



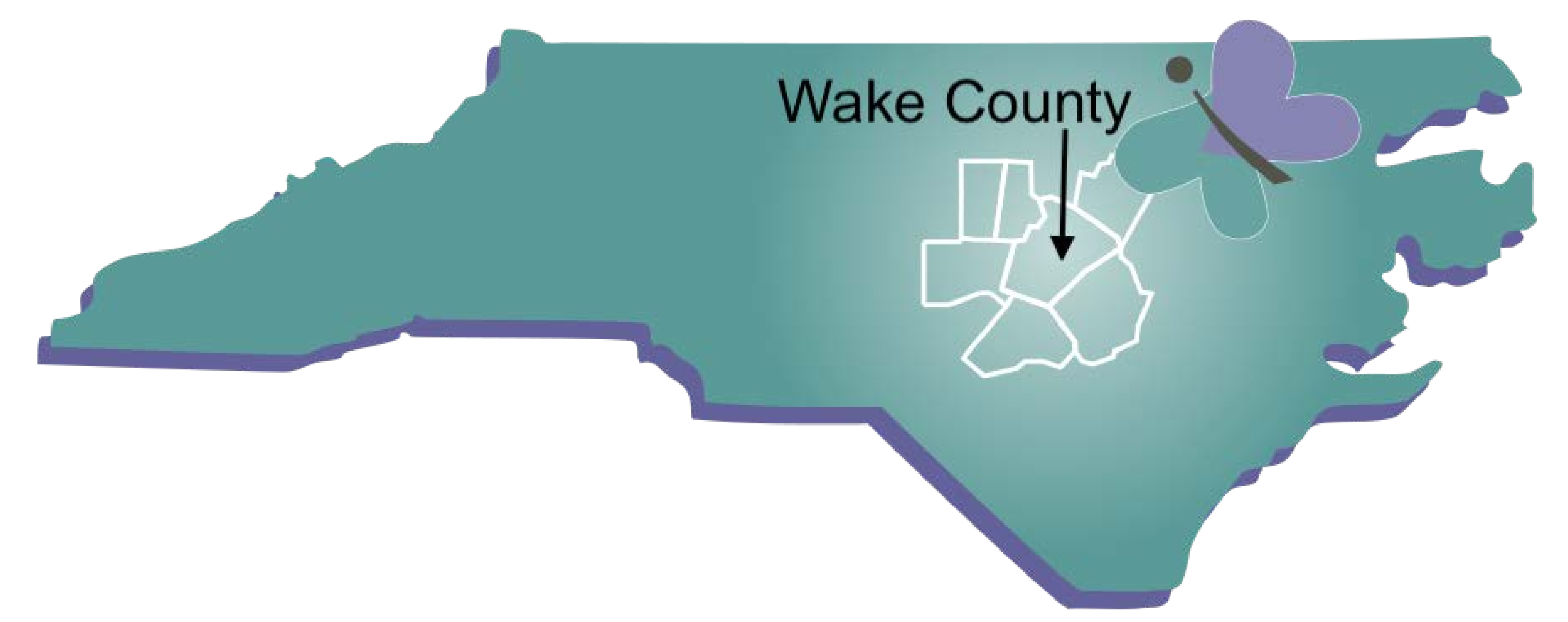
# Integrated Bereavement: A Comprehensive Approach to Pediatric Loss

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## Statement of the Problem

Comprehensive bereavement services for families who have been affected by the death of a child are critical to the long-term health of the family unit.



Wake and surrounding counties in NC do not currently offer these services.

## Purpose

To conduct a needs assessment to inform the development of a comprehensive, evidence-based bereavement program for families affected by the death of a child, to be implemented at Transitions LifeCare (TL) in Raleigh, NC.

## Background/Literature Review

There is increasing focus on bereavement care:

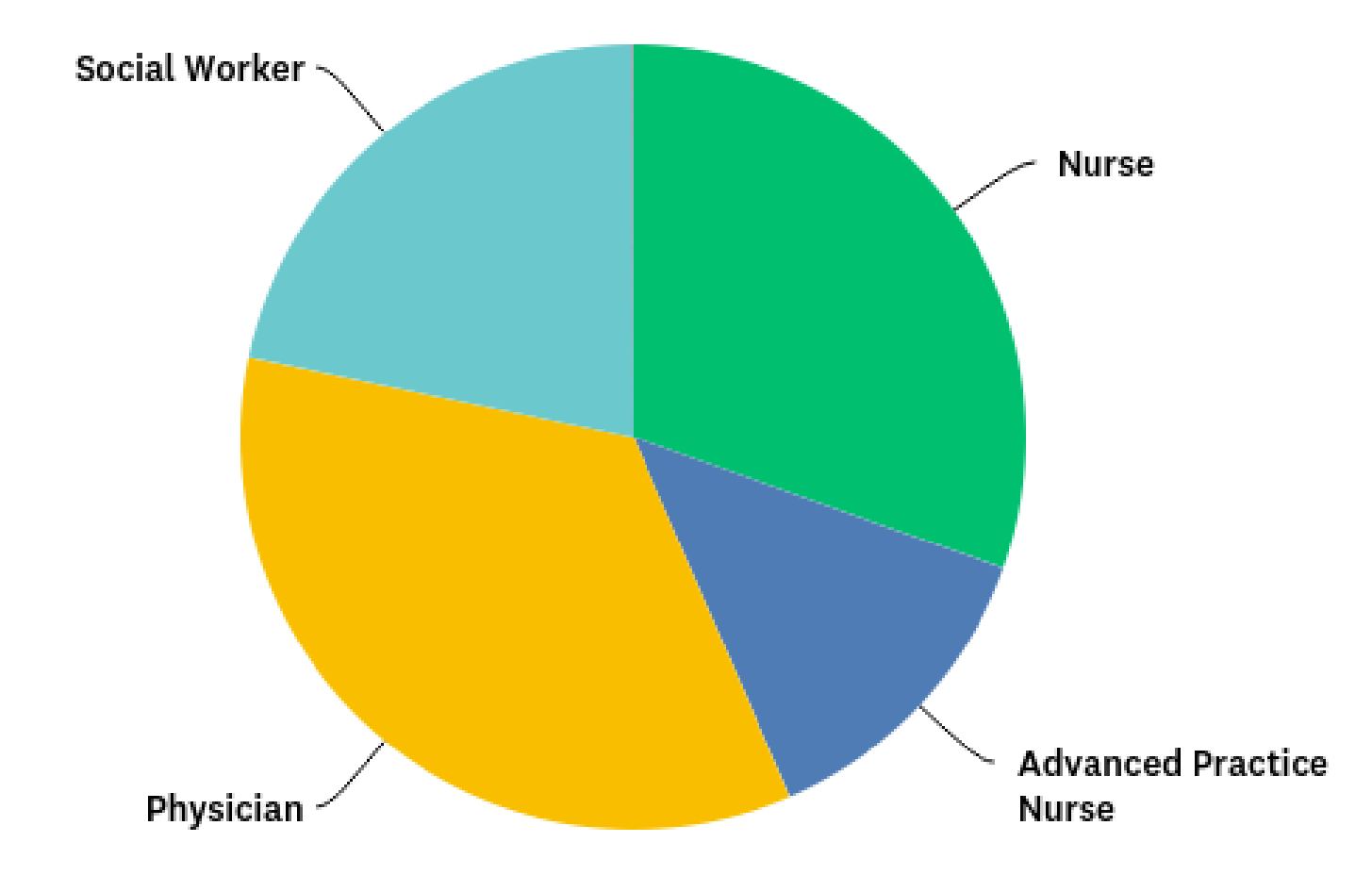
- ◆ Prior to the death of a child
- ◆ Immediately after the death of a child
- ◆ In subsequent years following the death of a child

With bereaved parents facing higher rates of depression than the general population, providing longitudinal, interdisciplinary, multi-faceted support leads to better outcomes for families.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Methods

◆ Online survey comprised of 10 qualitative & quantitative questions informed by literature review as well as the National Consensus Guidelines for Clinical Practice<sup>3</sup>

- ◆ 30 local providers participated
- ◆ Practice settings included:
  - ◆ Home
  - ◆ Hospital
    - ◆ Inpatient palliative care teams (adult and pediatric)
    - ◆ Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units
    - ◆ Pediatric Complex Care teams



