



October 2025 Newsletter

Message from the IARHC President

Dear IARHC Members:

The IARHC Board has been remarkably busy over the last 3 months. We know there is much uncertainty when it comes to legislative issues both state-wide and nationally, and we, as a Board, want to make sure that you receive as much information as possible as it relates to the ever-changing rural healthcare landscape.

Since August we have provided several webinars to our members on topics that you have requested. We look forward to bringing you more opportunities like this going forward.

Thank you for being a part of IARHC.

Warm regards,

Jillissa Chvala
Board President
Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics

Save the Date – IARHC 2026 Spring Conference

IARHC will be hosting its annual Spring Conference on April 16, 2026. Please mark your calendars for the 1-day event. The location is TBD but will probably take place in the greater Des Moines metro.

The format will be like last year's event with numerous speakers and breakout sessions for networking. If you have suggestions for specific topics to be covered, please contact Sheri at info@iarhc.org. Stay tuned for more information in early 2026!

2025 Webinar Highlights

The IARHC Board has worked diligently to provide its members with webinar opportunities in 2025. The following is a summary of webinars:

- August 27 – Preventative Services in the RHC – moderated by Charles James
- September 24 – Unbundling Maternity Billing from Iowa Medicaid – moderated by Becki Wedemeier, RN, Iowa Medicaid Medical Policy Manager
- October 29 – Preparing for a Survey – moderated by Kate Hill, RN, The Compliance Team
- Upcoming December 17 – H.R. 1's Impact on Iowa RHCs – moderated by Sarah Hohman, Director of Government Affairs, NARHC.

If you have suggestions for additional webinars, please contact Sheri at info@iarhc.org.

2026 Needs Assessment Results

Needs Assessment Results – Each September we asked the IARHC membership to participate in the completion of a survey to provide required feedback to Iowa Grants. We receive funding support for IARHC through them. Please find the results of the survey at the end of this Newsletter.

Legislative Report - RHC Regulatory Reduction Bills

In September, IARHC was approached by NARHC to provide an organizational endorsement for three elements to the RHC Burden Reduction Act. Those elements included:

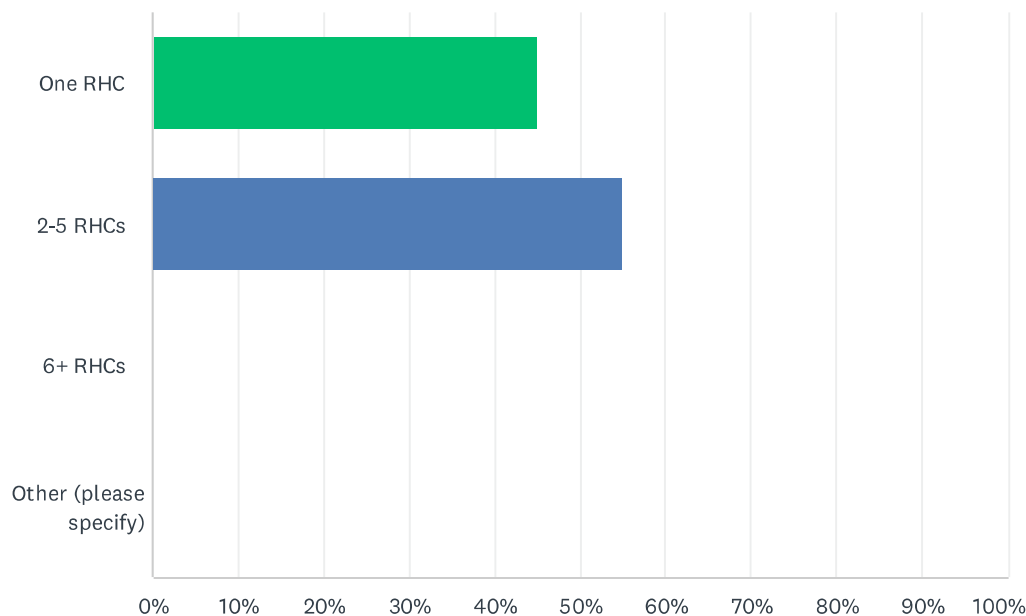
- Rural Behavioral Health Improvement Act – to remove arbitrary 49% threshold on the amount of behavioral health services that RHCs can provide.
- Modernizing Rural PA and NP Utilization Act – to update RHC physician supervision requirements by aligning them with state scope of practice laws.
- Rural Health Clinic Location Modernization Act – to update the RHC statute to fix an issue caused by the 2020 Census, ensuring that areas of less than 50,000 remain eligible for RHC status.

Contact Us

Questions? Ideas you want to share. Feel free to reach out to staff at info@iarhc.org. Or you can reach out to your colleagues by posting a question on the IARHC Listserv. Simply send an email to iarhcmembers@simplelists.com. This listserv gives you access to the current IARHC membership – use it as a tool learn from each other.

Q1 If your RHC is closely affiliated with other RHCs (i.e., one of several RHCs linked to a critical access hospital or health system), you may elect to respond to this survey on behalf of the group of RHCs. Please indicate if you are responding on behalf of 1 RHC or multiple.

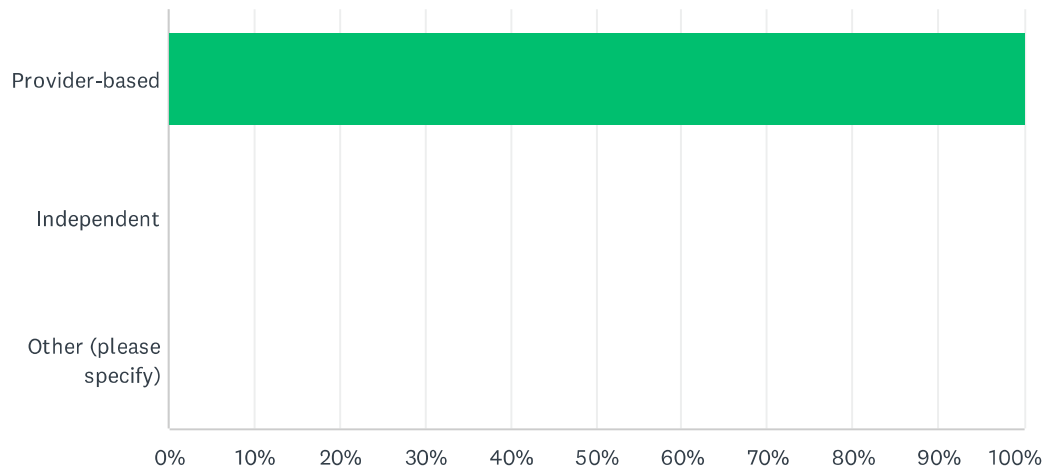
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One RHC	45.00%	9
2-5 RHCs	55.00%	11
6+ RHCs	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		20

Q2 Please indicate your type of RHC

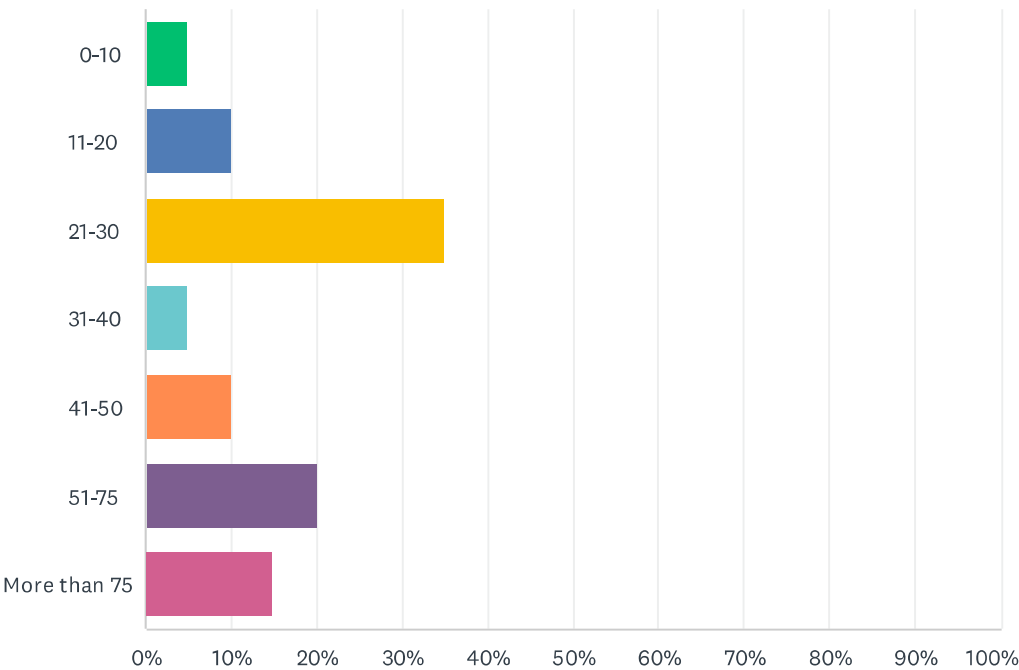
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Provider-based	100.00%	20
Independent	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		20

Q3 Approximately how many people are employed at your RHC(s)?

