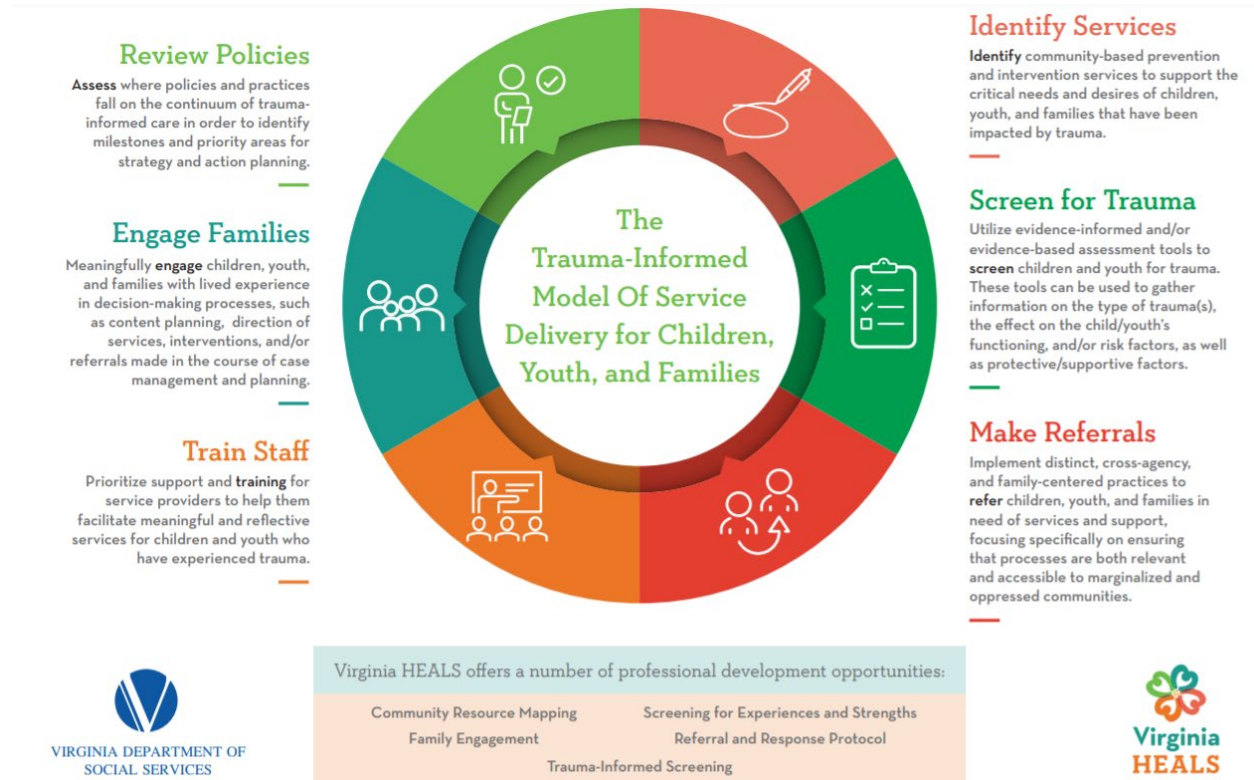




Knowledge, Utilization, and Uptake (KUUT) of the Virginia HEALS Toolkit

BACKGROUND

Virginia HEALS (Helping Everyone Access Linked Systems) is a cross-systems initiative to prevent and mitigate childhood trauma through the implementation of Virginia’s **Trauma-Informed Model of Service Delivery**. The Model, supported by a **Toolkit** of resources and **e-learning courses**, promotes policies and practices to identify children who have experienced trauma and to provide them with coordinated support based on their individual needs and identities.



The Model and supporting Toolkit were introduced to service providers throughout Virginia in August 2020, and project staff have provided training and technical assistance over the last 18 months to providers seeking to implement them.

PURPOSE

Measurement of what knowledge is taken up and how that information is used to inform practice and policies can provide an understanding about the effectiveness of knowledge uptake and utilization processes.¹ In 2007, the Knowledge Uptake and Utilization Tool (KUUT) was developed by Dr. Kelly Skinner to evaluate the implementation of knowledge into practice.

