

Background

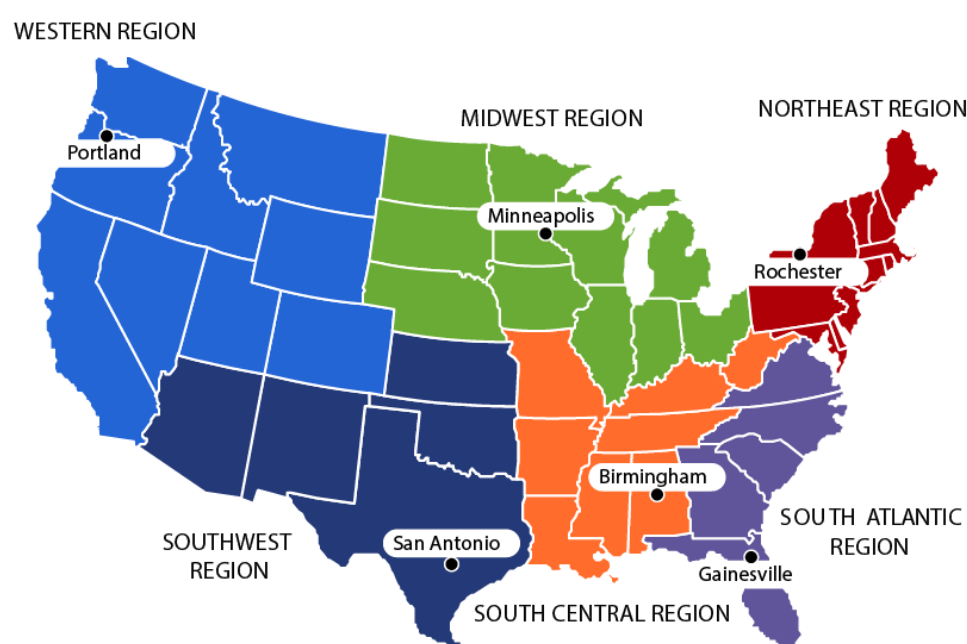
The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN; www.NationalDentalPBRN.org) is an NIH-supported organization of practitioners who work together with researchers to answer meaningful questions that will improve clinical decision-making.

The Network is designed to:

- Actively engage practitioners in research and quality improvement
- Contribute to the development of knowledge that improves oral health
- Provide practitioners with opportunities for collegiality with other dentists and researchers
- Answer real-world questions relevant to community clinicians
- Reduce the translation gap from 17 years to less than 1 year by producing quick feedback

Purpose

- To examine comparative effectiveness of strategies used to recruit dentists for the first three clinical studies done in the National PBRN:
 - Cracked Tooth Registry (CTR),
 - Management of Dentin Hypersensitivity (MDH)
 - Decision Aids for Suspicious Occlusal Lesions (SOCL)
- Efficient recruitment of practitioners is critical to implementing National Dental PBRN studies.



Methods

- The Southwest Region of the National Dental PBRN, as one of six regional centers within the network, conducted a retrospective analysis of the recruitment methods used for three studies.
- CTR utilized an approach involving multiple correspondence attempts. MDH and SOCL recruitment was initiated through an interest survey (Figure 1) that had details on 8 upcoming studies.
- Steps and duration to complete recruitment were measured to estimate the value of each strategy as reflected by time spent and overall effort.

