

Confidence Levels of Recent Graduates in Speech
Language Pathology and Audiology in Providing
Assessment and Intervention for School-aged Children
with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Taylor Tarka

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
(LEND)

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Background

- Increased rate for diagnosis of ASD → increase demand on practitioners
- Increased importance that clinicians have confidence and knowledge
- Research indicates that there is a lack of confidence across disciplines
 - Audiologists and speech language pathologists are some of the first clinicians to treat children with ASD

Purpose

Purpose statement: There is a need to update the findings and determine the confidence levels of SLPs and audiologists who are working with school-aged individuals with ASD.

- **Underlying purpose-** To determine if graduate programs are preparing students to work with children with ASD

Research Question: What are the confidence levels for SLPs and audiologists, following recent graduation from the University of Connecticut, for providing assessment and intervention for school-aged children with ASD?

Methods

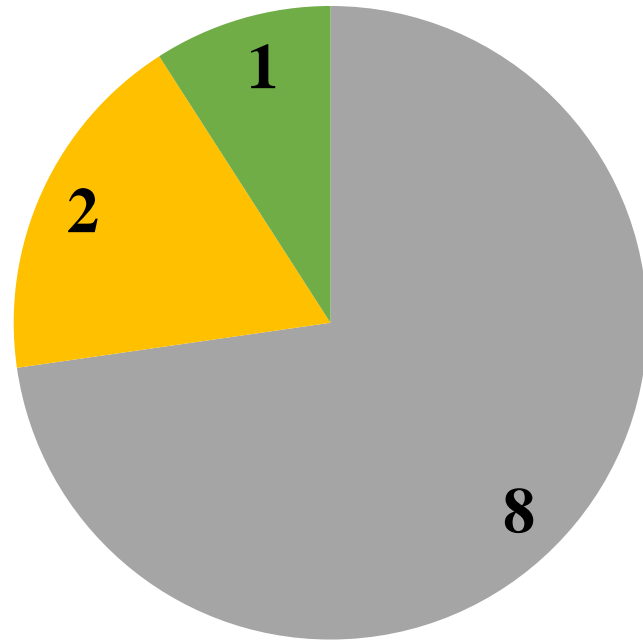
- Respondents were recruited via UConn Speech and Hearing Clinic emails provided by the program manager
- 21 question, online survey via Survey Monkey
 - 11 total respondents after exclusion criteria
- Follow- up email sent 3 weeks after initial email
- Analysis completed in Excel
- Main items of interest included;
 - Confidence levels in overall knowledge of ASD
 - Confidence levels of assessing children with ASD

Results- Demographics

- 11 respondents
 - 8 SLPs
 - 3 Audiologists
- All 0-5 years post graduation
- All currently work with children with ASD
- Majority (91%) took a course with ASD as a topic
 - 75% didn't feel that taking additional coursework on ASD would have benefitted them
- Majority (82%) had the opportunity to assess/treat individuals with ASD in their graduate program

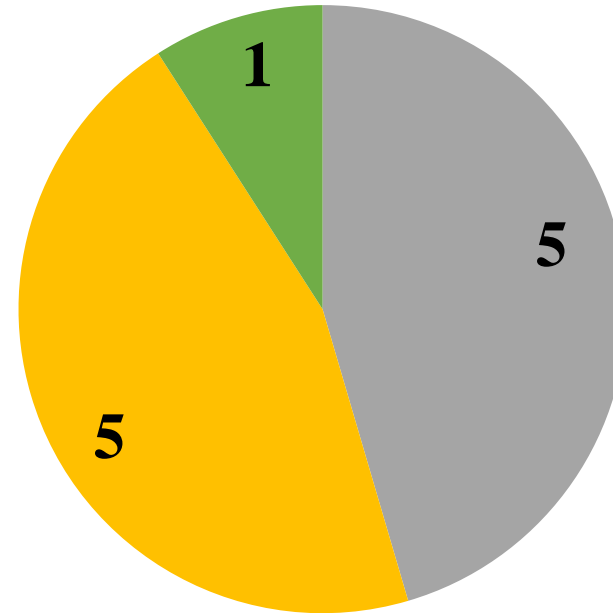


How confident are you in your overall knowledge of ASD?