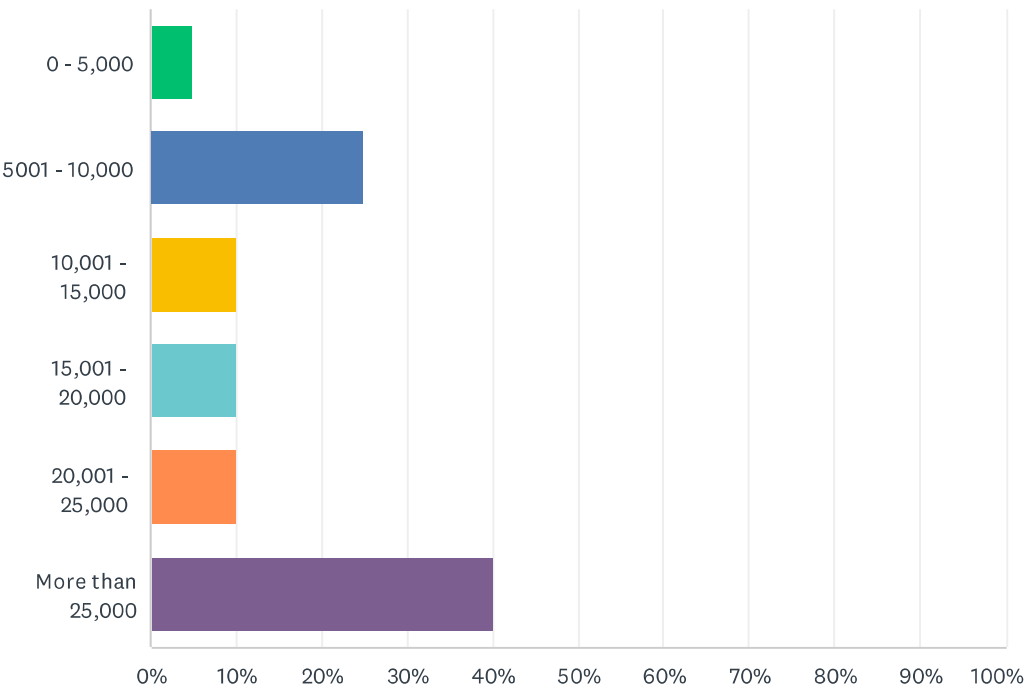
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-10	5.00%	1
11-20	10.00%	2
21-30	35.00%	7
31-40	5.00%	1
41-50	10.00%	2
51-75	20.00%	4
More than 75	15.00%	3
TOTAL		20

Q4 Approximately how many patient visits did your RHC(s) have in 2024?

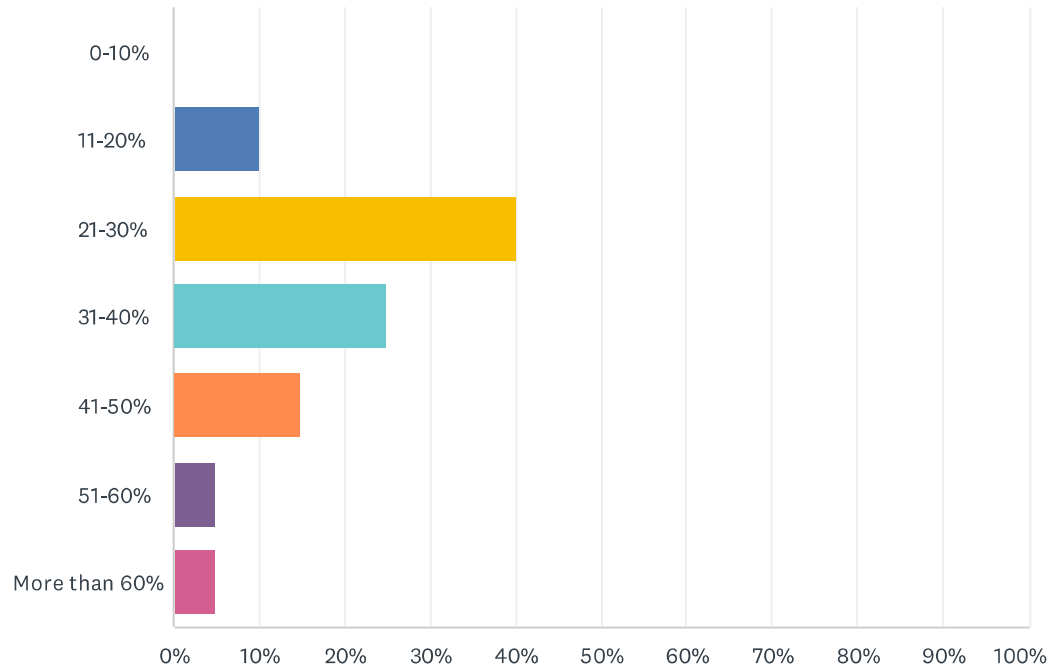
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 - 5,000	5.00%	1
5001 - 10,000	25.00%	5
10,001 - 15,000	10.00%	2
15,001 - 20,000	10.00%	2
20,001 - 25,000	10.00%	2
More than 25,000	40.00%	8
TOTAL		20

Q5 What is the approximate percentage of patients receiving Medicare at your RHC(s)?

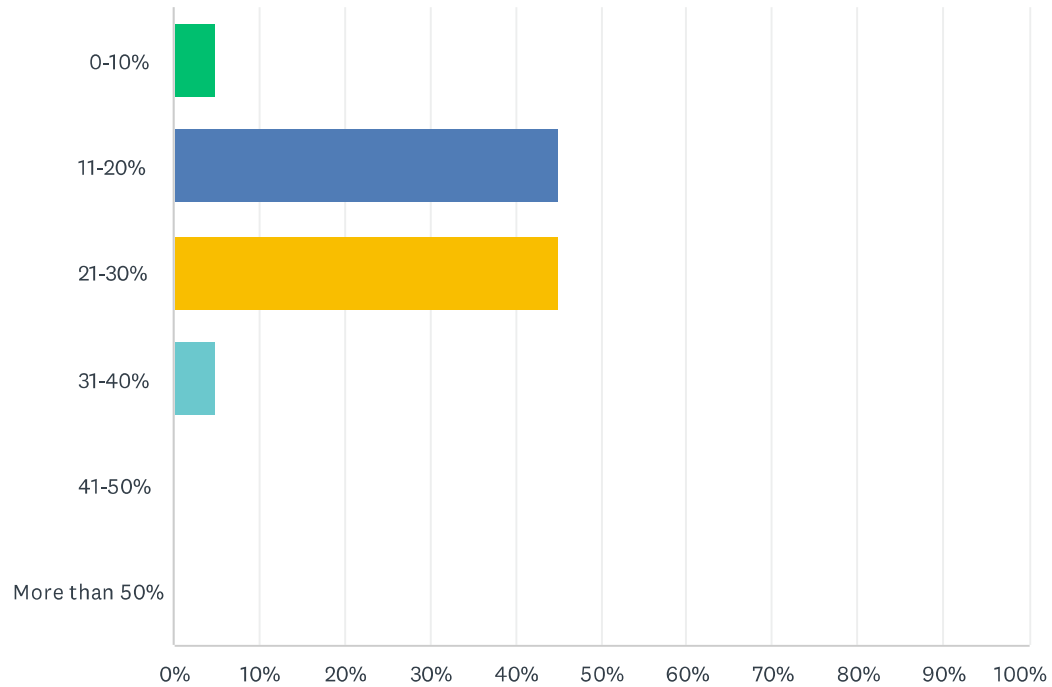
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-10%	0.00%	0
11-20%	10.00%	2
21-30%	40.00%	8
31-40%	25.00%	5
41-50%	15.00%	3
51-60%	5.00%	1
More than 60%	5.00%	1
TOTAL		20

Q6 What is the approximate percentage of patients receiving Medicaid at your RHC(s)?

