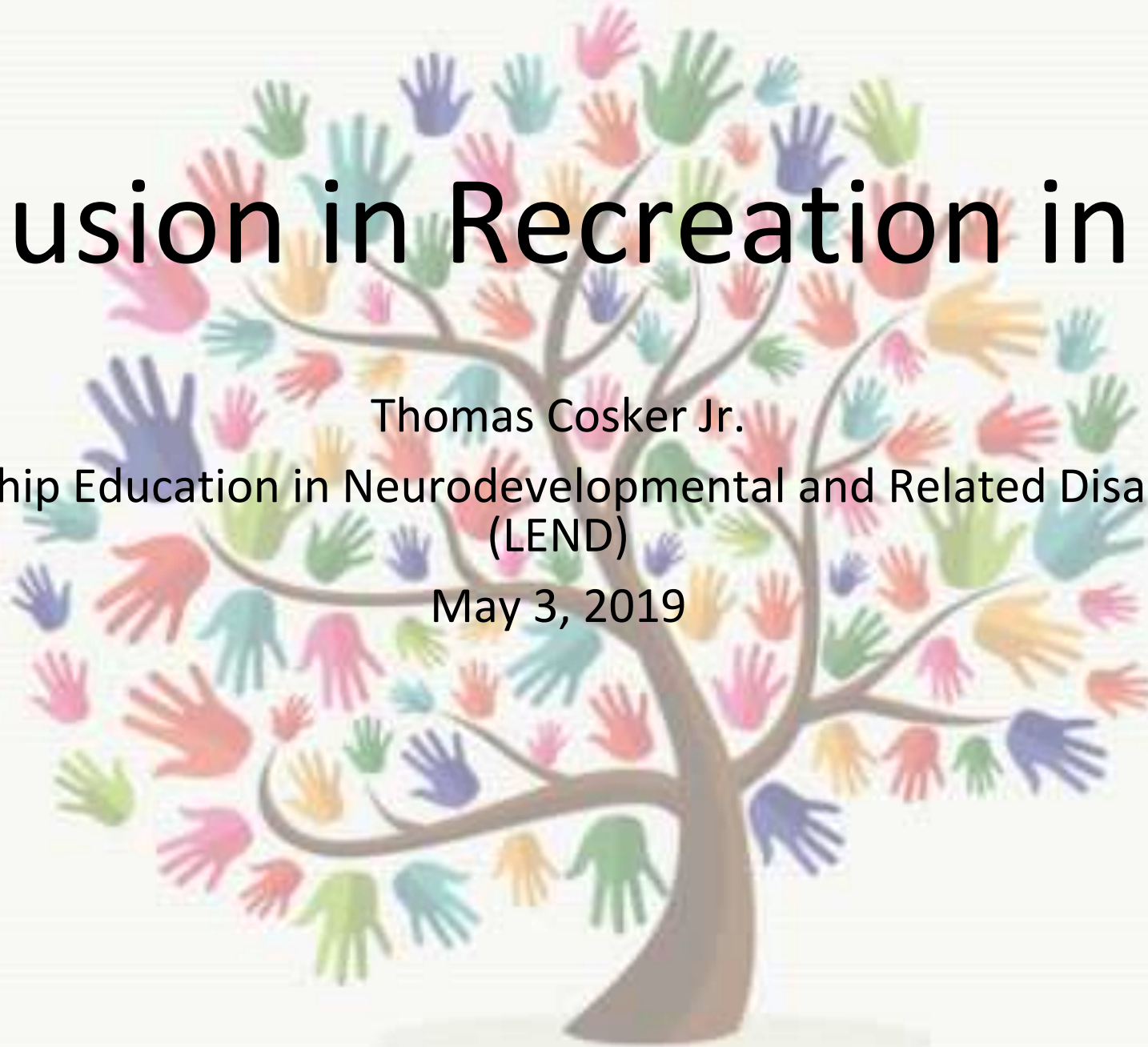


Inclusion in Recreation in CT

Thomas Cosker Jr.

