



## Introduction

Telehealth is transforming health care.

Maternal morbidity and mortality in NJ was among the poorest in the country.

Racial disparities and inequalities are among the widest of all states.

Nurses are vital team leaders in service delivery innovation.

## AIMS:

Obtain a baseline assessment of NJ perinatal nurses' attitude, use and readiness for telehealth. Mixed-methods cohort survey.

Secondary aims:

Impact of COVID-19 on perinatal telehealth practice

Identification of roles nurses play in implementing telehealth.

Recommendations for policy, practice, quality, education and economic considerations.

## Measures/Analysis Methods

- Online survey of self identified NJ perinatal nurses
- 90 questions covering:
  - Demographic
  - COVID-19 Impact
  - Technology Attitude Survey
  - Telehealth Readiness Assessment
- Snowballing technique used
- Qualitative data synthesized, triangulation technique and consensus among three independent reviewers decided on themes.
- Recommendations for policy, practice, education and service delivery were made upon consensus of authors.



## Results

N=52 respondents, 25% of sample size, 42% completion rate (n=22).

Majority were full time (87%), hospital-based (62%) RNs (49%) with Masters Degree (56%) and aged 45-74 (53%). 60% worked with ≤ 50 people. 53% APN/CNM/ Managers or Administrators

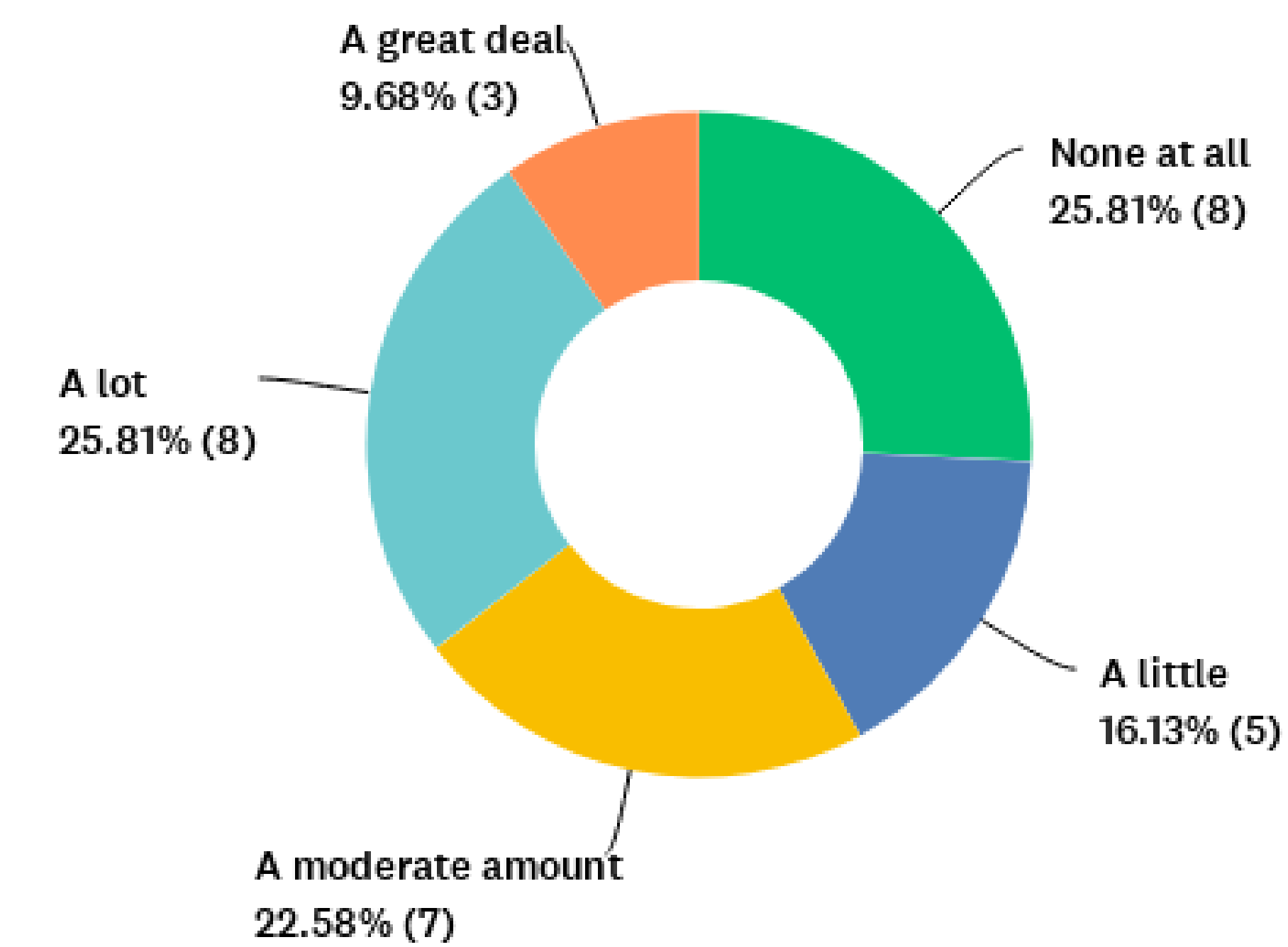
77% felt technology was necessary skill; 78% disagreed or strongly disagreed technology makes them feel stupid.