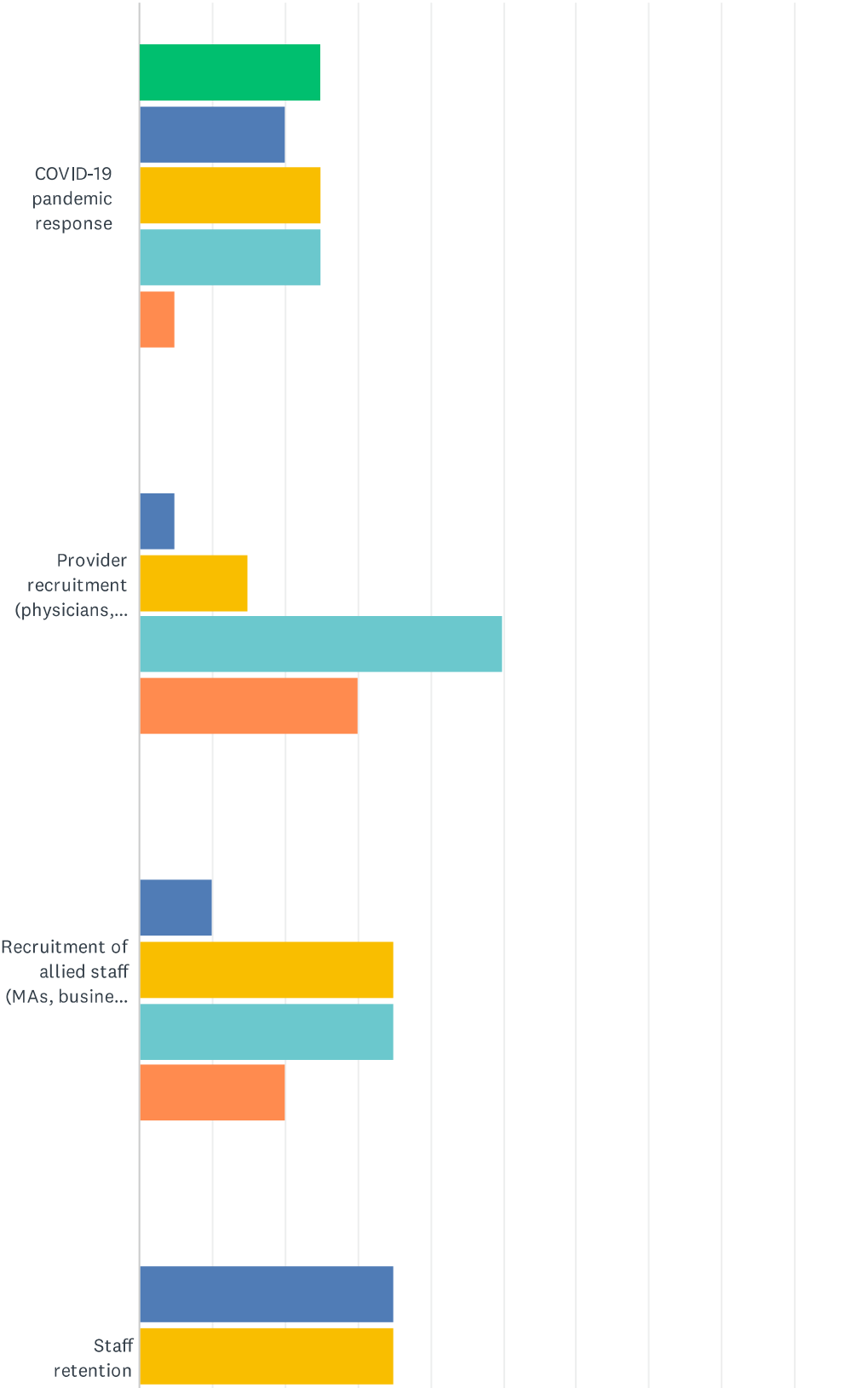
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



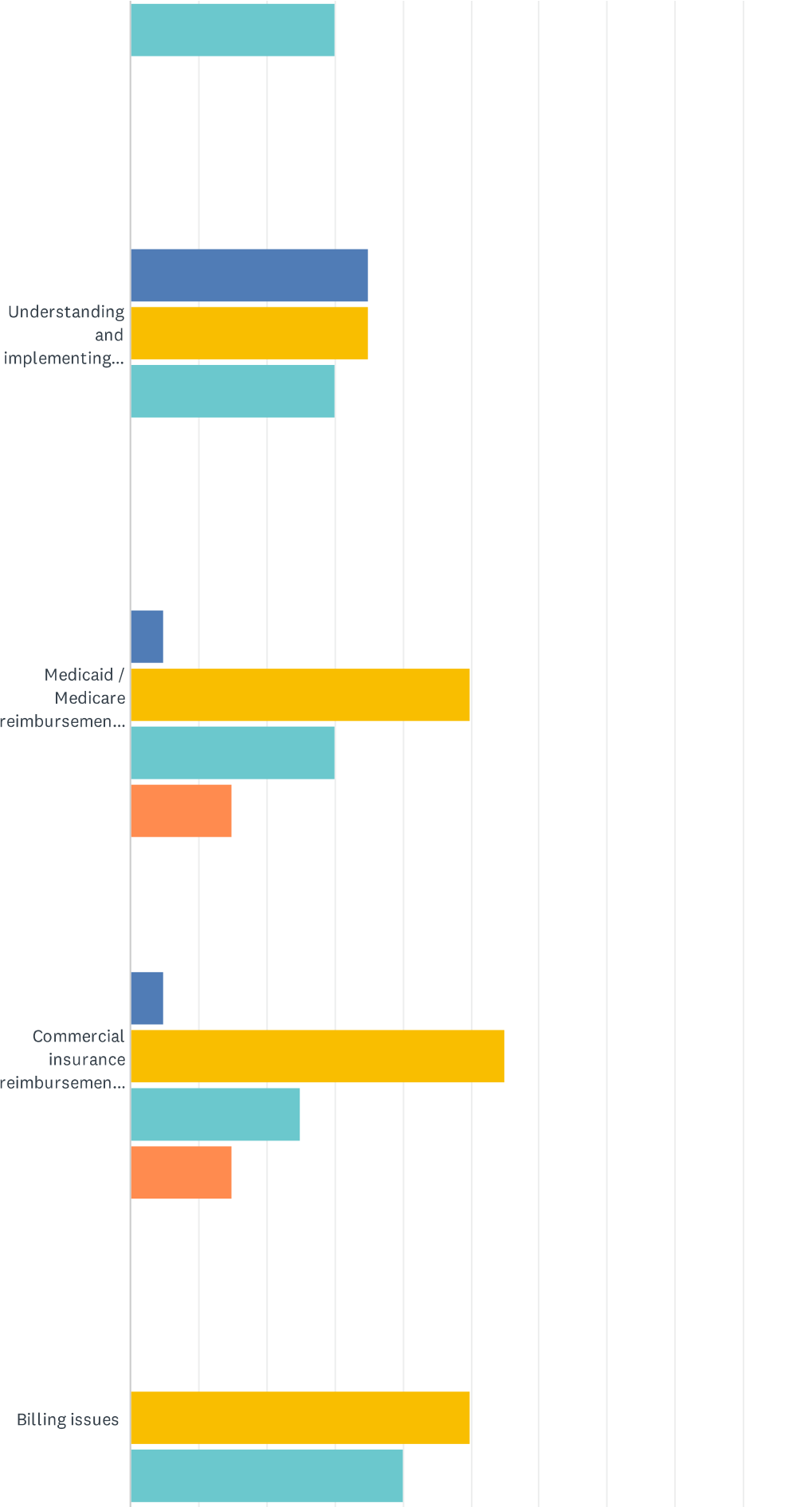
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-10%	5.00%	1
11-20%	45.00%	9
21-30%	45.00%	9
31-40%	5.00%	1
41-50%	0.00%	0
More than 50%	0.00%	0
TOTAL		20

Q7 Please rate the level of challenge each of the following issues currently presents to your RHC(s).

