



Growing & Developing Healthy Relationships

Audit of the uptake of the Curriculum Support Materials in WA Schools

Prepared for:



December 2006

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Executive Summary

- In 2002, Growing & Developing Healthy Relationships (GDHR) Curriculum Support Materials K-10 were distributed free of charge to all Government and Association of Independent (AISWA) schools in Western Australia. Over the next three years, 167 schools sent delegates to participate in supporting training programs¹.
- In 2005, an audit was commissioned to determine if the distribution of the GDHR materials was having any impact in the conduct of on the way sexual health education was being conducted in schools.
 - 33% of schools participated in the audit.
 - The sample of schools that participated in the audit was representative of schools across the state.
- The audit suggests that the distribution of the GDHR materials IS having a positive impact on the way sexual health education is being conducted in schools.
 - In 74% of schools that responded to the audit, at least one representative is aware of the GDHR materials
 - In 65% of schools that responded to the audit, at least one person knows where the GDHR materials are kept
 - In 44% of schools that responded to the audit, teachers are using the GDHR materials
- Furthermore, there is convincing evidence to suggest that participation in professional development has a direct and positive impact on awareness and use of GDHR materials.
 - In 96% of schools that have participated in PD, at least one person is aware of the GDHR materials
 - In 87% of schools that have participated in PD, at least one person knows where the GDHR materials are kept
 - In 64% of schools that have participated in PD, teachers are using the GDHR materials

1. Source: Report from Concord Training Services & WA Health Education Services, September 2006

Introduction

- In 2002, Growing & Developing Healthy Relationships (GDHR) Curriculum Support Materials K-10 were distributed free of charge to all Government and Association of Independent (AISWA) schools in Western Australia. Catholic Education Office schools chose not to receive the materials.
 - Since 2002 , training has been provided to teachers and school nurses across Western Australia. Between 2002 and 2005, 167 schools, 158 teachers, 128 school nurses and 62 others (including District Education Office Representatives, Public Health Units and school psychologists) participated in training programs¹.
 - In 2005, an audit was commissioned to determine if the distribution of the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials was having any impact on the provision of sexual health education in schools.
- Specifically, the audit sought to establish:
 - Awareness of the Growing & Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials
 - Knowledge of where the school's copy of the materials were stored
 - Level of usage of GDHR materials by primary and secondary school teachers
 - Linkage of use of Materials with participation in GDHR and sexual health education professional development training offered by the Department of Health for teachers, school nurses, school psychologists and others
 - The position responsible for delivering sexual health and relationships education in schools
 - Level of interest in finding out more about GDHR materials

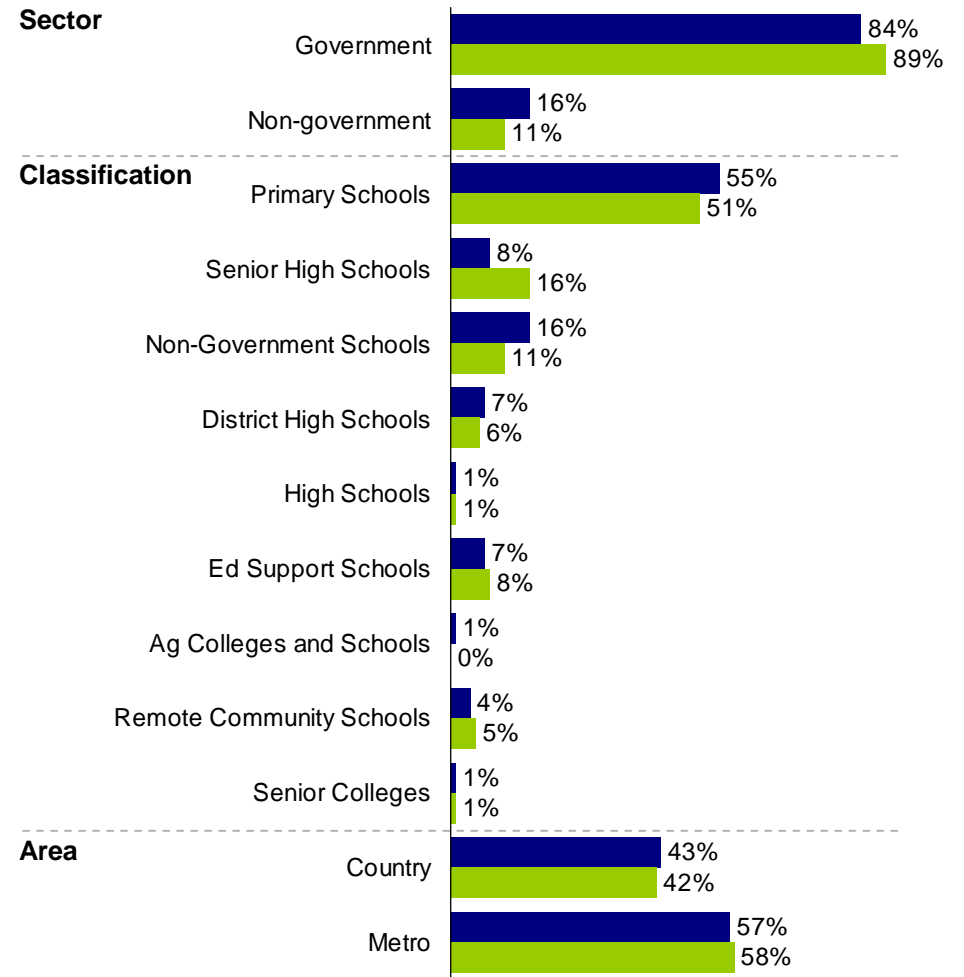
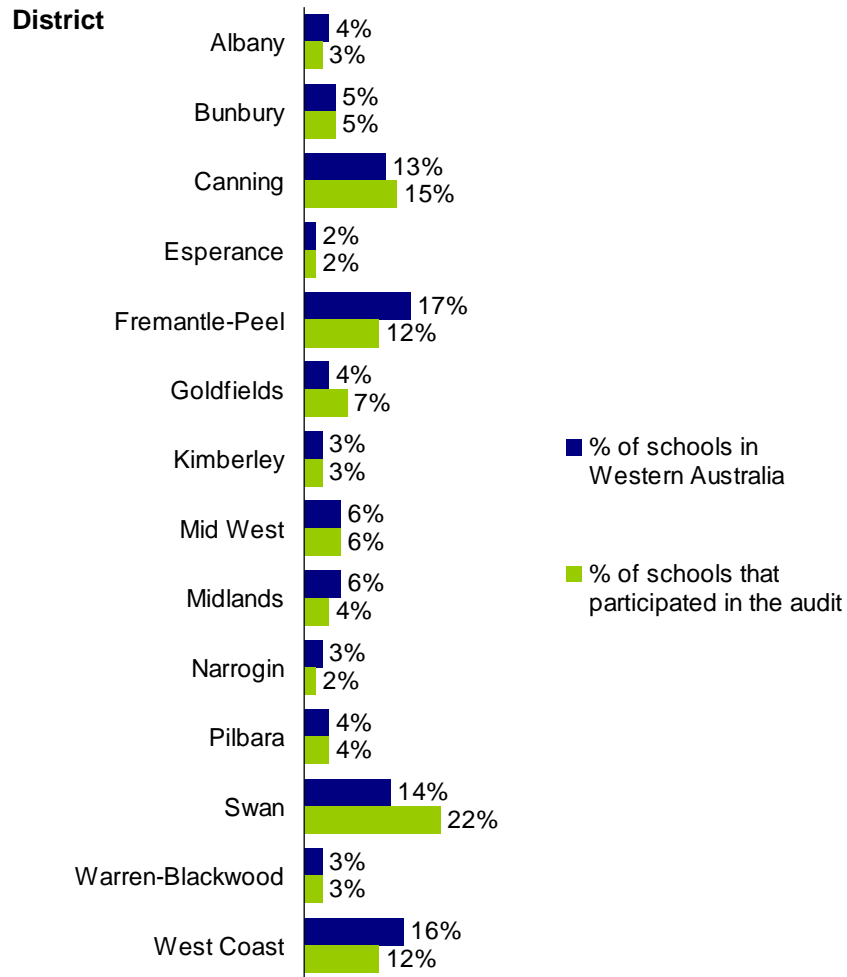
1. Source: Report from Concord Training Services & WA Health Education Services, September 2006

