

Challenges in Implementing School-Based Oral Health Programs: Short- and Long-Term Impact of COVID-19

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, & National Association of School Nurses Continuing Education Webinar

May 13, 2021



Housekeeping

- All lines will remain muted to avoid background noise.
- A copy of the slides and a link to the recording will be shared after the webinar concludes. They will also be available on the CareQuest.org website under the **Education** tab. Select **Webinars**.
- Your feedback is also greatly appreciated.

- **CE Credits**
- In order to receive **ADA CERP CE credit**, you must fill out an **evaluation form**
- An email with a **link to the evaluation form** will be sent out **May 14**
- Complete the evaluation and the **certificate will be sent May 21**
- In order to receive CE nursing credits, please visit the NASN website form more information.

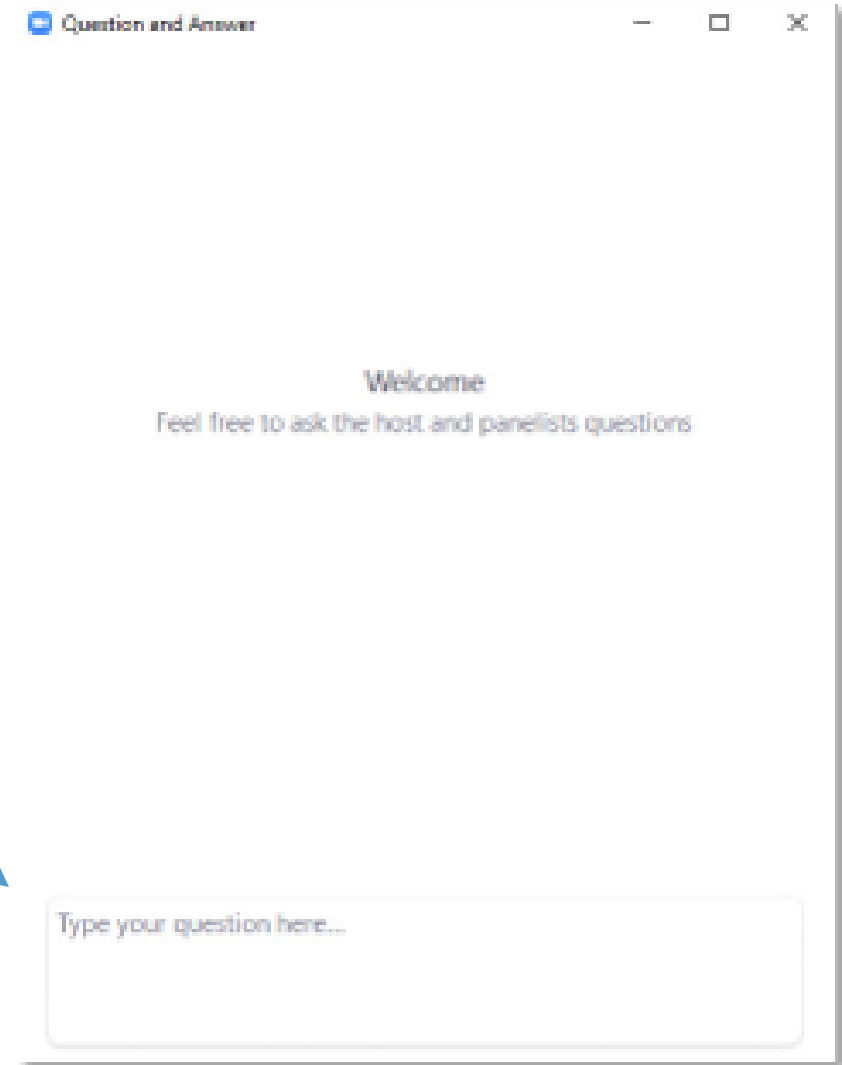


The CareQuest Institute for Oral Health is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. This presentation has been planned and implemented in accordance with the standards of the ADA CERP.

*Full disclosures available upon request

Question & Answer Logistics

- After the presentations we have time allocated for audience Q&A.
- We are not going to take any questions in between presentations. We will be monitoring the Zoom Q&A box through the entire presentation and we will do our best to answer all your questions at the end.
- Type your question in the **Question-and-Answer** box.



Learning Objectives

- Describe the impact of COVID-19 on state oral health programs' ability to plan and implement SBOHPs.
- Identify successful strategies and barriers faced by the SBOHPs and understand the long-term impact on the oral health of children.
- Understand how NASN can support the dissemination and reach of oral health programming resources to school nurses.
- Recognize at least three methods to support school nurses in return to school and planning for oral health programming.

Presenters

Challenges in Implementing School-Based Oral Health Programs



Thurs., May 13, 2021 | 12 – 1 p.m. (ET) | ADA CERP CE Credit: 1



Julie Frantsve-Hawley
CareQuest Institute
for Oral Health



Lori Kepler Cofano
Association of State and Territorial
Dental Directors (ASTDD)



Tamara Tiwari
University of Colorado
School of Dental Medicine



Elizabeth Clark
National Association
of School Nurses (NASN)

School-Based Oral Health Care and COVID-19

Lori Kepler Cofano, BSDH

Facilitator

ASTDD COVID-19 School-Based Programs Workgroup

lcofano@astdd.org

ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee Webpage:

<https://www.astdd.org/school-and-adolescent-oral-health-committee/>

May 13, 2021



ASTDD COVID-19 Workgroup

- 1st School-Based Programs Workgroup call June 8, 2020
- Members: multiple State Dental Directors, School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA), National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP)
- At that time there were three primary questions:
 - ✓ When are schools going to be in session?
 - ✓ When will schools be open to outside programs?
 - ✓ What questions will school-based programs need to answer?

ASTDD Assessment

State and Territorial Dental Directors



- A school-based oral health program assessment questionnaire was sent out in late June 2020
- The intent of the assessment was to:
 - Identify barriers to school-based programs
 - Determine how school-based programs were impacted by COVID-19 public health protocols
 - Identify which states would continue to provide school-based oral health programs and what services they would be providing
- Special thanks to Julia Wacloff, Arizona State Dental Director, for formatting and analyzing data for the initial assessment.

Response Rate

- Sample size- 50 states and territories, plus DC = 61
- Responses = 44 (including one territory)
 - Not all states fully responded to all questions

State and Territorial Oral Health Program Interviews

- All states and territories that responded to the assessment were contacted to schedule an interview.
- Interviews took place between September 8-22, 2020.
- Average length was one hour.

Three Common Themes Emerged:

- Communication
- Flexibility
- Partnerships

Lessons Learned

Communication:

- Chain of communication needs to be identified.
- Written policies and contracts need to be in place.
- Essential worker status needs to be clear.
- Clear, consistent message is important.

Flexibility:

- Opportunity to reassess program priorities.
- Explore alternate locations and services.