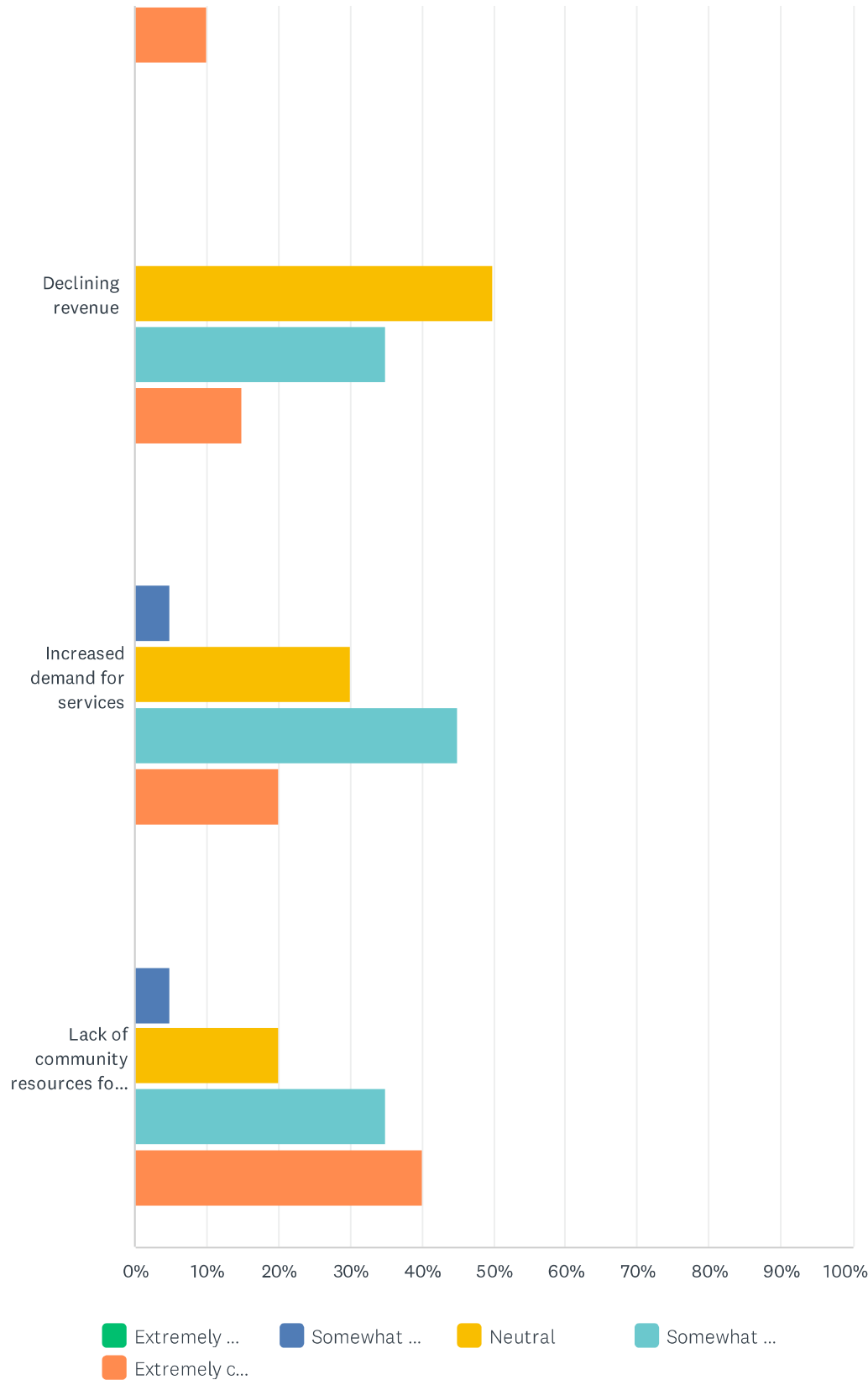
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2026 IARHC Needs Assessment



2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

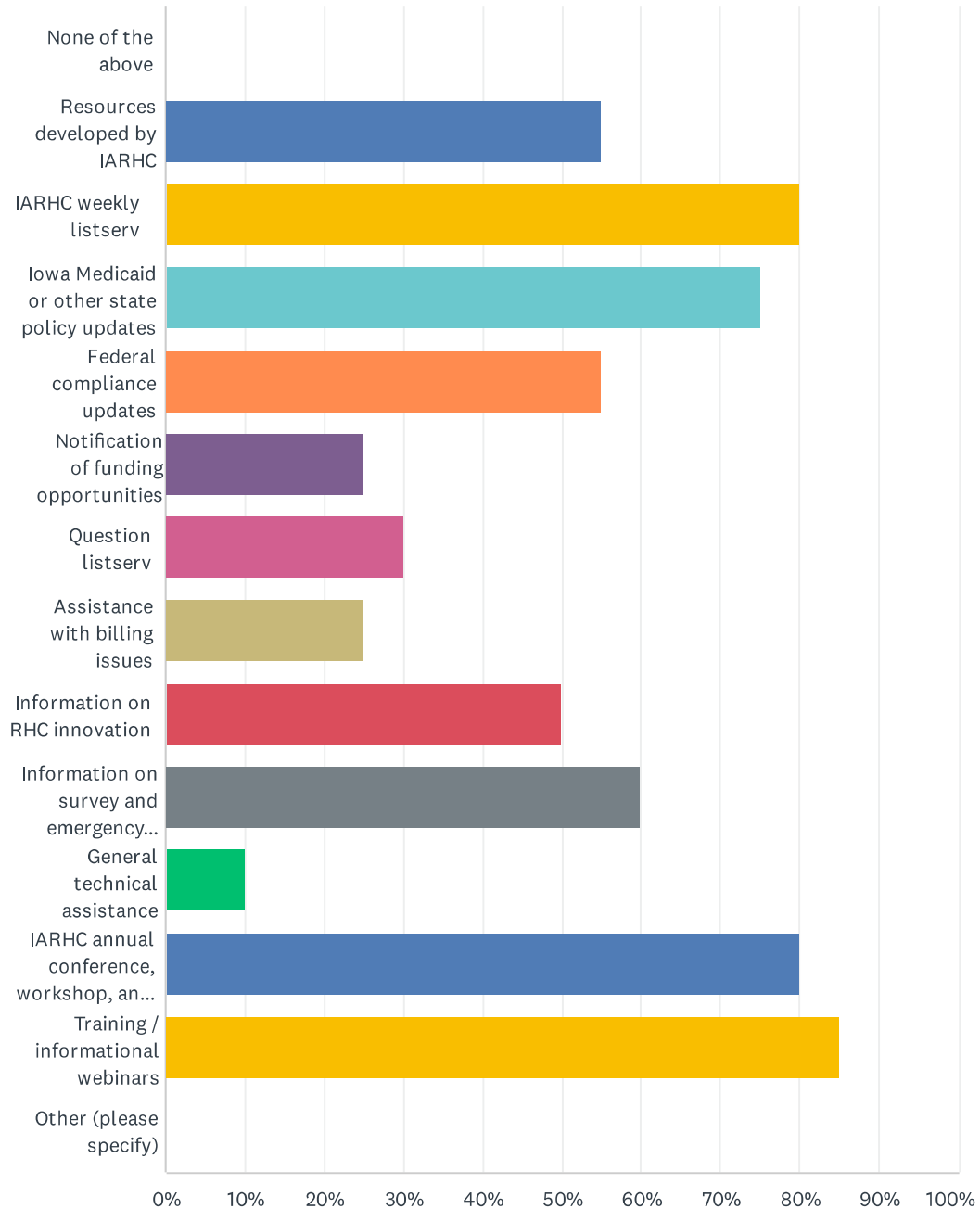


2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

	EXTREMELY EASY	SOMEWHAT EASY	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT CHALLENGING	EXTREMELY CHALLENGING	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
COVID-19 pandemic response	25.00% 5	20.00% 4	25.00% 5	25.00% 5	5.00% 1	20	2.65
Provider recruitment (physicians, PAs, NPs, RNs, other clinical providers)	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	15.00% 3	50.00% 10	30.00% 6	20	4.05
Recruitment of allied staff (MAs, business office, HR, administrative, other)	0.00% 0	10.00% 2	35.00% 7	35.00% 7	20.00% 4	20	3.65
Staff retention	0.00% 0	35.00% 7	35.00% 7	30.00% 6	0.00% 0	20	2.95
Understanding and implementing RHC regulations	0.00% 0	35.00% 7	35.00% 7	30.00% 6	0.00% 0	20	2.95
Medicaid / Medicare reimbursement levels	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	50.00% 10	30.00% 6	15.00% 3	20	3.55
Commercial insurance reimbursement levels	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	55.00% 11	25.00% 5	15.00% 3	20	3.50
Billing issues	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 10	40.00% 8	10.00% 2	20	3.60
Declining revenue	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 10	35.00% 7	15.00% 3	20	3.65
Increased demand for services	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	30.00% 6	45.00% 9	20.00% 4	20	3.80
Lack of community resources for patients/families (i.e., Transportation, food banks, affordable housing)	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	20.00% 4	35.00% 7	40.00% 8	20	4.10

Q8 Which resources do you use from the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics? Check all that apply.