“Almost Ready” aggregate Telehealth Readiness Assessment score.

## Results

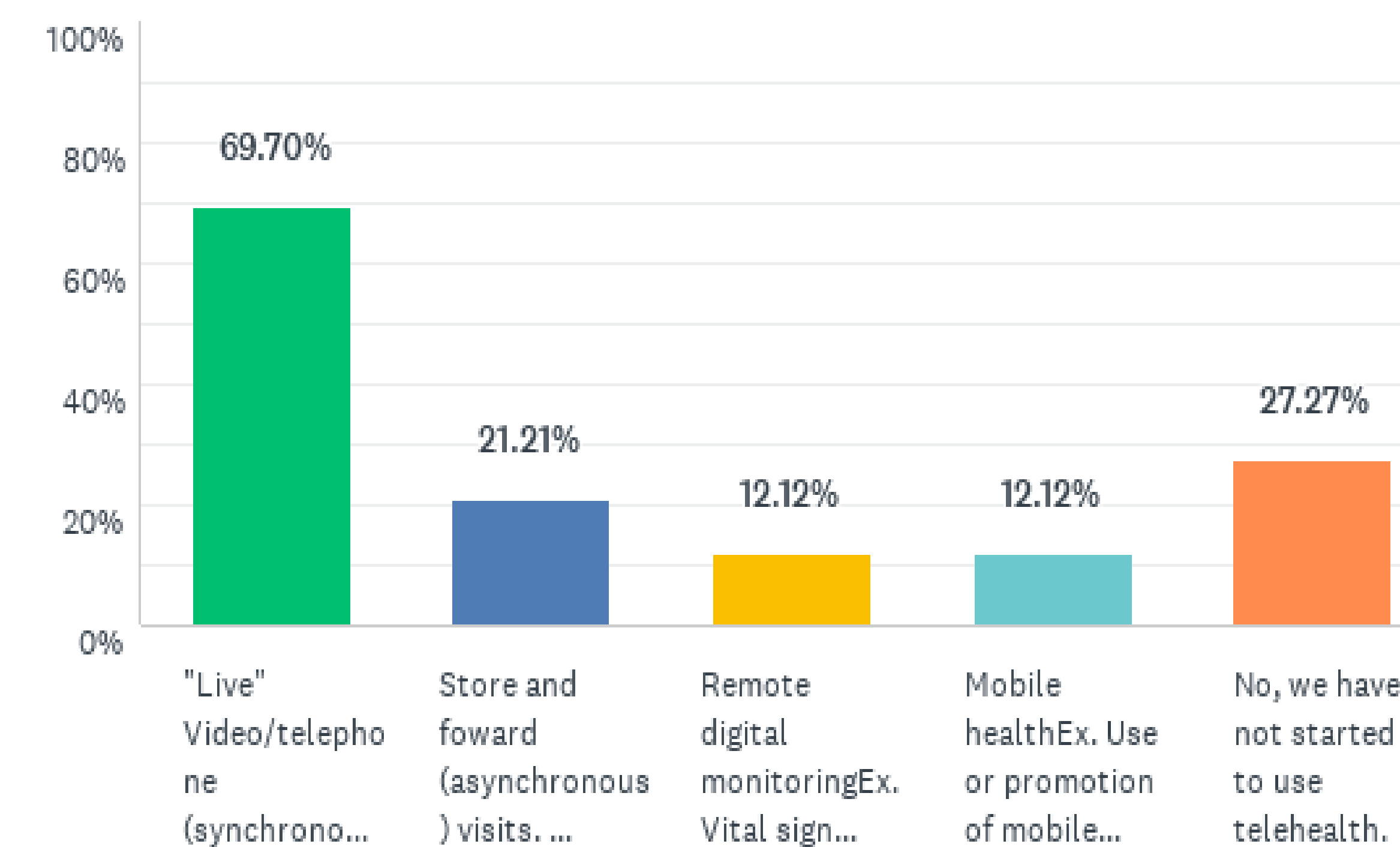
### Practice

Rank the level of impact you believe telehealth has had on your practice?



