

DEVELOPING ONLINE, INTERACTIVE, ADAPTABLE THERAPY APPS TO ASSIST AND EMPOWER SLPS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

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BACKGROUND:

Online Therapy Offerings from LG

TalkPath Therapy (TPT) is a task-based therapy software program available online/web or through an app for iPad. TPT contains 11,500 tasks under the exercise categories of Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing, Memory, Reasoning/Problem-Solving, and ADL Activities. It is available for access and use, free and without restrictions, by all interested parties for whatever populations they serve. The free app can be downloaded onto an iPad from the Apple App Store by searching for TalkPath Therapy; it can be accessed from personal computers that are connected to the internet via any browser by visiting the website aphasia.com; and it can be accessed from all Lingraphica Speech Generating Devices (SGDs) by clicking on the TalkPath Therapy icon found under the Activities icon on the desktop.

TalkPath Enterprise (TPE) builds upon and expands the capabilities of TPT in several ways; some specific example follow. [1] Its exercise archive has been broadened to include over 13,500 tasks. [2] It incorporates additional activity categories including Swallowing, Oral-Motor, and Speech Tasks that utilize a video/playback platform for enhanced feedback and for training self-monitoring skills. [3] It has been designed to improve both clinical and operational effectiveness for SLPs by offering advanced clinical reporting and customized accounts/roles per user, such that an SLP, patient-client, caregiver, Director of Rehab all have tailored accounts with separate reporting capabilities. Since 2015, we have been working to tailor it for adoption and beneficial use in selected institutional healthcare settings.

INITIAL VENUE FOCUS:

SLPs in Long Term Care Setting

Long Term Care (LTC) facilities represent our first target for such collaborative studies. Since 2014, we have been working with companies that operate networks of LTC facilities, such as Hallmark Rehabilitation and Eastern Rehabilitation Associates, to learn how already-available capabilities are in practice used with benefit, to determine what issues may represent barriers to successful adoption and use, and to identify what additional capabilities employees and clients in those settings would like.

As a result of these joint efforts, we believe we have gained a better understanding of benefits, barriers to adoption, and useful capabilities to introduce for use in LTC settings as we move forward. These include:

Increased client engagement & clinician convenience: "The TalkPath Enterprise App encouraged increased engagement, practice time and practice frequency with the client, during both skilled treatment sessions and home practice."

Connectivity, wireless access: "The therapy software was delivered via an app on the iPad which immediately posed a problem for those SLPs working in a setting with inefficient WiFi access or no WiFi access whatever."

<u>Usability of hardware & software:</u> "Once the SLPs began use of the TalkPath Enterprise app the positive feedback was immediate. The SLPs expressed satisfaction including: convenience of mobility (ability to transport to different therapy settings), quick access to an abundance of therapy materials to treat a multitude of diagnoses, ability to develop individualized treatment plans with easy modification..."

Productivity, scheduling, documentation: SLPs also like the "easy access for different SLPs treating the same client, and ability to track and download progress reports, time spent in treatment, as well as frequency of therapy. These benefits allowed the SLP to spend more therapy time with the client, resulting in improved productivity."

<u>Billing, documentation, HIPAA compliance:</u> "Corporate concerns were related to online confidentiality and security, and determining who would be responsible for the financing for the iPads and app (the private practice vs site of service)."

Requests for additional capabilities: "Support creation of an Administrative account for SLPs performing videofluoroscopic swallow studies that would allow the SLP to create and forward a plan of care through the internet to the attending SLP; and use the Administrative account to monitor, guide and supervise Clinical Fellows regarding development of plans of care for clients."