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

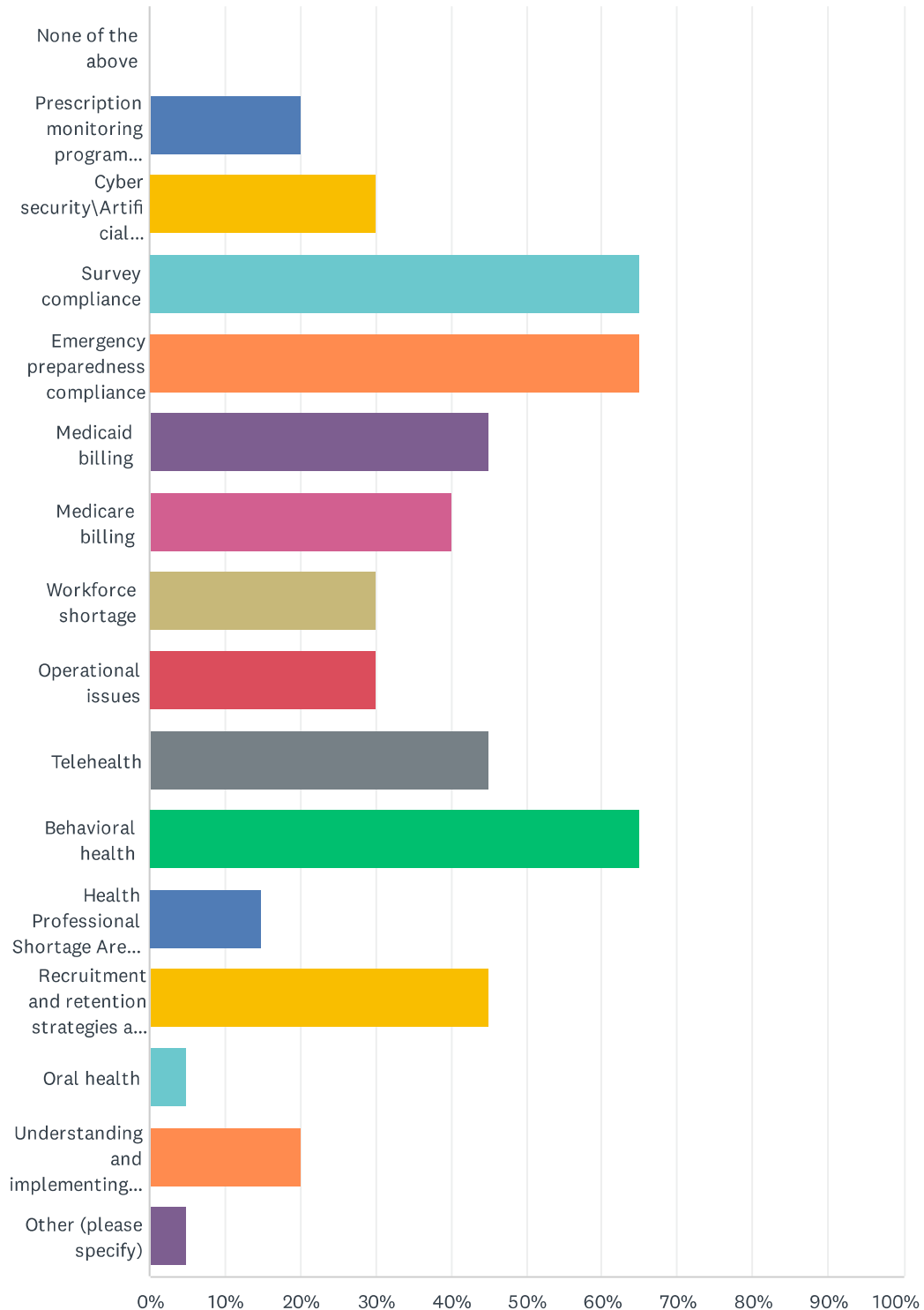


2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.00%	0
Resources developed by IARHC	55.00%	11
IARHC weekly listserv	80.00%	16
Iowa Medicaid or other state policy updates	75.00%	15
Federal compliance updates	55.00%	11
Notification of funding opportunities	25.00%	5
Question listserv	30.00%	6
Assistance with billing issues	25.00%	5
Information on RHC innovation	50.00%	10
Information on survey and emergency preparedness compliance	60.00%	12
General technical assistance	10.00%	2
IARHC annual conference, workshop, and events	80.00%	16
Training / informational webinars	85.00%	17
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 20		

Q9 What types of additional resources, education and/or technical assistance would you find beneficial? Check all that apply

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

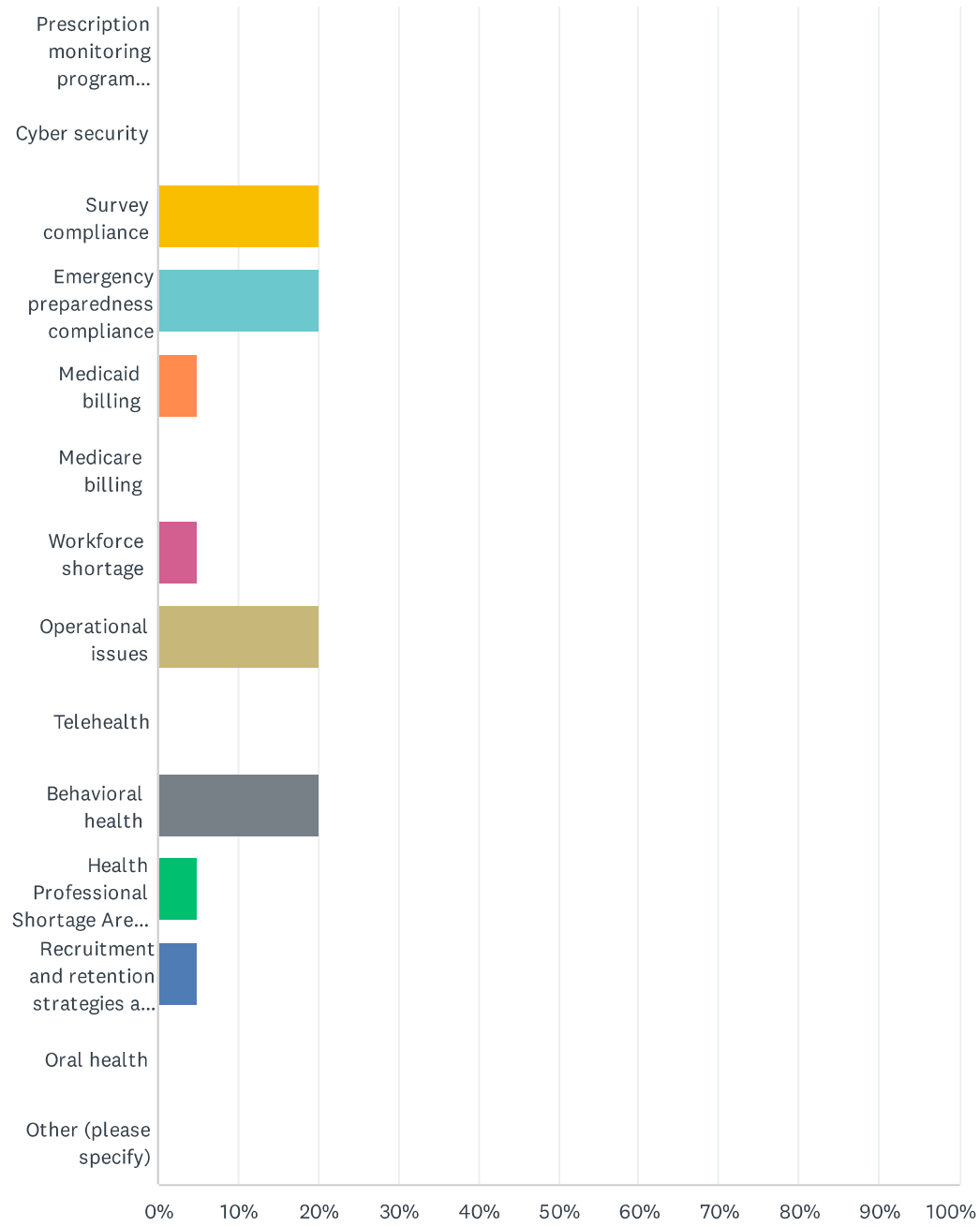


2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.00%	0
Prescription monitoring program regulations and opioid resources	20.00%	4
Cyber security\Artificial Intelligence in healthcare	30.00%	6
Survey compliance	65.00%	13
Emergency preparedness compliance	65.00%	13
Medicaid billing	45.00%	9
Medicare billing	40.00%	8
Workforce shortage	30.00%	6
Operational issues	30.00%	6
Telehealth	45.00%	9
Behavioral health	65.00%	13
Health Professional Shortage Area designation process	15.00%	3
Recruitment and retention strategies and resources	45.00%	9
Oral health	5.00%	1
Understanding and implementing provisions of the No Surprises Act (Good Faith Estimate)	20.00%	4
Other (please specify)	5.00%	1
Total Respondents: 20		

Q10 Which one of the following areas would provide the greatest value to your RHC? (Select one.)