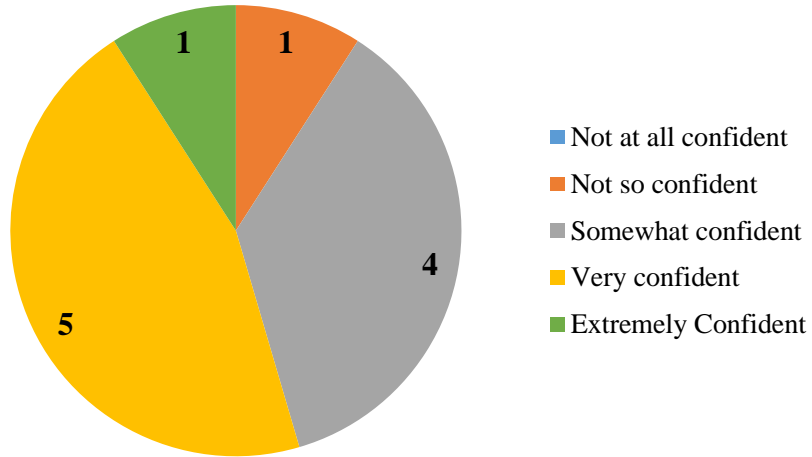
- Not at all confident
- Not so confident
- Somewhat confident
- Very confident
- Extremely Confident

How confident are you in assessing children with ASD?

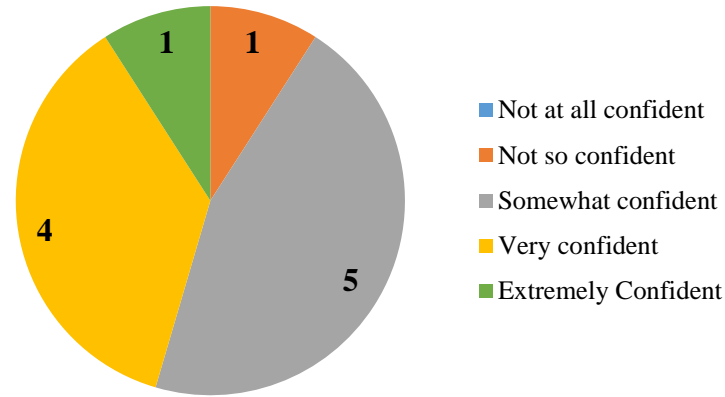


- Not at all confident
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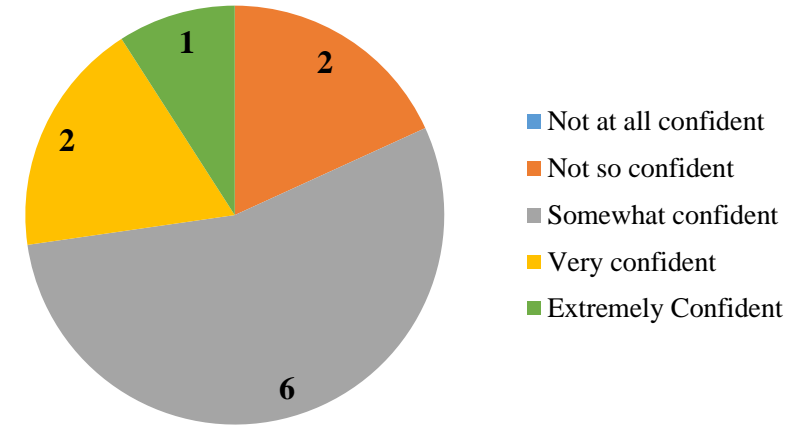
How confident are you in determining appropriate intervention goals and objectives for children with ASD?



