

Clinicians' Perspectives on Integrating a Parenting Assessment Tool into the Well Child Visit



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Background

- Some of the most modifiable Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are unhealthy parenting behaviors. Despite the widespread use of standardized health assessment tools in pediatrics, a gap in services is that parenting assessments are not routinely administered.
- The Quick Parenting Assessment (QPA) is a validated 13-item parent support tool that identifies children exposed to unhealthy parenting including excessive use of punitive discipline, yelling, threatening, physical punishment, and humiliating language. Before parenting assessment tools can be taken to scale, efforts are needed to determine clinicians' perspectives on integrating them into the well child visit.

Study Aims

To determine clinicians' perspectives on integrating the QPA into the well child visit.

Methods

- In our clinic serving low income families, we routinely administer the QPA as part of the 15 and 30 month visits.
- The QPA takes approximately 1 minute for parents to complete. Clinicians were trained to interpret and respond to the QPA with a 15 minute presentation. For parents who were given a QPA as part of the well child visit, clinicians were invited to complete a survey focused on their perspectives on integrating the QPA into the visit.
- Exclusion criteria: surveys in which the clinician reported that the QPA was not reviewed (N=32)
- Key measures were :
 - time needed for the clinician to review the QPA
 - whether the QPA affected communications with the caregiver about parenting and
 - whether the QPA added quality to the well child visit.
 - determining if the parent was receptive to QPA review
 - examining the differences in responses from clinicians that reviewed <3 QPAs versus 3 or more QPAs

Results

Table 1: Demographics

TYPE OF PROVIDER (N=167)	Number (%)
Resident	
PGY1	18 (10.77%)
PGY 2	23 (13.77%)
PGY 3 or 4	15 (8.98%)
Nurse Practitioner	
< 10 years experience	26 (15.56%)
> 10 years experience	30 (17.96%)
Attending	
< 10 years experience	28 (16.76%)
> 10 years experience	27 (16.16%)

Table 2: Time to Complete QPA

Time to Review QPA	Number of Providers (%) (n=172)
< 15 seconds	41 (23.83%)
15-30 seconds	50 (29.06%)
30 seconds-1 minute	39 (22.67%)
1-2 minutes	29 (16.86%)
3-5 minutes	12 (6.97%)
>5 minutes	1 (0.5%)

Figure 1: Did the QPA affect your communications with the caregiver about parenting?

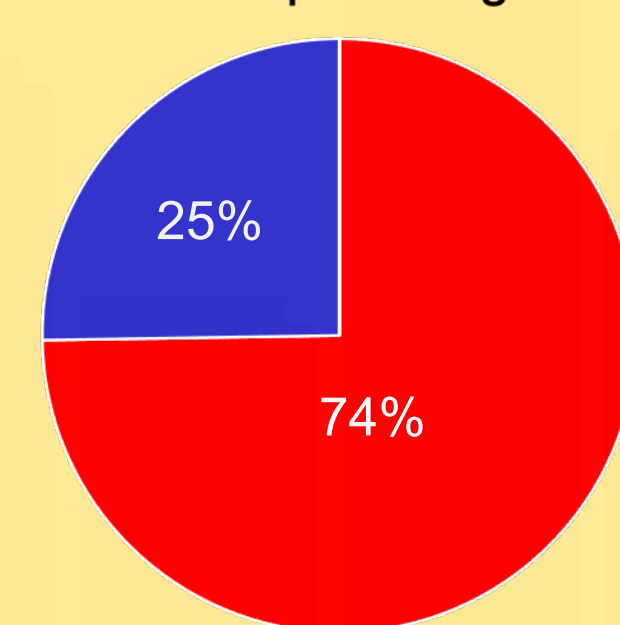


Figure 2: Did the QPA affect the quality of the well visit?

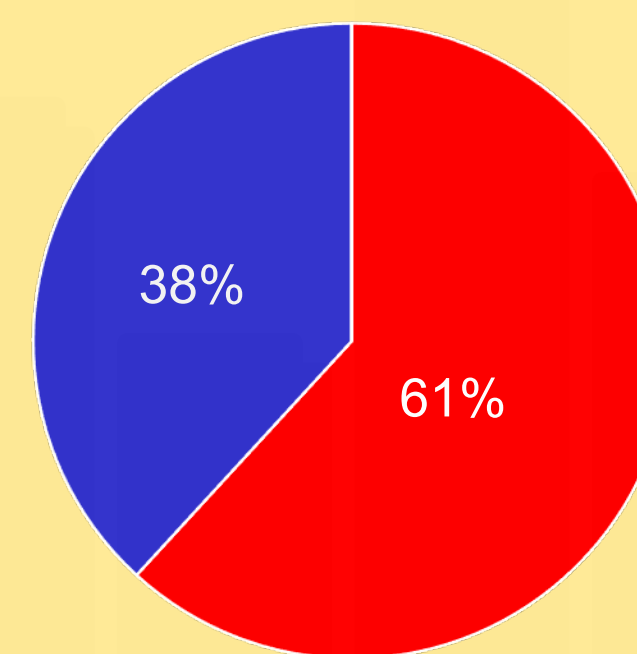


Figure 3: Did the QPA add value to the visit?