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
(LEND)

May 3, 2019



Background

- Some research on positive benefits of inclusion
 - Social acceptance
 - Health and wellness
- Some research on barriers to inclusion
 - Financial
 - Staffing
 - Transportation
 - Equipment
- Most of this research conducted prior to 2006
- Little research on inclusion practices in Parks and Rec programs
- No research found on CT inclusion practices



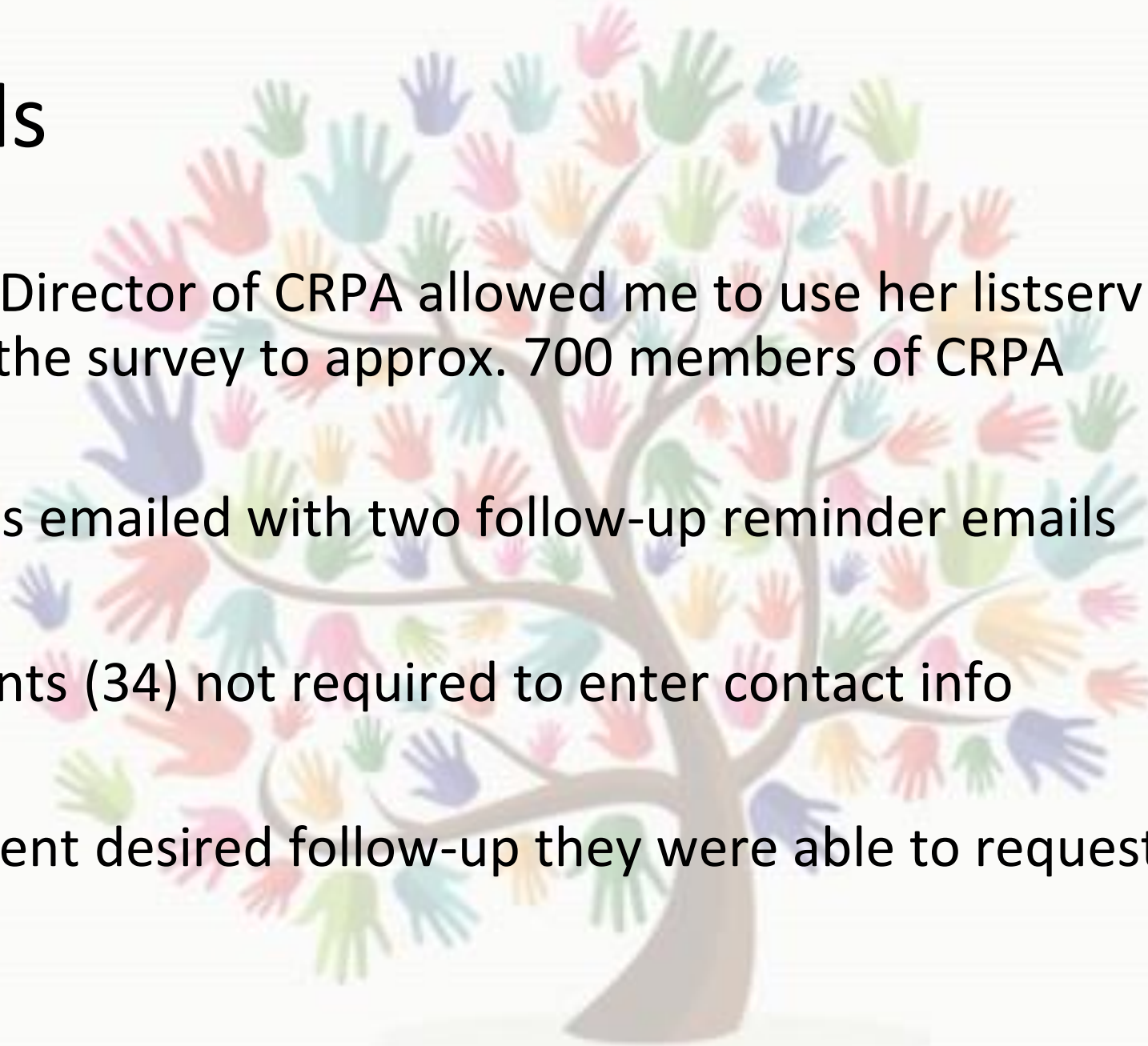
Purpose of My Research



- Research the current landscape of inclusion in recreation in CT
- Determine what common supports are in place for PWD in recreation in CT
- **RESEARCH QUESTION:**
 - *What current recreational opportunities and supports do CT Parks and Recreation departments have for PWD?*