Conducting the Audit

- The audit was conducted using an online survey.
- The survey was designed and hosted by independent consultants Concord Training Services & WA Health Education Services. CATALYSE® received the raw data file and was asked to assist with analysis and report writing.
- The survey was open to all primary and secondary schools in the Department of Education and Training (DET), and Association of Independent Schools in Western Australia (AISWA). Teachers of health education and school principals were invited to log on to a website and complete a two minute survey.
 - Schools were invited to participate in a competition to win a prize voucher to Wooldridge's Educational Suppliers as an incentive for completing the survey. The winner of the prize was the Bungaree Primary School in Rockingham.
- In some districts where the on-line response was initially low, the District Education Offices were approached to contact the schools directly to increase the participation and ensure a reliable sample for the survey.
- The Audit was undertaken over a period of 10 months, from 17 May 2005 to 14 February 2006. All schools were encouraged to participate through direct email, telephone and fax contact with schools and through follow-up with District Education Offices.
- 307 out of 921 schools participated in the study, providing a participation rate of 33%.
 - The associated sampling error is expected to be ± 4.6 at the 95% confidence level.
- In some schools, more than one representative responded
 - The total number of individuals responding to the study was 351

The sample

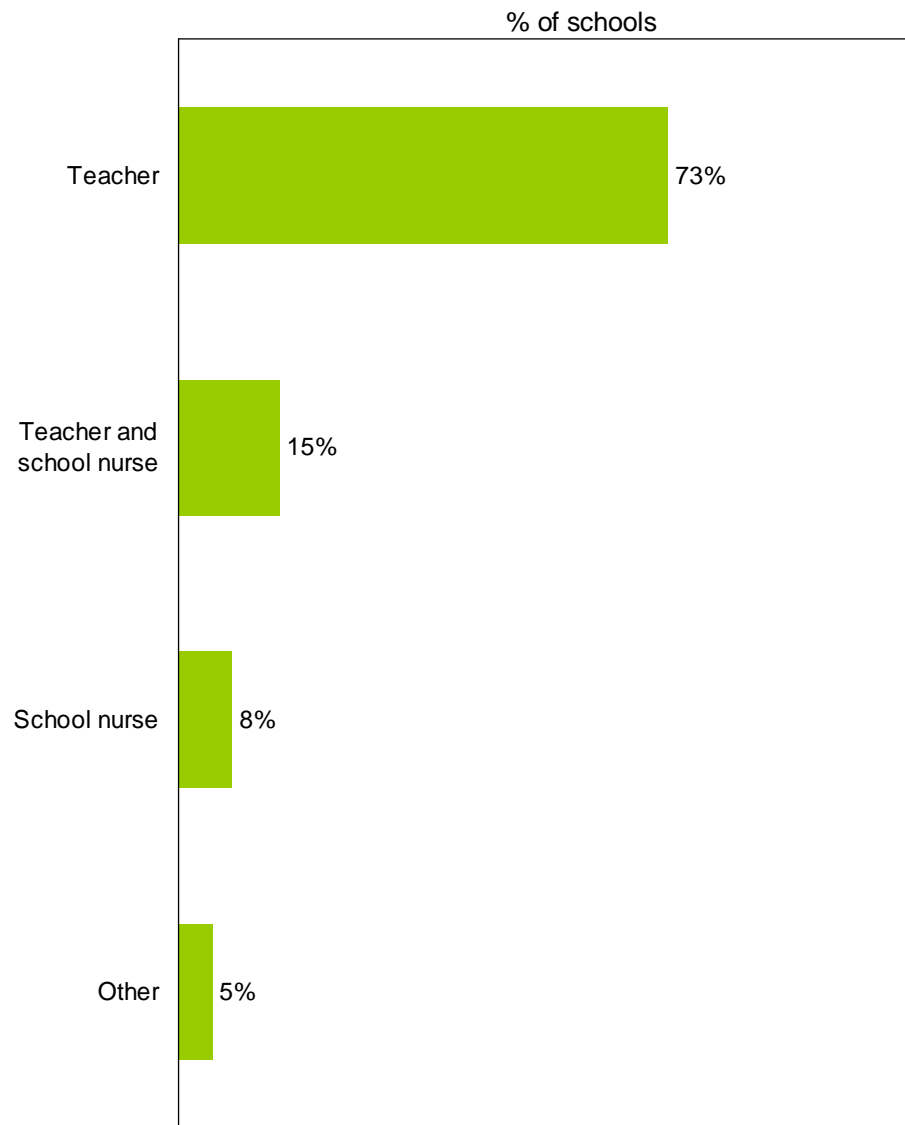
- As illustrated below, the sample of schools that participated in the Audit is representative of schools across Western Australia





