



Practitioner Engagement in the South Texas Oral Health Network PBRN: A Network Analysis

Marissa Mexquitic¹, MS; Rahma Mungia², BDS, MSc, DDPHRCS ; Melanie Taverna², MSDH.

University of Texas Health San Antonio: Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science¹; Department of Periodontics²


BACKGROUND

- A Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) is an organization comprised of community clinicians and researchers (1,2)
- PBRNs serve as the bridge between research and community, providing relevant information to both dental practitioners and the community
- The STOHN PBRN, supported by IIMS CTSA, has evolved over the years to support dentists and dental hygienists in research (3)
- Our aim is to identify what methods encourage practitioner engagement and retention in the PBRN

METHODS

- Review recruitment, engagement, and retention methods used in STOHN
- Quantify the methods used
- Retrospective analysis was conducted to review prior studies, network activities, level of engagement, and participation from members in publications and presentations
- Descriptive statistics were used to determine the average number of members involved in research activities



RESULTS

- Recruitment has grown exponentially, N=203
- Dentists, n=160; Dental Hygienists, n=29; Specialists/Non-Practicing, n=14
- Physical mail has had a 0.3% (n=44) success rate for recruitment

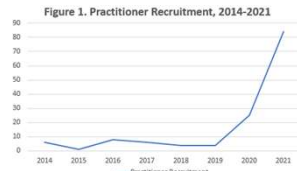


Figure 1. Practitioner Recruitment, 2014-2021

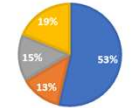

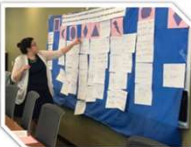


FIGURE 2. PARTICIPATORY STATUS FOR STOHN MEMBERS

- Since 2008, STOHN has conducted 14 studies, 25 poster and PowerPoint presentations, 2 quick-polls, and collaborations
- Member activities:
 - n= 7 co-authored a publication or co-presented a presentation
 - n= 92 attended a network meeting
- Technology of Participation (ToPs) Research Generation
 - Developing research priorities to help identify areas of interest to local practices
 - Average number of ideas generated by members: n=35

CONCLUSIONS

- Maintaining a high level of engagement is important to PBRN infrastructures and shows more member interaction
- Different activities highlight which are more appealing to members and which need improvement
- Recruitment tactics need to further be explored (presenting at local organizations, tabling, community events, etc.)

CITATIONS

1. Pirotta M, Temple-Smith M. Practice-based research networks. Aust Fam Physician. 2017 Oct;46(10):793-795. PMID: 29036782.
2. Mungia R, Funkhouser E, Makhija SK, Reyes SC, Cohen RA, Cochran DL, Meyerowitz C, Rindal DB, Gordan VV, Fellows JL, Trejo M, Oates TW, McCargar JD, McMahon PA, Gilbert GH; National Dental PBRN Collaborative Group. Practitioner Engagement in Activities of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN): 7-Year Results. J Am Board Fam Med. 2020 Sep-Oct;33(5):687-697. doi: 10.3122/jabfm.2020.05.190339. PMID: 32989063; PMCID: PMC7895471.
3. <https://iims.uthscsa.edu/STOHN/home>

