

# Dissemination of Education Resources to Optimize School Success for Children with Epilepsy



Tamara P. Tavares<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth N. Kerr<sup>1</sup>, Mary Secco<sup>2</sup>, Karen Bax<sup>3</sup>, Mary Lou Smith<sup>1,4</sup>

The Hospital for Sick Children<sup>1</sup>, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario<sup>2</sup>, The University of Western Ontario<sup>3</sup>, University of Toronto<sup>4</sup>

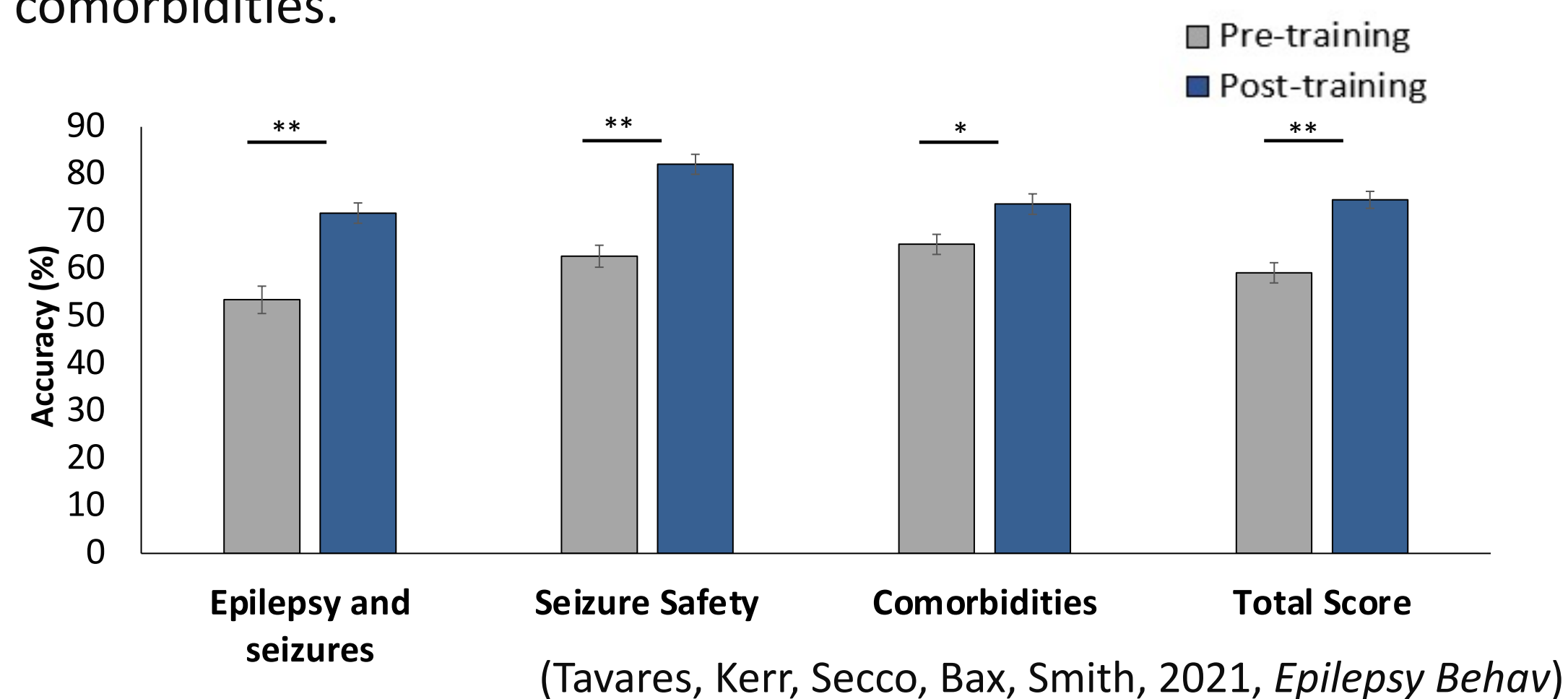
## Background

### Teacher's Knowledge

- Approximately 80% of children with epilepsy (CWE) experience cognitive, psychological/behavioural and/or social consequences.
- Increasing awareness of and creating strategies to accommodate these difficulties may improve CWE's academic success, peer relationships and quality of life.
- Teacher's knowledge about epilepsy has a significant impact on CWE's school performance and social skill development.
- A systematic review of **47 studies** found that teachers had poor knowledge about epilepsy (Jones, Atkinson, Cross, Reilly., 2018, *Epilepsy Behav.*).

