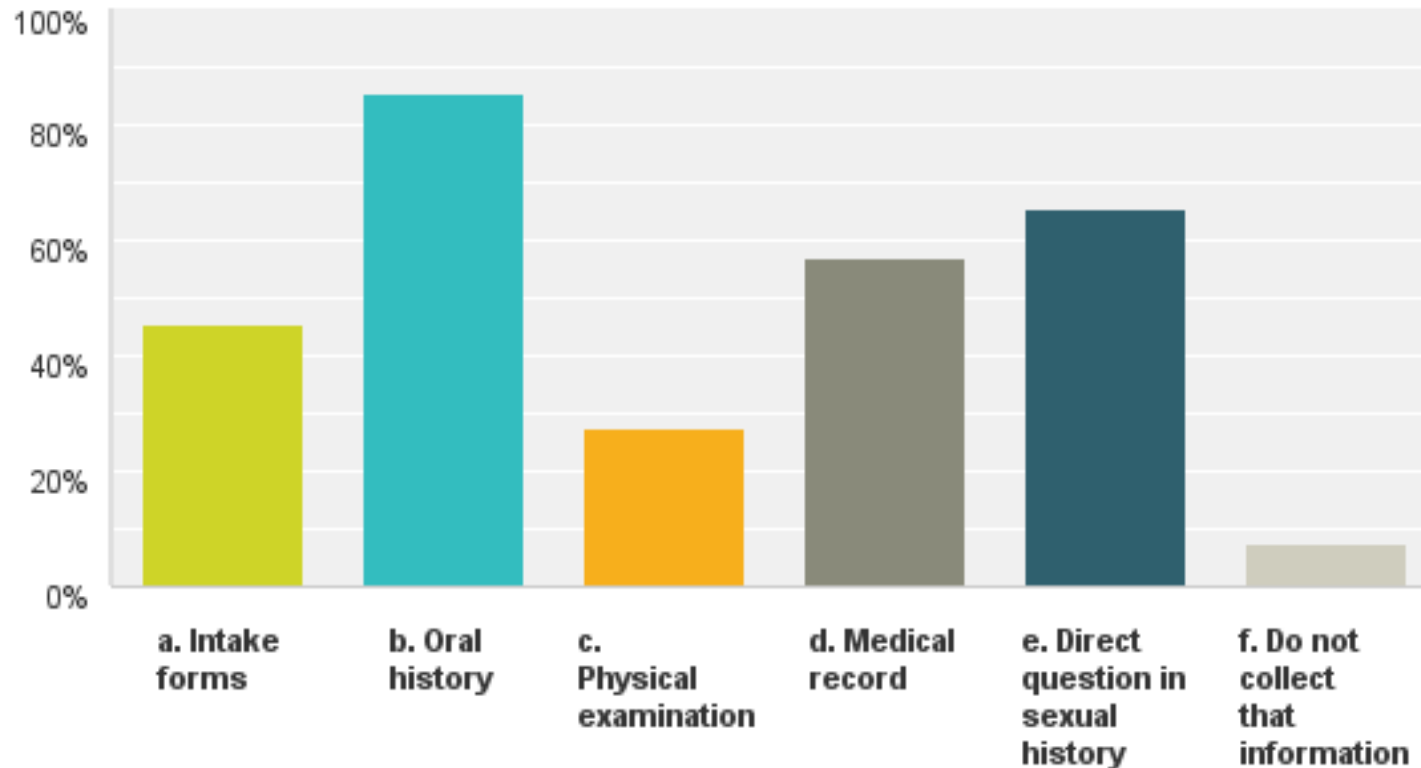
Answered: 95 Skipped: 5



QUESTION 11

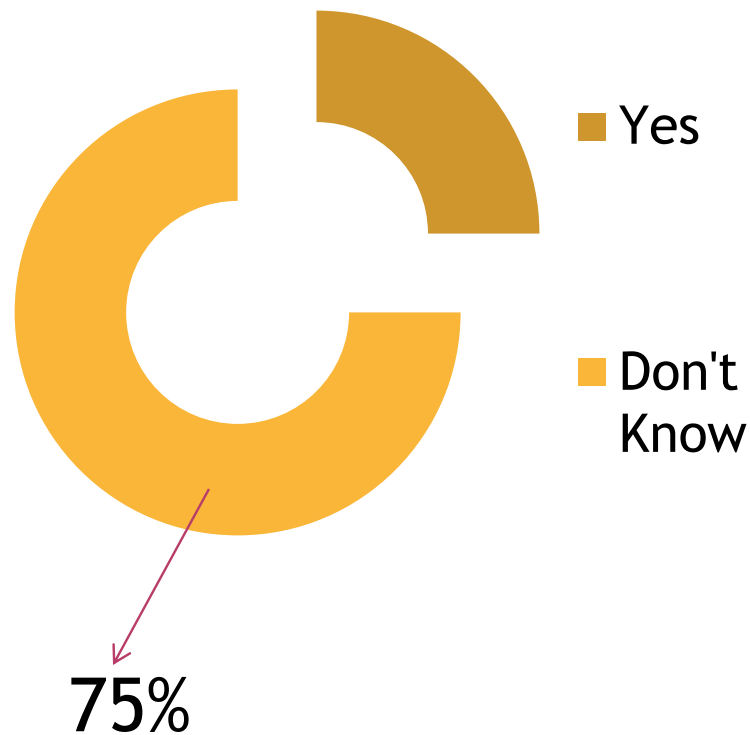
Q11 How do you collect information that would inform you of a patient's GLBT status? [check all that apply]