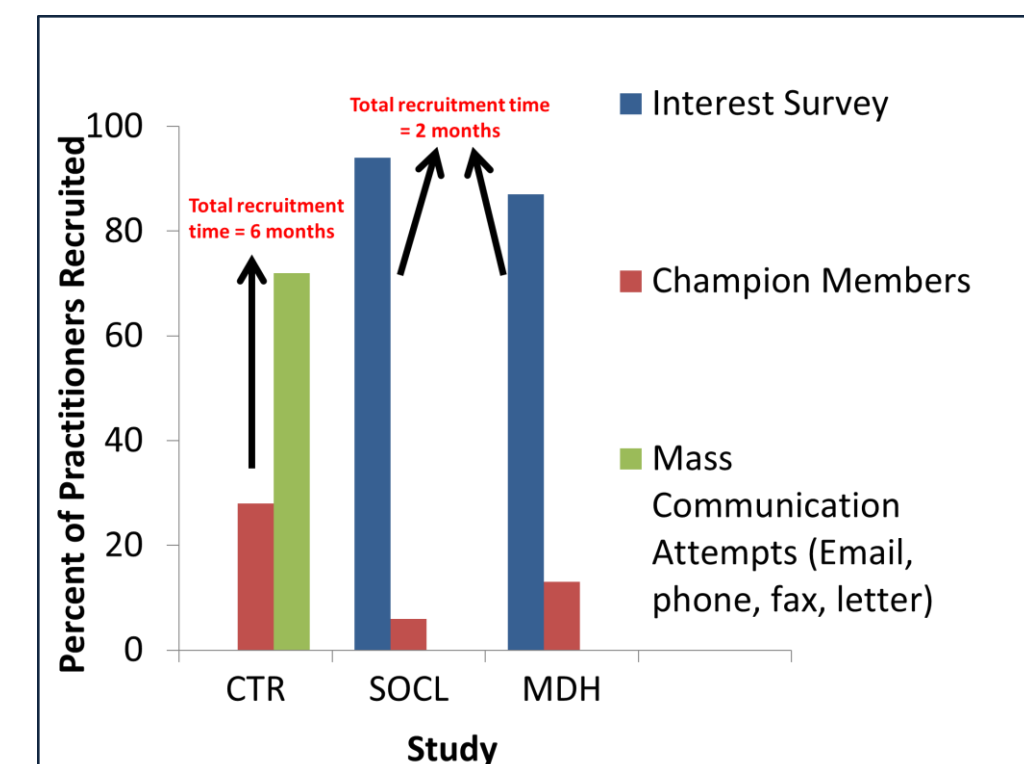
Figure 1: Interest Survey

Results

- All study recruitment goals were met. The interest survey had an overall response rate of 41% (n=679) and identified 88% (n=43) of practitioners needed for both MDH and SOCL (Figure 2).
- In comparison, 72% (n=26) of practitioners for CTR were recruited through multiple methods of correspondence. Remaining practitioners were identified through personal contacts with champion members (Figure 2).
- Recruitment for MDH and SOCL involved two procedural steps (interest survey and follow-up email post-indication of interest), while CTR involved up to four procedural steps (email, fax, postal mail and phone call) (Figure 2).

Results

- Overall duration of recruitment was 2 months for MDH and SOCL and 6 months for CTR (Figure 2).



- The Southwest Region's practitioners identified for these studies were similar to practitioners nationally in terms of practice location, year of graduation and gender (Table 1).

Table 1: Southwest Region Practitioner Characteristics (3 national studies) vs National Dental PBRN Practitioner Characteristics (data current 10/05/2015)

Practitioner Characteristics	National Dental PBRN (n=3816)	Southwest Region SOCL (n=18)	Southwest Region MDH (n=30)	Southwest Region CTR (n=36)
Practice Location				
Inner City of urban Area	555 (15%)	3 (17%)	1 (3%)	3 (8%)
Urban	1104 (29%)	3 (17%)	10 (33%)	12 (33%)
Suburban	1653 (43%)	7 (39%)	13 (43%)	15 (42%)
Rural	504 (13%)	5 (28%)	6 (21%)	6 (17%)
Year of Graduation				
Graduation year [Mean (S.D.)]	1990 (12.6)	1996 (9.9)	1993 (11.1)	1991 (11.8)
Gender				
Male	2704 (71%)	10 (56%)	16 (53%)	22 (61%)
Female	1098 (29%)	8 (44%)	14 (47%)	14 (39%)

Conclusions

- This analysis supports the use of interest surveys to expedite PBRN study recruitment, particularly across multiple studies, due to having fewer administrative steps and a shorter duration of time needed to achieve recruitment goals.