

RESEARCH READINESS ASSESSMENT FOR BUILDING A PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IN PUERTO RICO

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: As part of the planning process for the establishment of a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) in Puerto Rico, we conducted an exploratory research readiness assessment to better understand the research experience among members of the PR Association of Primary Care Providers (ASPPR, by its acronym in Spanish). **METHODS:** A research readiness questionnaire was developed including 47 questions to gather patients' demographic information and centers' experience with community collaborations, use of electronic records, and research participation. Likert scales were used to assess readiness and perceived barriers to conduct research at their sites. The survey was developed in REDCap and distributed via email through the collaboration with the ASPPR. Data was collected from June 16 to July 30, 2022 with a response rate of 43% (7/21 centers). Descriptive analysis was done using SPSS VS.28. **RESULTS:** All responders indicated having experience in community collaborations and expressed interest in research. However, only two centers (29%) indicated being ready to begin involvement in research activities. The main barriers identified were lack of interest in the faculty, limited time for research, and lack of knowledge about research methodologies. The main needs, priorities, and challenges were shared with key informants to develop a plan and formally address the findings. **CONCLUSION:** Internal and external barriers and needs were identified to develop a common research agenda and perform best PBRN practices. PBRNs offer a great opportunity to address identified needs and develop long-standing collaborations to promote research initiatives to improve the practices and the communities. **FUNDING:** This research was supported by the award number U54GM133807. **IRB APPROVAL NUMBER:** 2290034094A001.

PURPOSE

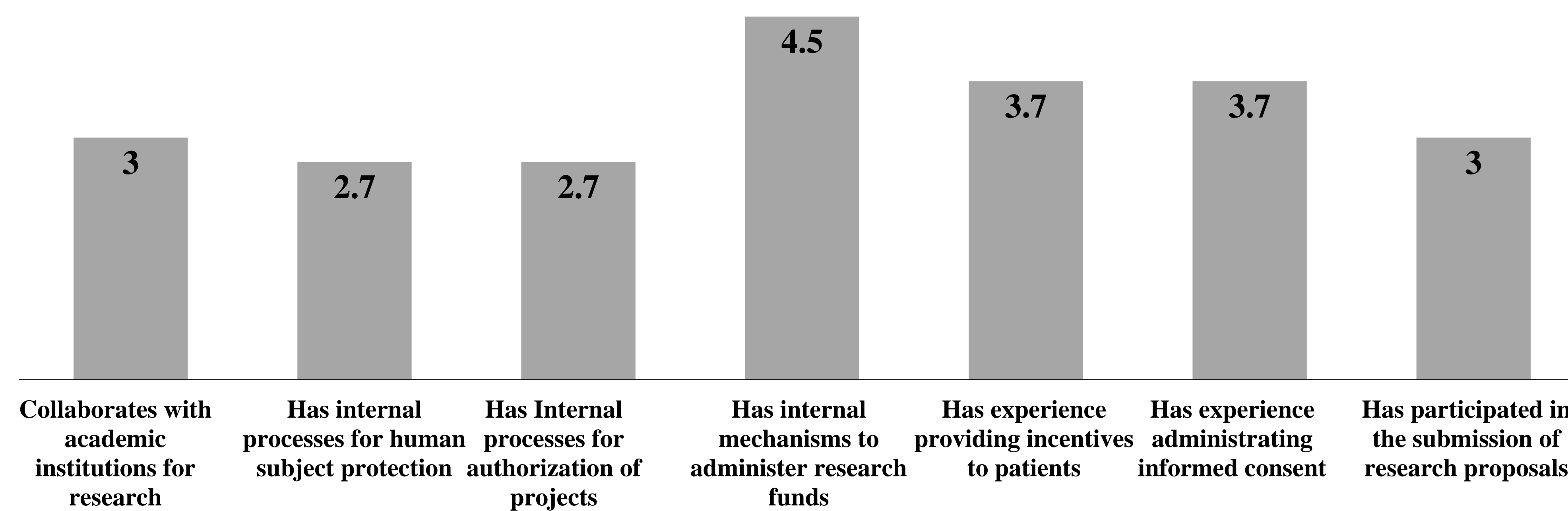
Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs) aim to integrate clinical and academic partners to address research questions that are critical to improve health care services. Research shows the many benefits of PBRNs, including increased opportunities for training, funding, and to produce research with a direct impact on the patients and their communities. As part of the planning process for the establishment of a PBRN in Puerto Rico we conducted an exploratory research readiness assessment to better understand the experience with participation in research among members of the Puerto Rico Association of Primary Care Providers (ASPPR, by its acronym in Spanish), consisting of the 21 Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers in Puerto Rico.

