



Readiness to Implement Continuum of Care Standards by Commission on Cancer Accredited Programs

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Introduction

- The Commission on Cancer (CoC) is a consortium of surgeons representing the Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons and representatives from professional organizations.
- The Commission is dedicated to improving survival and quality of life of cancer patients through the development and monitoring of multidisciplinary, patient-centered standards of care that focus on cancer prevention, treatment, research, education, support services, survivorship and end of life care.
- There are over 1,400 CoC-accredited cancer programs in the United States who annually treat over 70% of newly diagnosed cancer patients.
- In 2012, to address the need for high quality cancer care to patients ranging from diagnostic care to treatment and supportive services, the CoC released updated standards in Cancer Program Standards 2012: Ensuring Patient-Centered Care.
- New Continuum of Care standards (3.1-3.3) address patient navigation (3.1), psychosocial distress screening (3.2), and delivery of treatment summaries and survivorship care plans (3.3)
- Key questions remain regarding the readiness of CoC accredited cancer programs to implement these standards in advance of the 2015 deadline.

Purpose

The purpose of this analysis was to:

- Assess CoC accredited programs' confidence in their readiness to implement Continuum of Care standards
- Understand perceived barriers for implementing Continuum of Care Standards
- Identify CoC programs' perceptions of the ease of implementation of Continuum of Care Standards