Answered: 95 Skipped: 5



QUESTION 12

- Q12. For your GLBT patients, are the medical and social services you refer to, including end of life care, GLBT sensitive and competent?

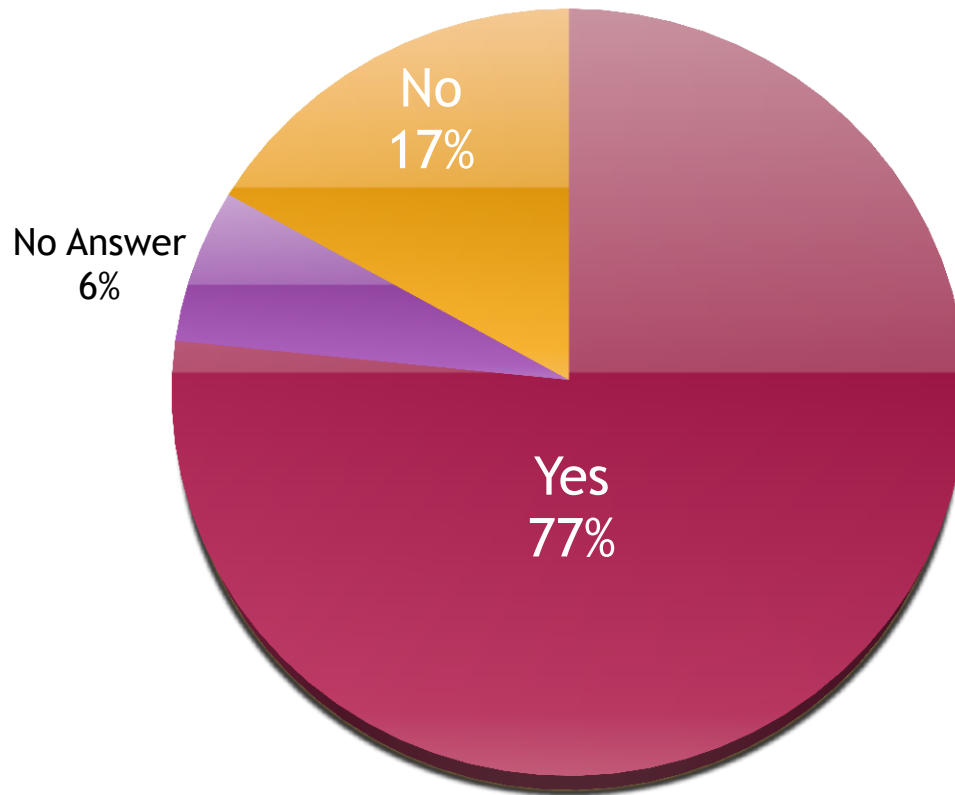


QUESTION 13

- ◉ Q13. Do you make a special effort to refer GLBT patients to GLBT sensitive/competent service providers?
- ◉ 47% answered “yes” they do make a special effort
- ◉ 53% answered “no” they do not make a special effort.
- ◉ Options for the “no” answer
 - (1) Practitioners refer to best care providers regardless of their GLBT sensitivity/competence
 - (2) Practitioners refer to providers they have relationships with
 - (3) They do not know any sensitive/competent providers

QUESTION 14

Provisions for Rights of GLBT Couples



QUESTION 15

- Q15. Regarding your GLBT elder patients, are you aware of any instances in which these patients were discriminated against within their communities because they were GLBT?
- 21%: Yes
- 30%: No
- 50%: Didn't know.

QUESTION 16

- Q16. ...Are you aware of any instances in which these patients were discriminated against within a healthcare setting because they were GLBT?
- 10%: Yes
- 43%: No
- 46%: Didn't know
 - We Wondered....Did these patients experience less discrimination in the health care setting or were they less likely to share these experiences with their practitioner?

