

Provider Survey Evaluation

As part of the expanded evaluation of the North Carolina ABCD program a provider survey will be distributed to family practice and pediatric providers in three categories and analyzed according to a specific protocol (draft copy attached). The survey instrument consists of questions designed to measure the provider's perception of their individual knowledge and attitudes regarding developmental Screening tools, Early Intervention Services, and particular federal laws. In addition, the survey instrument presents questions about the policies regarding developmental screening and referral procedures in the provider's practice setting. A demographic section will capture information about the provider's specialty, years of experience and patient population.

The three provider categories are defined as follows:

INTERVENTION: family practice and pediatric providers participating in a CME curriculum presentation covering developmental screening tools and Early Intervention Services. The survey tool will be administered prior to the presentation to assess the provider's baseline responses. Immediately following the presentation, the knowledge and attitude sections will be re-administered in order to measure the perceived impact of the curriculum presentation.

NON-INTERVENTION: family practice and pediatric providers in sixty-nine North Carolina counties where the ABCD program has not been introduced. The survey will be mailed to three thousand, six hundred and sixty-eight providers whose North Carolina Medical Board registration indicates presence in a county other than Guilford, Wake, or one within the five DEC areas selected for the curriculum presentation. The survey will be administered for the purposes of determining provider's perceived knowledge and attitudes as well as practice protocols regarding developmental screening and referral procedures in areas across the state where the program has not been introduced.

ABCD PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS: providers whose practice setting has implemented the ABCD program. The survey instrument will be administered to providers who practice in a setting that has implemented the ABCD program.

Data from the three provider categories will be compared in accordance with the analysis protocol in order to determine the relative impact of exposure to the ABCD program in the Intervention and Participation groups. In addition, data from the Non-intervention group will provide useful frequency information about current practices involving developmental screening and referral to Early Intervention Services across the state.

H. William Gruchow, Ph.D. of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of Public Health Education, and Joseph Andrews, MA, Data Analyst for Guilford Access Partnership, are developing the analysis protocol.