Partnerships:

- Relationship with school nurse is invaluable.
- Not all partners have the same capacity: small vs. large.
- Opportunity to explore new partnerships. (e.g., Immunization Program)

ASTDD/Care Quest Institute for Oral Health

- CareQuest reached out to ASTDD in September 2020 to propose a collaborative partnership
- CareQuest was interested in co-branding:
 - A webinar to share the process and results of the initial assessment
 - An [Issue Brief](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on School-Based Oral Health Programs
 - An infographic -[Access to Oral Health in Schools: Key to Improved Oral Health Among Young Children](#)
 - The follow-up assessment in early 2021
 - A final report comparing results from the first and second assessment

ASTDD/Care Quest Assessment

- The second school-based program assessment questionnaire went out in early March 2021
 - About nine months after the initial assessment
- Sample size- 50 states and territories, plus DC = 61
- Responses = 37
 - Not all states fully responded to all questions

ASTDD/Care Quest Assessment

- The intent of the assessment was to:
 - Identify barriers to school-based oral health programs
 - Evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on school-based oral health programs
 - Identify successful implementation plans
 - Identify which states would continue to provide school-based oral health programs and the services they intended to provide

ASTDD/Care Quest/ National Association of School Nurses

- An invitation to co-brand this webinar was extended to the National Association of School Nurses (NASN):
 - A member of NASN participated on the ASTDD COVID-19 School-Based Programs Workgroup
 - The assessment identified school nurses as a key component to successfully implementing a school-based oral health program
 - School nurses play a vital role in assuring students overall health is addressed

And Finally...

- Reports and Shared Resources:**
<https://www.astdd.org/school-and-adolescent-oral-health-committee/>
- Go to #3 on the page.
- List of resources shared by state oral health programs and school-based oral health programs.
- To share your program's resources email them to Lori Cofano: lcofano@astdd.org

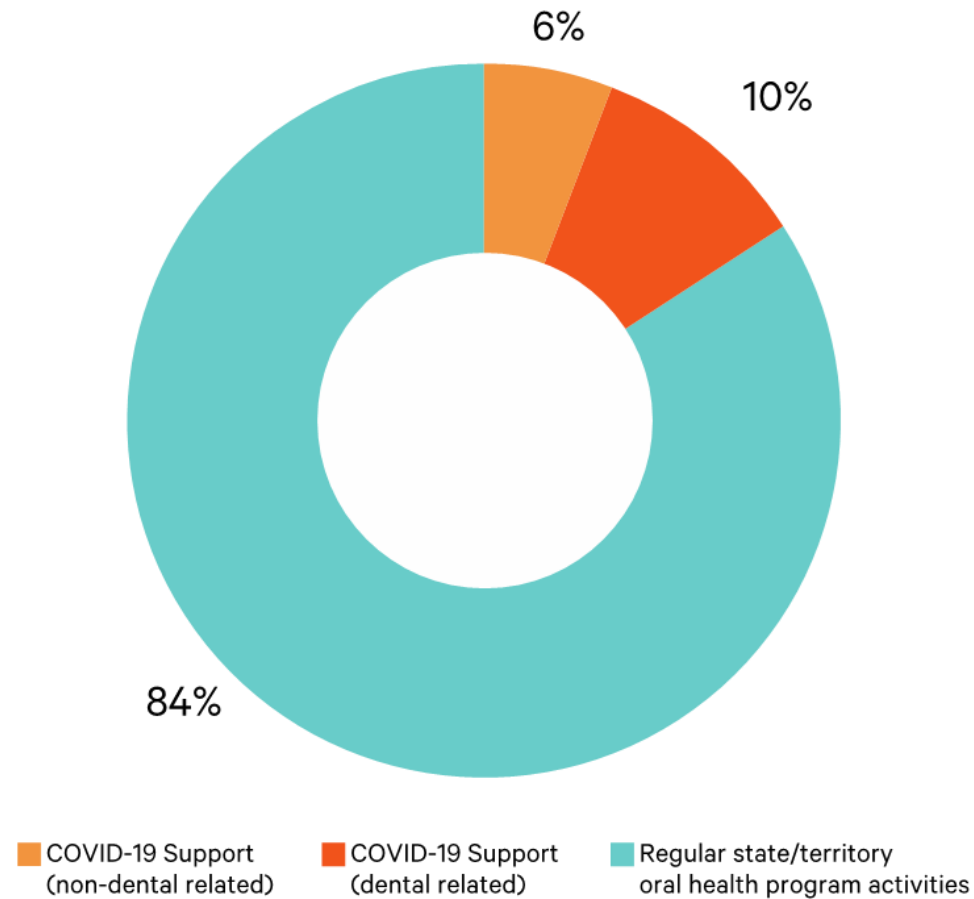
Impact of COVID-19 on School-Based Oral Health Programs

Tamanna Tiwari, MPH, MDS, BDS
University of Colorado

This survey aimed to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on the ability of state oral health programs to plan and implement school-based oral health programs, identify successful strategies and barriers.