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

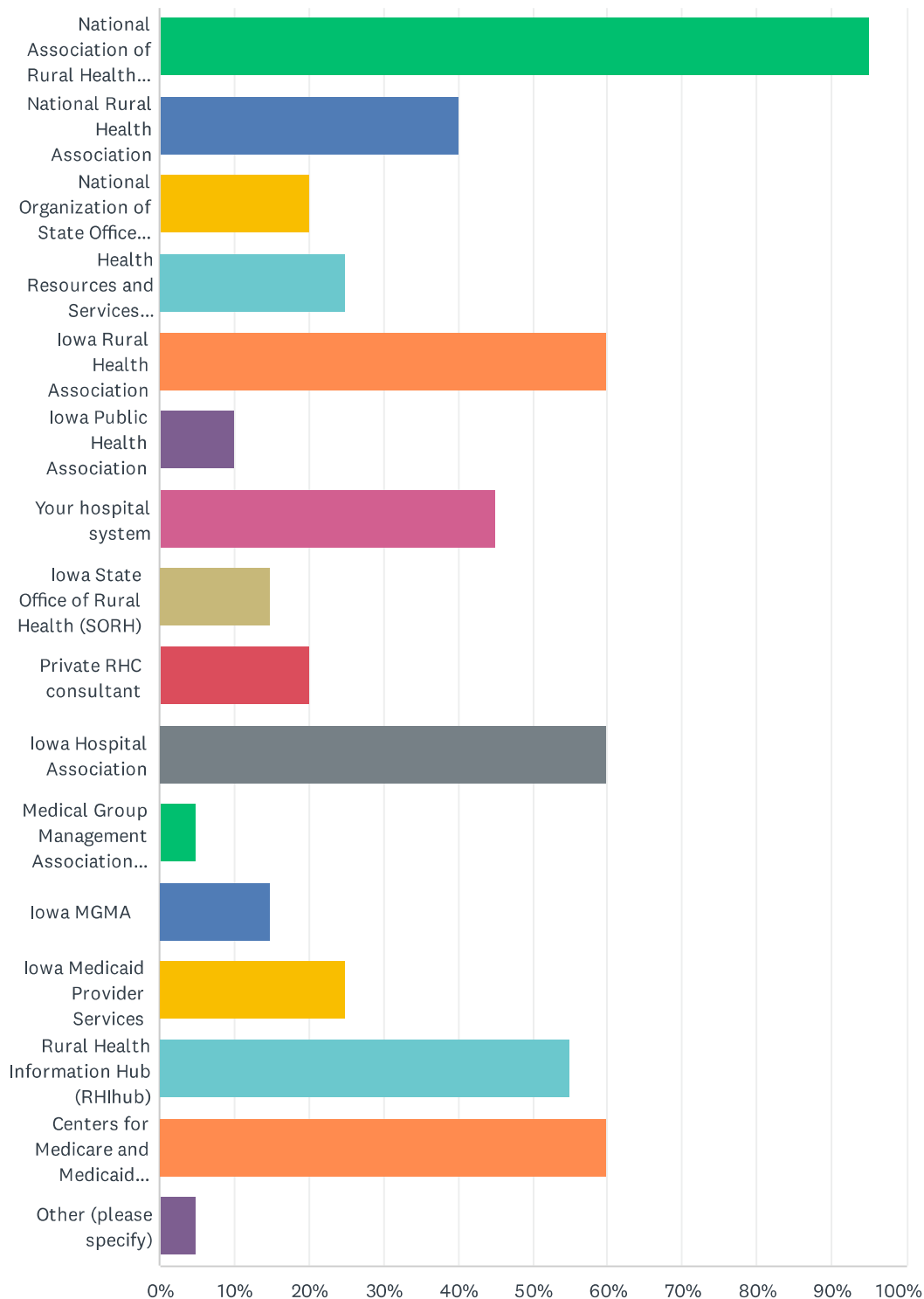


2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prescription monitoring program regulations and opioid resources	0.00%	0
Cyber security	0.00%	0
Survey compliance	20.00%	4
Emergency preparedness compliance	20.00%	4
Medicaid billing	5.00%	1
Medicare billing	0.00%	0
Workforce shortage	5.00%	1
Operational issues	20.00%	4
Telehealth	0.00%	0
Behavioral health	20.00%	4
Health Professional Shortage Area designation process	5.00%	1
Recruitment and retention strategies and resources	5.00%	1
Oral health	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		20

Q11 What other sources do you utilize for RHC information and updates? Check all that apply.

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

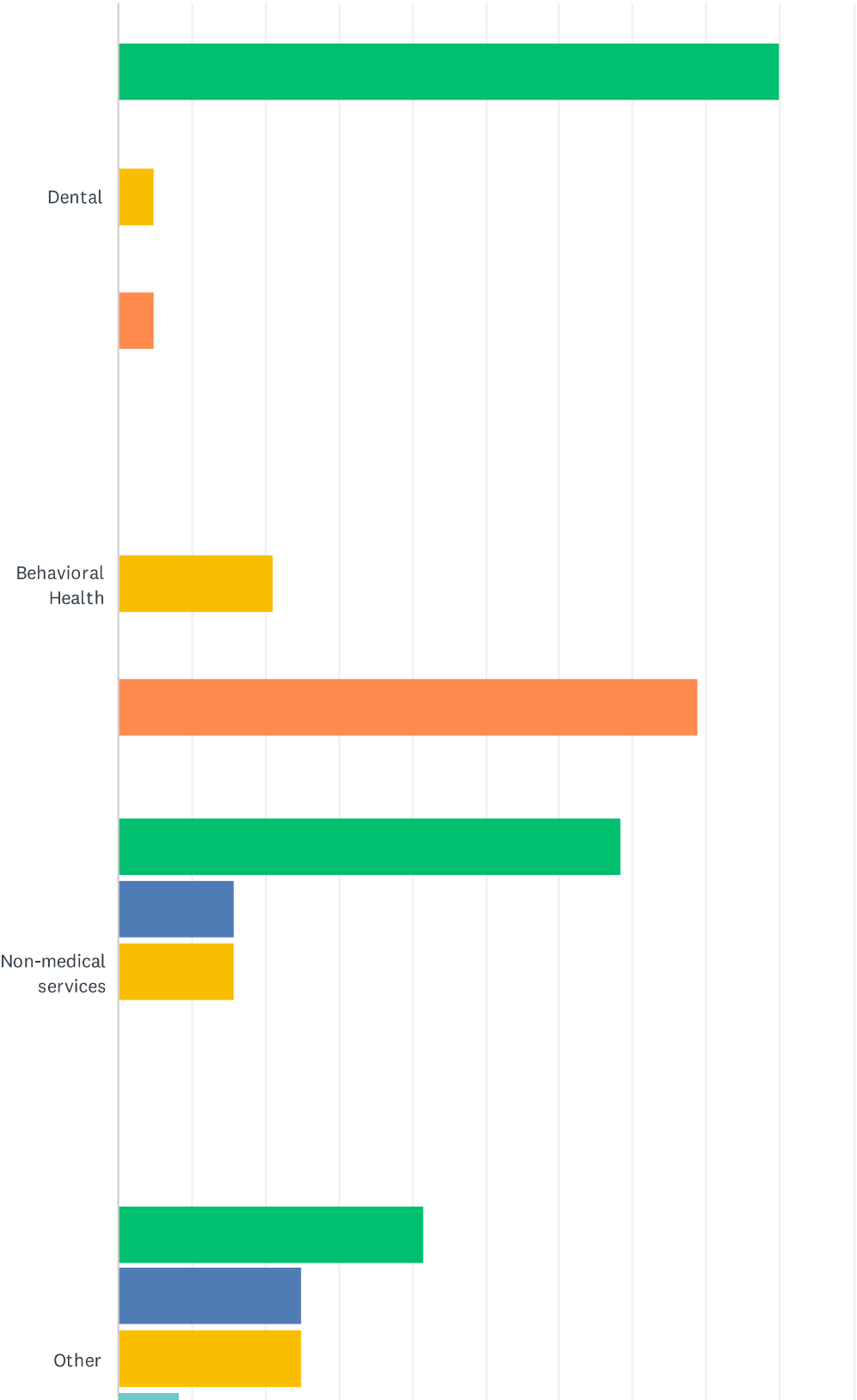
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
National Association of Rural Health Clinics	95.00%	19
National Rural Health Association	40.00%	8
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health	20.00%	4
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	25.00%	5
Iowa Rural Health Association	60.00%	12
Iowa Public Health Association	10.00%	2
Your hospital system	45.00%	9
Iowa State Office of Rural Health (SORH)	15.00%	3
Private RHC consultant	20.00%	4
Iowa Hospital Association	60.00%	12
Medical Group Management Association (MGMA)	5.00%	1
Iowa MGMA	15.00%	3
Iowa Medicaid Provider Services	25.00%	5
Rural Health Information Hub (RHIfhub)	55.00%	11
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	60.00%	12
Other (please specify)	5.00%	1
Total Respondents: 20		

Q12 The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) is a federal/state partnership to help rural communities and organizations identify and resolve issues and build rural health infrastructure. The Office provides rural health advocacy and outreach, coordination of rural health resources and consultation to communities and healthcare providers in rural Iowa Communities. What technical assistance or resources would you like to see from the State Office of Rural Health (SORH)?