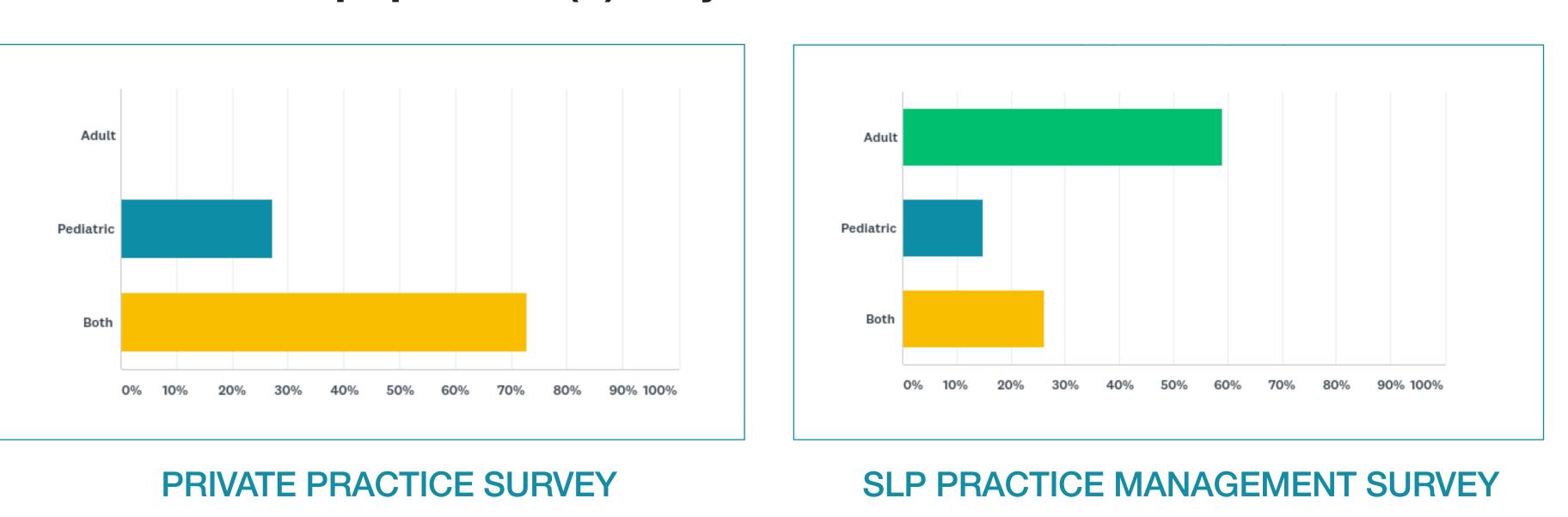
We are now working with organizations that operate such LTC facilities to promote the introduction and use of our offerings in these settings. Importantly, along the way, it has become clear to us how important it is to understand the needs and wants of organizations, clinicians, and clients in each use setting. In this spirit, we are now turning our attention to better understanding the wants and needs of SLPs who serve adult clients primarily through private practice.

CURRENT VENUE FOCUS:

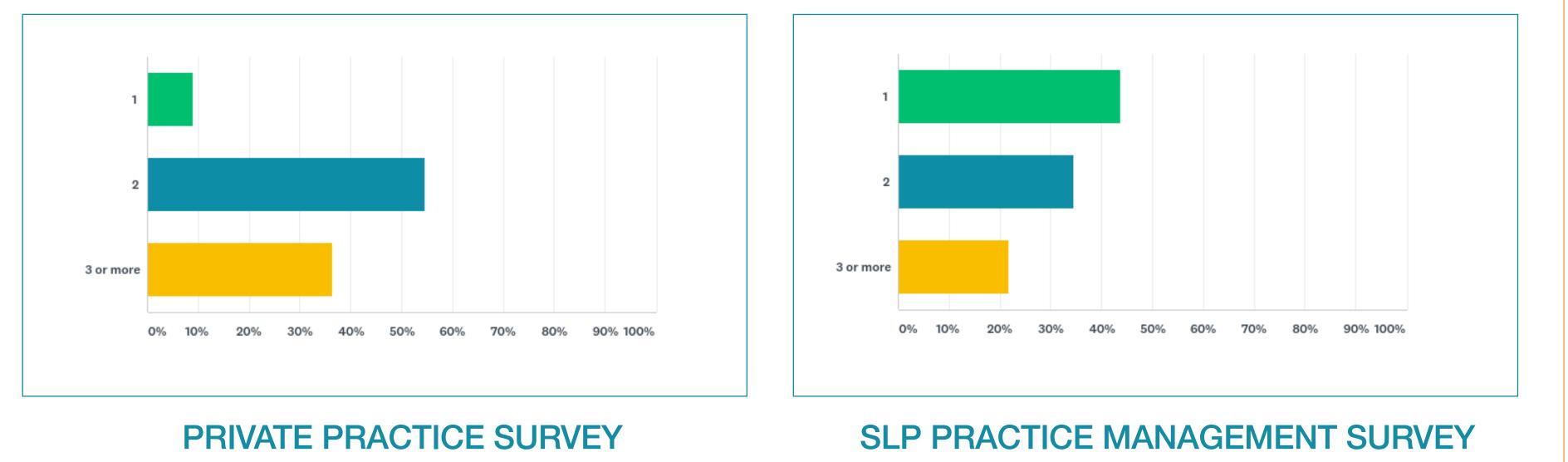
SLPs in Private Practice

Our current focus is on understanding the needs and wants of SLPs who serve adult populations not through employment positions in LTC settings, but rather of SLPs who arrange service delivery to the adult population through their private practices. This initiative requires us to gather information from many distributed sites, rather than just a few institutional locations. To this end, we haved use Survey Monkey to distribute a questionnaire and report responses to us for review, analysis, and interpretation. We present below the format of this questionnaire and show results from two subgroups who responded to our survey: [a] SLPs in private practice, already familiar to LG, and serving primarily the adult population [n = 14]; and [b] SLPs who responded to a similar but separate survey and who, for the most part, are not in private practice [n > 350]. This provides a first glimpse into how SLPs serving adult populations through private practice are both similar to — and different from — the broad spectrum of speech pathologists currently clinically engaged.

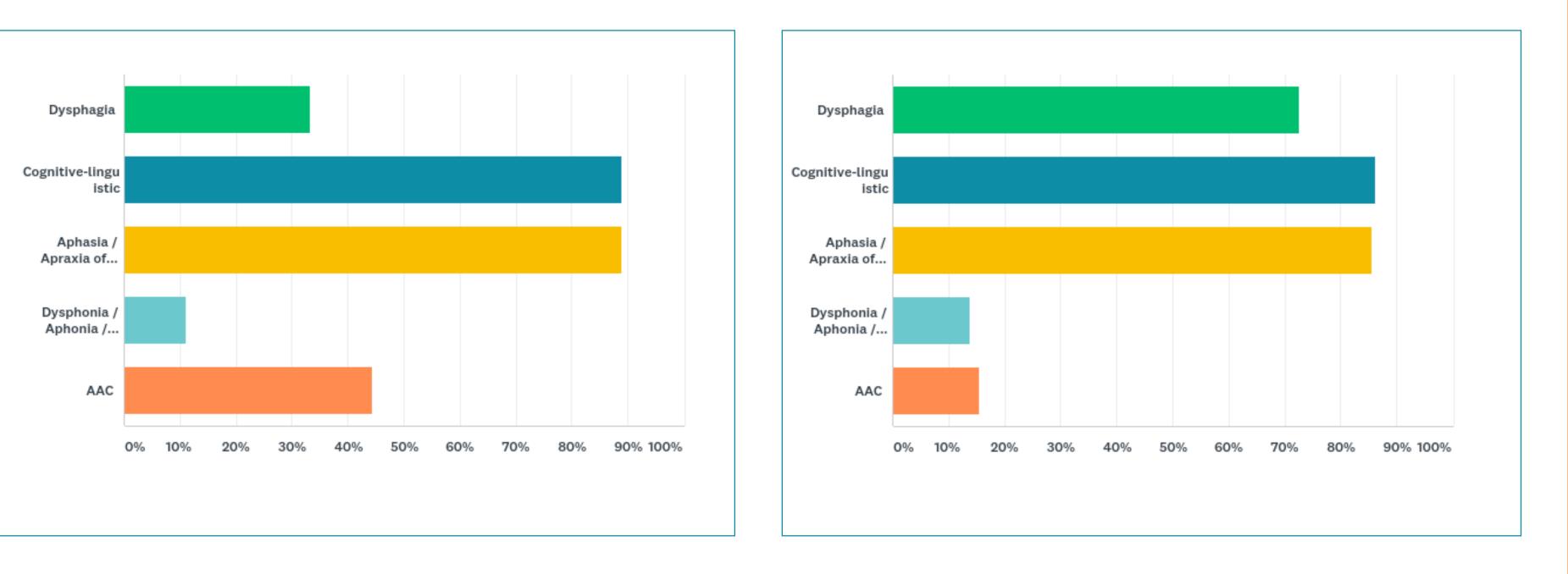
Q1 What/Which population(s) do you serve?



Q3 In how many different types of settings do you deliver services?