Methods

- Executive Director of CRPA allowed me to use her listserv to distribute the survey to approx. 700 members of CRPA
- Survey was emailed with two follow-up reminder emails
- Respondents (34) not required to enter contact info
- If respondent desired follow-up they were able to request it

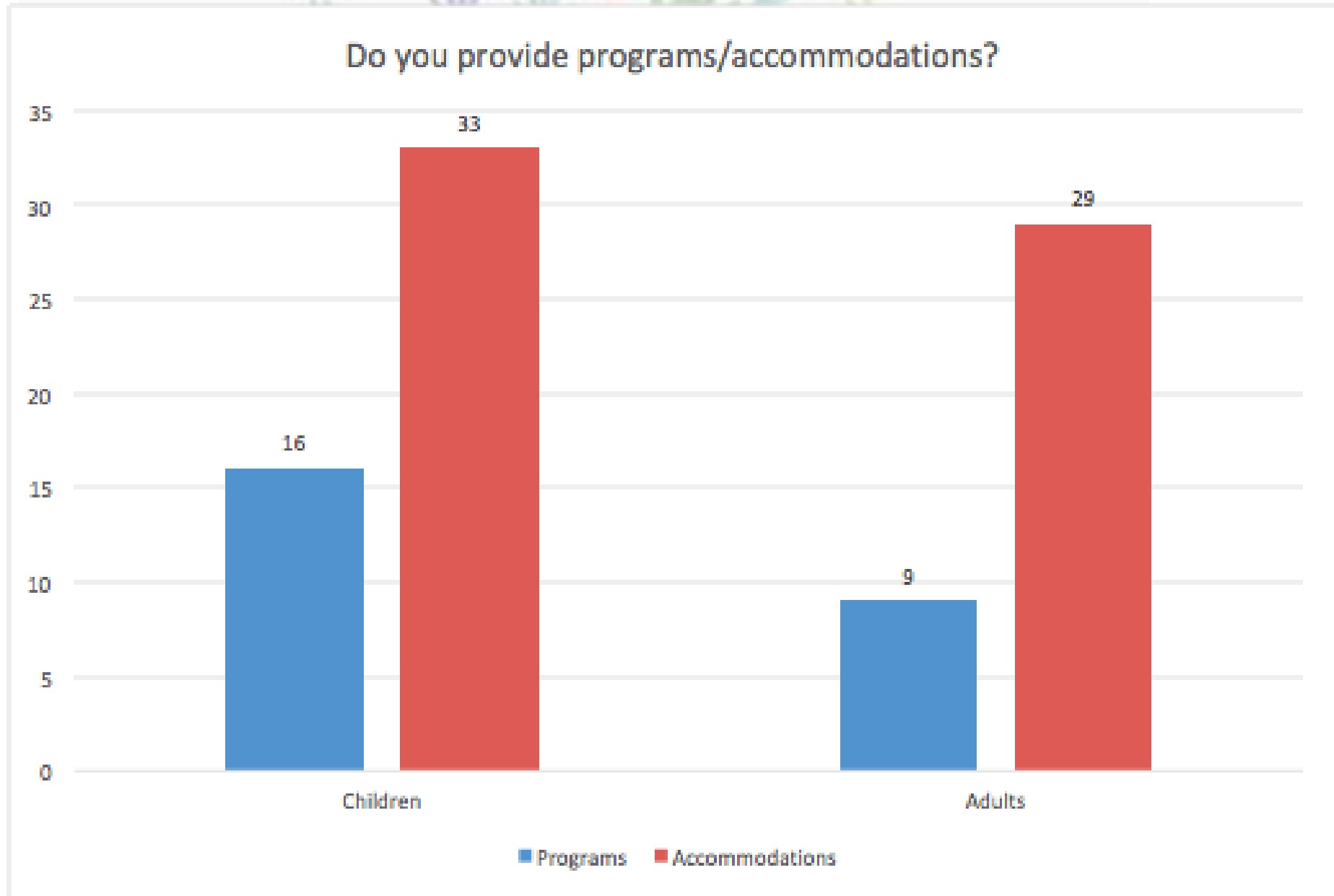


Methods - Survey

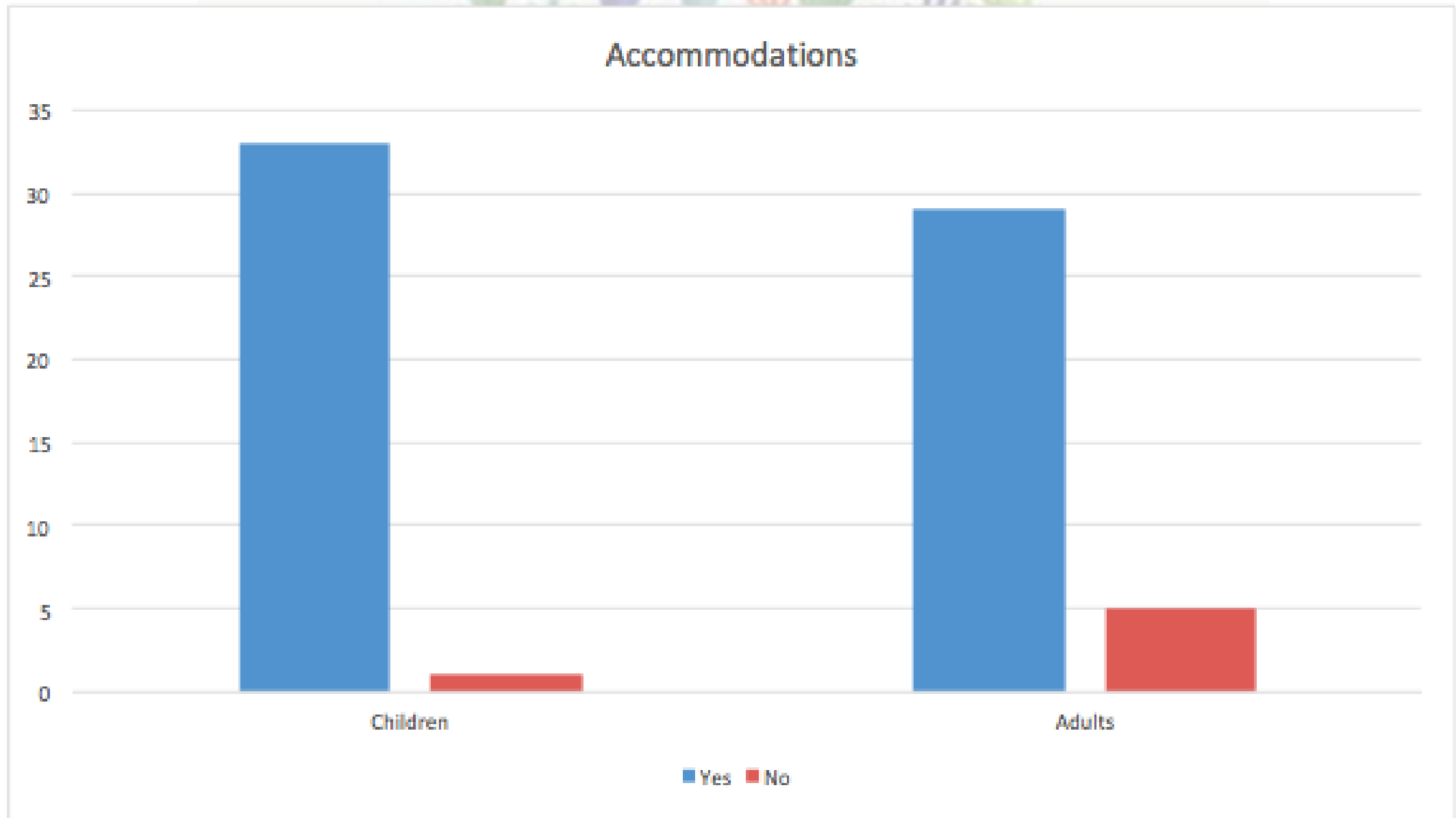