Key Results

Who delivers sexual health and relationships education in schools?

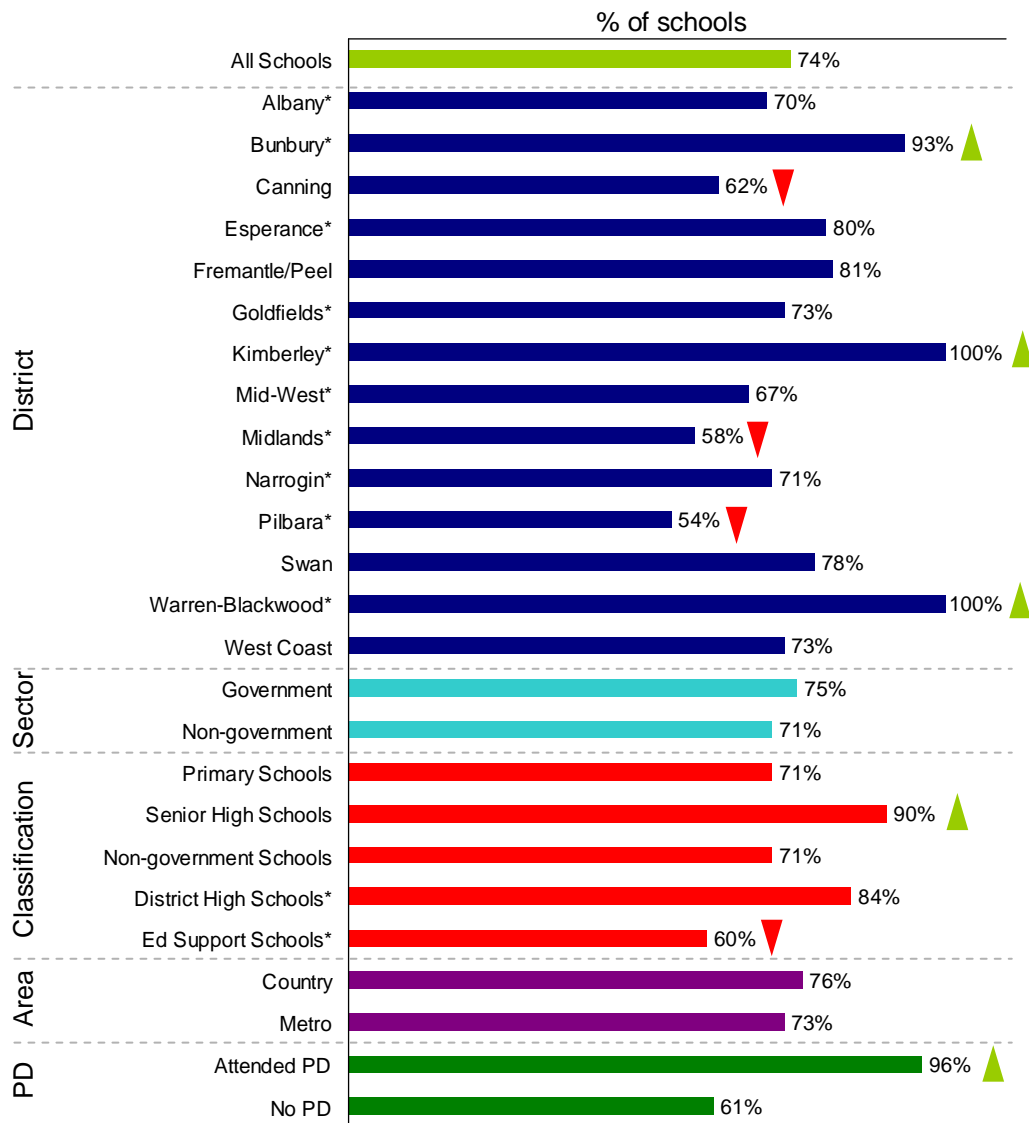


- Classroom teachers tend to be the people most likely to deliver sexual health and relationships education in schools
- In total, in 88% of schools a teacher has responsibility for delivering sexual health and relationships education
 - In 73% of schools a teacher has sole responsibility
 - In a further 15% of schools, a teacher shares the responsibility with the school nurse
- In total, in 23% of schools a school nurse has responsibility for delivering sexual health and relationships education
 - In 8% of schools a school nurse has sole responsibility
 - In a further 15% of schools, a school nurse shares the responsibility with a teacher

Q. Who delivers sexual health/relationships education in your school?
Base: Schools (n=307)

▼ ▲ = significant variance

Awareness of materials by school



- Awareness of the materials is relatively high
- In 74% of schools across Western Australia, at least one representative is aware of the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials
- Awareness is significantly higher in schools where a representative has attended a professional development training course
- Awareness is also significantly higher in Senior High Schools and in schools in the Kimberley, Warren-Blackwood and Bunbury districts
- Awareness is lowest in the Canning, Midlands and Pilbara districts and among Education Support Schools