### Timeline:

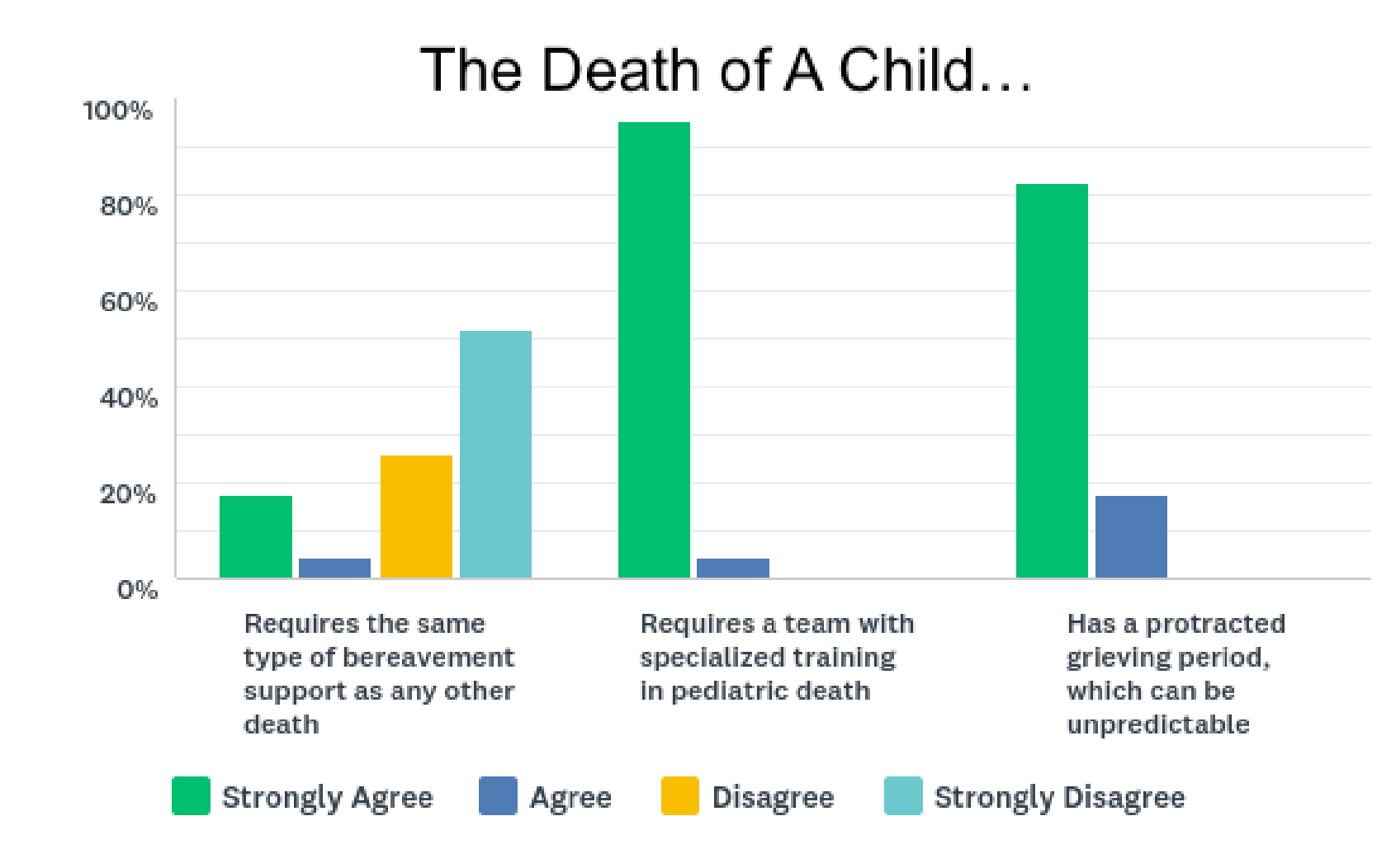
- ◆ March 2018-field expert reviews performed
- ◆ April 2018-final survey distributed
- ◆ June 2018-survey results analyzed using descriptive statistics

### References:

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- Snaman, J.M., Kaye, E.C., Levine, D.R., Cochran, B., Wilcox, R., Sparrow, C.K., . . . W., Baker, J. (2017). Empowering bereaved parents through the development of a comprehensive bereavement program. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 53, 767-775.
- National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care. (2013). *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care*. 3rd ed. Pittsburgh, PA: National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care.