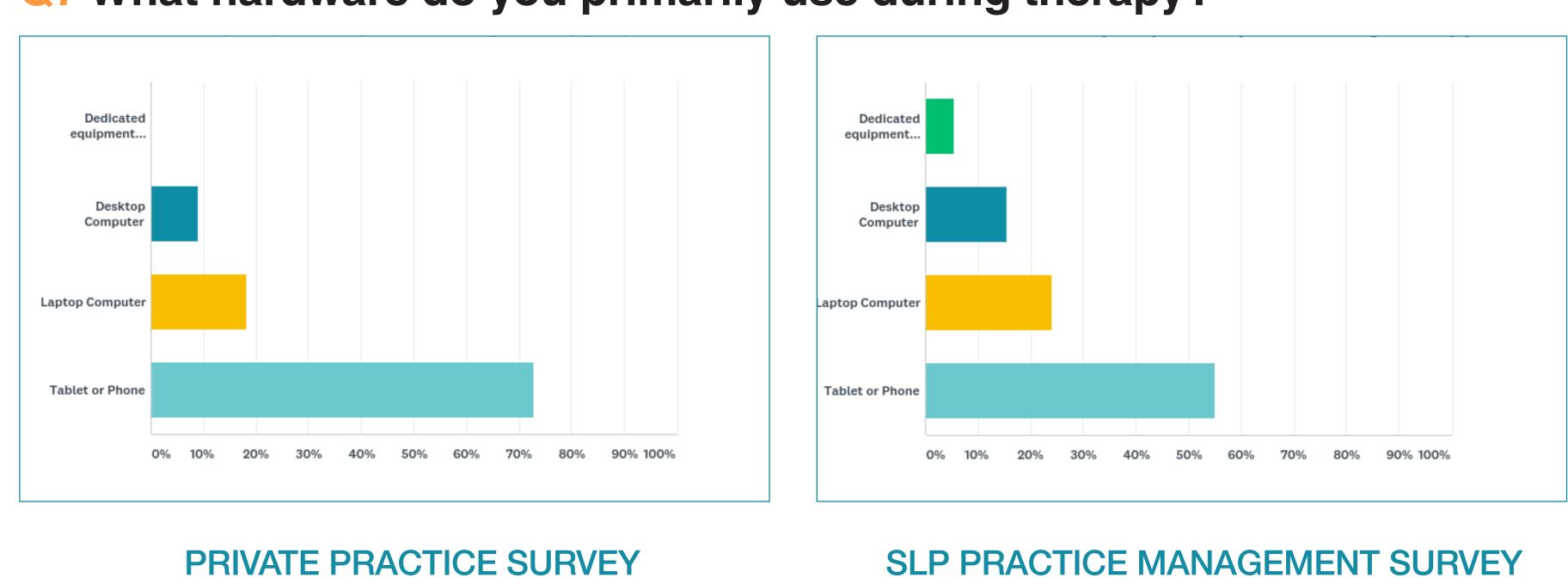
Q6 Check the most frequent three categories on your clinical caseload.



PRIVATE PRACTICE SURVEY

_P PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Q7 What hardware do you primarily use during therapy?