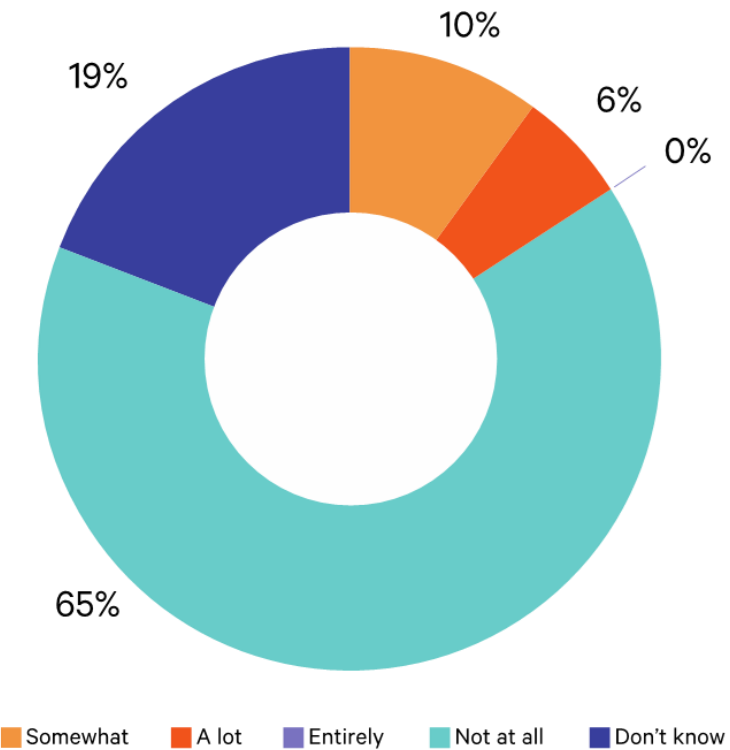
Challenges Faced by Dental Directors

Time Allocation of Dental Director

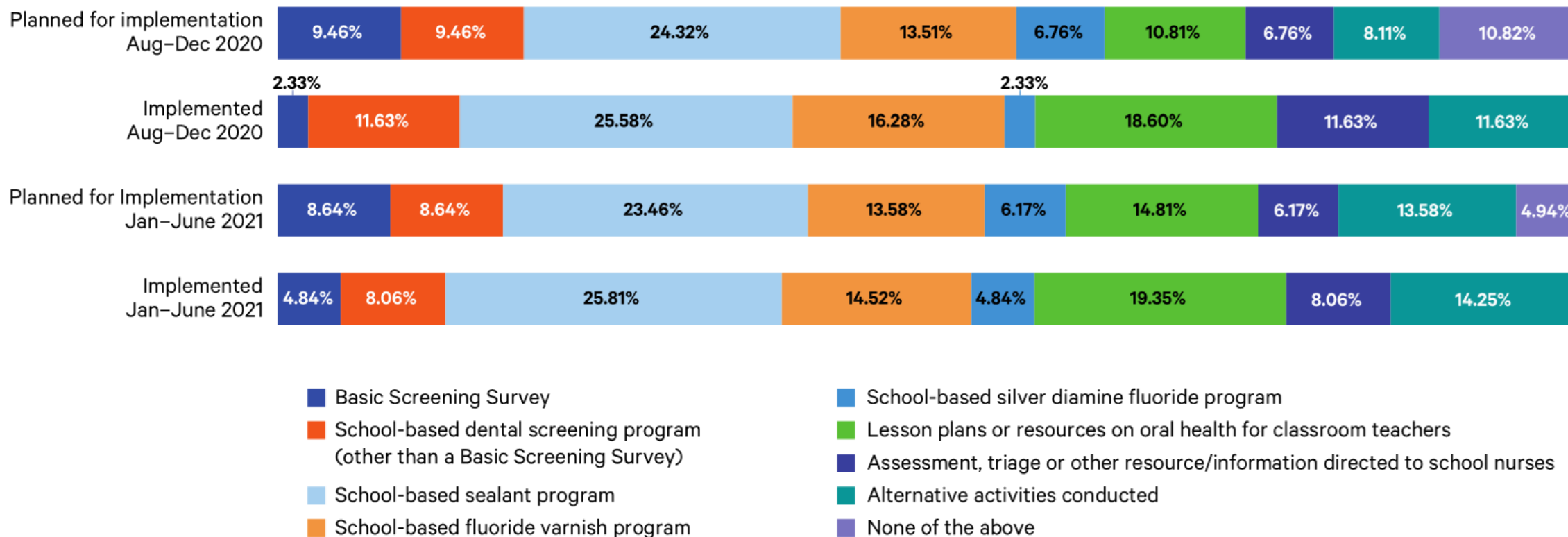


Are the school-based oral health program's funding threatened?

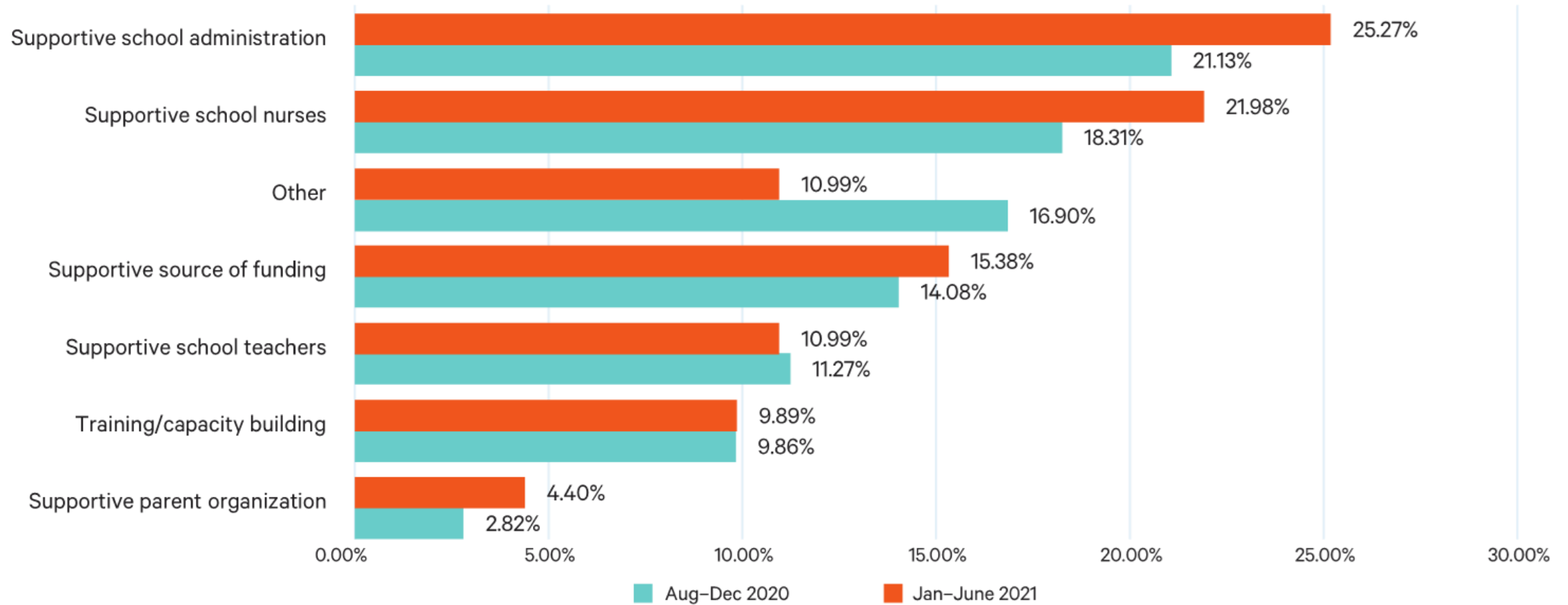
School-Based Oral Health Programs' Funding Threatened Due to COVID-19