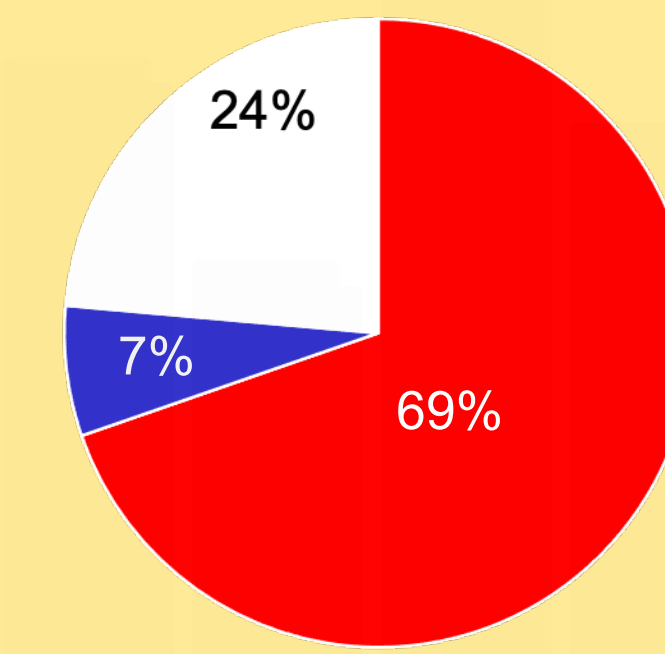


Figure 4: Did the QPA increase objectivity in determining level of support needed for caregivers?

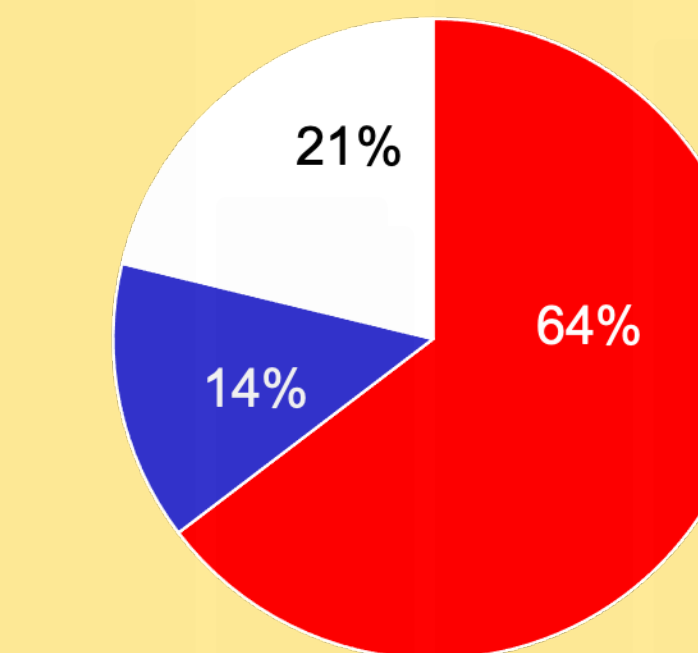


Figure 5: Comparison of responses from providers who reviewed less than 3 QPAs to providers that reviewed 3 or more QPAs