METHODS

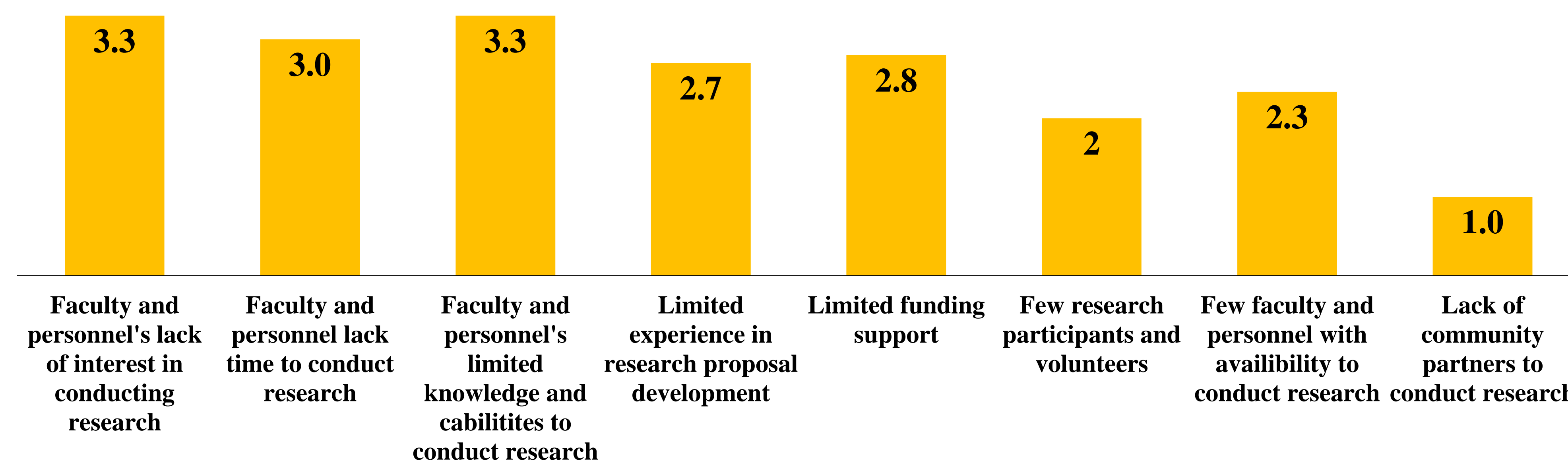
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RESULTS

Graph 1. Prior experience with research activities (mean score*)

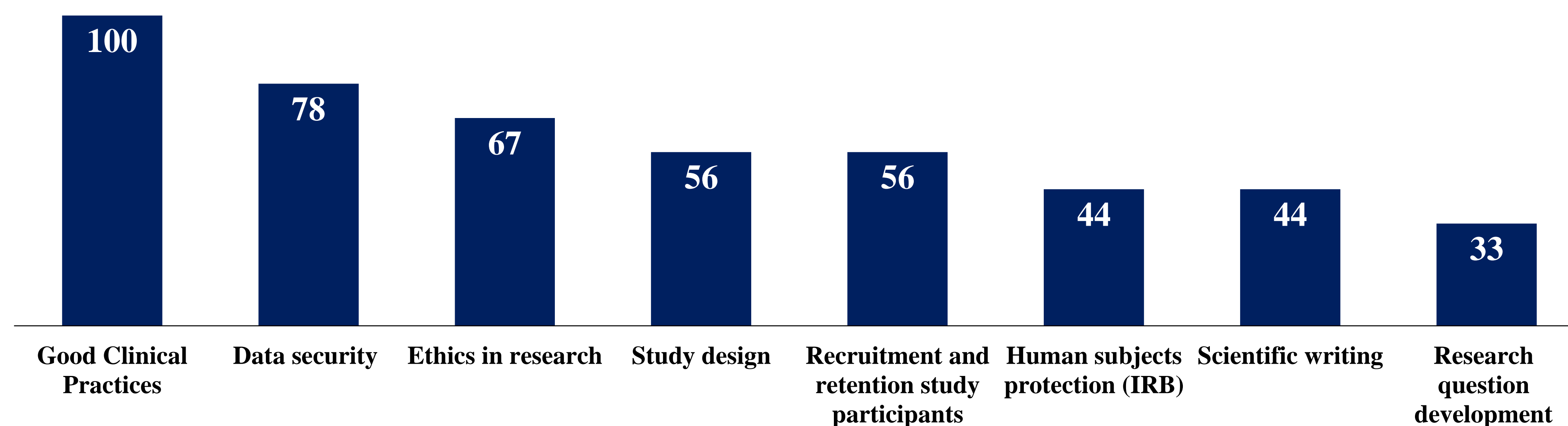


Graph 2. Barriers to conducting research (mean score*)



*Likert scale (1=Completely disagree to 5=Completely agree)

Graph 3. Training interests (percent)



29%
Some experience with research projects

100%
Interested in carry out research projects

29%
Ready to conduct a research project

CONCLUSIONS

Internal and external barriers and needs were identified. High interest in research and training but limited exposure and resources to carry out research at primary care centers were found. PBRNs offer a great opportunity to address identified needs and develop long-standing collaborations to promote research initiatives to improve the practices and the communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Association of Puerto Rico Primary Care Centers, participating centers, and the Hispanic Alliance for Clinical and Translational Research (Alliance) supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) National Institutes of Health under the Award Number U54GM133807.