The professional development courses appear to provide an effective way of increasing awareness of GDHR materials

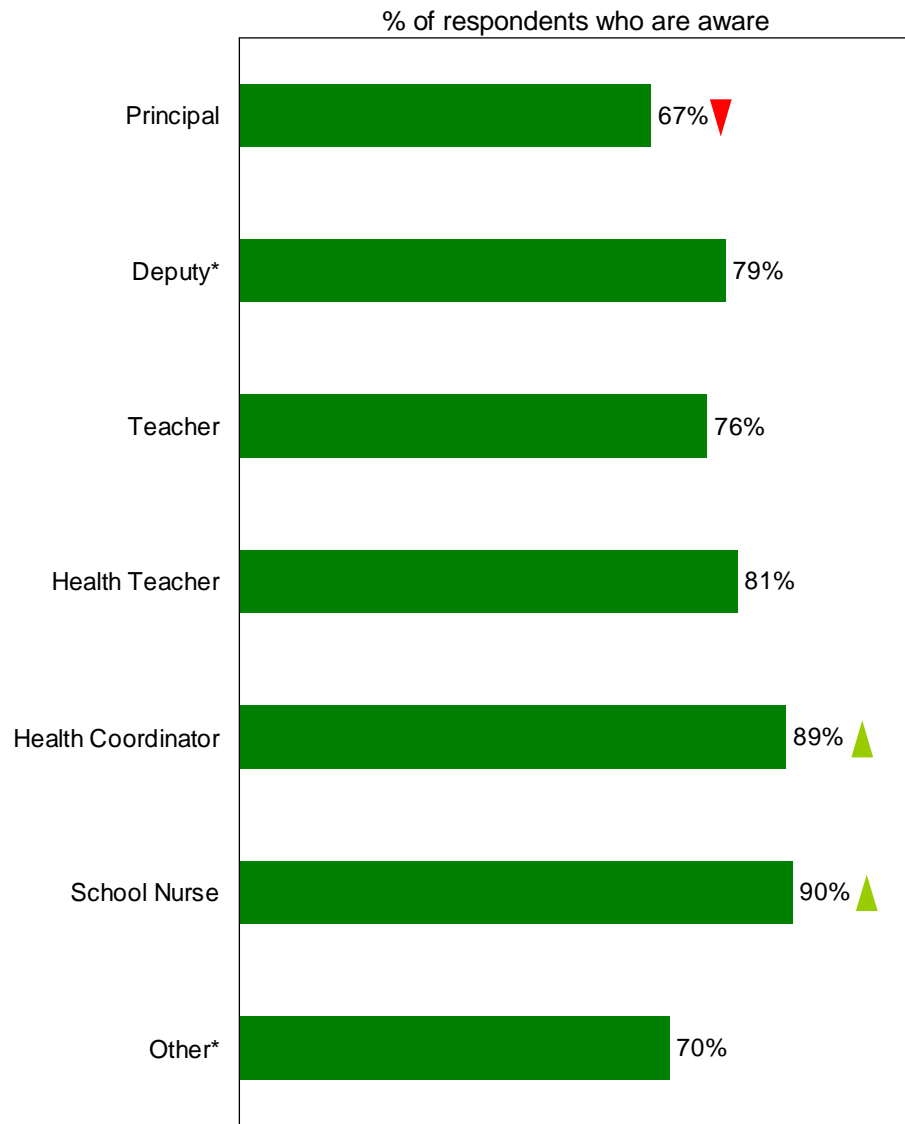
Q. Are you aware of the health education resource Growing & Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials – P-10 which were delivered to your school in 2002?

Base: Schools (n=307)

* Denotes low sample size (n < 30 respondents)

▼ ▲ = significant variance

Awareness of materials by role



- Awareness of the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials is significantly higher among School Nurses and Health Coordinators
- Awareness is lowest among School Principals

