

# Diabetes and oral health (DiabOH): integrated general medical and dental care

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## Introduction

- There is a relationship between periodontal (gum) disease and diabetes
  - Diabetes increases the risk for periodontal disease <sup>(1)</sup>
  - Patients with periodontal disease have 3-4 fold higher prevalence of diabetes <sup>(2)</sup>
- Despite this, medical and dental professionals continue to work in silos

## Aims

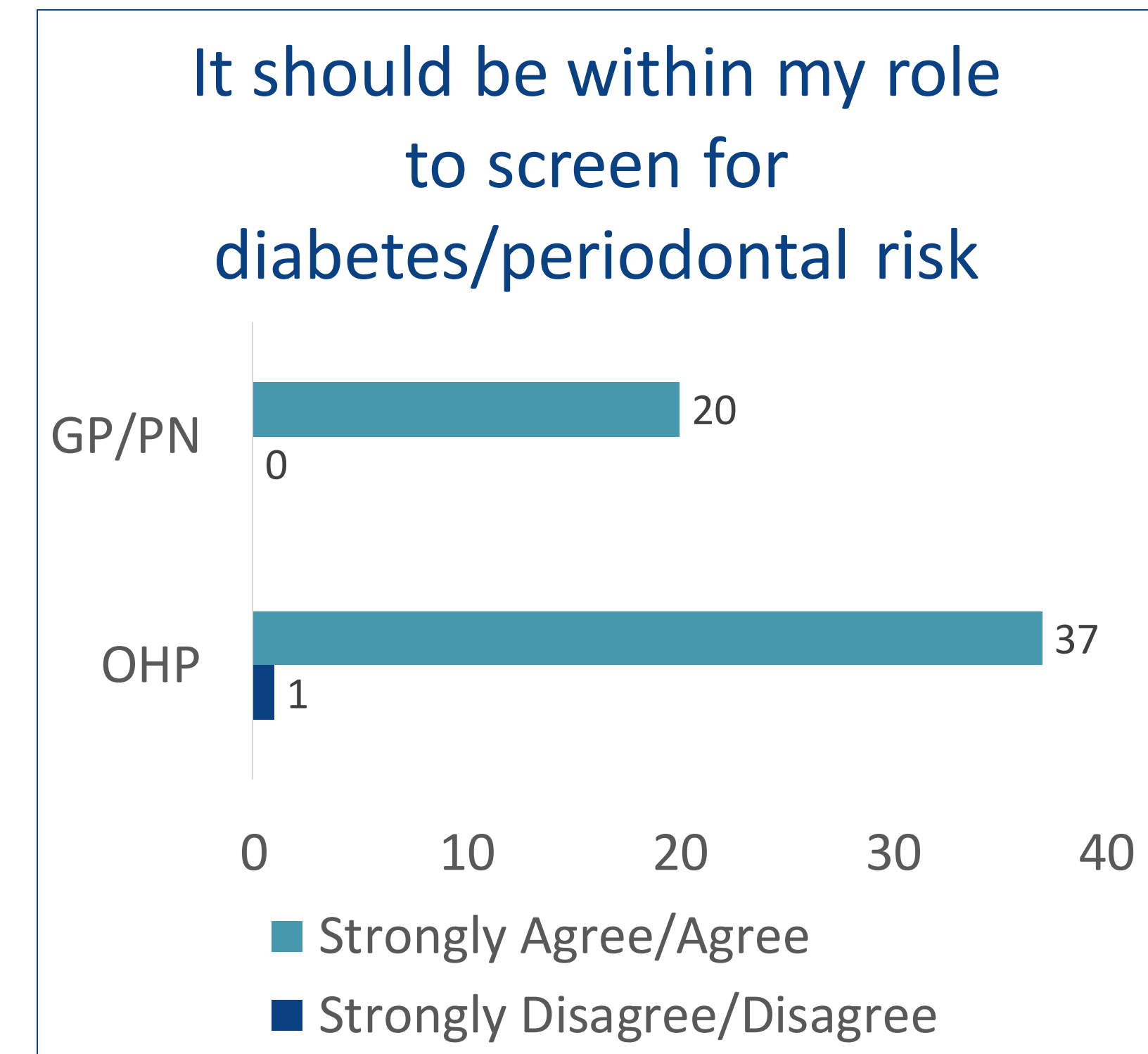
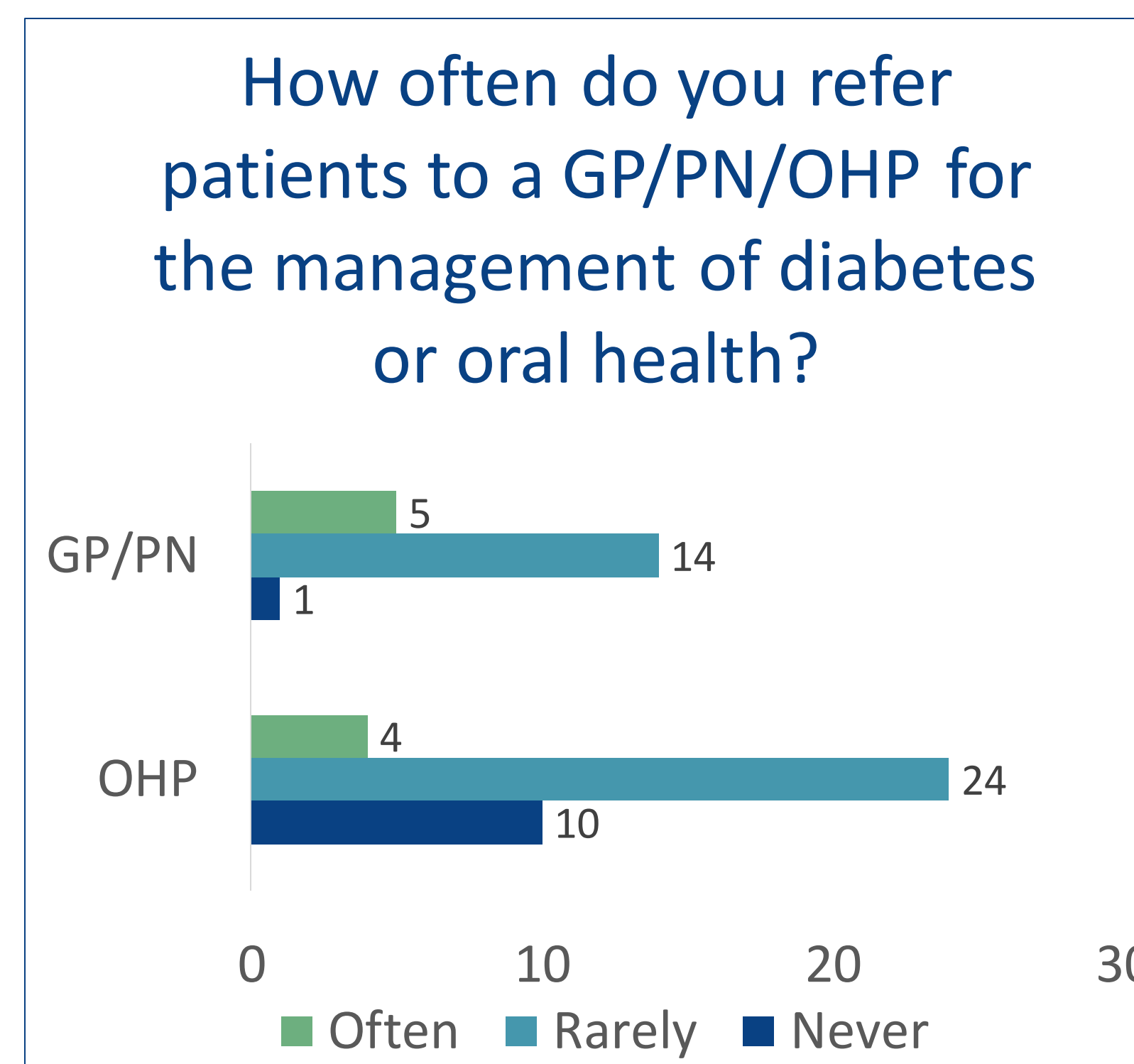
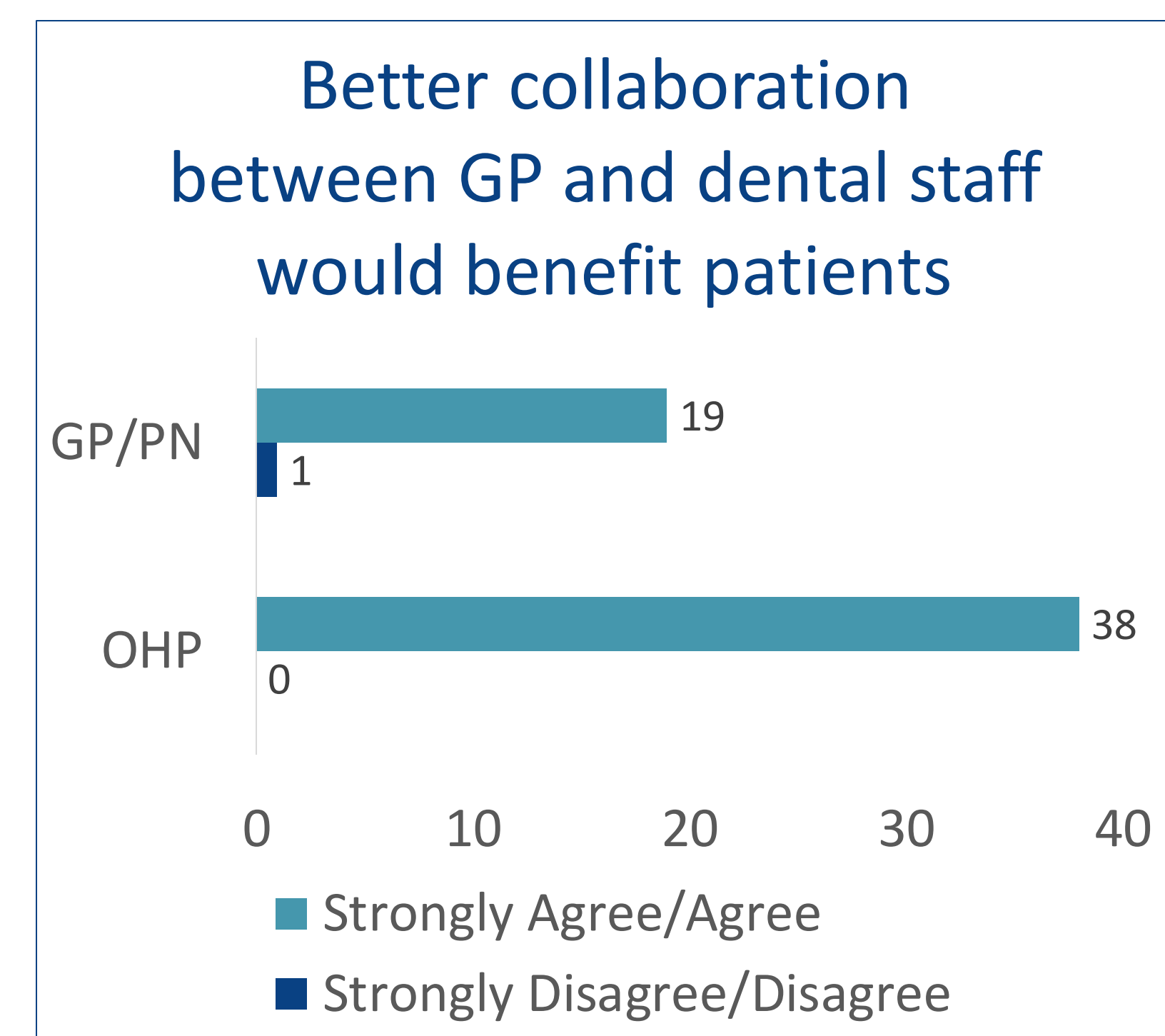