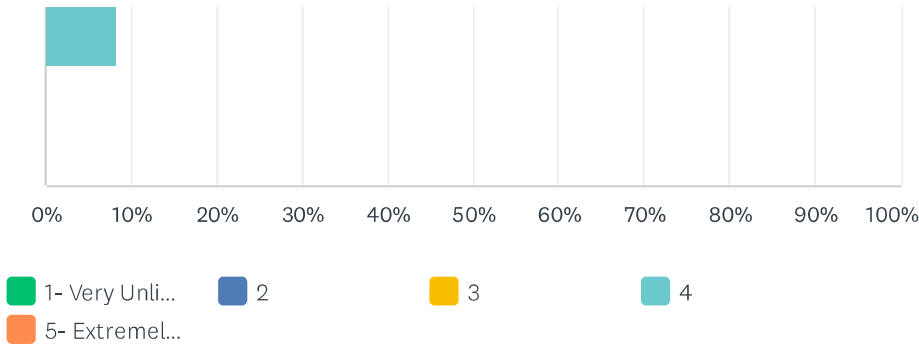
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

Q13 How likely are you to integrate the following services into your RHC(s)?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



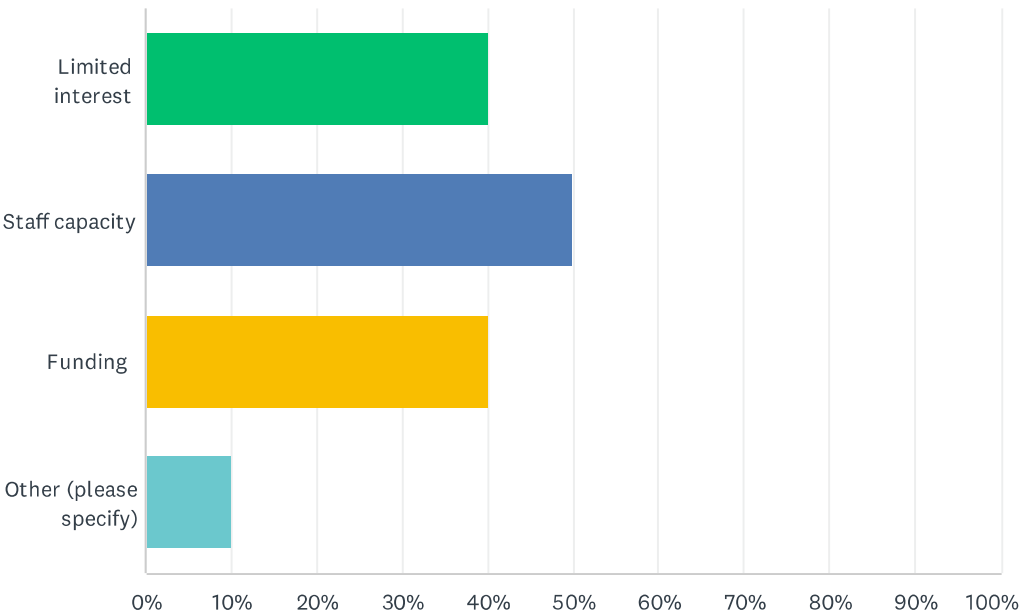
2026 IARHC Needs Assessment



	1- VERY UNLIKELY	2	3	4	5- EXTREMELY LIKELY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Dental	90.00% 18	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	20	1.30
Behavioral Health	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	21.05% 4	0.00% 0	78.95% 15	19	4.58
Non-medical services	68.42% 13	15.79% 3	15.79% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19	1.47
Other	41.67% 5	25.00% 3	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	12	2.00

Q14 If you are unlikely to integrate dental, behavioral, and non-medical services, what are the reasons why you do not anticipate adding those services

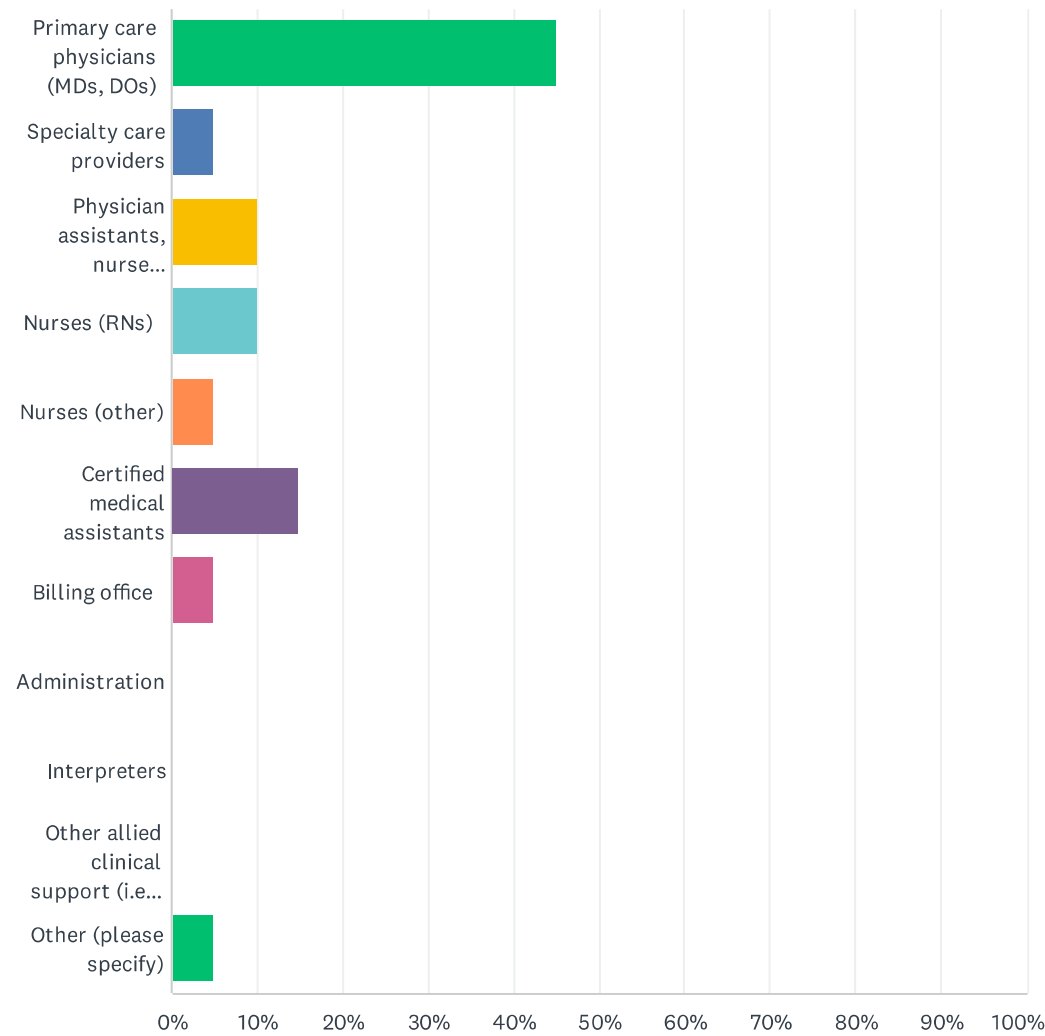
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Limited interest	40.00%	8
Staff capacity	50.00%	10
Funding	40.00%	8
Other (please specify)	10.00%	2
Total Respondents: 20		

Q15 Which position(s) at your RHC are the most difficult to fill?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

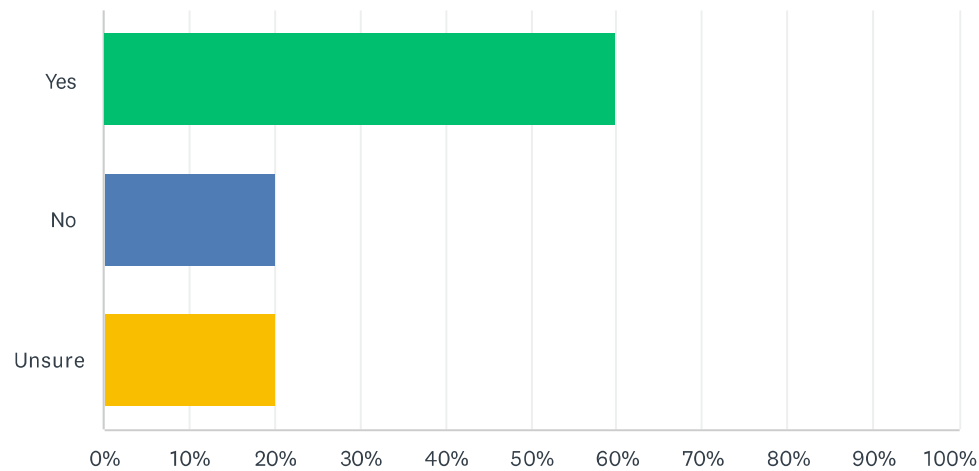


2026 IARHC Needs Assessment

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Primary care physicians (MDs, DOs)	45.00%	9
Specialty care providers	5.00%	1
Physician assistants, nurse practitioners	10.00%	2
Nurses (RNs)	10.00%	2
Nurses (other)	5.00%	1
Certified medical assistants	15.00%	3
Billing office	5.00%	1
Administration	0.00%	0
Interpreters	0.00%	0
Other allied clinical support (i.e., care coordinators, care managers)	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	5.00%	1
TOTAL		20

Q16 Do you utilize loan repayment programs to recruit and retain providers (i.e., National Health Service Corps, Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program)?