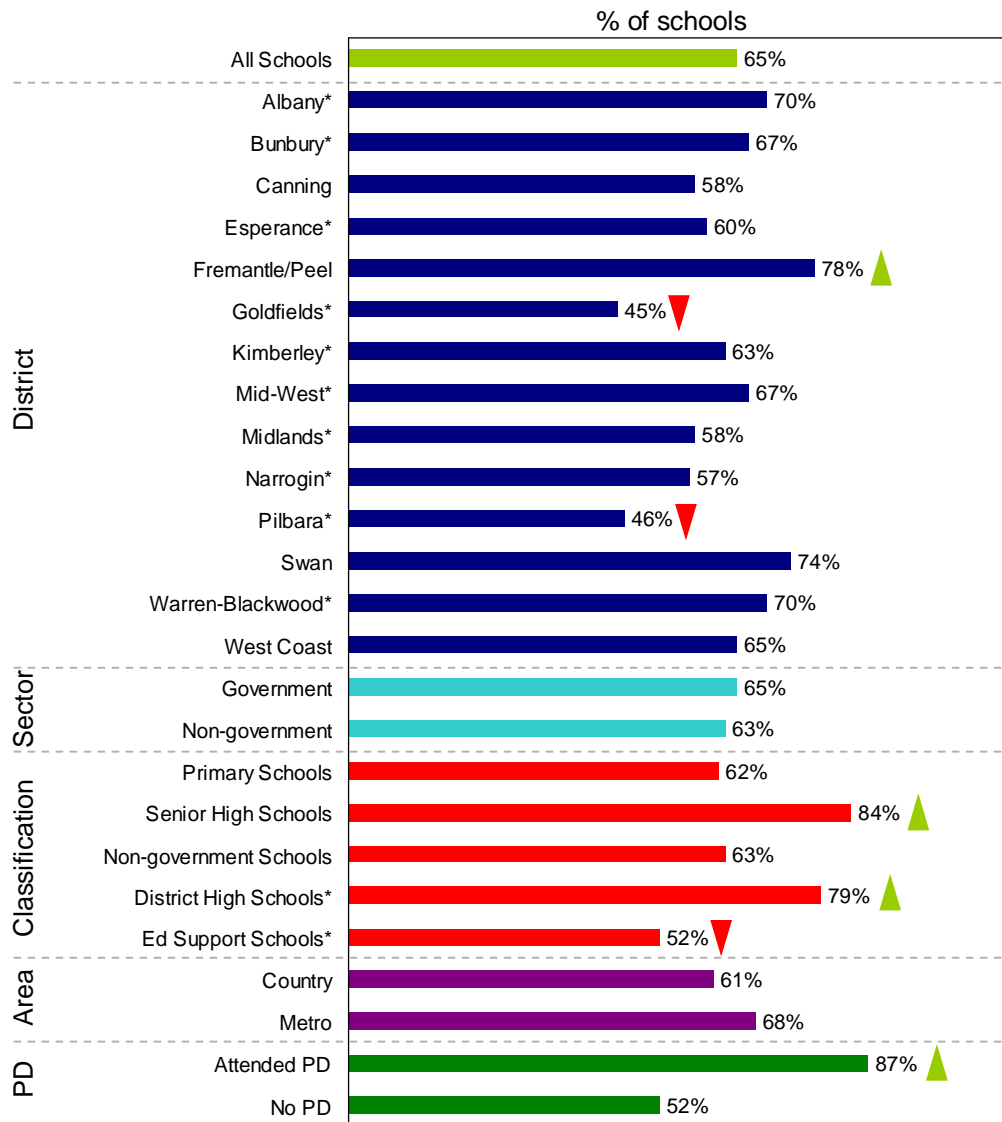
Q. Are you aware of the health education resource Growing & Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials – P-10 which were delivered to your school in 2002?

Base: Respondents (n= 351)

* Denotes low sample size (n < 30 respondents)

▲ ▼ = significant variance

Awareness of where materials are kept in schools by school



- In 65% of schools across Western Australia, at least one representative is aware of where the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials are kept in their school
- Awareness of where the materials are located is significantly higher in high schools
- Awareness of where materials are kept in schools is lowest in the Goldfields and Pilbara districts and among Education Support Schools

Schools who have sent a representative on a professional development training course are more likely to know where GDHR materials are kept in their school

Q. Do you know where the school's copy of the materials are located/kept?

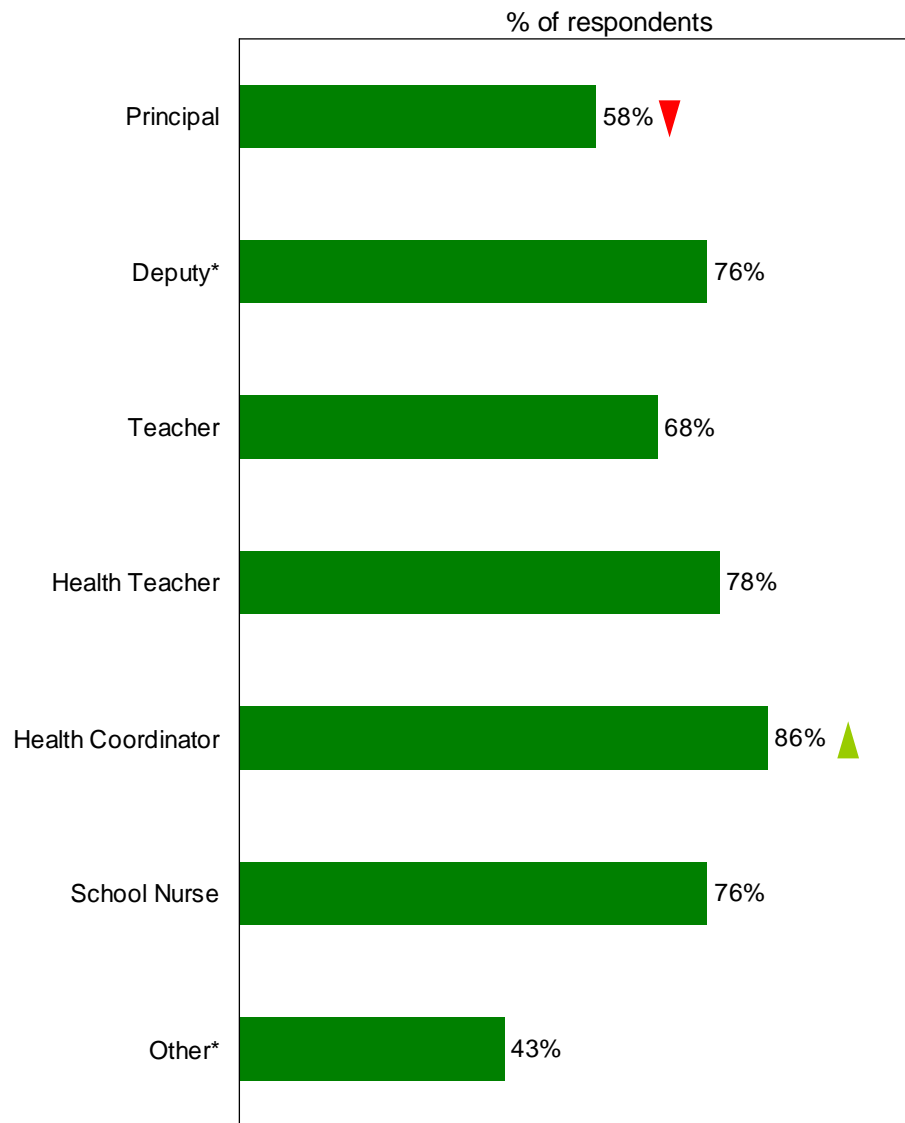
Base: Schools (n=307)