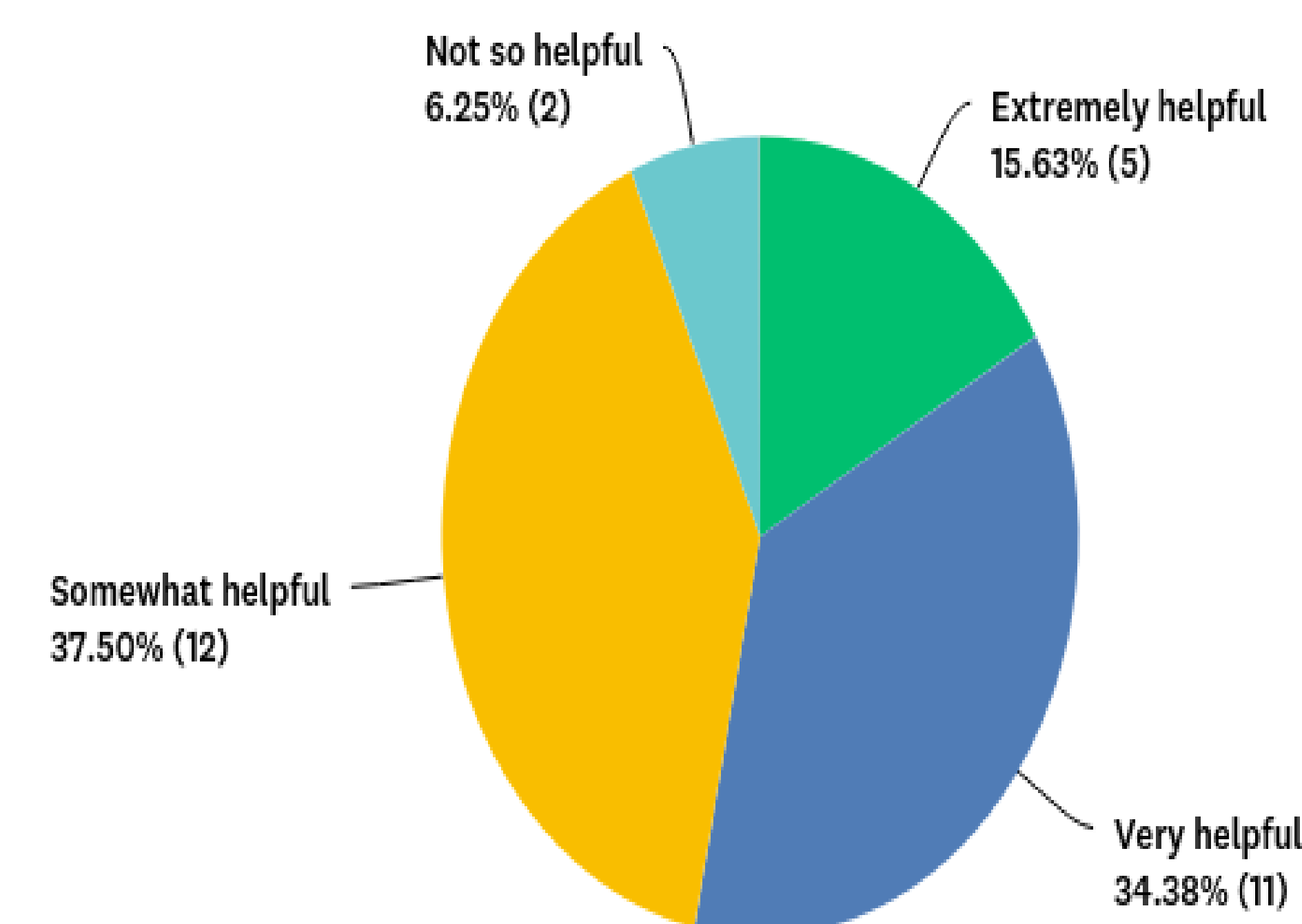
### Video telehealth

Has your workplace started or expanded telehealth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