- Does your Parks and Recreation department have **programs** specifically for children and adults with disabilities?
- Do you provide **accommodations** so that children and adults with disabilities can participate in all Parks and Recreation programs?
- Do you have someone on **staff** responsible for helping children and adults with disabilities?
- Do you make accommodations for children and adults with disabilities in your **summer camps**?
- Do you **communicate/market** to potential customers your inclusion of children and adults with disabilities and the existence of accommodations you can provide?
- Have you been confronted with **barriers** to implementing inclusive programs in your town?
- Would you like **further training** in working with children and adults with disabilities?


Results (n=34)



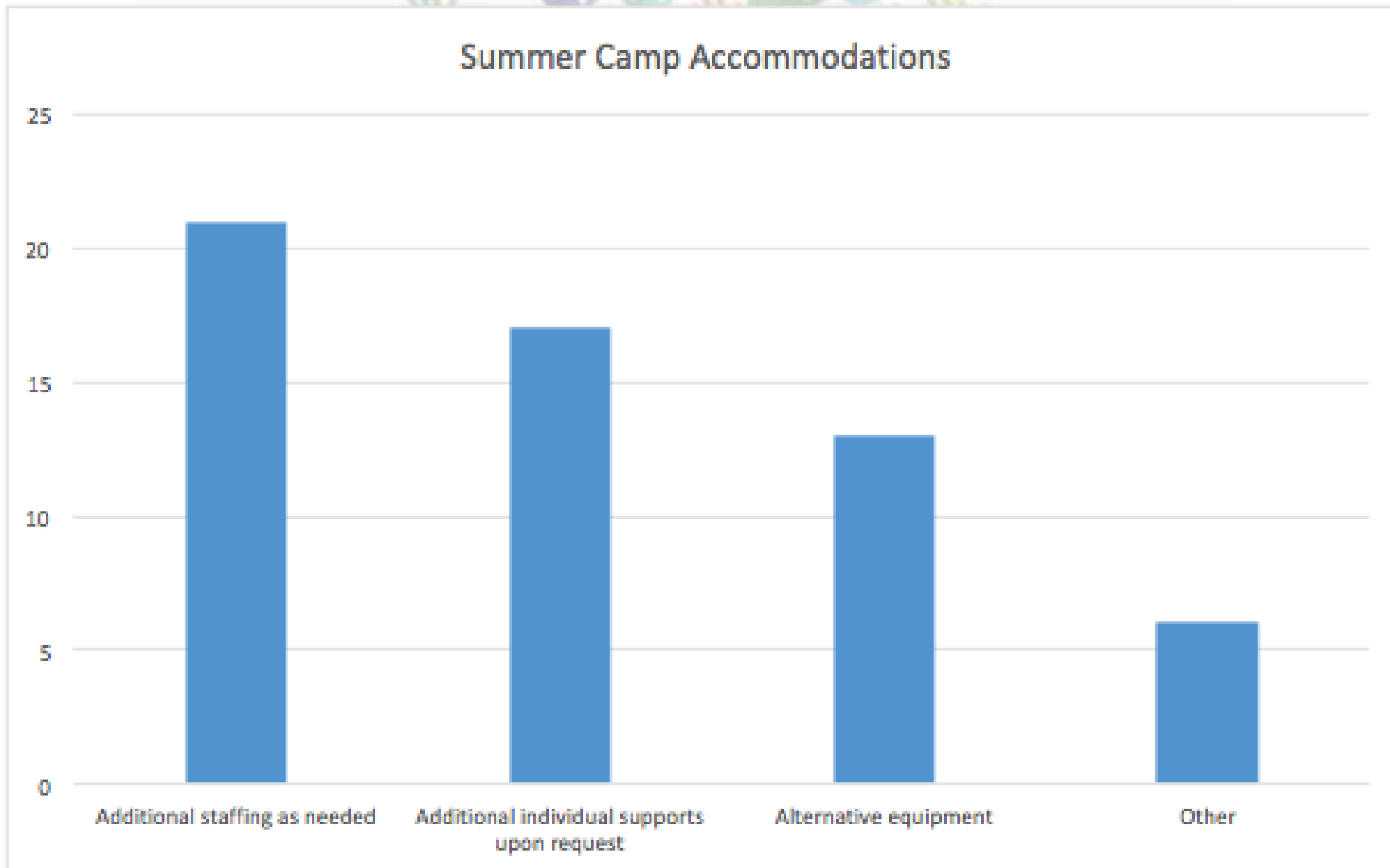
Results (n=34)



