

# TWISTS, LOCS, AND CURLS (TLC) HAIR CARE PROJECT: AN EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS HAIR CARE NEEDS OF ETHNICALLY DIVERSE PATIENTS IN THE PEDIATRIC INPATIENT SETTING

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## BACKGROUND

Lack of appropriate products and knowledge of ethnic hair textures often lead to poor maintenance and negligence of Black patients' hair (Friedman & Sison, 2022). Improper hair maintenance can lead to matting and hair loss (Friedman & Sison, 2022). Nurses are taught to provide holistic care for patients; this includes care and consideration for individual hair types. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are principles that support and advance equal representation for all (Bowen, 2023). The TLC project is an initiative led by nurses to provide diverse hair care products and educate nursing staff on culturally appropriate hair care in the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit.



## PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Procure diverse hair products to provide individualized hair care
- Promote inclusiveness and equity for all ethnicities and hair types
- Educate patients, families and staff on how to implement hair care
- Encourage patient and family participation in care
- Improve weekly hair care of our patients

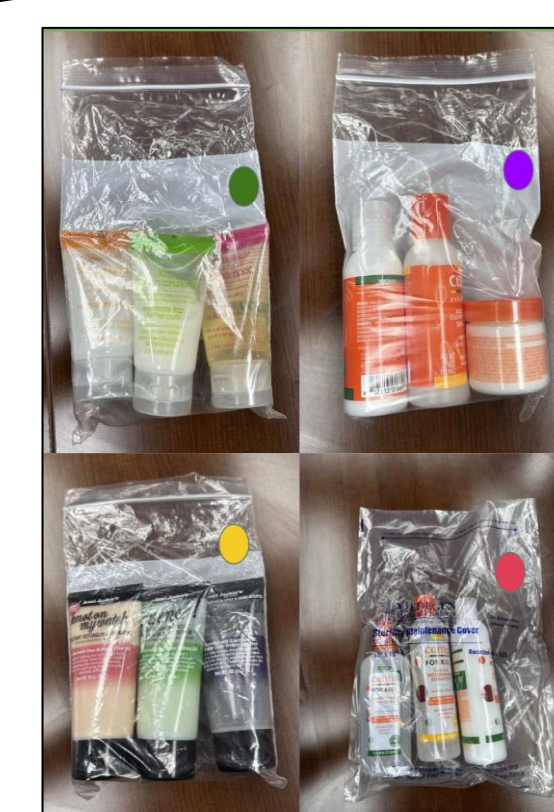
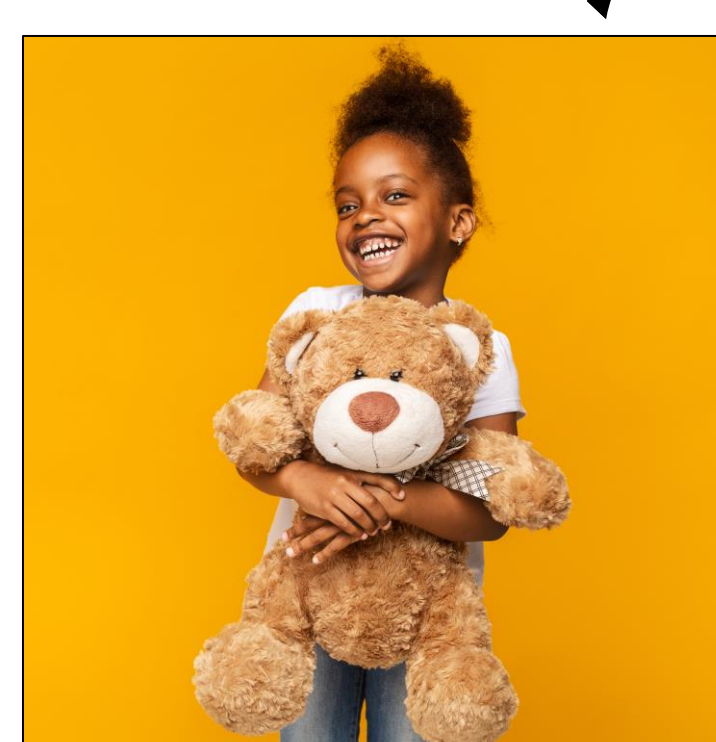
## THE PROCESS/METHOD