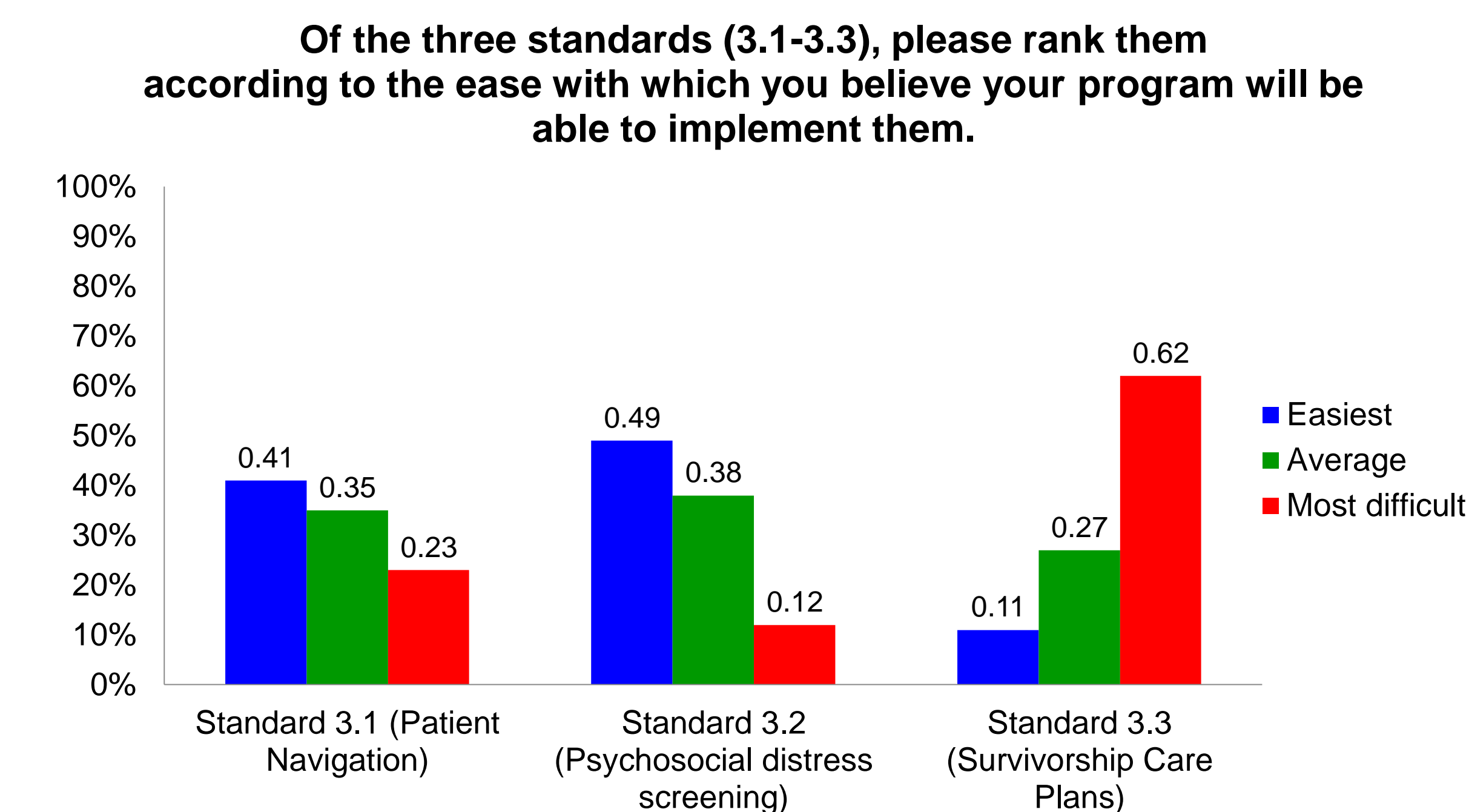
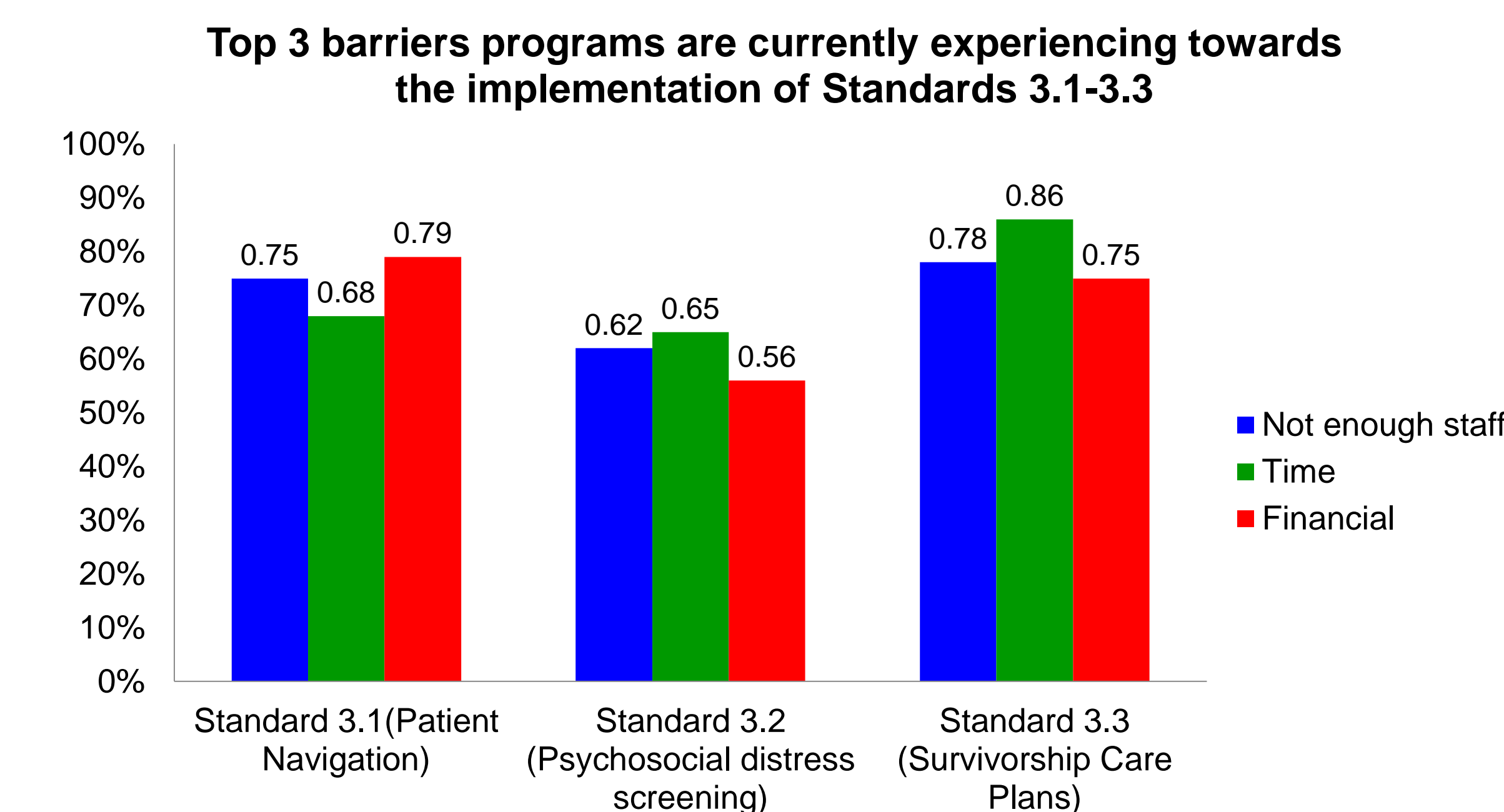
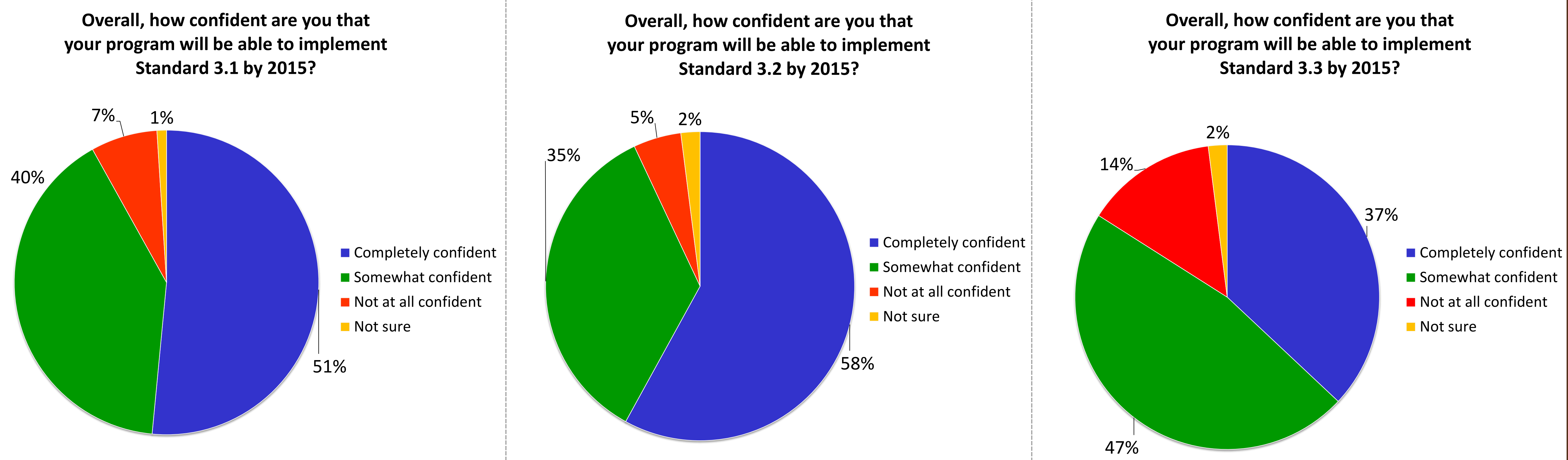
Procedure/Measures