Results (n=34)

- Specific staff to help PWD
 - 13 of 34 (38%)
 - Titles
 - Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor
 - Recreation Supervisor
 - Adaptive Program Coordinator
 - Only 1 of 13 - Inclusion and Special Needs Coordinator
 - Specialized training/degree
 - 10 of 13 (75%) of those with specific staff are trained
 - 10 of 34 (29%) of all respondents have trained staff
- 

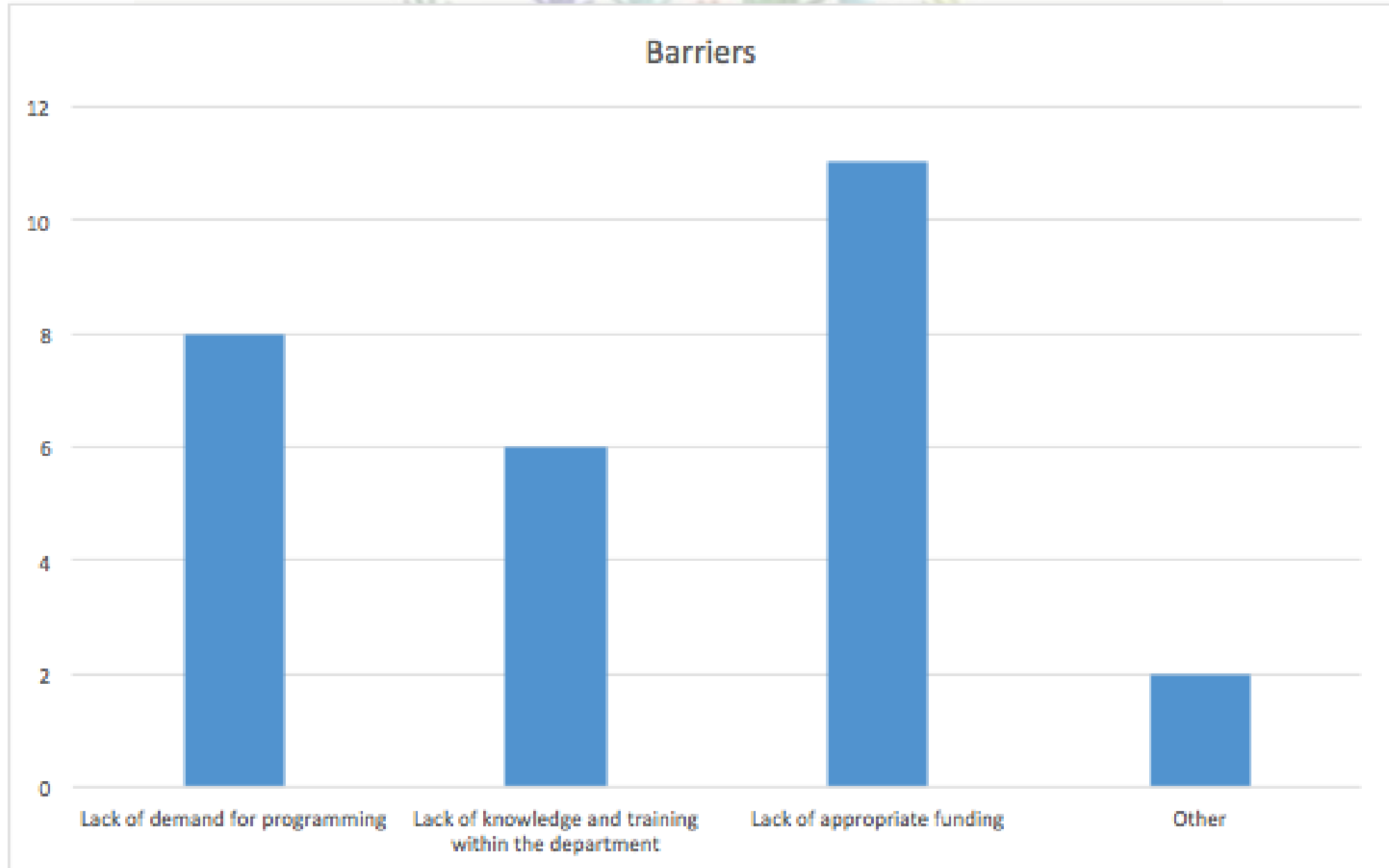
31 of 32 (97%) make accommodations in summer camps



