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Exploration of Inclusivity and Accessibility of Play Spaces and Miracle League Facilities

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Exploration of Inclusivity and Accessibility of Play Spaces and Miracle League Facilities

Anna Dyduch, OTDS

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Belmont University School of Occupational Therapy



Mission and Vision

- ❖ Provide opportunities for children with disabilities to play Miracle League baseball, regardless of their abilities
- ❖ Promote community support and sponsorship of Miracle Leagues
- ❖ Promote the construction of special facilities that meet the unique needs of Miracle League players and their families.

Agency Needs

- ❖ Updated contact information for Miracle League sites to ensure efficient communication throughout the organization
- ❖ Information regarding inclusivity of facilities based on emerging best practice to continue representing inclusivity and promote play for all players



"We cannot change or cure the medical issues life has dealt children with disabilities. What we can do is provide them with an opportunity to experience the joy and benefits that come from playing our National pastime- baseball"

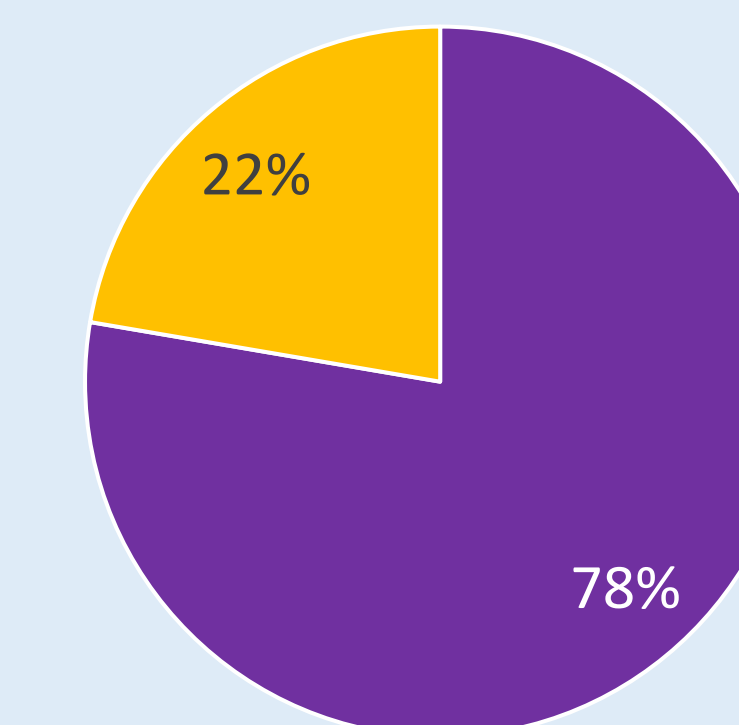
- Diane Alford

<https://www.miracleleague.com/mission>

Data Analysis

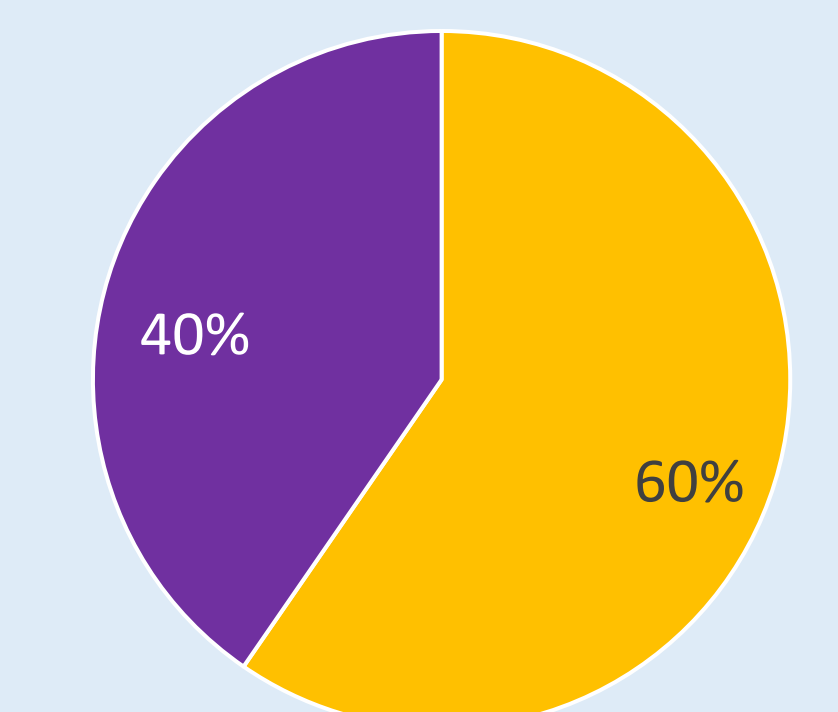
122 Facilities Responded about Playgrounds