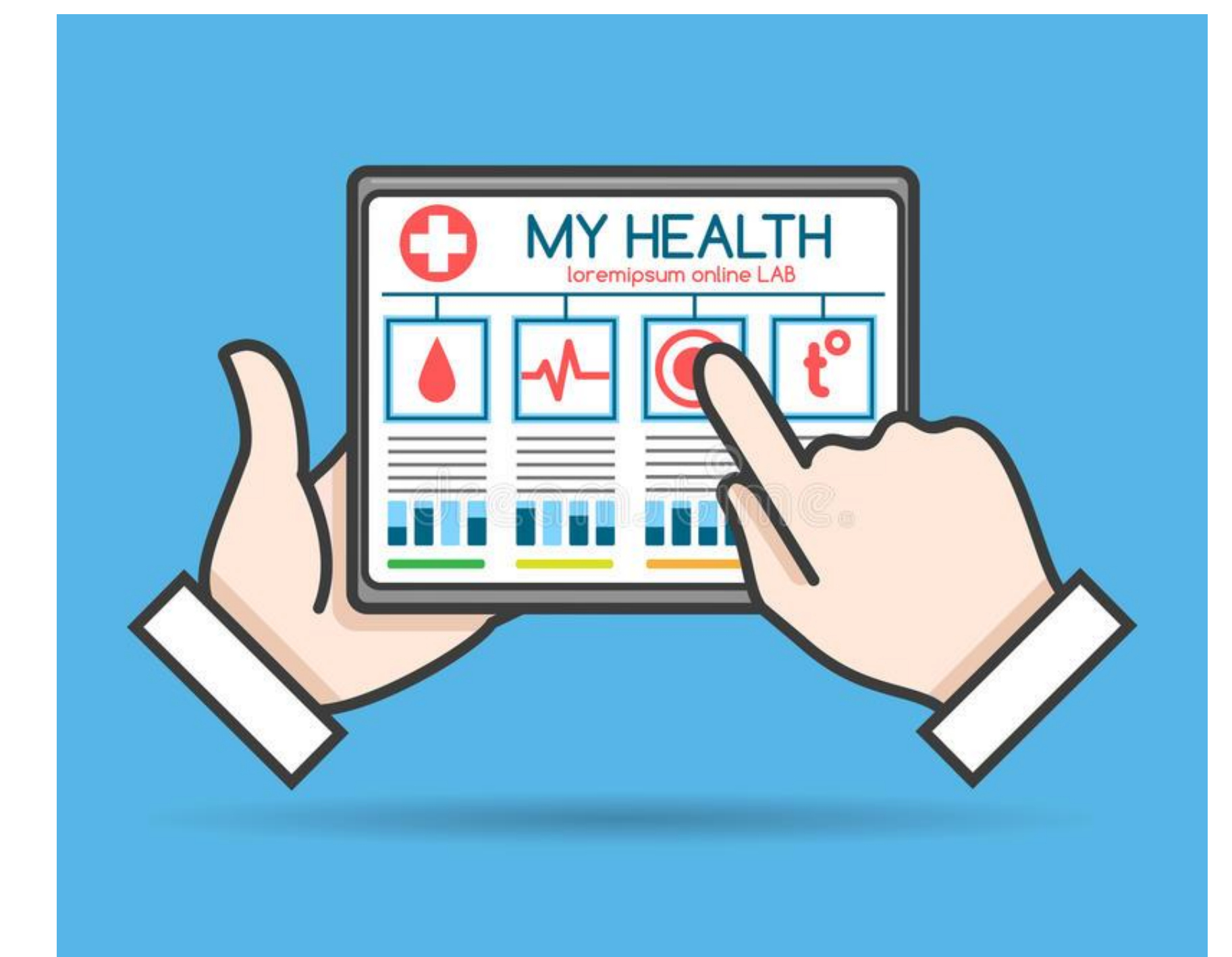


## Disparities and equity

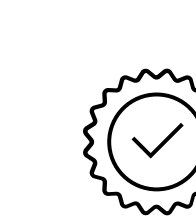
Do you think telehealth can help reduce perinatal health care disparities and improve health equity?



## Discussion



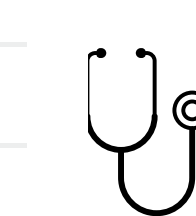
### Implications for Practice:



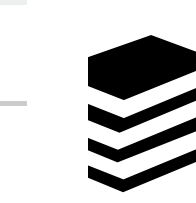
#### Policy:

Reimbursement, incentives and support for perinatal telehealth in all forms, must be made available to implement and sustain the practice.

#### Practice:

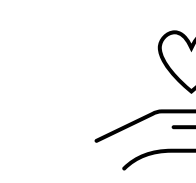


Nurses use technology and bridge the provider patient gap. Nurses can lead implementation teams and are poised to be telehealth champions.



#### Education:

Nurses must be educated on telehealth and to help increase access, monitoring, communication between provider and patients to improve health equity and maternal outcomes.



#### Quality:

15-30% of all perinatal visits are currently online. Nurses can triage, monitor, educate and evaluate patients through telehealth, saving the patient time, energy, expense and effort. Telehealth may be able to improve maternal outcomes in NJ.

### Reference List:

Available upon request

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**“Telehealth can help alleviate fear when patients can have access to a live provider”**

Survey respondent



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