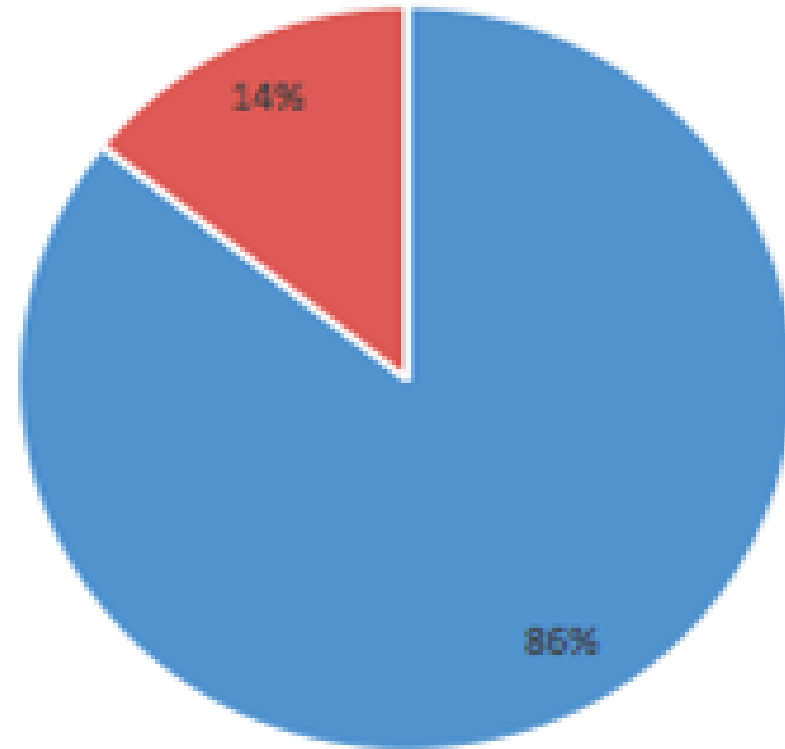
14 of 32 (44%) market/advertise



13 of 31 (42%) have confronted barriers



Would like further training (n=28)