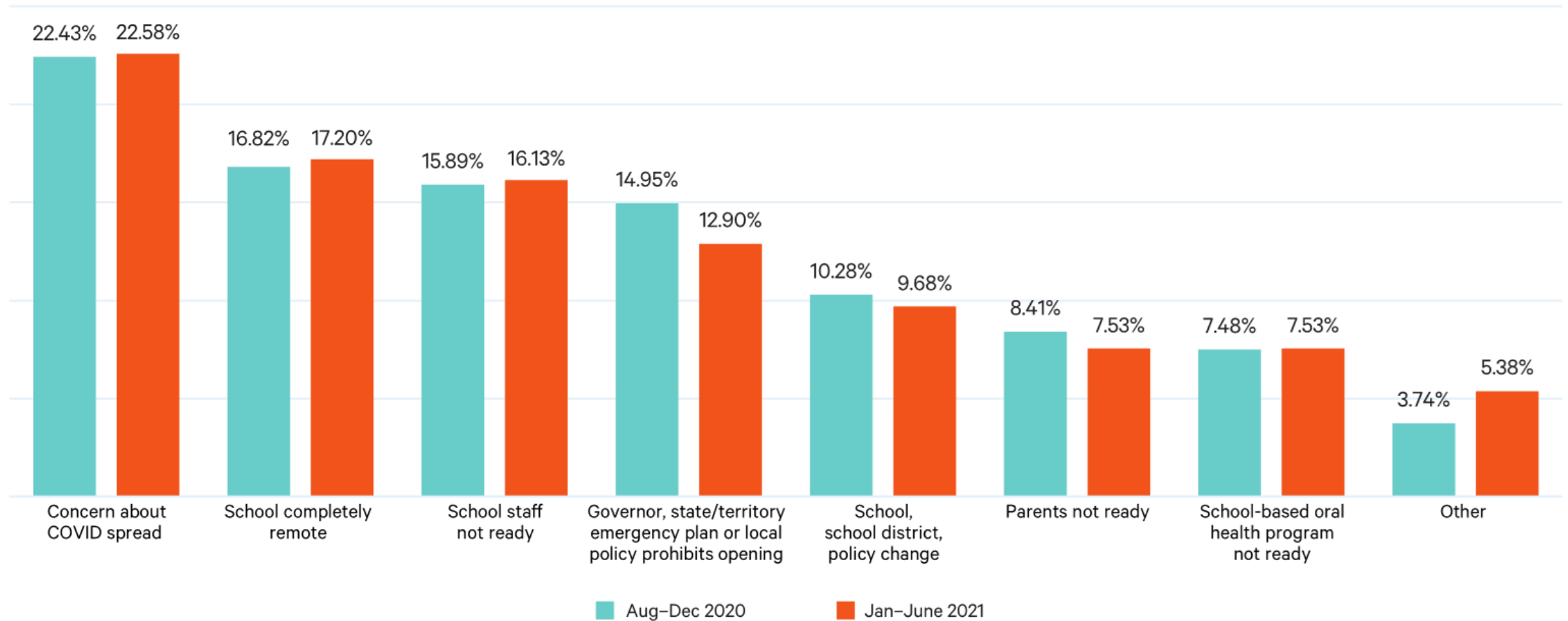
Planning and Implementation of School-Based Oral Health Programs



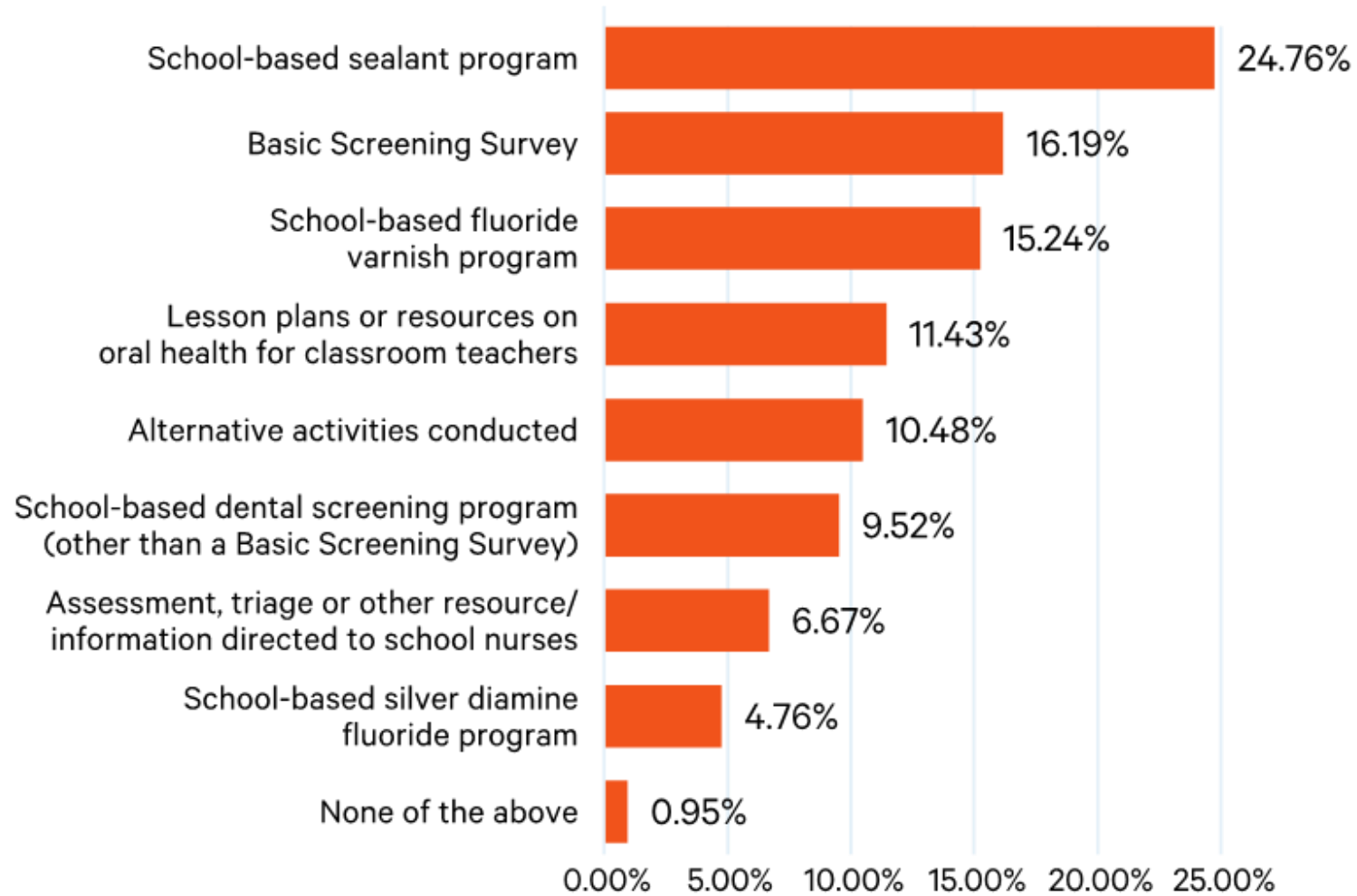
Support for Restarting School-Based Oral Health Program