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Awareness of where materials are kept in schools

by role

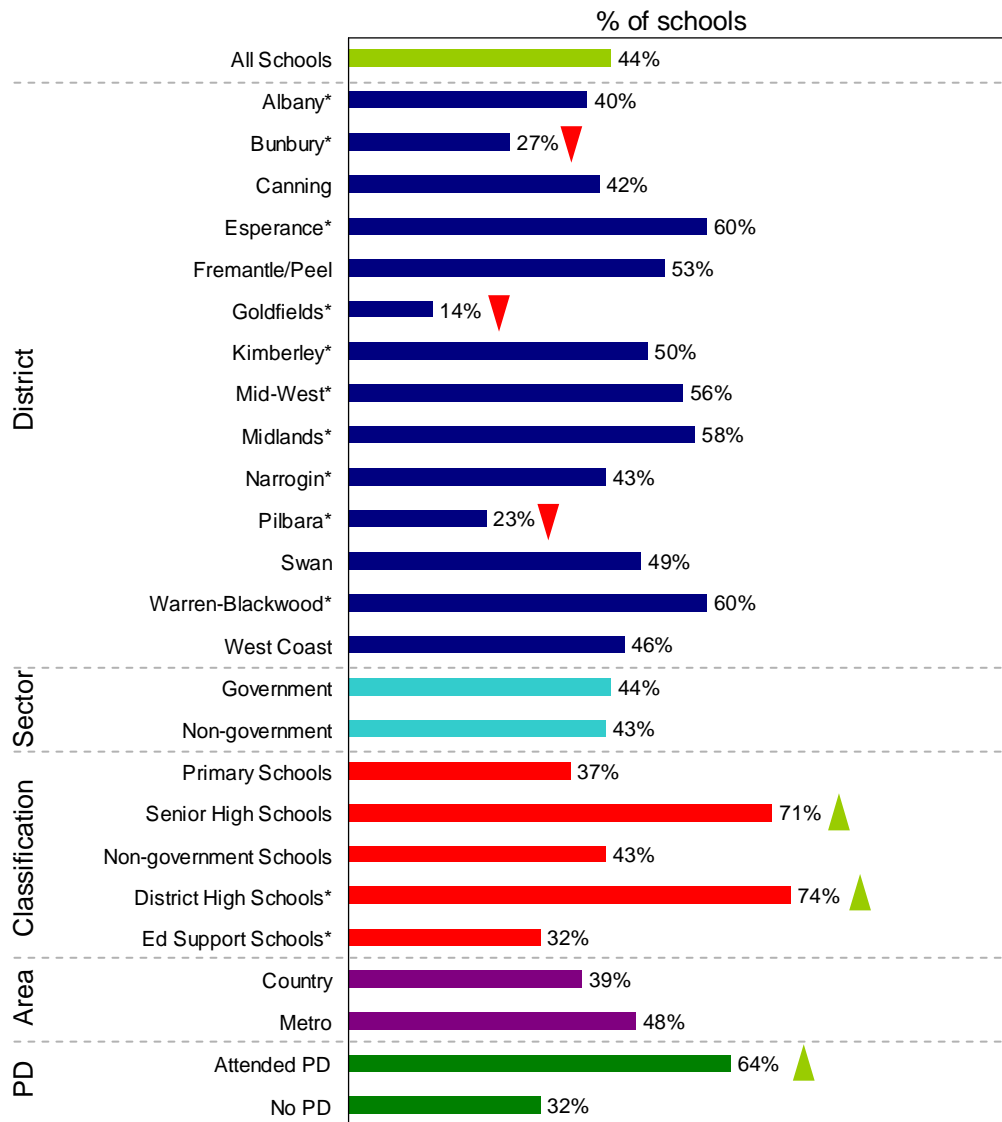


- Awareness of where the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials are kept in schools is significantly higher among Health Coordinators, followed closely by Health Teachers, School Nurses and Deputies
- Awareness is lowest among School Principals

Health Coordinators, Health Teachers, School Nurses and a school's deputy appear to be more reliable custodians of GDHR materials

Q. Do you know where the school's copy of the materials are located/kept?
 Base: Respondents (n= 351)
 * Denotes low sample size (n < 30 respondents)

Awareness of the use of GDHR materials by teachers in their school by school



- Around 44% of schools across Western Australia appear to be using the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials
- Use of the materials is significantly higher in Senior High Schools and District High Schools
- Greater opportunities exist to increase use of the materials in primary schools, non-government schools and educational support schools, along with schools in the Goldfields, Pilbara and Bubby districts
- While there is a difference between the use of the materials in metro and regional areas, the difference is not big enough to be statistically significant

Schools who have sent a representative on a professional development training course are TWICE as likely to use the GDHR materials

