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July 21, 2009

Dear Colleague:

High quality After School programs play an integral role in the development and welfare of 6.5 million youth. In the Spring, COA sent out a nationwide survey to after school providers soliciting feedback on a few after school accreditation standards related to quality programming. The feedback we received was very informative (see charts that follow) and will help support COA's work as we move forward. Here is a brief summary of what we learned from your responses:

Highlighted strengths:

- 94% of respondents have written program goals;
- 95% of respondents have a written program budget;
- 98% of respondents have written job descriptions and review them prior to staff beginning their duties; and
- 99% of respondents conduct background checks on all employees who have contact with children and youth.

Areas for improvement:

- Almost 1/3 of respondents do not update their risk management plan annually.
- Approximately 1/2 of respondents do not review grievances quarterly.
- Almost 1/3 of respondents do not track measurable program outcomes.
- Over 20% of respondents do not have a comprehensive emergency management plan.

COA invites you to take advantage of our numerous *complimentary* trainings and resources available to assist programs in the development and implementation of quality systems, and to meet staff training requirements. These include the following webinar trainings that address areas identified in the survey results mentioned above:

- [After School Program Quality Improvement Standards](#)
- [Risk Management Standards for After School Programs](#)
- [Emergency Planning for After School Programs](#)

As a reminder, the COA After School standards and resources are available for free online at www.COAafterschool.org and provide a solid foundation for increasing quality in your program through self-evaluation against, and implementation of nationally recognized and accepted accreditation standards.

Thank you for in joining me in our common goal of increasing quality in after school programs.

With warmest regards and best wishes for a pleasant summer,

Jim Murphy, After School Project Manager

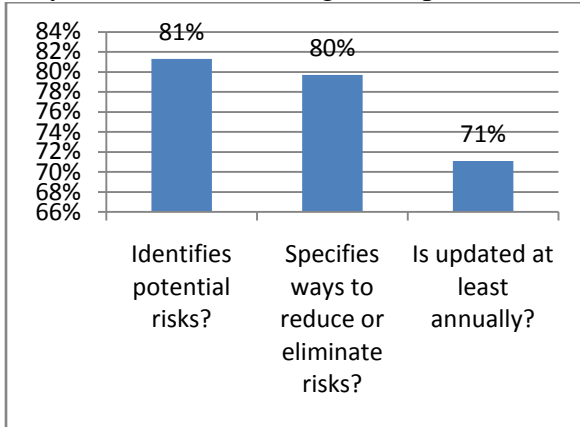


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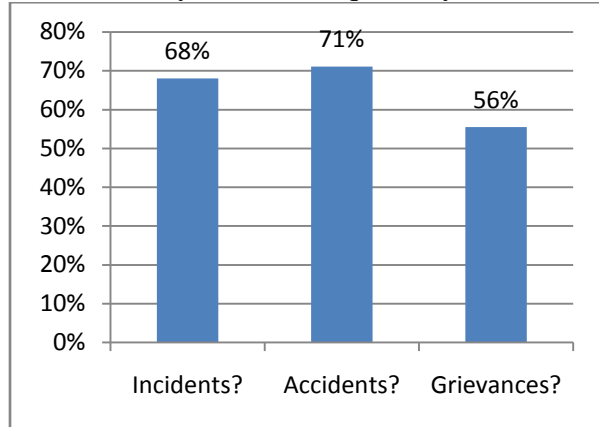


