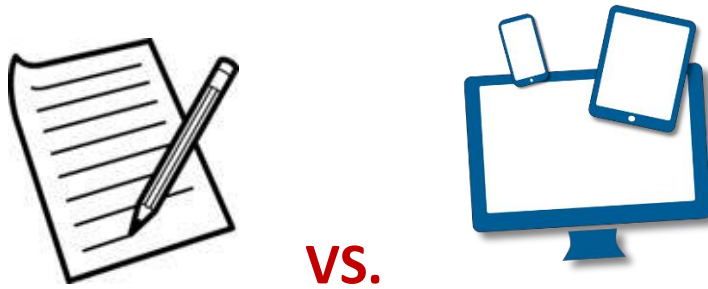


# Myths and Facts about Paper Surveys vs. Tablets for OMS



**Myth:** Paper surveys save staff time, because we don't have to learn something new.

**Fact:** It takes, on average, 5 minutes to enter each paper survey into the online system for OMS (which is required for participation in the program). If you collected 100 surveys, that would be 500 minutes or over 8 hours (an entire workday) to enter all those surveys! Setting up a tablet for OMS is as easy as opening the web browser, typing in your center's custom link to the survey, and saving it as a bookmark/favorite. After that, every time a family fills out the survey on the tablet, it is sent to the online system automatically. Even if you aren't collecting that many surveys, the peace of mind knowing that you have one less thing to do at the end of each month, quarter, or 6-month period is well worth that set-up time!

**Myth:** Paper surveys are faster and easier for participants.

**Fact:** OMS surveys are designed to be taken online. The surveys are divided into pages with just a few items, making the survey appear less overwhelming for the caregiver. The system automatically hides follow-up items that are not relevant to certain families (i.e. "If yes, then..." types of items) and skips to the next applicable item. This means the caregiver does not need to read instructions for skipping like they would on a paper survey, making the survey itself shorter and easier to read.

**Myth:** Caregivers don't know how to use technology.

**Fact:** According to the PEW Research Center, 88% of adults are using the Internet as of 2016 (<http://www.pewinternet.org/data-trend/internet-use/internet-use-over-time/>). Although proportions of Internet users may be slightly lower in rural areas or among certain segments of the population (i.e. older people), many of the caregivers you see at your center are likely familiar with technology - computers, cell phones, and tablets. Most caregivers can take the survey on a tablet with very little instruction. However, you can always have a paper copy on hand as a back-up method for anyone who is uncomfortable!

**Myth:** We would have to spend hundreds of dollars to get a tablet for our center.

**Fact:** The only system for OMS works on any device that connects to the Internet. In fact, the most popular device for OMS is the Kindle Fire, which costs less than \$50! Many State Chapters, Regional CACs, and other organizations/funders may also be willing to purchase tablets for their members, so it never hurts to ask. Other centers have had great success getting devices donated from local businesses or individuals in their communities. With all these options available, the actual cost for your center to get a device for OMS is likely very low, if anything!

Questions about purchasing a tablet or setting it up for OMS? Contact [OMScordinator@nca-online.org](mailto:OMScordinator@nca-online.org) today!