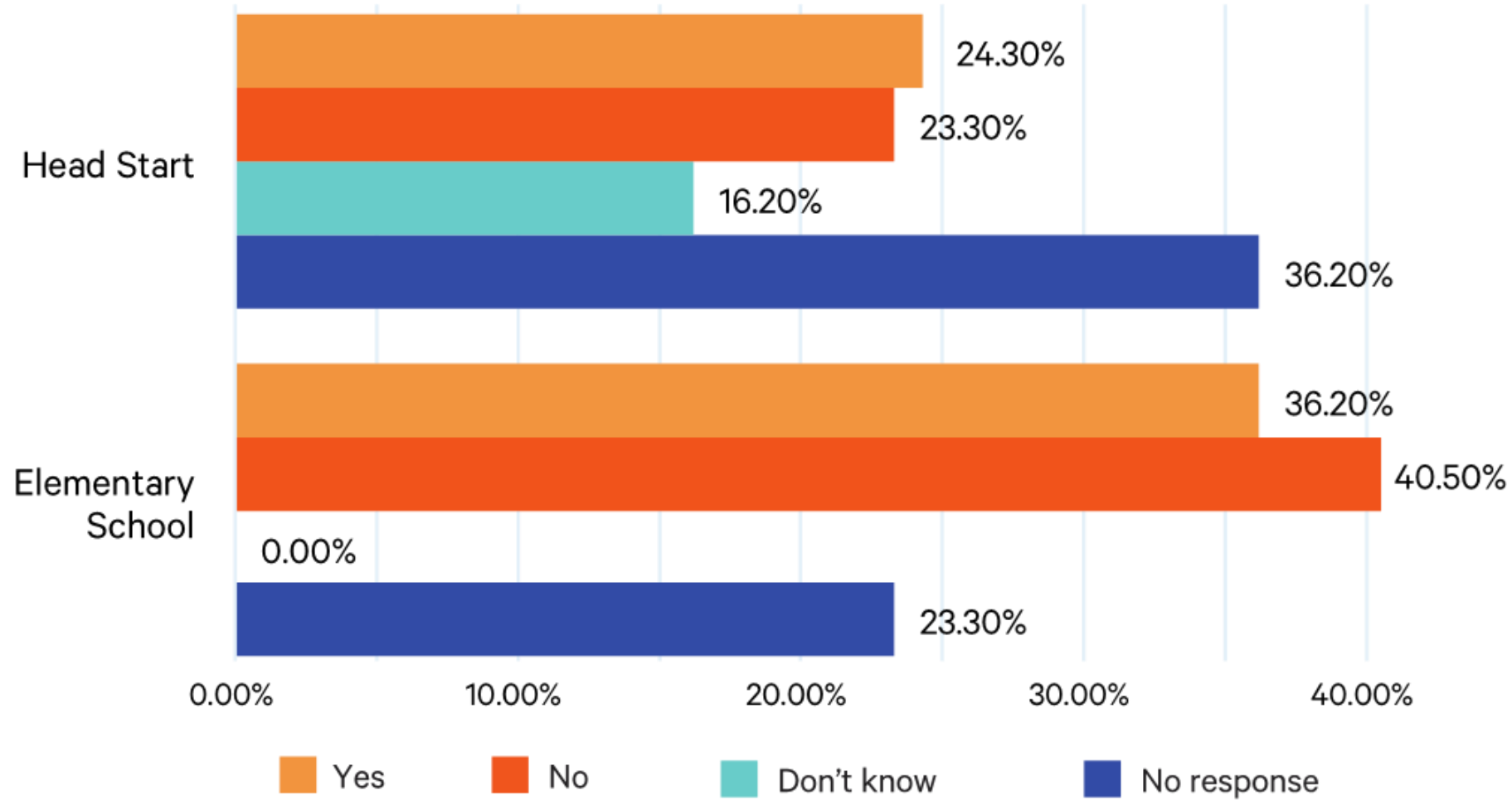
Reasons Some Schools Did Not Participate in Oral Health Programs



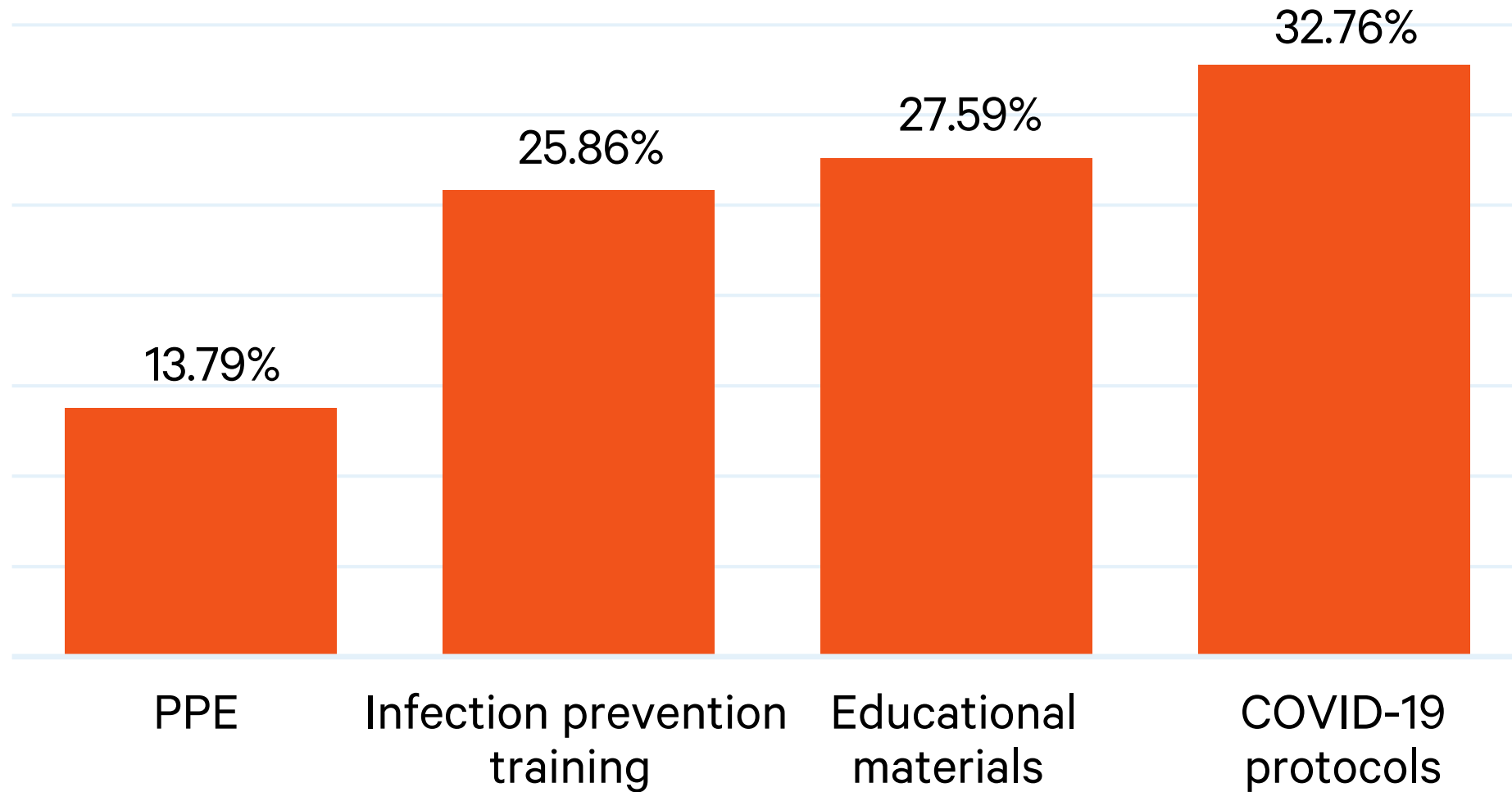
Oral Health Programs Planned for 2021–2022



Will the Basic Screening Survey Data Be Older than 5 Years in 2023?