### Epilepsy and School Success Toolkit

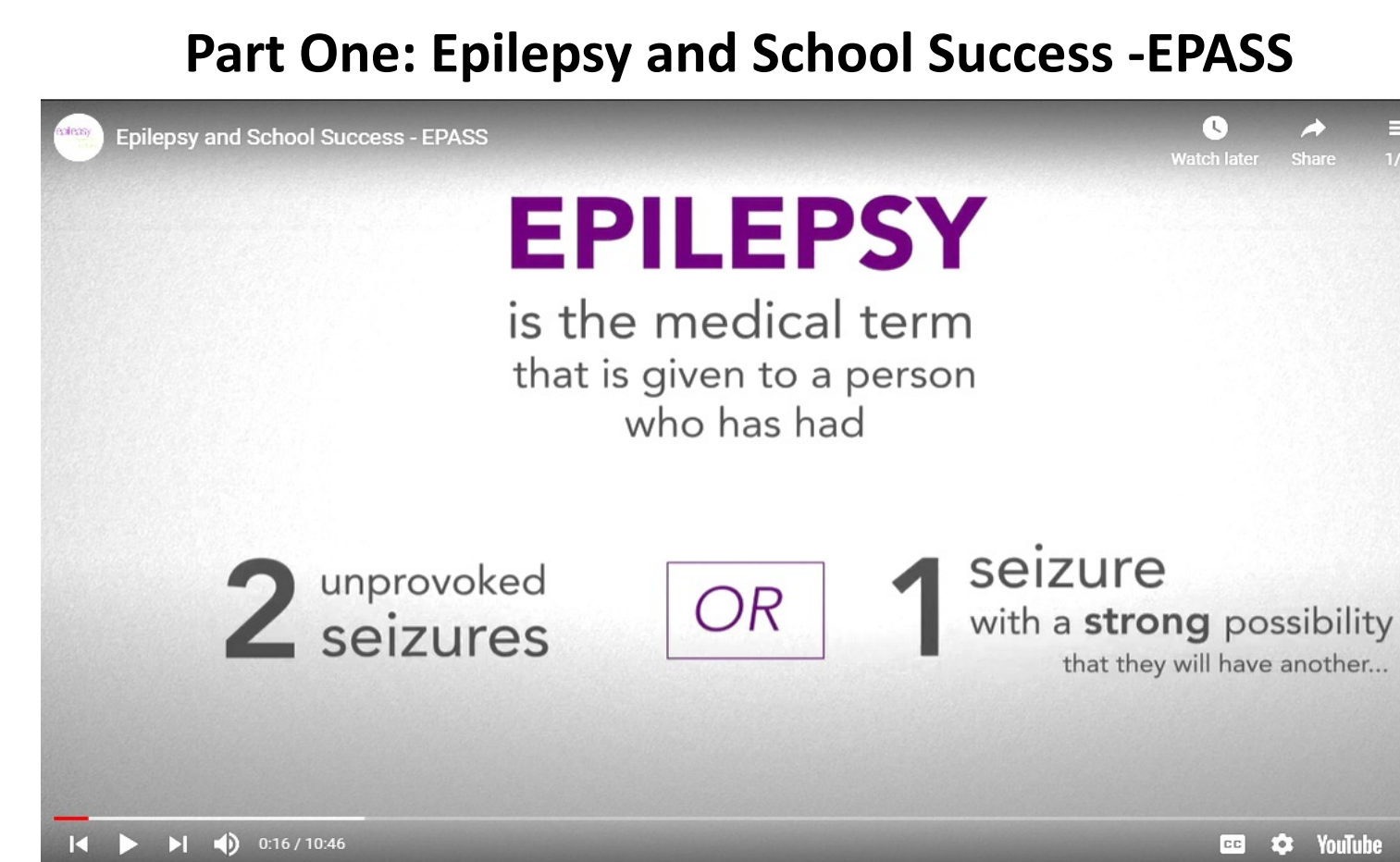
- *Epilepsy and School Success (EPASS)* is a Canadian toolkit developed for educators to enhance teacher's knowledge about epilepsy and provide strategies to use in the classroom to address the comorbidities of CWE.
- The toolkit was developed by neuropsychologists (EK, MLS), a clinical psychologist (KB), and an epilepsy advocate (MS), along with recommendations from 10 educators.
- EPASS toolkit includes (1) a brief 10-minute video that outlines seizure characteristics, seizure first-aid and the cognitive, psychological and social consequences of epilepsy and (2) four booklets with an overview of items in # 1 and classroom strategies for educators and (3) a 14-minute video about how to administer emergency medications.
- This EPASS video has been shown to significantly improve teachers' knowledge about epilepsy, seizure safety and comorbidities.