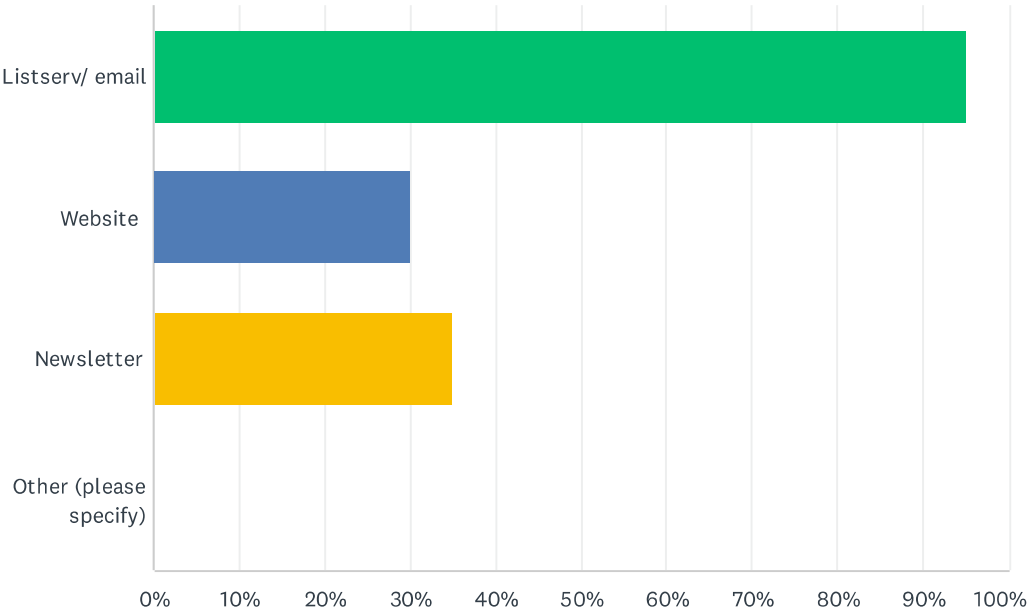
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.00%	12
No	20.00%	4
Unsure	20.00%	4
TOTAL		20

Q17 How do you currently receive updates and communication from the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics?

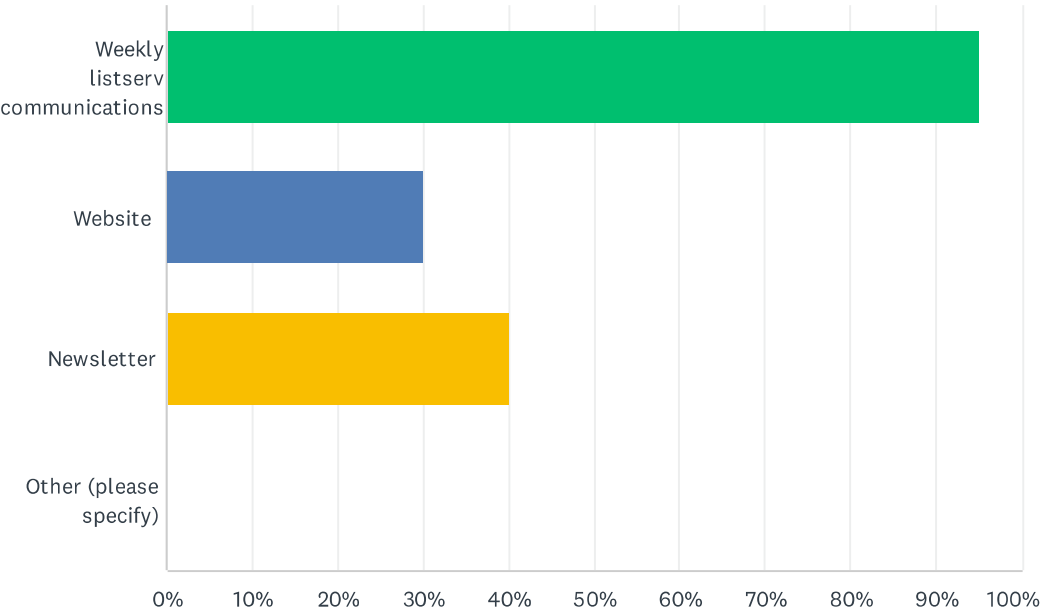
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Listserv/ email	95.00%	19
Website	30.00%	6
Newsletter	35.00%	7
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 20		

Q18 How would you prefer to receive communication from the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics?

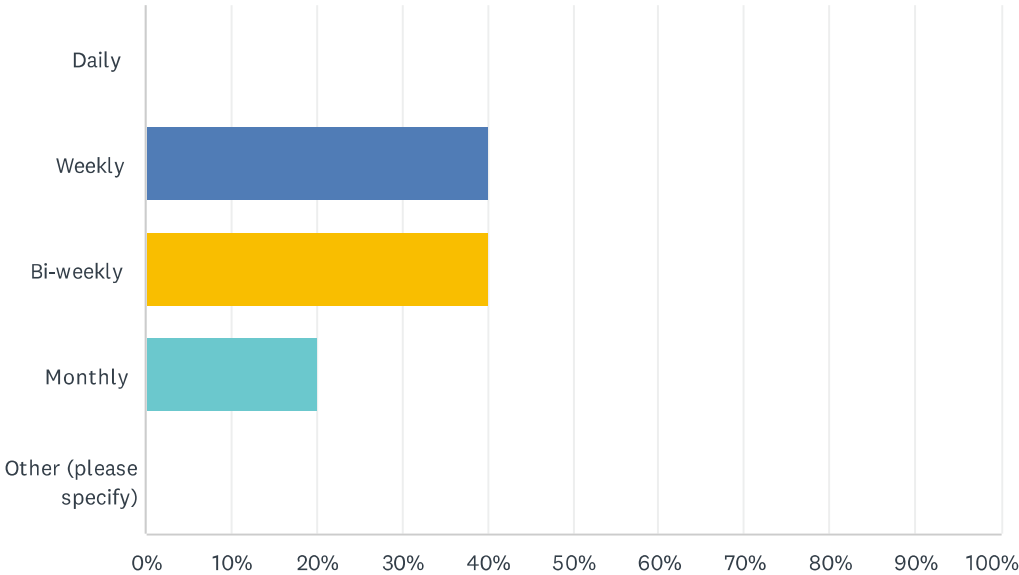
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Weekly listserv communications	95.00%	19
Website	30.00%	6
Newsletter	40.00%	8
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 20		

Q19 How often would you like to receive information from the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics?

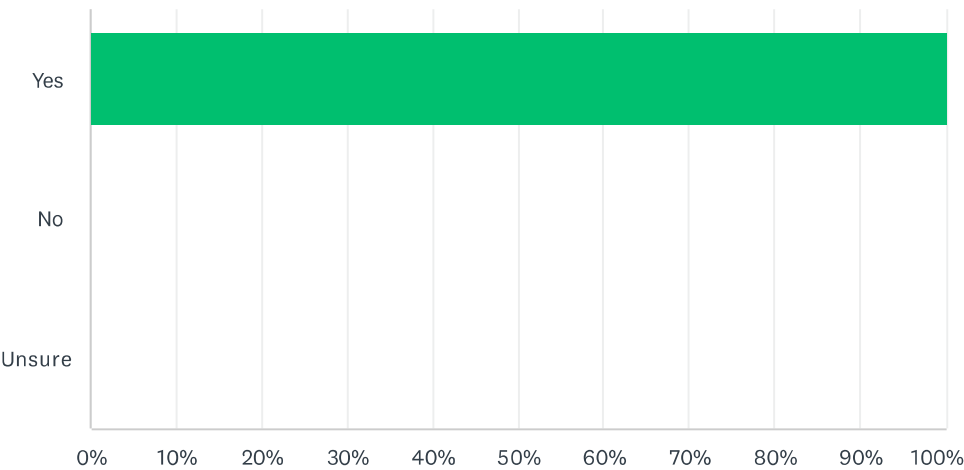
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	0.00%	0
Weekly	40.00%	8
Bi-weekly	40.00%	8
Monthly	20.00%	4
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 20		

Q20 Are you a member of Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	20
No	0.00%	0
Unsure	0.00%	0
TOTAL		20

Q21 Why are you a member of the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

Q22 Why are you NOT a member of the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics? If you are a member, please skip this question.

Answered: 0 Skipped: 20