COA April 2009 After School Survey Results

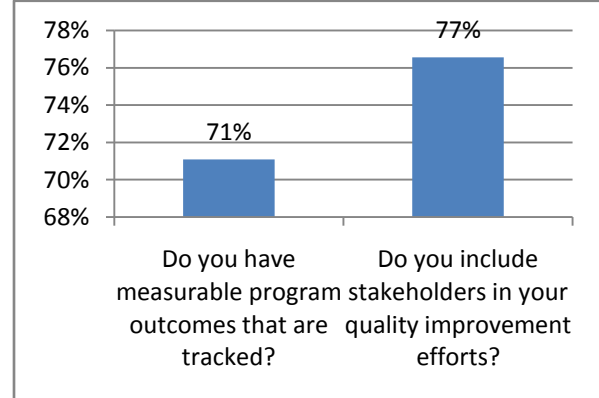
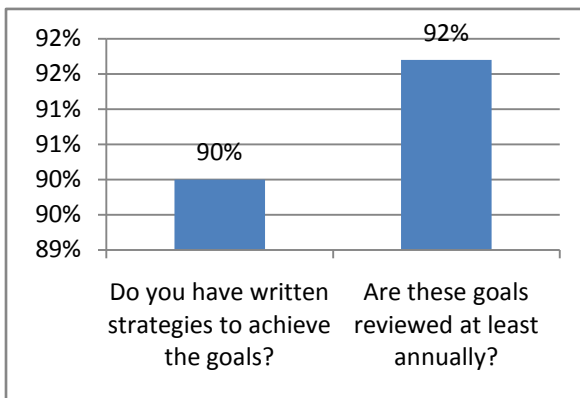
Do you have a risk management plan that:



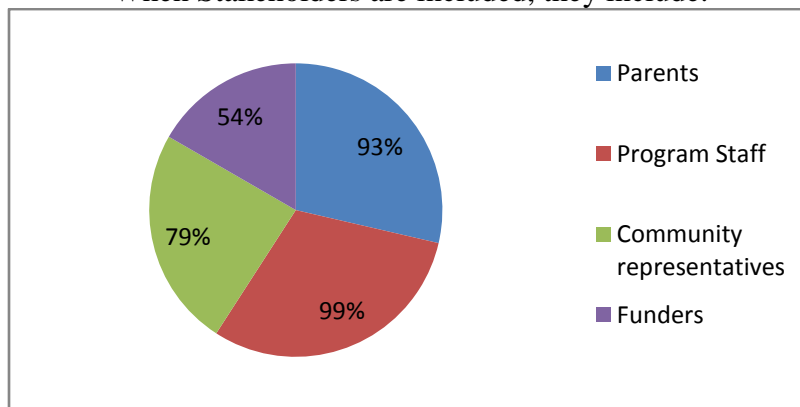
Do you conduct quarterly reviews of:



94% of Respondents have written program goals. Of those:



When Stakeholders are included, they include:



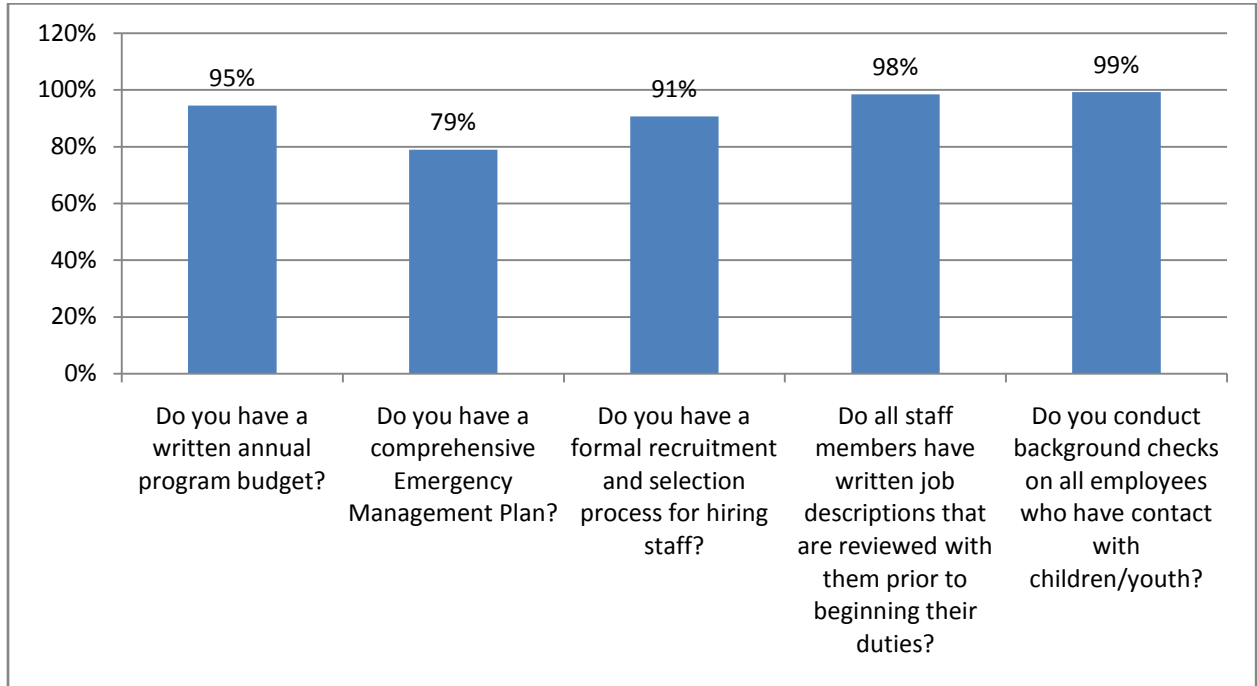
This survey was sent to over 5,000 individuals with 128 responses received.