■ Yes ■ No

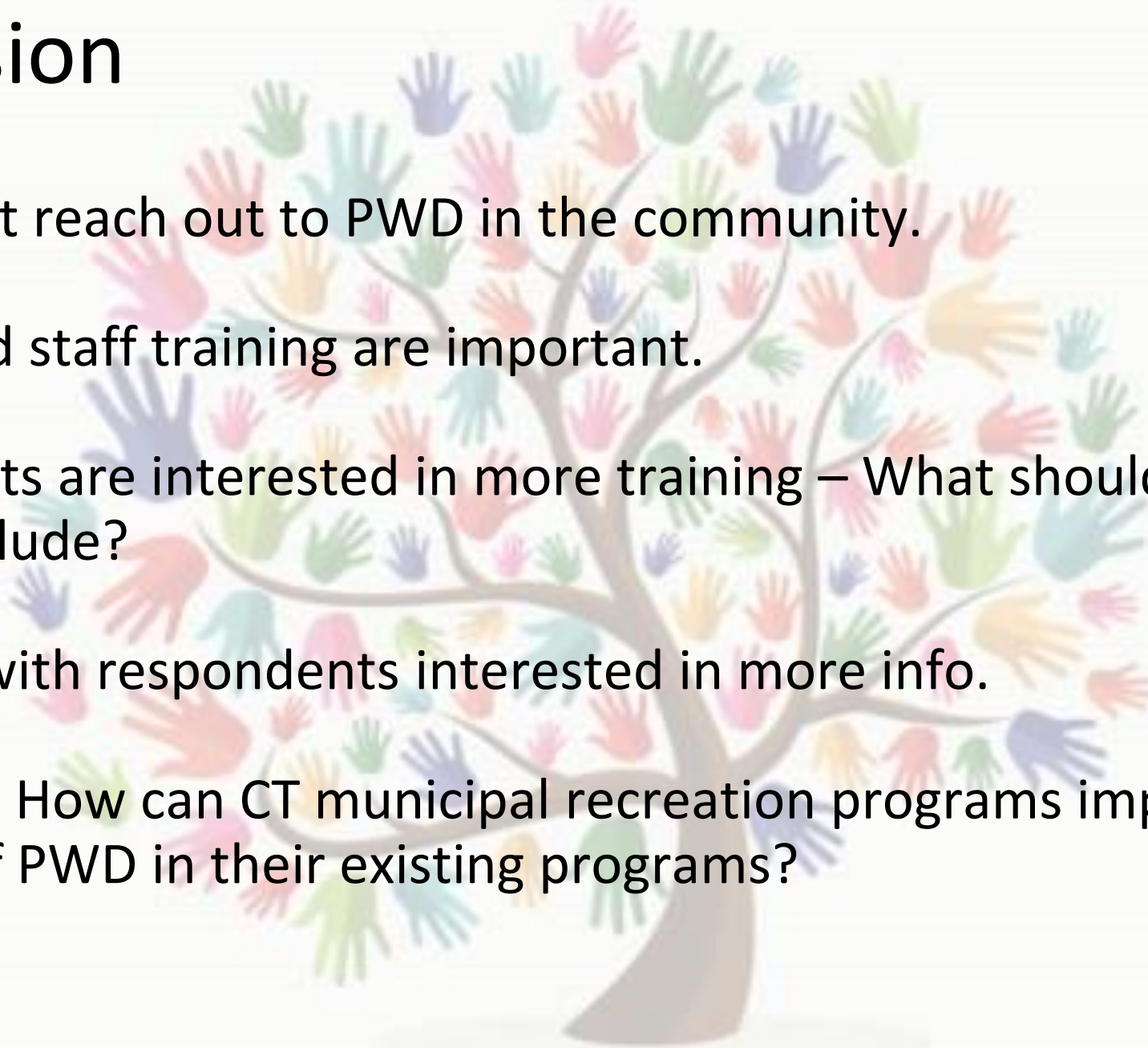
Discussion

- Segregated programs exist in many towns - ?? Inclusion??
- Inclusion is not very prevalent in CT.
- Why are accommodations not always made for adults WD?
- How do programs support PWD in recreation?
- How do we move from segregated programs to inclusion of PWD?
- How can funding be addressed? Need for additional support staff.



Discussion

- How to best reach out to PWD in the community.
- Staffing and staff training are important.
- Departments are interested in more training – What should that training include?
- Follow up with respondents interested in more info.
- Next study: How can CT municipal recreation programs improve the inclusion of PWD in their existing programs?



References

- Devine (2012), A Nationwide Look at Inclusion: Gains and Gaps, *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, Vol. 30 (2), pp. 1-18.
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- Fennick and Royle (2003), Community Inclusion for Children and Youth with Developmental Disabilities, *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, Vol. 18, (1), p. 20-27.
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QUESTIONS?