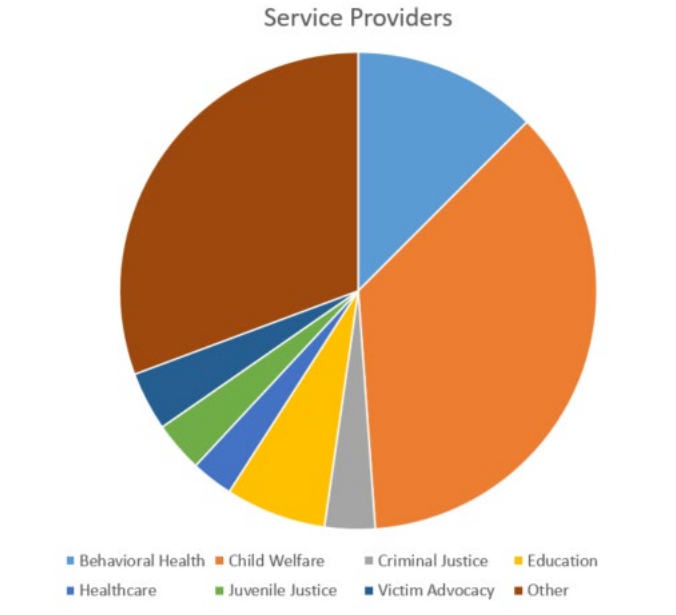
In 2021, Virginia HEALS staff modified the KUUT and sent it to service providers with the purpose of measuring the reach, knowledge, and use of the Toolkit by service providers in agencies and organizations.

¹ Shankar, S., Skinner, K., Ninomiya, M., Bhawra, J. (2019). Fostering implementation of knowledge into health practice: study protocol for the validation and redevelopment of the Knowledge Update and Utilization Tool. *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 17:105. <https://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12961-019-0503-5>



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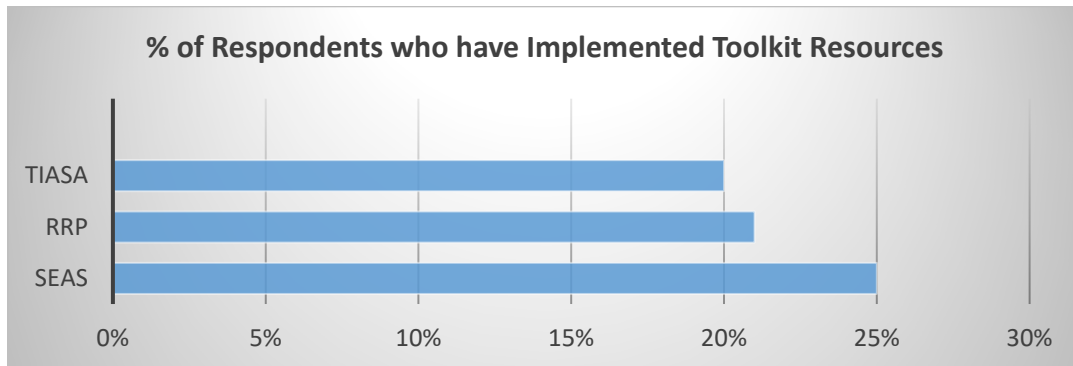
169 service providers representing a variety of agencies and systems participated in the survey.



Of all respondents, **88%** indicated that they either have accessed or plan to access the Virginia HEALS Toolkit.

Of the 49% who indicated that they have accessed the Toolkit:

- 92% stated that the Virginia HEALS Toolkit material was easy to understand
- 89% strongly agree or somewhat agree that the Virginia HEALS Toolkit has introduced new ideas
- 42% strongly or somewhat agree that the Virginia HEALS Toolkit has changed their beliefs
- 55% stated that they have either fully or partially implemented resources within the Virginia HEALS Toolkit²