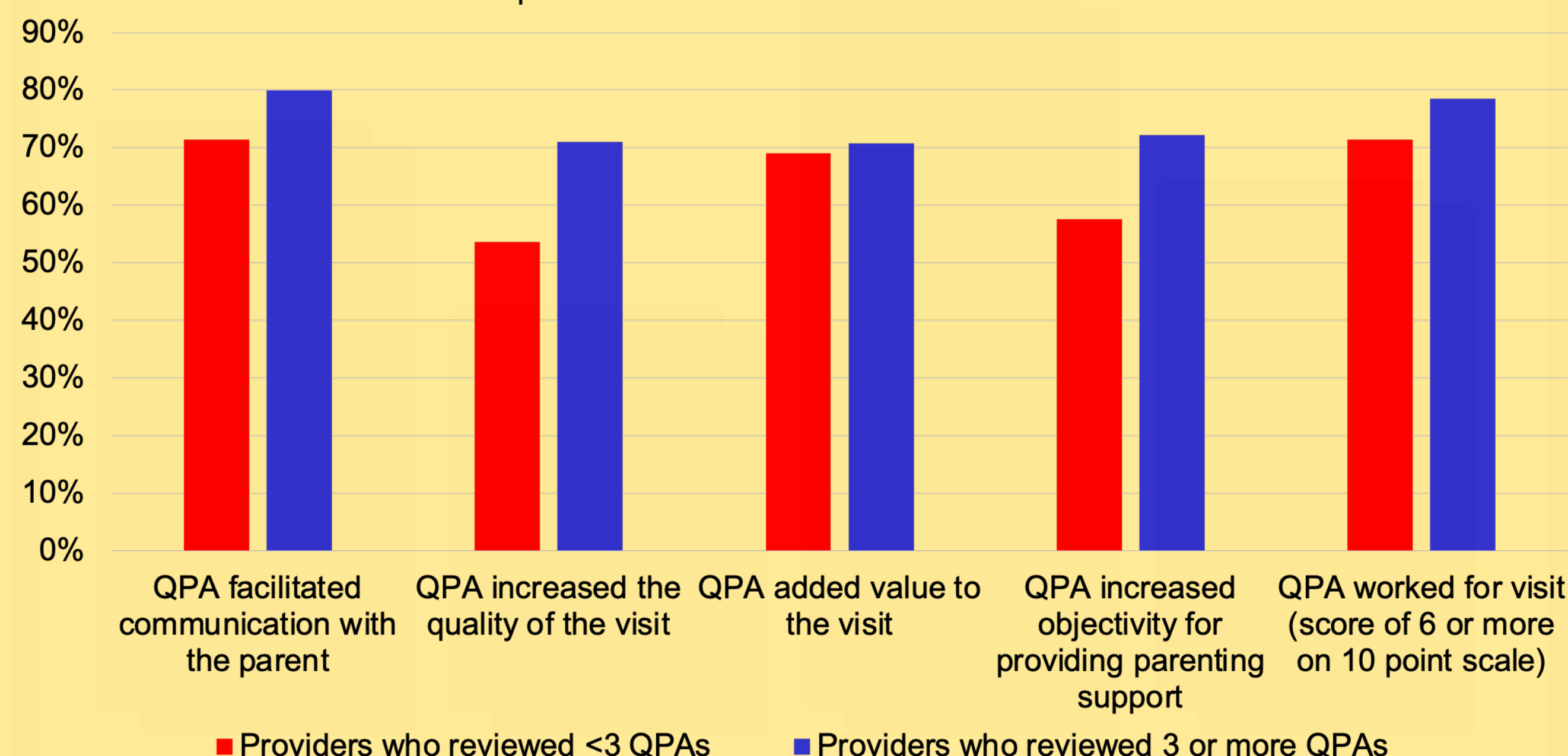
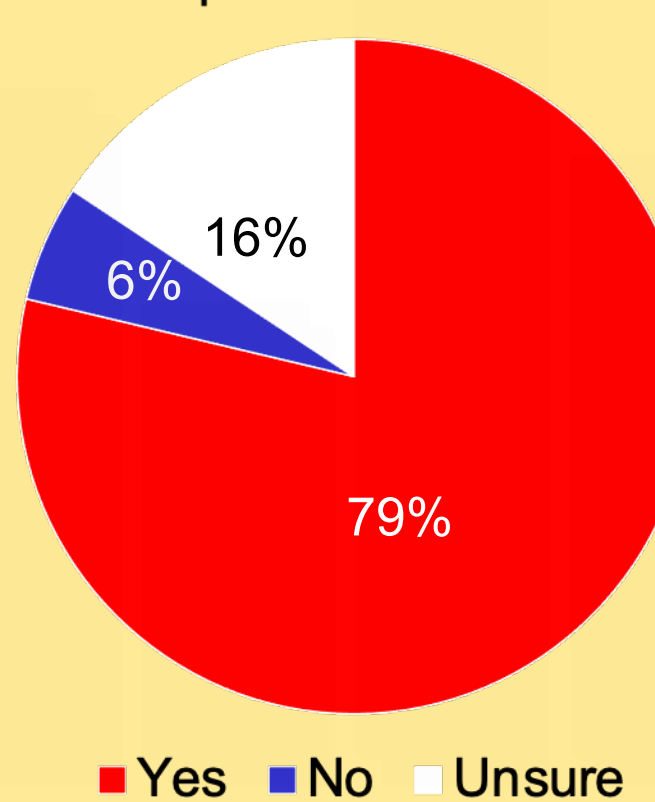


Figure 6: Was the parent receptive to the QPA?



Conclusions

Health care providers report that a quick parenting assessment (QPA), integrated into the well visit at the 15 and 30 month well child visit, can be reviewed with parents in less than three minutes for over 80% of encounters.

The QPA appears to work from the perspective of health care providers in the following ways:

- Facilitates communication about discipline
- Increases the quality of the visit
- Adds value to the visit
- Increases objectivity for offering parenting support.

The QPA may work better for clinicians as they gain more experience with using the instrument.

Most, but not all, parents were perceived as being receptive to the QPA review.

Limitations

Data was collected in one clinic site serving low-income parents.

We do not have data on all QPA encounters, potentially resulting in participation bias.

Implications

The data have implications for child abuse prevention, mitigating ACEs, and enhancing the pediatric primary care visit.

Next Steps

Expand QPA integration to include children presenting at the 5 and 8 year well visit.

Assess parents' perspectives of the QPA.

More information: Google "[Quick Parenting Assessment](#)"