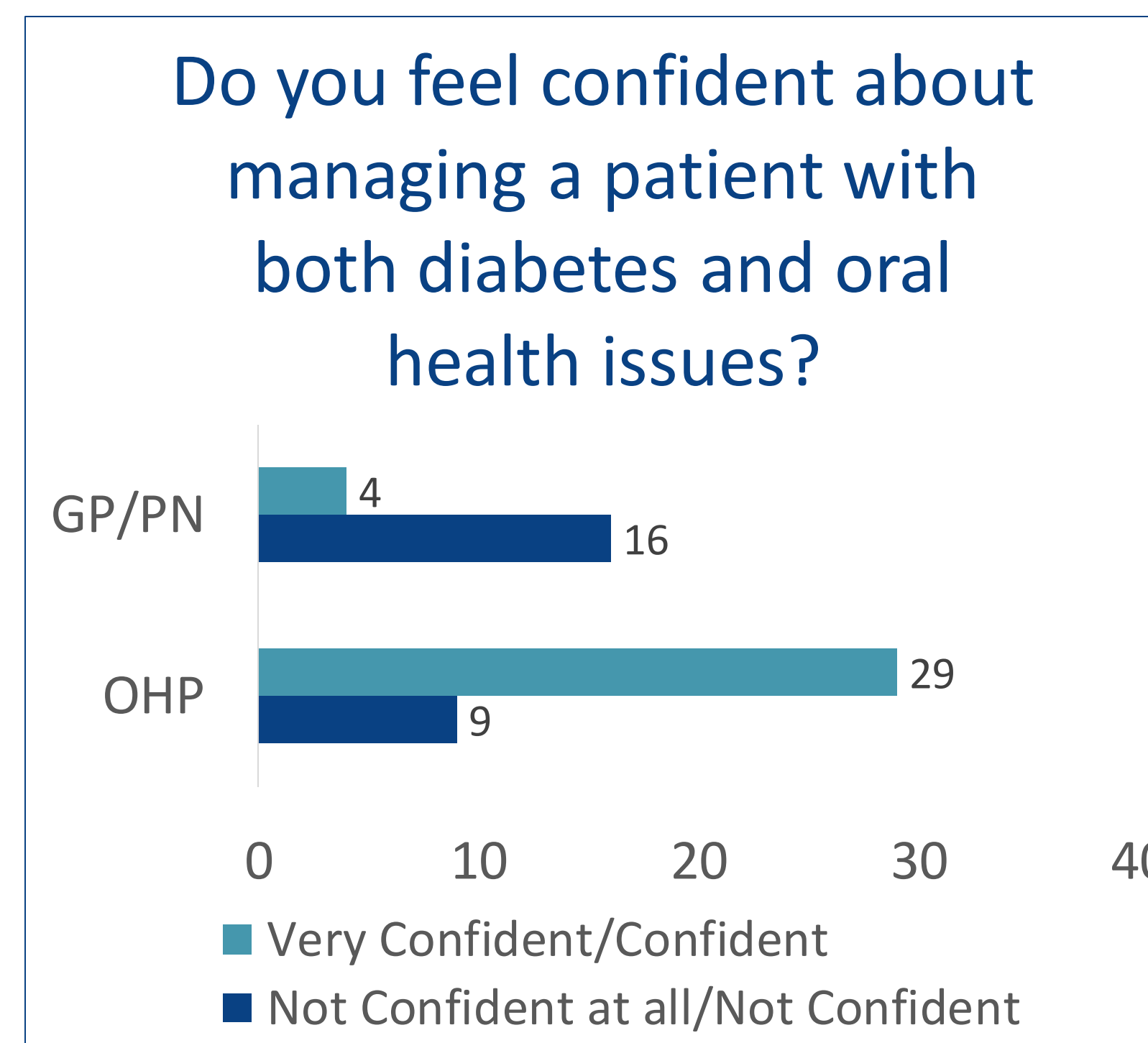
To develop an integrated care model for diabetes and oral health involving GPs, primary healthcare nurses (PNs) and oral health professionals (OHPs) in community health settings.