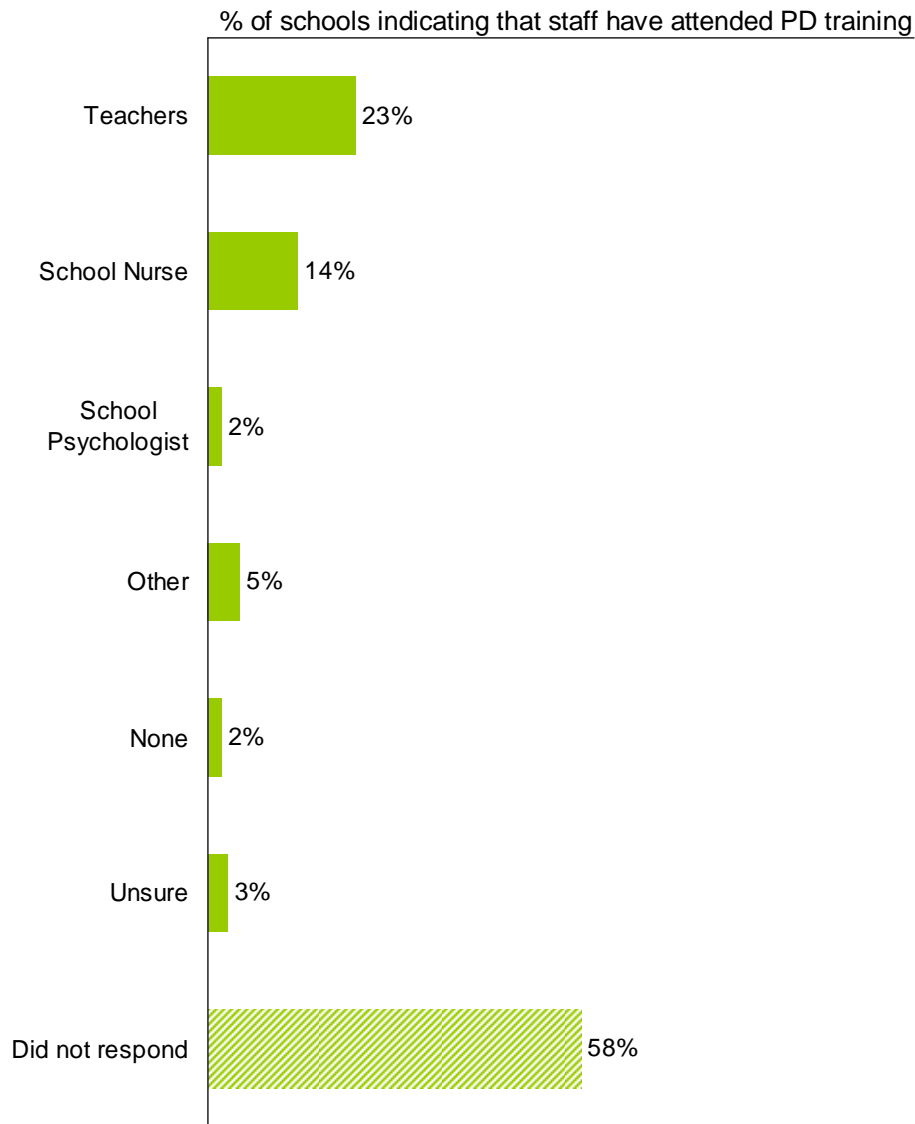
Q. Are the GDHR materials being used by teachers in your school for sexual health/relationships education?

Base: Schools (n=307)

* Denotes low sample size (n < 30 respondents)

▼ ▲ = significant variance

Participation in professional development training at the Dept of Health by school



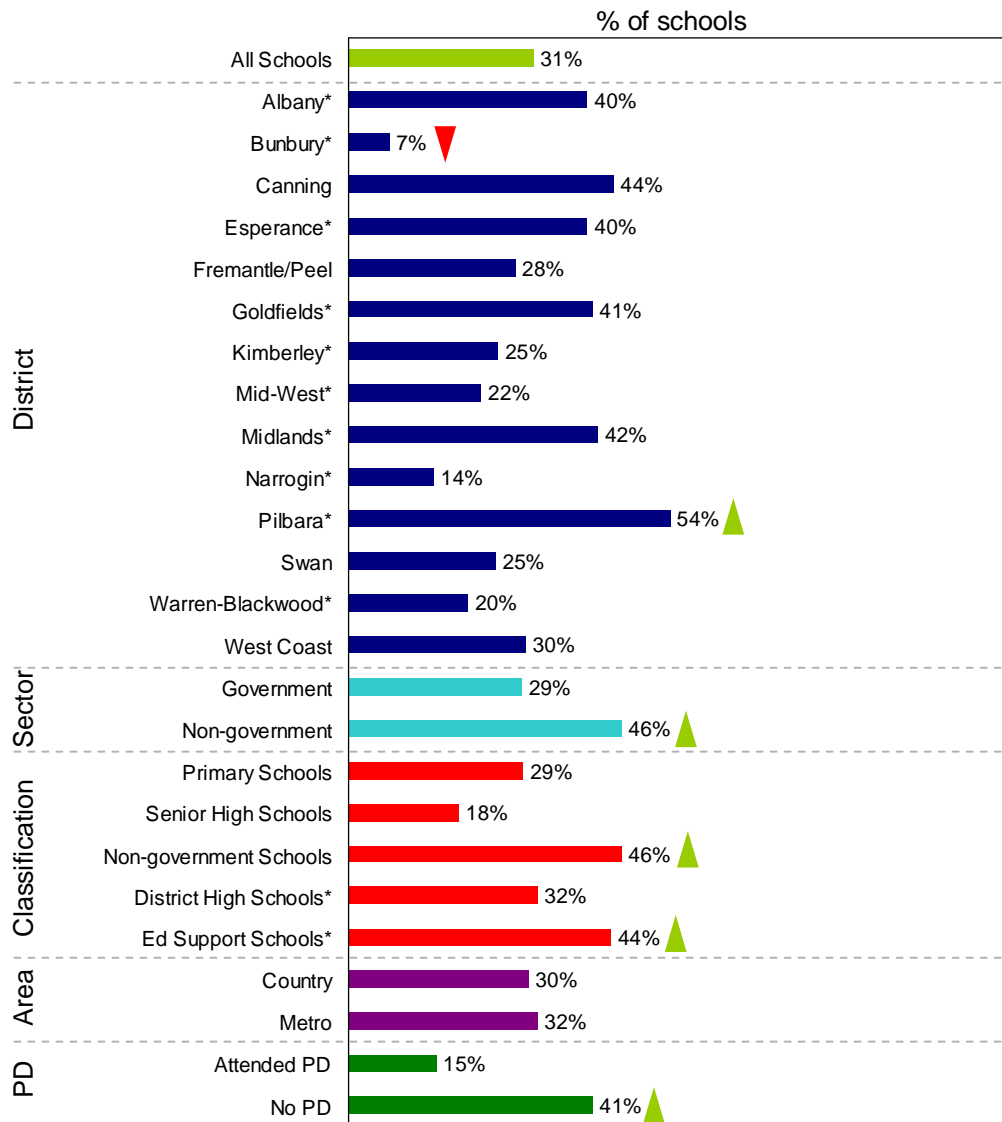
- At least 38% of schools have a least one representative who has participated in professional development in GDHR and sexual health education offered by the Department of Health
- Teachers and school nurses are most likely to be participating in the Department's professional development courses
 - Out of all schools that participated in the audit, 23% had sent a teacher along to training and 14% had sent a school nurse along to training
- It must be noted that 58% of schools that participated in the audit left this question blank – they did not respond
- If we only consider the responses from schools that answered this question (130 schools), the proportion of schools that have participated in professional development increases to 89%. However, we can not draw the conclusion that those who left this question blank would have answered the same way as those who did answer this question.