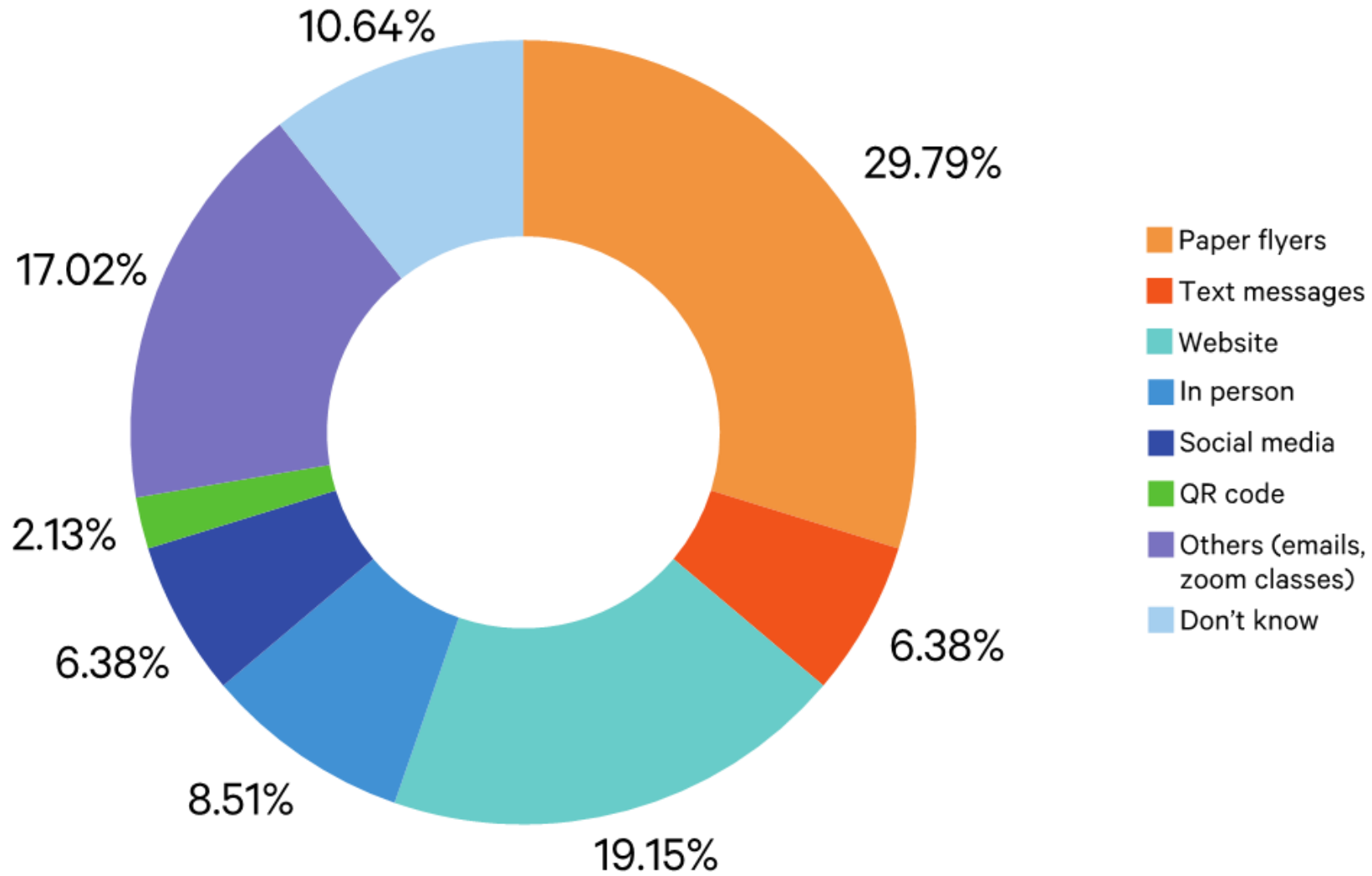
Support to Increase Readiness



Communication with parents and schools

- 36% of dental directors reported any updates made to the parent consent forms
 - What visits were being conducted
 - How and where they were conducted
 - Infections controls guidelines provided by OSAP
 - COVID related guidelines provided by CDC on social distancing, wearing a mask, and COVID-19 symptom checks
 - About 40% of the dental directors said that the communication materials were not vetted for cultural appropriateness
- Schools distributed these documents by several methods

Distribution of Communication Materials to Parents



Lessons and Next Steps

- COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the oral health programs in schools.
- This responses from this survey have shown schools based oral health programs are not being implemented fully.
- School based programs need additional support in restarting the programs – PPE, support from school staff, COVID-19 protocols.
- We should closely watch the oral health outcomes and may need to change policies and improve funding in the future to increase the implementation of school based oral health programs.

Lessons and Next steps

- Improve reporting at the state level about planning and implementing state-funded SBOHPs. A standardized set of questions should be developed and a regular data collection system established. More funding and personnel would be required to improve the reporting system.
- Increase support for COVID-19 protocols. Providing support in developing documentation, procedures, and protocols to safely implement SBOHPs is needed.
- The pandemic has shown that reiterating the importance of oral health to school principals, school administration, and school nurses is all the more essential to make sure that dental diseases and oral health inequities do not surge or go unchecked.