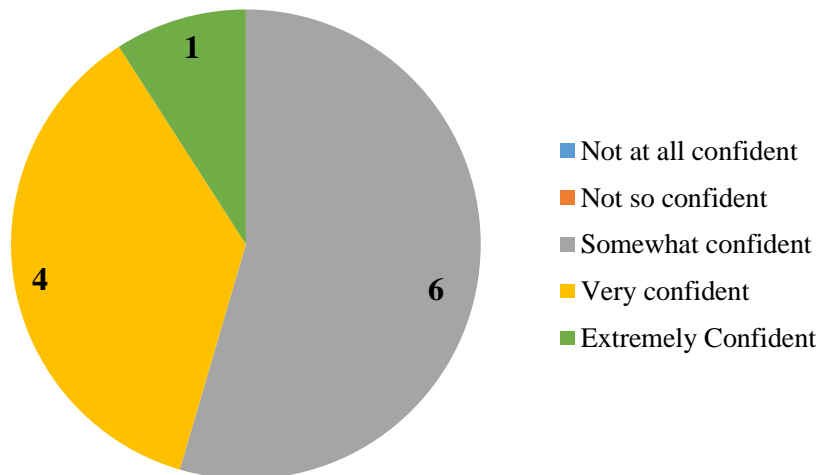
How confident are you in counseling the caregiver of a child who has a current diagnosis of ASD?



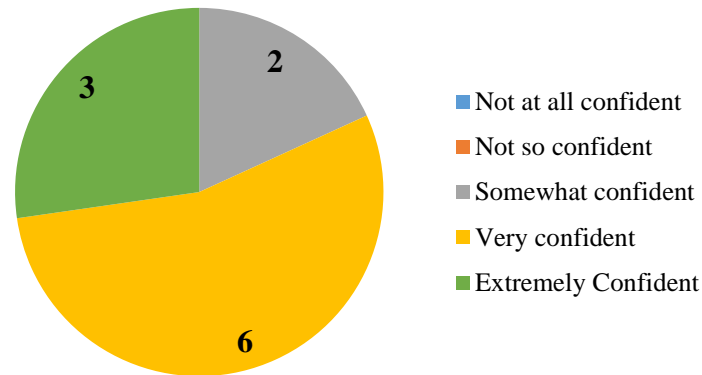
How confident are you in counseling the caregiver of a child who you are concerned may have ASD and should be evaluated for a possible diagnosis?



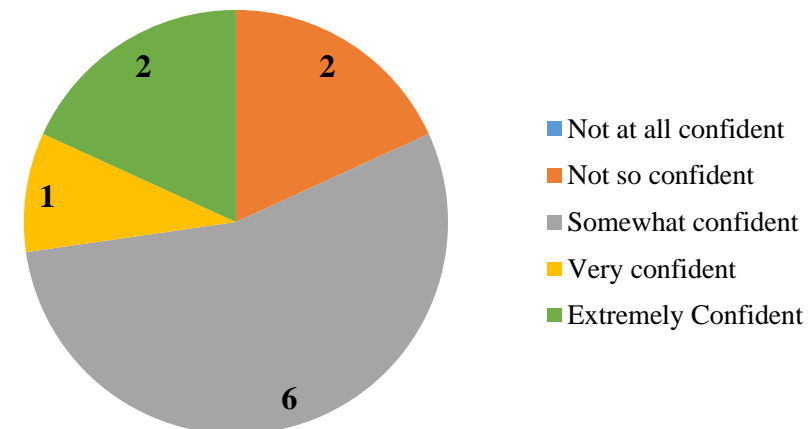
How confident are you in delivering effective, evidence-based services to children with ASD?



How confident are you in collaborating with other service delivery professionals (i.e., OT, PT, psychologist, etc.) who work with children with ASD?



How confident are you in providing training to enhance the knowledge and skills of other professionals who work with children with ASD (i.e., classroom teachers, paraprofessionals)?



Discussion

- Despite the majority (91%) who took classes in their graduate program on ASD and 82% who had the opportunity to assess/treat individuals with ASD in their graduate career, confidence levels still varied throughout the respondents
- In terms of providing services and determining goals is “somewhat confident” acceptable?
 - More research is needed on graduate programs
- 73% of the respondents were “somewhat comfortable” with overall knowledge of ASD
 - Future SLPs and audiologists would benefit from a LEND program to enhance education and therefore confidence with working with children with ASD

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Thank you!

Any questions?