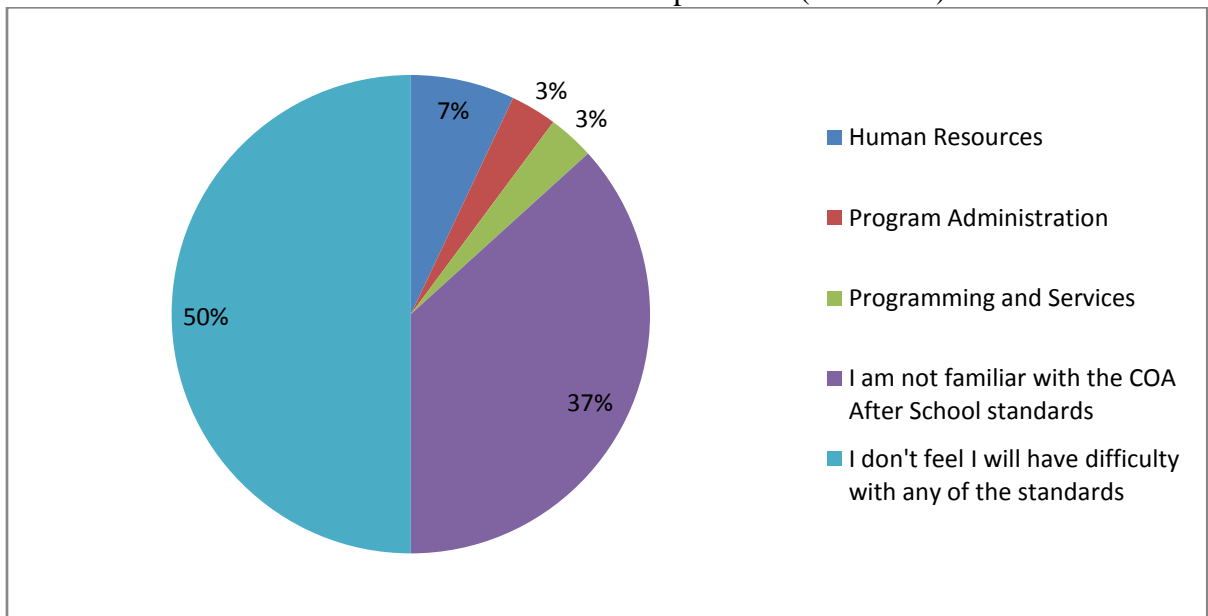
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COA April 2009 After School Survey Results, cont.



If you are familiar with the COA After School standards, what area of the standards do you feel are / will be the most difficult to implement? (select one)



This survey was sent to over 5,000 individuals with 128 responses received.