Taking into account the limitations imposed by the questionnaire design, we may assume that the proportion of schools that have participated in professional development is somewhere between 38% and 89%

Q. Please indicate if any staff in your school have attended the professional development in GDHR and sexual health education offered by the Dept of Health?
Base: Schools (n=307)

▼ ▲ = significant variance

Interest in receiving more information about GDHR materials by school



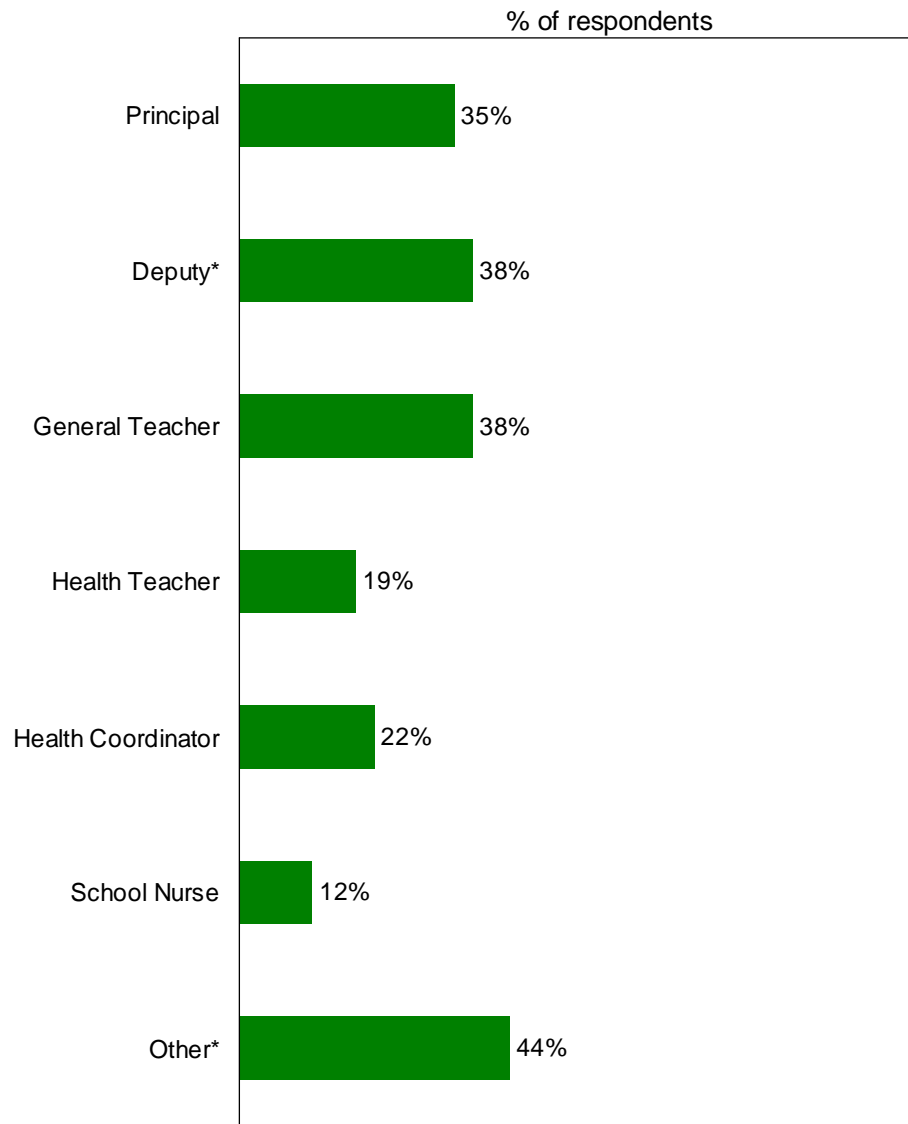
- At least 31% of all schools that participated in the audit showed interest in receiving more information
 - Interest in GDHR materials appears to be higher in the Pilbara region, among non-government schools and in schools where no-one has participated in related professional development training
- Limitations with questionnaire design unfortunately means that many respondents who should not have answered this question, did provide an answer.
 - While the question asked for those respondents who were not aware of GDHR materials to respond, many people who were aware of the GDHR materials also answered this question and indicated that they would be interested in receiving further information. However, we can not assume that the sample of respondents who answered this question would be the same as those who did not respond.
 - If we only consider responses from respondents who were not aware of GDHR materials, we find that in 91% of schools there is at least one representative who is interested in receiving more information

Taking the limitations of questionnaire design into consideration, we may assume that in 31% to 91% of schools there is some interest in receiving more information about GDHR materials

Q. If you are not aware of the GDHR materials, would you be interested to find out more?
 Base: Schools (n=307)
 * Denotes low sample size (n < 30 respondents)

Interest in receiving more information about GDHR materials

by role



- The results of the audit suggest that interest in receiving more information about GDHR materials is higher among Principals, Deputies and General Teachers

Q. If you are not aware of the GDHR materials, would you be interested to find out more?
Base: Respondents (n= 351)
* Denotes low sample size (n < 30 respondents)

▼ ▲ = significant variance



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If you would like to discuss this study further, please contact

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