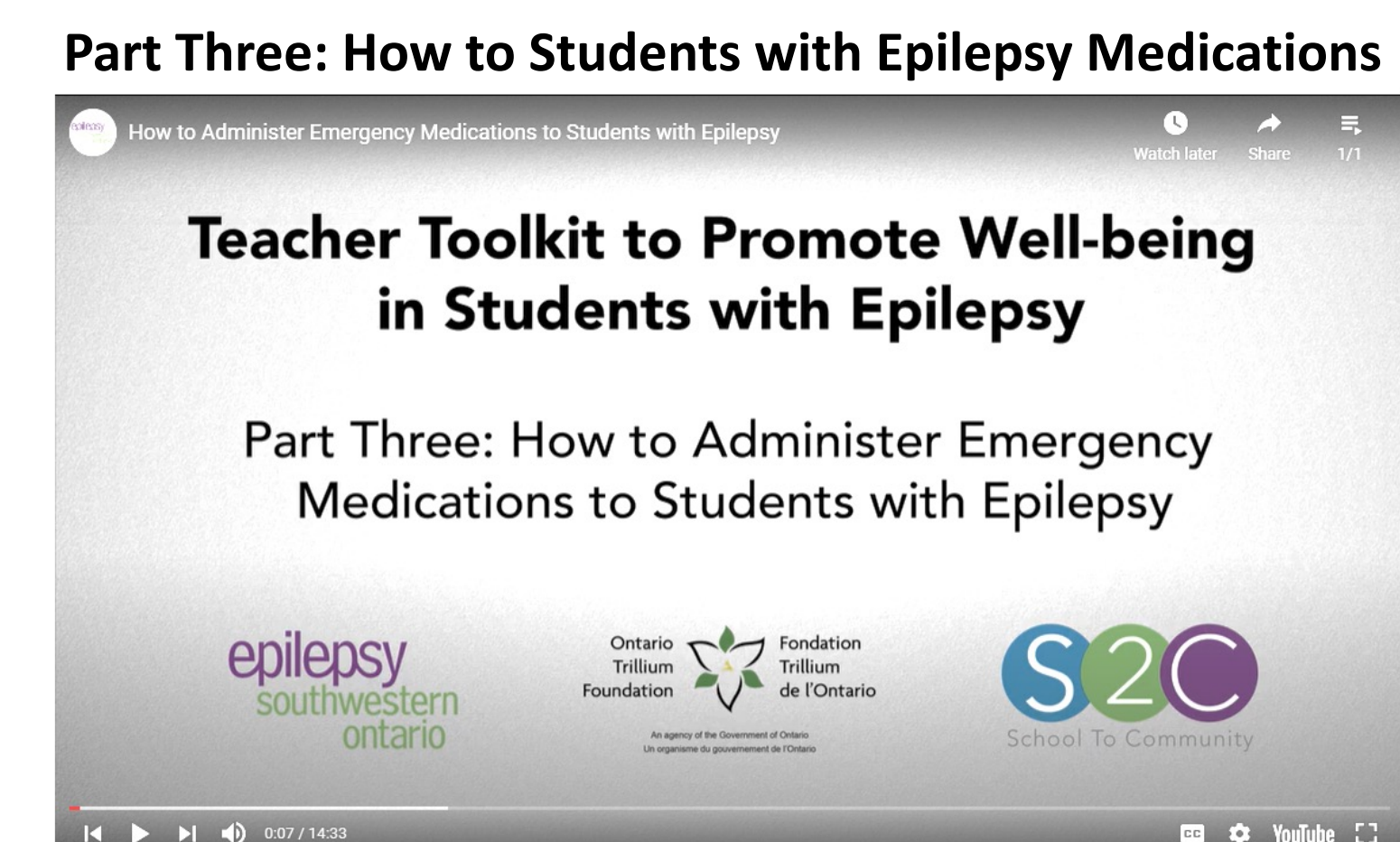
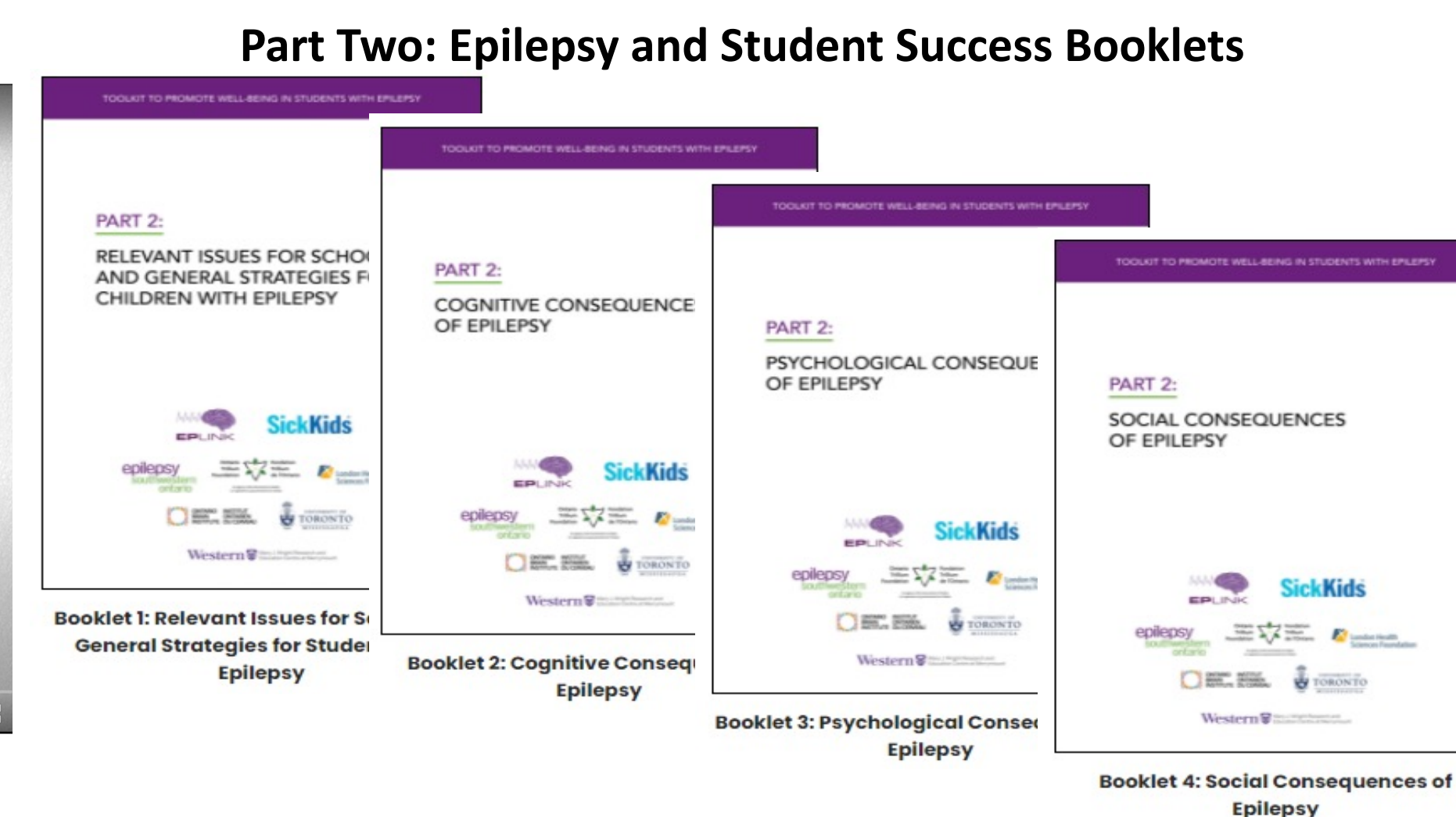
- Our team has developed a Knowledge Translation Plan of Action to disseminate the EPASS toolkit