Thank you



School Nurses: Partners in Oral Health

May 13, 2021





*National
Association of
School Nurses*



Contact Information

- Liz Clark, MSN, RN, NCSN, FNASN
- Nursing Education & Practice Specialist
- eclark@nasn.org

National Association of School Nurses

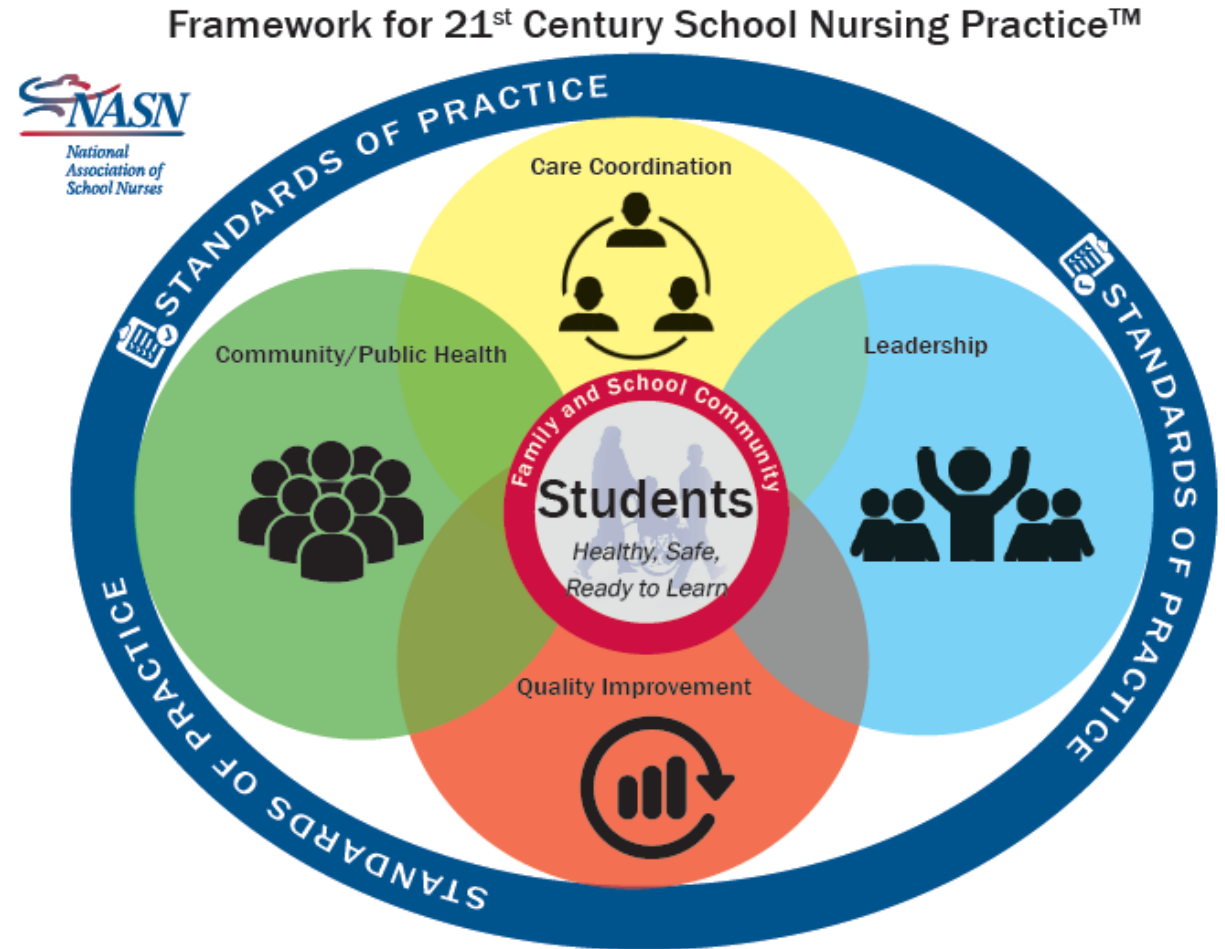
(nasn.org)

- Specialty nursing organization – 54-member BOD
- NASN's north star: students
- Over 18,000 members
- State nursing organizations
- State school nurse consultants (<https://www.schoolnurseconsultants.org/>)



The School Nurse

- Trusted in the community
- Practice is guided by the *Framework*TM
- Limitations
- Opportunities



NASN Reach



- Publications
- Social media
- Website
- Electronic Digest
- Online communities
- Learning platform
- Annual conference

Vulnerable students



- Tooth Decay is most common chronic disease
 - 4 out of 10 “kinders”
 - 16% children-teens

Supporting School Nurses

- A school nurse oral health champion:
 - My personal experience



- Innovation to support school nurses
 - Build relationships
 - Share resources
 - Updated program
 - Minimize impact





- Avenues to build relationships
 - School nurse leaders
 - School nurse conferences or meetings
 - Data sharing
 - Share innovative ideas

Alamogordo Public Schools – Flo Mobile



Supporting School Nurses

- Share resources
 - Infographics oral health trends
 - State oral health program resources
 - Education kits
 - Supplies


[ASTDD Infographic](#)


SCHOOL NURSES
THE KEY TO GOOD ORAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease during childhood. If left untreated, tooth decay can cause pain and serious infections. Children with toothaches are 4 times more likely to have lower grades.

42% The percentage of kindergarten children that have had tooth decay.

23% The percentage of children from families with limited resources that have untreated tooth decay.

 Because of COVID-19, many children are not getting the dental care they need.

 By doing verbal assessments or dental screenings, school nurses play a critical role in identifying children in need of dental care.

VERBAL ASSESSMENT:

- Ask child if they have a toothache, teeth that hurt when eating, or teeth that wake them at night
- Look for signs of oral problems such as flinching/grimacing while eating or holding their face

DENTAL SCREENING:

- Simple, quick, non-invasive assessment of a child's oral health
- Use a penlight to look for obvious signs of tooth decay
- Ideal in-school tool for triaging children
- Classifies children as
 - Having no obvious problems
 - Needing non-urgent dental care
 - Needing immediate/urgent dental care


RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL NURSES

Oral Health Screening Pocket Guide for School Nurses
www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/multiples/SchoolScreening/PocketGuide.pdf