- Representatives from four of the CoC's member organizations (American Cancer Society, Cancer Support Community, LIVESTRONG Foundation, and the National Coalition of Cancer Survivorship) partnered with the CoC to create a survey to assess CoC programs' readiness to implement Standards 3.1 – 3.3.
- The resulting **Continuum of Care Readiness Assessment Survey** was sent on August 8, 2013 to Cancer Registrars (n=1238), Cancer Committee Chairs (n=1345), and Psychosocial Service Representatives (n=344) listed in the CoC's programs database representing 1,390 programs.
- Recipients were asked to complete only one survey per accredited program.
- In total, the survey was open from August 8 through September 13.

Sample Characteristics

- 690 of the 1390 (49.6% response rate) CoC programs responded to the survey.
- 71% of respondents characterized their sites as community-based programs (i.e., Comprehensive Community Cancer Program or Community Cancer Program)
- 65% have more than 500 new cancer cases diagnosed within their program per year
- 73% have been accredited by the CoC for 11 years or more
- 32% reported a 2015 due date for their next comprehensive accreditation survey
- 58% of responders were certified tumor registrars

Results



Implications

The successful implementation of these standards will play a pivotal role in the integration of patient-centered care and promote the inclusion of psychosocial care into routine oncologic practice.

Standards 3.1-3.3 should facilitate collaboration between cancer programs and patient-advocacy and other organizations to address the needs of the whole cancer patient and their families.

Results will help the CoC evaluate the need to develop additional reference materials to aid in the implementation of the standards and promote existing tools and resources that are available through CoC member organizations or other CoC-accredited programs.

Next Steps

While many programs expressed confidence in their ability to implement these standards, there are still a number of challenges that they face, in particular around their ability to meet standard 3.3 related to survivorship care planning.

Using the results of the survey, the CoC and their member organizations will work collaboratively to:

- Develop additional reference materials
- Promote existing tools, resources, and best practices that are available through the CoC and CoC member organizations
- Disseminate survey findings to the broader scientific community in order to aid in the successful implementation of these standards