## Knowledge Translation Plan

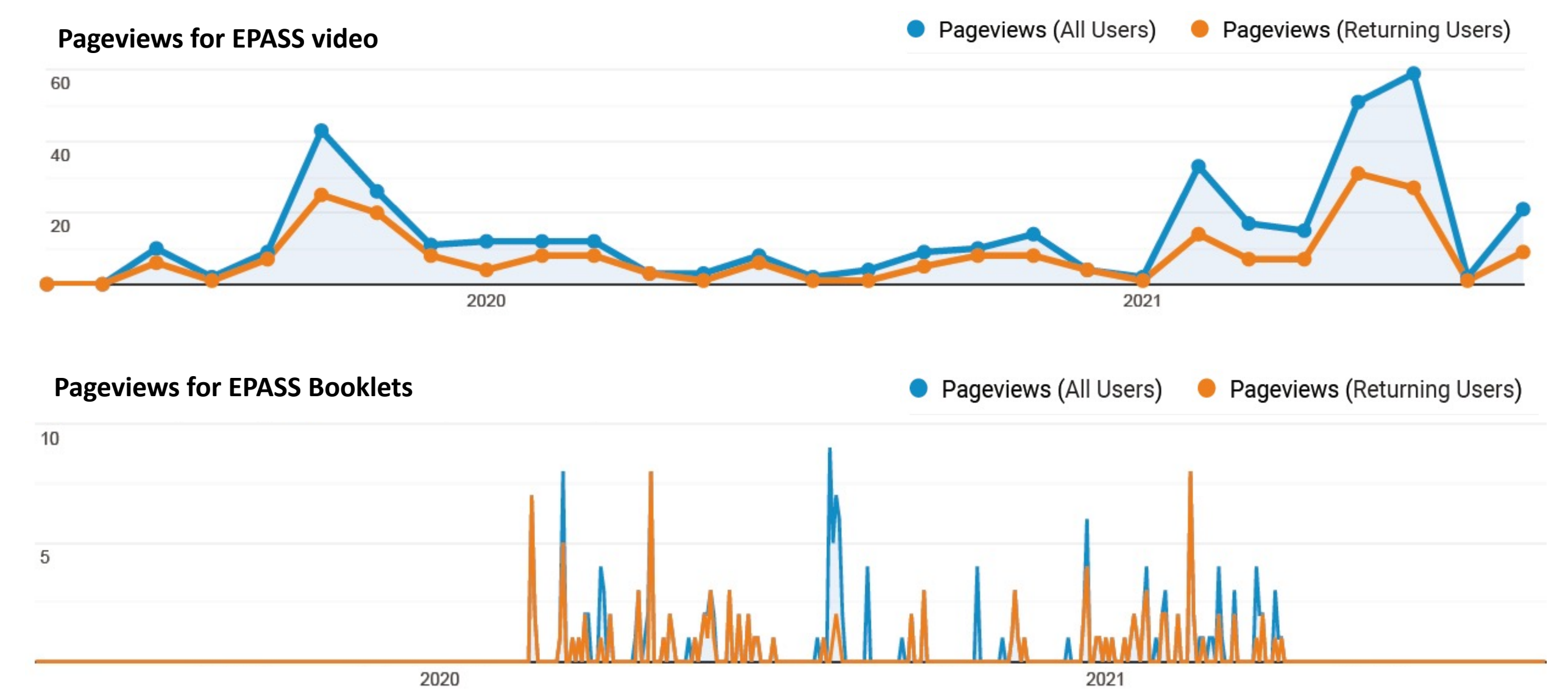
- English and French versions of the EPASS toolkit are available at <https://www.epilepsyforeducators.ca/>



\*Evaluated video



- The teacher toolkit website has been accessed 1,441 times since September 2018.
- **EPASS Video:**
  - Viewed 212 times since January 2020; average view duration: 4 min, 27 sec.
  - Accessed across Canada including Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and internationally in the United States (Grant Rapids, Michigan) and in Dublin (Ireland).
- **EPASS Booklet:**
  - Accessed 193 times since May 2020. The average time on the webpage is 5 minutes and 39 seconds.
- **Emergency Medication Video:**
  - Viewed 201 times since August 2019; average view duration: 5 min, 9 sec.



### Emergency Medication Video:

- We are in the process of distributing the toolkit to educators and health care practitioners who are involved in providing recommendations to families.
- We have also presented the toolkit strategies and evaluation of the toolkit video to Eplink and Canadian Epilepsy Alliance
- We will continue to advertise and distribute the toolkit as the new school year begins (September 2021).

Educators	Health Care Practitioners and Organizations
1. Ontario School Boards	1. Eplink
2. Ontario Ministry of Education	2. Epilepsy.com
3. Teacher's Colleges	3. Fact sheets for Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)
4. Private and Independent Schools	4. Canadian Pediatric Epilepsy Network (CPEN)
5. Personal Networks	5. Canadian Epilepsy Alliance (CEA)
6. Social Media	6. Personal networks (neurologists, neuropsychologists)
	7. Social media