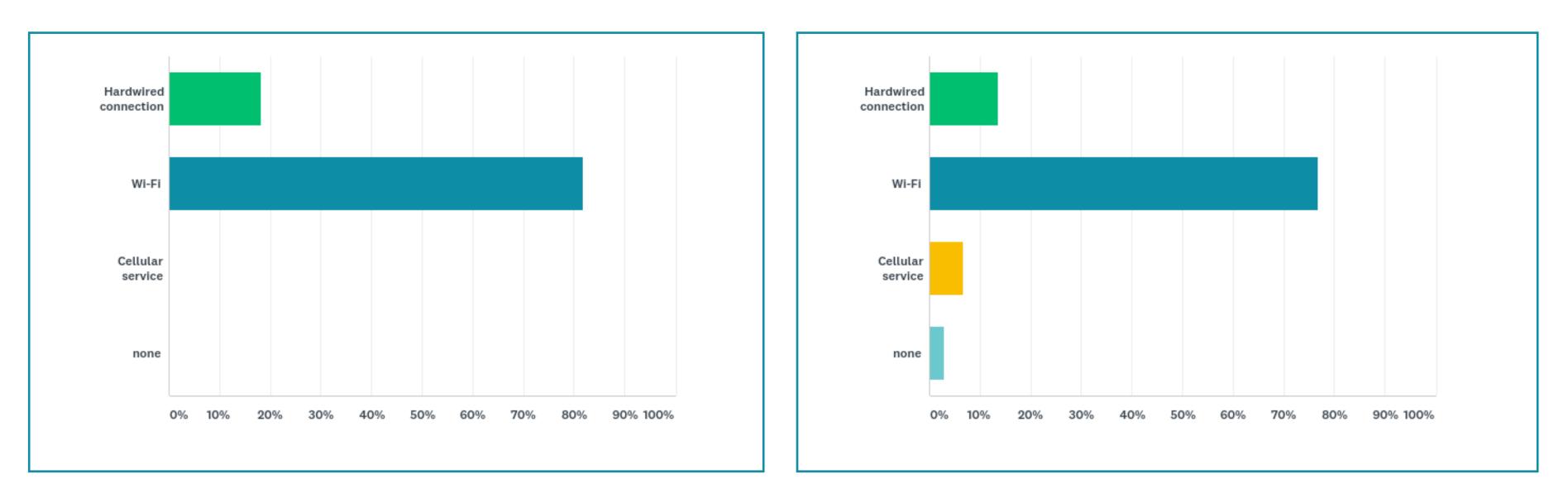
Q8: What software do you use during therapy?



PRIVATE PRACTICE SURVEY

SLP PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

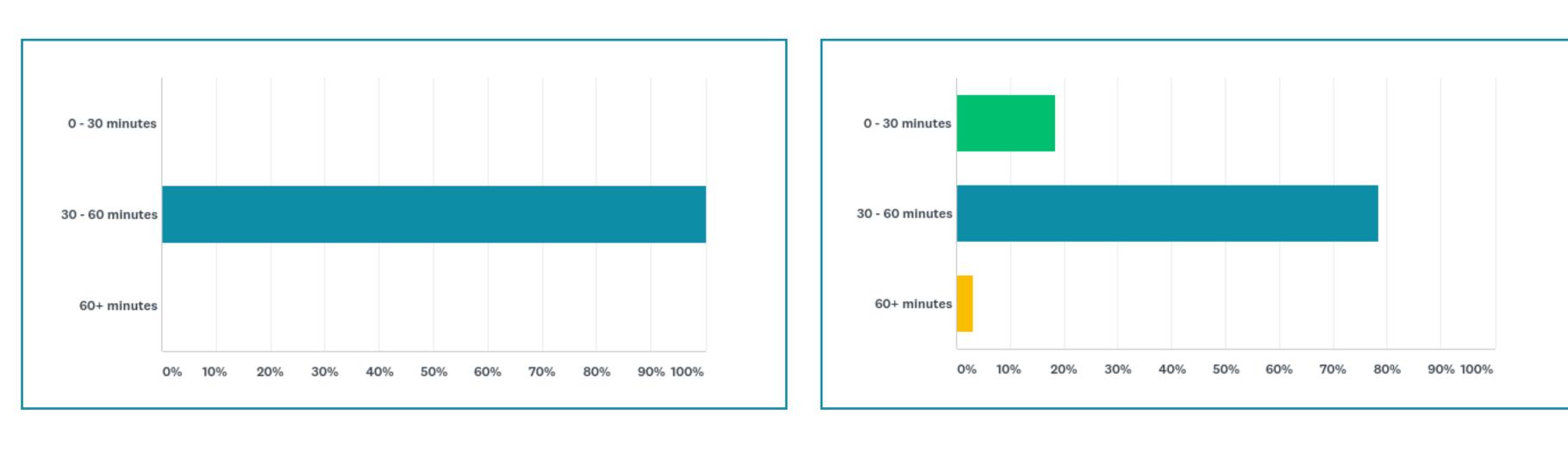
Q9: What type of internet connectivity do you have for clinical work?