QUESTION 17

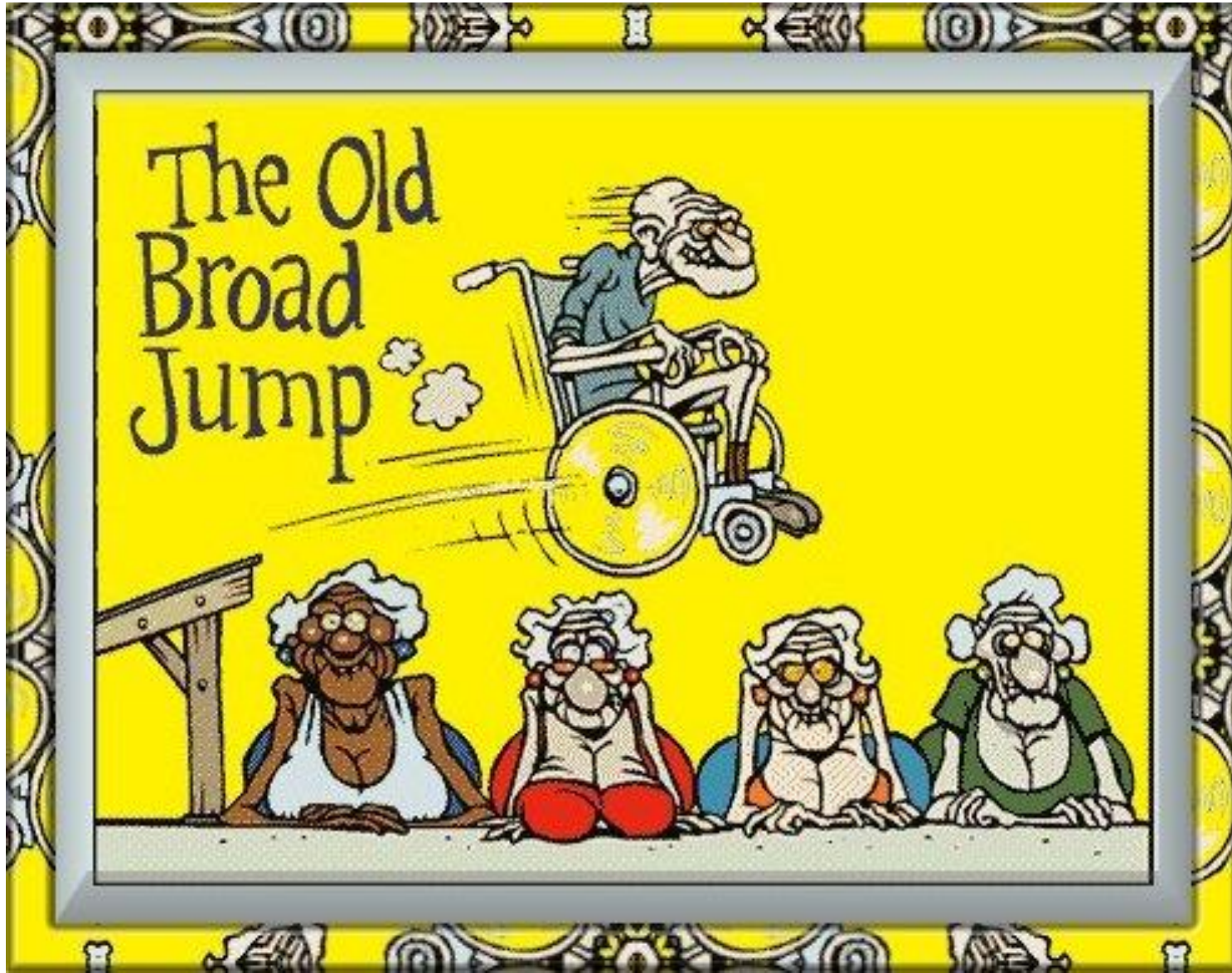
- ◉ Q17. ...Are you aware of any instances in which these patients were afraid to seek health care at certain locations due to anxiety/fears about potentially being discriminated against because they were GLBT?
- ◉ 10%: Yes (discriminated against due to be GLBT)
- ◉ 32%: No to this question
- ◉ 24%: their patients were afraid to seek health care at certain locations due to fear/anxiety about potential discriminations
- ◉ 44% didn't know.

QUESTION 18

- Q18. Please describe any special considerations that you employ when you care for GLBT elders.

- See Comments

DISCUSSION ON OUTCOMES..



SURVEY REPORT

- Report is 50% complete
- Today's discussion will aid completion
- Report will be printed and in pdf format and distributed
- Stay tuned....



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ◉ SAGE Maine Health and Social Services Task Group: Laura Gottlieb, Andrea Otis Higgins, Nancy Kelley, Jessica Maurer, Roanne Seeley, Frank Brooks, Michael Laska, Shirl A. Weaver, Co-Chair & Marilyn R. Gugliucci, Co-Chair.
- ◉
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- ◉
- ◉ UNECOM 2012 QMED Club for their assistance in designing and reviewing survey questions
- ◉
- ◉ AARP for their continued support of SAGE Maine, providing meeting space and resources to keep us moving forward with attaining our mission
- ◉ The organizations who distributed the survey to their members and the practitioners across Maine so they could participate in this survey.