## Methods

- Mixed methods exploratory study including online surveys, interviews and focus groups with GPs, PNs and OHPs
- Online surveys asked about managing diabetes and periodontal disease, and integrated care between medical and dental professionals
- Qualitative semi-structured interviews were conducted with selected survey participants to further explore their responses
- GPs, PNs and OHPs from North Richmond Community Health (which has co-location of medical and dental services) are currently participating in a pilot of an integrated model of care, developed based on a literature review, survey and interview findings and advice from an advisory committee
- Following the pilot, focus groups will be conducted to elicit feedback on the feasibility and acceptability of the model

## Results

Survey data: 58 total (20 general medical & nursing; 38 general dental)



Interview data: 22 total (11 general medical & nursing; 11 general dental). Thematic analysis of the interviews are currently underway. These are some salient quotes:

GP 2 - "Things like professional development... would certainly increase my knowledge. It would also begin to build those working relationships"

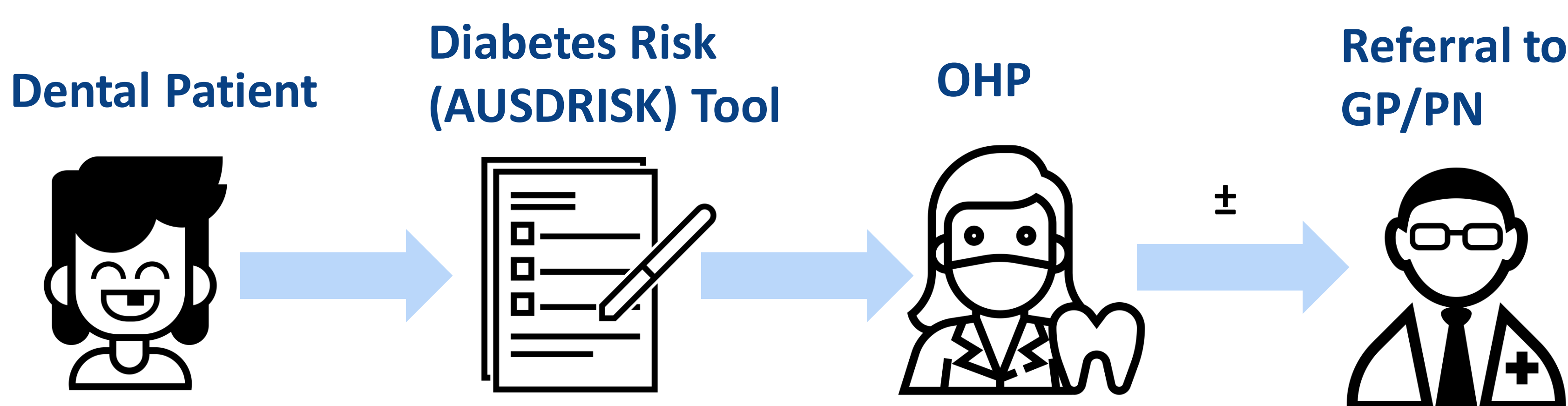
OHP 1 - "Dental files are dental files and medical files are medical files... that flow of information is not present"

PN 1 - "So some more education would be fantastic in this area because then I think clinicians would feel more competent and confident in discussing it further"

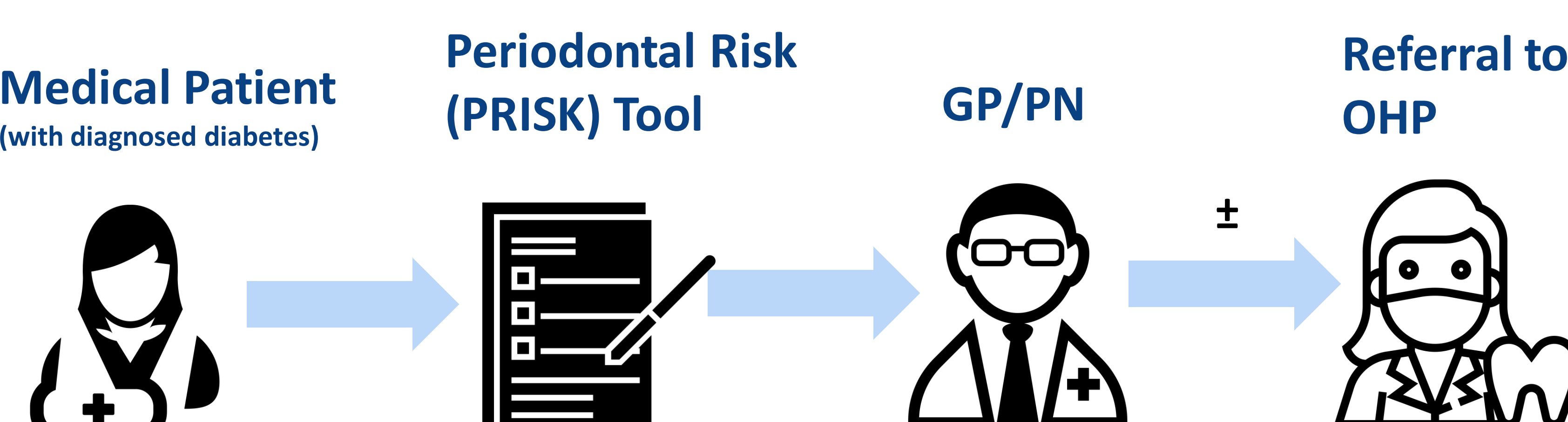
## Conclusion

- Health professionals agree that there needs to be more collaboration between medical and dental services to improve diabetes management

### Diabetes risk assessment in dental clinic



### Periodontal risk assessment in medical clinic



#### References:

- Lalla E, Papananou PN. Diabetes mellitus and periodontitis: a tale of two common interrelated diseases. Nature Reviews Endocrinology. 2011;7(12):738-48.
- Preshaw PM, Alba AL, Herrera D, Jepsen S, Konstantinidis A, Makrilakis K, et al. Periodontitis and diabetes: a two-way relationship. Diabetologia. 2012;55(1):21-31.

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