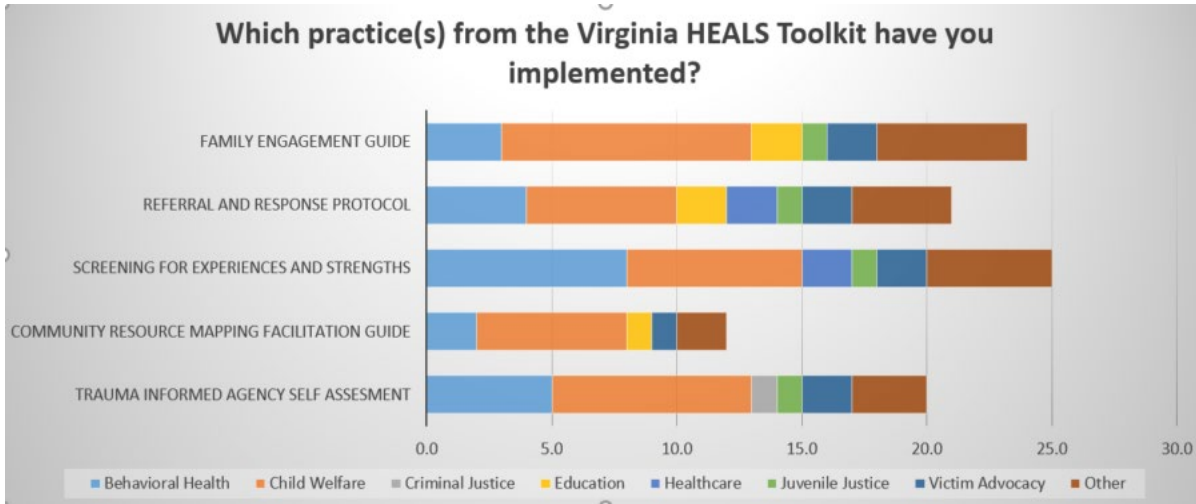


² TIASA = Trauma-Informed Agency Self-Assessment; RRP = Referral and Response Protocol; SEAS = Screening for Experiences and Strengths

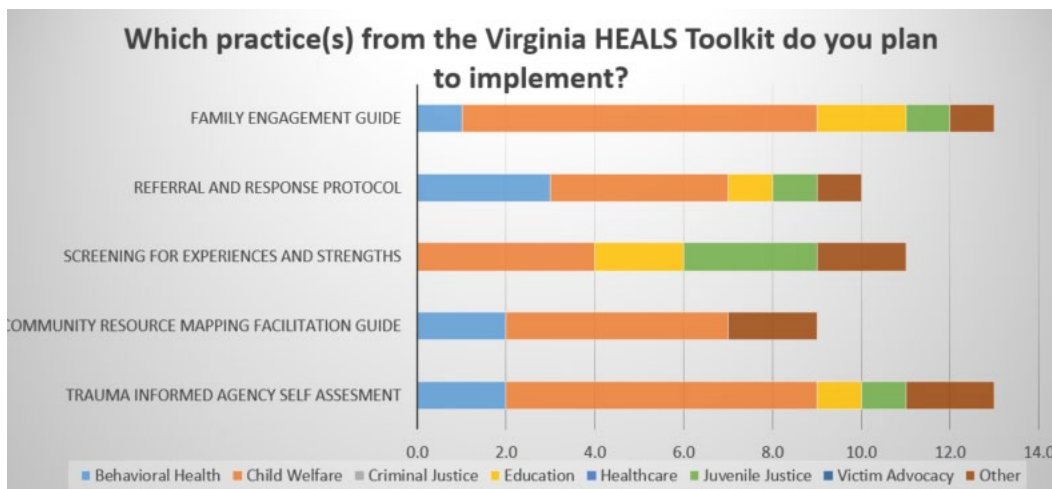
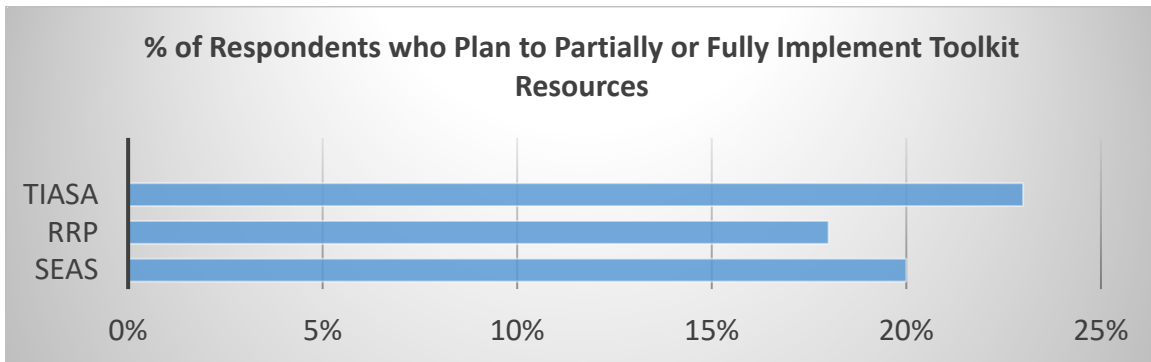


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Toolkit resources have or will be implemented by service providers from a variety of systems.



Of the 45% that stated that they have not yet implemented, 62% stated that they plan to partially or fully implement resources within the Virginia HEALS Toolkit in the future.



Of the respondents who have implemented or plan to implement Toolkit resources, 48% stated that they have collaborated with colleagues and/or other organizations on how to implement them.