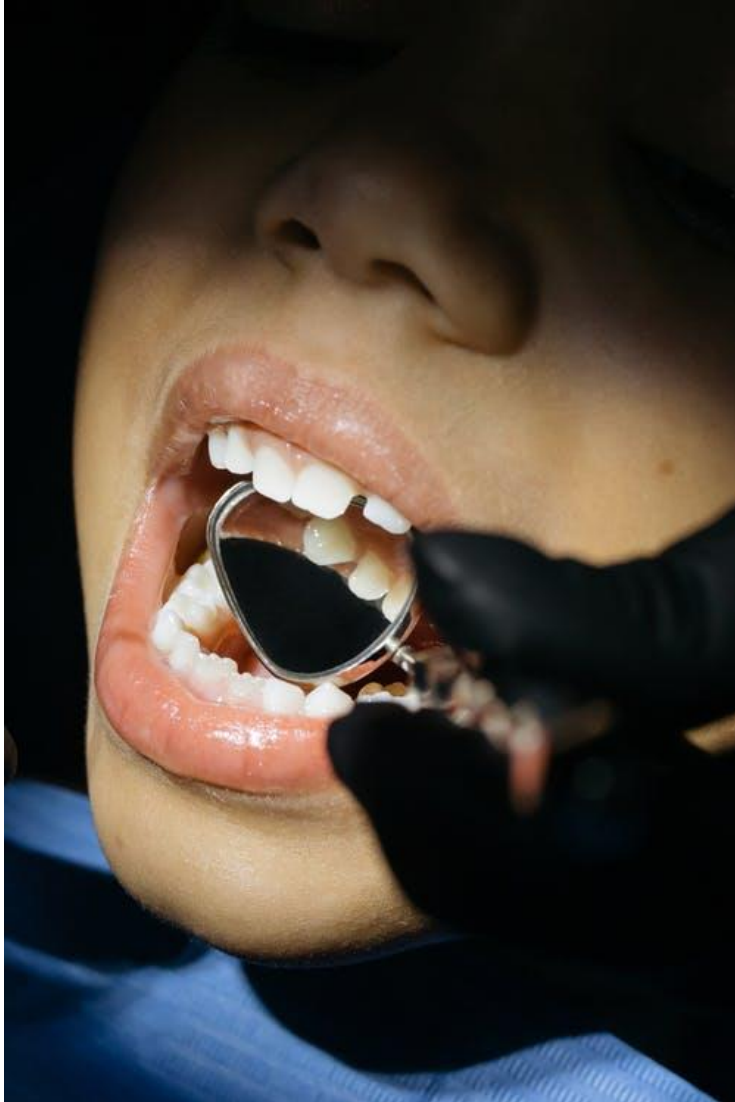
Considerations for School Nurses in Return to Schools: Dental Screening
https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/Dental_Screening_Considerations_for_School_Nurses_in_Return_to_School.pdf

PPE FOR DENTAL SCREENINGS

- Gloves
- Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
- Surgical mask


astdd
Where oral health lives

Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors
www.astdd.org, cwood@astdd.org



- Updated Oral health program
 - Newly revised –
 - Caregiver letters
 - Permission forms

Supporting School Nurses

- Reduce Impact on school nurses
 - Easy to implement
 - Minimal impact



Supporting School Nurses



Innovative Ideas

School Nurse Resources

- NASN
 - [Considerations for the School Nurse in the Return to School: Dental Screening](#)
 - Oral Health Connections: School Nurse Self Assessment of Oral Health Knowledge
 - <https://www.pathlms.com/nasn/courses/10129>

[NASN - COVID-19 Reference Page: Dental Screenings](#)



School Nurse Resources

- Integration of Preventative Dental Services in School Health Programs
 - [Free course](#) on how to provide a dental screening and apply fluoride in school settings





*National
Association of
School Nurses*



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Questions?

Questions

Research Brief



RESEARCH BRIEF

Challenges in Implementing School-Based Oral Health Programs:

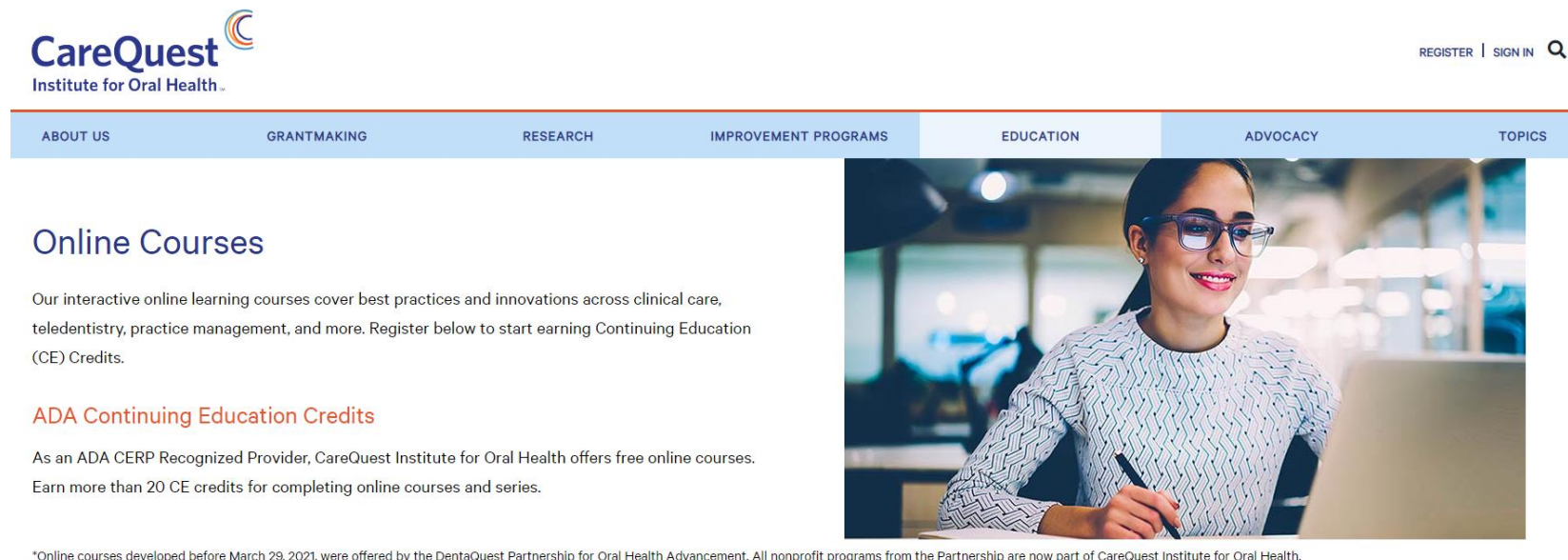
Short- and Long-Term Impact of COVID-19

SUGGESTED CITATION:
Tiwari T, Cofano L, Wood C, Frantsve-Hawley J. Challenges in Implementing School-Based Oral Health Programs: Short- and Long-Term Impact of COVID-19. Boston, MA, and Reno, NV: CareQuest Institute for Oral Health and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors; May 2021. DOI: 10.38563/COI.202112031
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The screenshot shows the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (REGISTER | SIGN IN), and a search icon. A blue navigation bar contains links for ABOUT US, GRANTMAKING, RESEARCH, IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, and TOPICS. The main content area features the heading 'Online Courses' and a paragraph: 'Our interactive online learning courses cover best practices and innovations across clinical care, teledentistry, practice management, and more. Register below to start earning Continuing Education (CE) Credits.' Below this is a sub-heading 'ADA Continuing Education Credits' and another paragraph: 'As an ADA CERP Recognized Provider, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health offers free online courses. Earn more than 20 CE credits for completing online courses and series.' To the right is a photograph of a woman with glasses working at a laptop. At the bottom, a small disclaimer reads: '*Online courses developed before March 29, 2021, were offered by the DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement. All nonprofit programs from the Partnership are now part of CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.'

Webinar Evaluation

<https://www.carequest.org/node/224004>

Must complete by **May 21 in order to receive CE credit*

Upcoming Webinars:

- **Exploring the Wicked Problem of the Oral Health Care System: Payment Transformation**
May 27, 2021

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