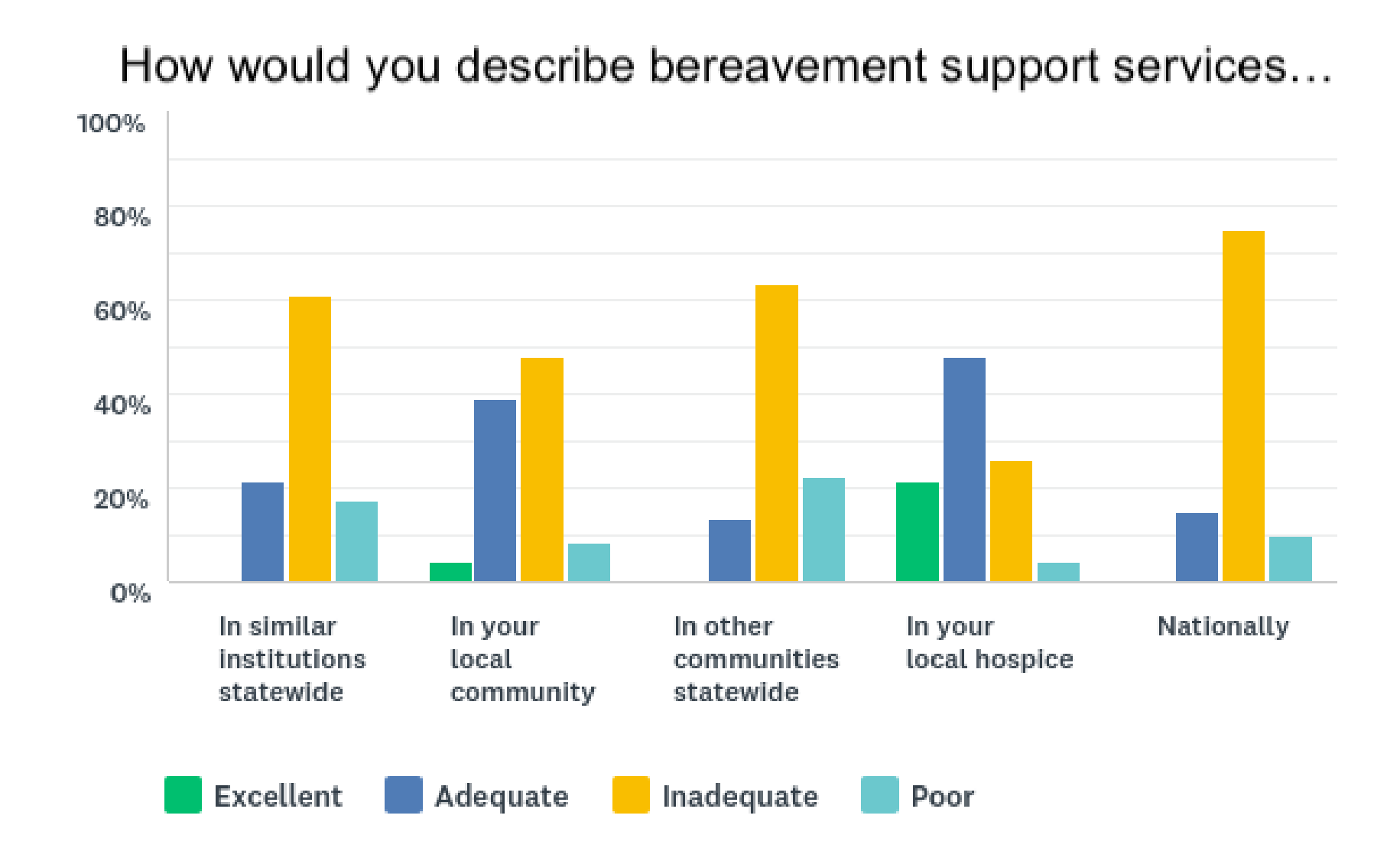
## Findings/Results

### 76% Survey Response Rate



100% of respondents believed this type of bereavement support to be extremely important

100% of respondents disagreed with current standards of practice in bereavement care



## Conclusions/Implications

Current bereavement services within local NC communities are not providing the type of support local providers deem to be most effective. Results of the assessment will be used to inform the development of a comprehensive, evidence-based bereavement program for use at TL.

## Limitations

- ◆ Small sample size
- ◆ Lack of institutional support
- ◆ Limited literature on this type of bereavement support

## Acknowledgements

**Mentor:** Nancy English, Ph.D. APRN, CS, CHPN  
**On-Site Mentor:** Laura Patel, MD



### Nick & Michelette



Parents 18 months out from the death of their 7mo son, Oliver. They receive the type of support (ongoing, longitudinal, and interdisciplinary) that an Integrated Bereavement Program would provide when implemented at TL.