PRIVATE PRACTICE SURVEY

SLP PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

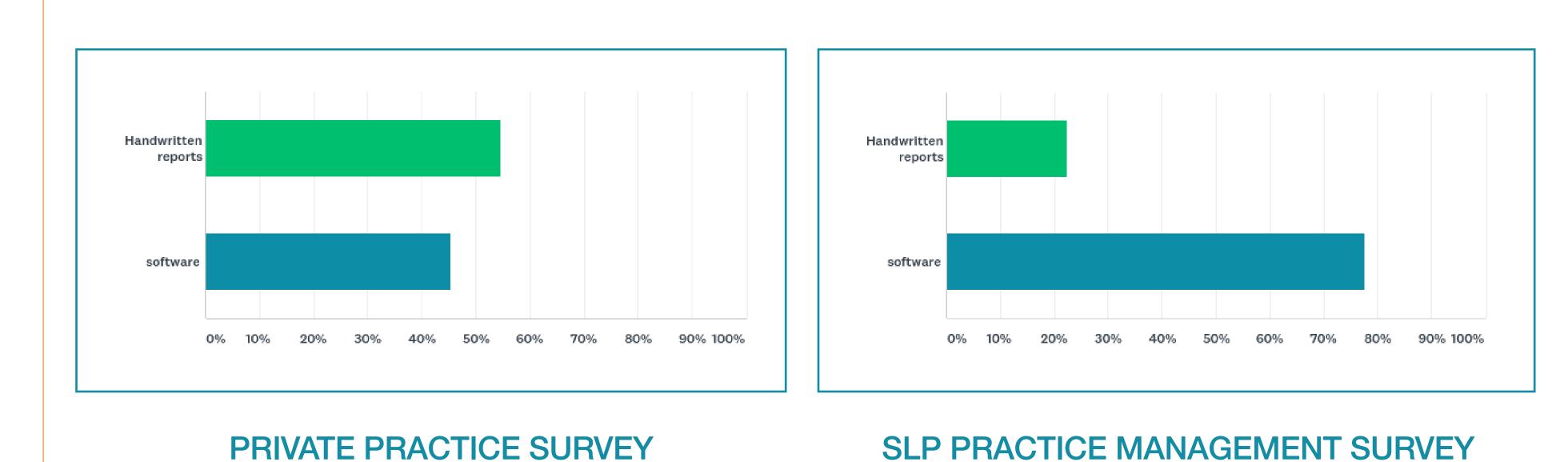
Q10: How long are your treatment sessions with patient-clients?



PRIVATE PRACTICE SURVEY

SLP PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SURVEY

11: What modality do you use to document your therapy sessions?



DISCUSSION POINTS With Poster Attendees:

Q1: What/Which population(s) do you serve? In both surveys, the answer "pediatric" was about the same for both groups. Is it possible that SLPs in private practice serve a more diverse population to make

same for both groups. Is it possible that SLPs in private practice serve a more diverse population to make themselves more marketable to agencies/institutions, to ensure a successful practice?

Q3: In how many different types of settings do you deliver services?

Although Private Practice SLPs responded more so with "two" facilities, the next most popular answer was "three or more" and only one person answered "one" facility. Could this suggest that Private Practice SLPs are more mobile than those who answered from the larger SLP group?

Q6: Check the most frequent three categories on your clinical caseload.

The 3rd most-frequent response for each group was "dysphagia;" however, with a higher percentage in the larger SLP group. Could the reason for this be due to the larger group reported to treat mostly adults? Is dysphagia more prevalent in adults? Do private practice SLPs have less experience with dysphagia?

Q7: What hardware do you primarily use during therapy?

The responses were about the same for each group with more of them using a tablet or phone and second-most popular was the laptop computer. Does the type of hardware matter to you or your patient-clients?

Q8: What software do you use during therapy?

Why are private practice SLPs more likely to purchase software?

Q9: What type of internet connectivity do you have for clinical work?

How reliable is the WiFi?

Q10: How long are your treatment sessions with patient-clients?

The larger group was the only group who responded in the "0 – 30" minutes category and what was with a percentage of 18%. What settings do the the SLPs who responded with "0 – 30" work in? Do PP SLPs have the ability to treat their clients for longer sessions? Are dysphagia therapy sessions shorter than cognitive linguistic/aphasia/apraxia sessions?

11: What modality do you use to document your therapy sessions?

Are the Other SLPs working in a hospital's EMR or home health system?

TAKE ACTION:

If you are an SLP in Private Practice or other settings and if you are interested in expanding opportunities for working with Lingraphica, please see one of the three authors of this poster. Your badge will be scanned, and we will contact you with additional information.