- Have a Playground
- Do Not Have a Playground



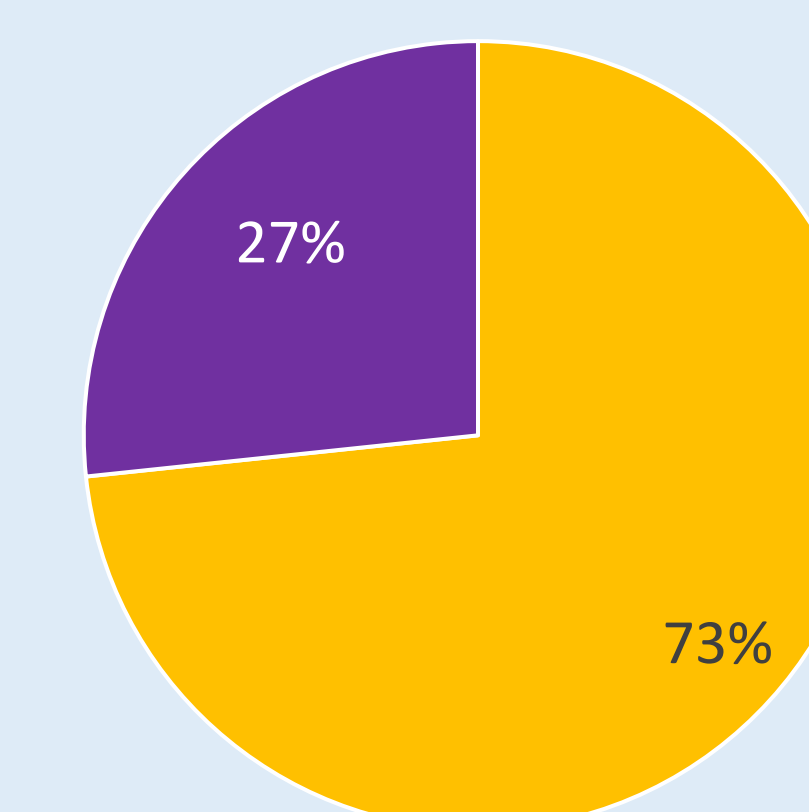
106 Facilities Reported Having a Seated Area/Benches

- No Back Support
- Back Support Provided



105 Facilities Responded About Locked Storage

- No Locked Storage
- Locked Storage



To view the full survey that was sent to all Miracle League sites, a link to the playbook that the survey was based on, as well as a link to the survey results gathered, please scan the QR code below:



Project Goals

Learning objectives:

- ❖ Explore playground assessments through compare-and-contrast methods in order to gain an understanding of different playground assessments
- ❖ Gain an understanding of the importance of accessible versus inclusive play space design
- ❖ Collaborate with other professionals involved in inclusive play space design

Individual objectives:

- ❖ Disseminate knowledge gained from capstone experience to an external audience
- ❖ Understand the importance of play for child development as well as different types of play

Site objectives:

- ❖ Create a database reflecting the inclusivity of Miracle League sites throughout North America based on *Creating Inclusive Playgrounds: a Playbook of Considerations and Strategies* by Tim Ross et. al.

Capstone Outcomes

- ❖ Gained a thorough understanding of importance of play, types of play, and ways to advocate for the importance of play as an occupational therapist
- ❖ Assessed 30+ playgrounds and play spaces for ADA accessibility standards
- ❖ Provided a consolidated database of information gathered via online surveys relating to the inclusivity of over 150 sites
- ❖ Identified strengths and opportunities throughout Miracle League facilities.

Acknowledgements

A special thank you to Stephanie Davis of Miracle League for providing me with the opportunity to learn from her as I navigated communication with over 300 Miracle League facilities. A big thank you to Ingrid M. Kanics for her guidance through the world of inclusive play. A huge thank you to my faculty mentor Teresa Plummer for the ongoing encouragement and feedback throughout this process; thank you for your continuous open-door policy. Lastly, thank you to all the Belmont staff for the support throughout this capstone project and helping my project come into fruition.