1. Establish hair types



2. Identify hair products for each hair type and create Haircare Bears



## THE PROCESS/METHOD (CONTINUED)

3. Test hair products on mannequins with a variety of hair textures



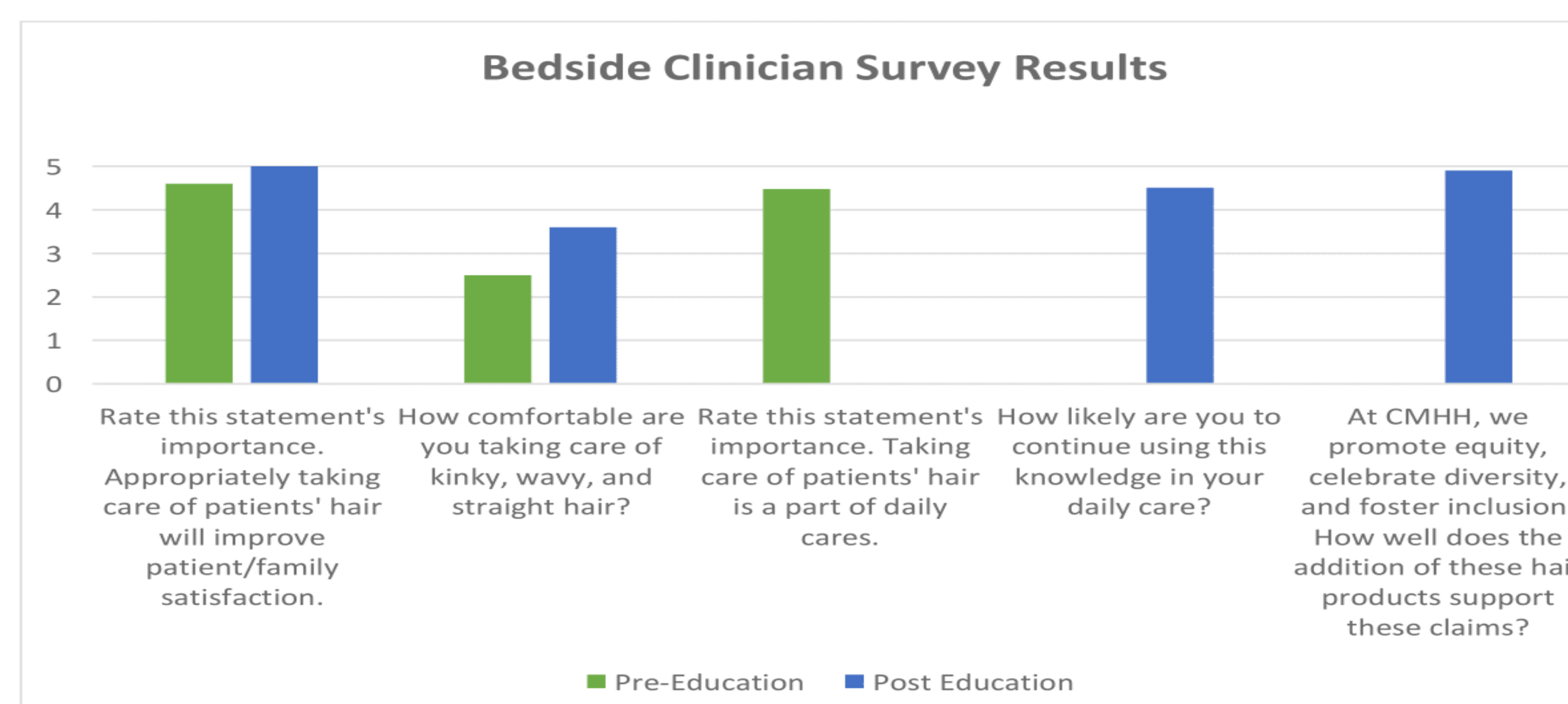
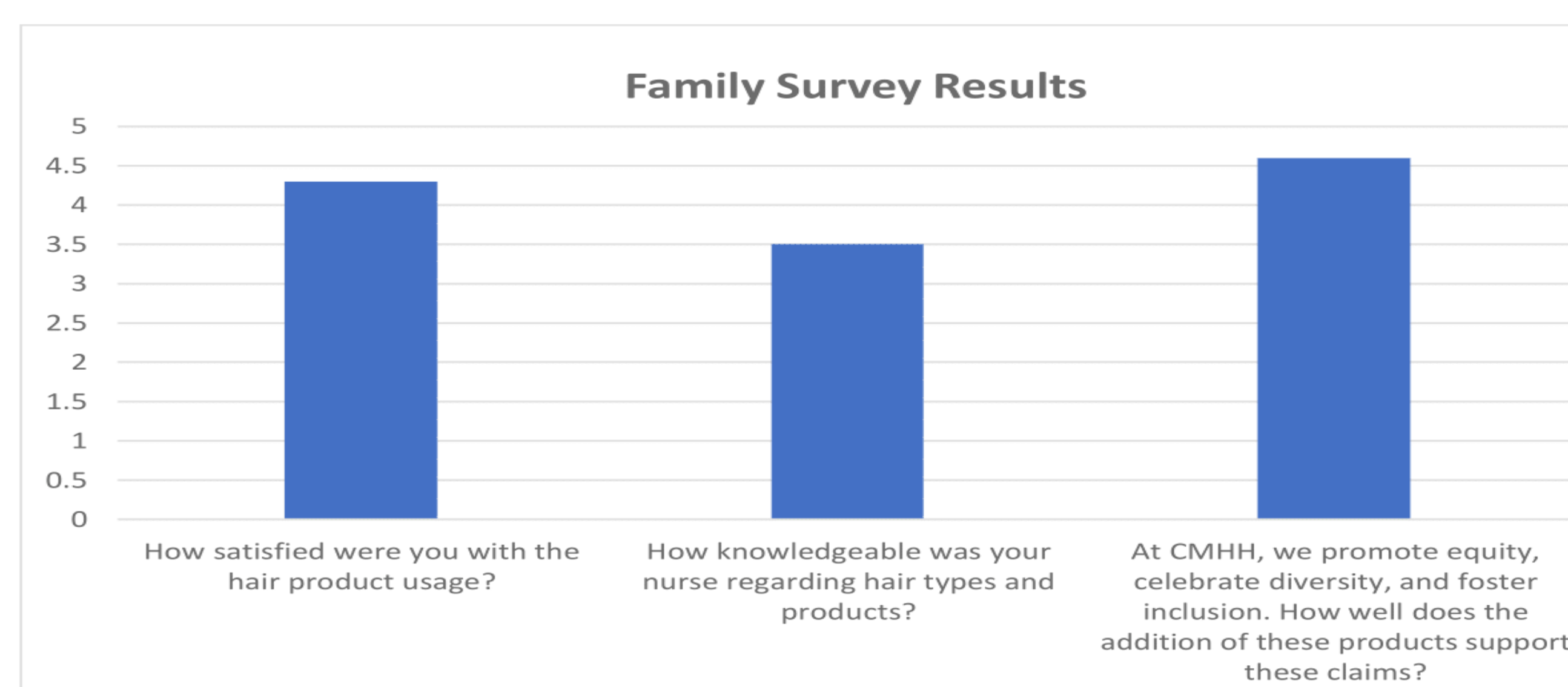
4. Educate bedside staff on proper technique



5. Roll out of Haircare Bears with patient/family satisfaction and bedside clinician follow-up surveys



## RESULTS



## RESULTS (CONTINUED)



Results are scored on a 5-point Likert scale.

Results revealed satisfaction with the use of the products from both patient/family and bedside clinicians.

However, survey results showed the need for continued education on knowledgeability of hair types and products. Bedside clinicians and patient/family both feel strongly that this project provides equity, promotes diversity and fosters inclusion.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Expand access to various new hair products by contracting with a distributor
- Continue education efforts with bedside staff to increase knowledge in caring for various hair types
- Implement different data collection tools to improve channels for staff and family feedback



## REFERENCES & CONTACT INFO

1. Bowen, F. (2023). The ABCs of DEI. *AJN, American Journal of Nursing*, 123(1), 19-20. <https://doi:10.1097/01.NAJ.0000911508.61643.44>
2. Friedman, I. & Sison, M. (2022). Equitable patient care includes equitable hair care. *AJN, American Journal of Nursing*, 122(12), 11-11. <https://doi:10.1097/01.NAJ.0000904024.03295.04>

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