

Wisconsin Public Health Research Network - Priority Research Questions

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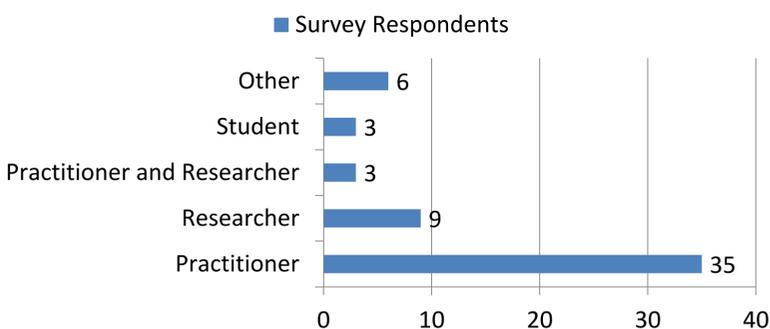
Purpose

In 2011, the Wisconsin Public Health Research Network (WPHRN) identified priority research questions (PRQ) of importance to public health practice in Wisconsin. The results of the 2015 WPHRN PRQ Update are presented. A literature review was conducted to identify completed research addressing a subset of priority research questions identified in 2011 to understand the extent to which these research questions have been addressed.

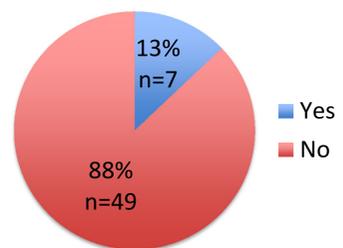
Priority Research Questions (PRQ) Update: Survey Methods



Survey Respondents (n=56; 34% response rate)



Use of PRQ



Use of 2011 PRQ by survey respondents to guide public health practice, research or systems improvement

Acknowledgements

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2015 Priority Research Question Updates



*PRQ considered still relevant by 55% or more of the respondents and ranked as a medium or high priority by at least 50% of respondents were included in the 2015 update.

PRQ Result Exemplar: Public Health Services and Interventions, Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

Percent of respondents that Indicated the 2011 PRQ was still of relevance

- Does participating in prenatal care coordination (PNCC) and/or WIC reduce the rates of very premature birth? 86.8% (n=33)
- Does providing “wrap-around” services at WIC clinics result in improved birth outcomes compared to WIC only services? 82.4% (n=28)
- Does integrating additional services with WIC programs (i.e., PNCC, Health Check, immunizations) result in better program outcomes for WIC and/or the integrated services? 78.8% (n=29)
- What components (services) within PNCC are associated with positive birth outcomes (e.g., greater gestational age)? 74.3% (n=26)
- What outreach strategies are most effective in increasing participation in PNCC? 76.5% (n=26)
- What are the hidden cost expenses to a reduction in infant mortality? 67.9% (n=19)

2015 Modifications

- NEW: What outcomes would demonstrate the financial value in retaining PNCC programming for health departments?
- REMOVED: Does decreasing the number of WIC clinics decrease the no-show rate? 48% (n=12)*

PRQ MCH Literature Review

Methods

- Peer-reviewed literature (1/1/1990 – 2/28/2015) from these databases were included: PubMed, CINAHL Plus, Cochrane Library, and Web of Science
- Literature search was expanded beyond the state of Wisconsin
- 293 peer-reviewed primary research articles, literature reviews, and other reports were reviewed; 41 were included in the review

Key findings

- Participation in WIC and PNCC programs improved birth outcomes in low-income Medicaid-eligible women
- Integration of WIC and immunization program improves immunization rates among WIC-eligible children
- Limited MCH systems and services research has been published in the last ten years which has contributed to a lack of evidence-based practice

Practice recommendations

- WIC and PNCC programs are successful in improving birth-outcomes in low-income prenatal women; program funding must persist
- Collaborations between practitioners and researchers are encouraged to identify evidence-based practice

Research recommendations

- Identify evidence to improve program outreach, outcomes, and delivery
- Conduct public health systems and services research to meet the changing needs of practitioners
- Conduct and disseminate qualitative research to identify a core set of confounders and selection bias factors to improve cross-study comparisons
- Outline program eligibility criteria, program services, and state welfare spending per capita to help others compare and contrast WIC and PNCC programs across different states
- Incentivize maternal and child health services research
- Conduct a systematic review of MCH services and systems research and disseminate evidence-based findings and recommendations

Discussion

- Survey response from practitioners was encouraging
- Reported 2011 PRQ usage was low
- Additional literature reviews could be helpful
- There is no shortage of research questions
- None of the MCH PRQ have been completely addressed

Implications

- Increase dissemination of PRQ
- Engage more researchers and students to conduct research and answer questions
- Disseminate PRQ report to potential funders
- Assess usefulness of literature reviews
- Consider development of other PRQ literature reviews