

KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS PROJECTS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION CONSIDERATIONS: PATTERNS AND TRENDS IN A SPECIALIZED RESEARCH CENTRE

Meghan Sebastianski, Liza Bialy, Denise Thomson, Lisa Hartling

Alberta Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) Knowledge
Translation Platform & the Alberta Research Centre for Health Evidence
University of Alberta

The importance of Knowledge Synthesis (KS)



- Integration of the best available research evidence
- Foundation of evidence-based healthcare decision-making
- Key component of the Knowledge to Action Framework
- Needs effective translation and implementation to advance the healthcare system

Project Development Background

Our Research Centre

- Alberta SPOR Knowledge Translation (KT) Platform has supported a wide variety of knowledge synthesis projects
- Undertook a Quality Assurance project

Quality Assessment Project Goals

- Maximize resource utilization & build on lessons learned
- Better integrate KT into our KS process to optimize uptake of research



Quality Assessment Methodology

Development of a KS project database

The database captures

- Key project characteristics
- SPOR resource use
- Project outcomes

Identify missing data

- KT considerations
- Knowledge users
- Dissemination products

Follow up: online survey

- Sent to the PI of each completed KS project
- Email reminder at 2 weeks

The follow up survey

- Developed by a multidisciplinary KS/KT/IS team
- Eight questions with multiple parts
 - 1/3 open text
 - 2/3 select one/all that apply
 - <10 minutes to complete

The satisfaction survey

- Short, optional, anonymous

Analysis

- Quantitative data - descriptive statistics
- Open text - grouped by themes



Results - Consultation and Support Services

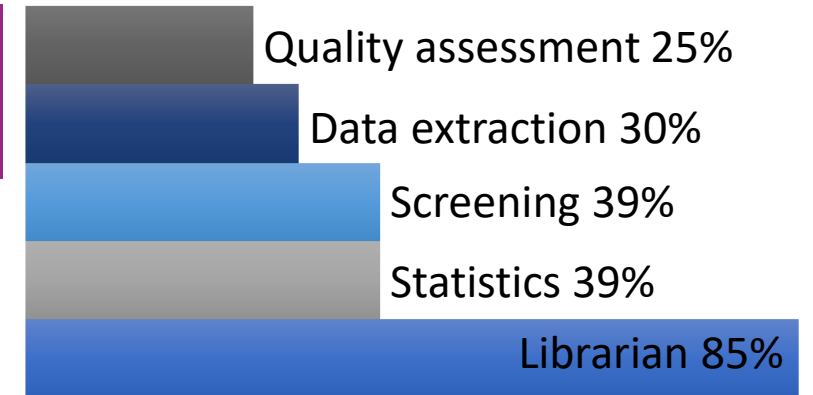
Our Research Centre

Between April 2016 & April 2020

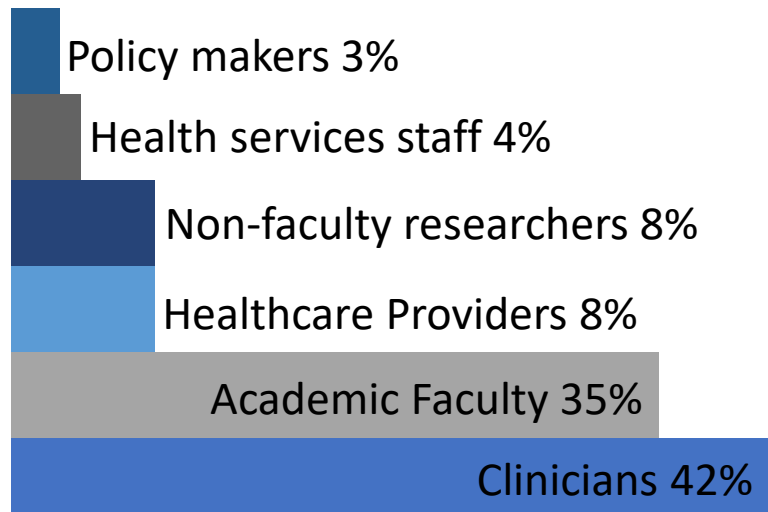
- Supported 142 KS projects
- 76 unique PIs

Services Provided*

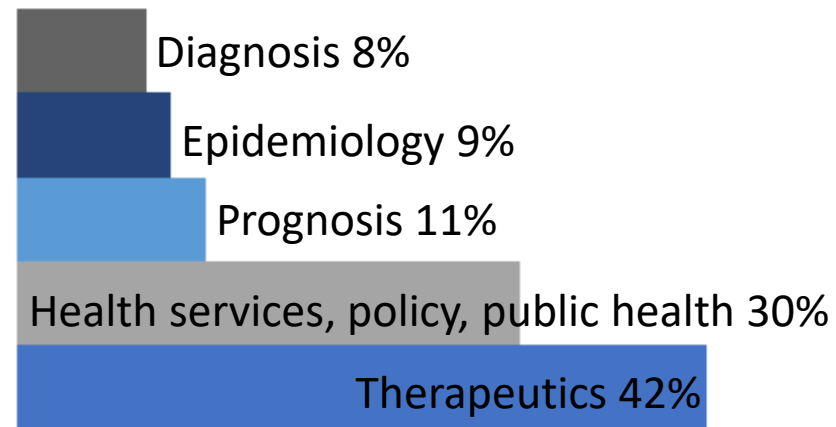
*more than 1



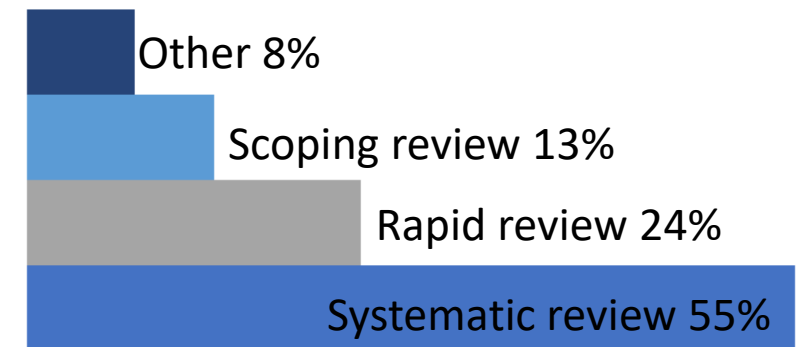
Primary Investigator



Type of Question



KS Method



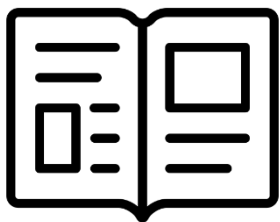
Results – Follow Up Survey

Overall

- Response rate: 76% (63/83)
- Less than half (43%) indicated they had a KT plan
 - KT activities were often limited to journal publications and conference presentations
 - Only two studies referenced a formal integrated KT plan

Dissemination products (n)

Publications



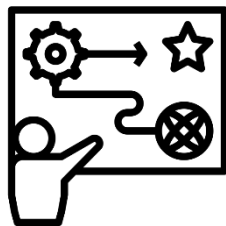
77

Presentations



52

Future Projects



7

Decision Aids



5

Grant Applications



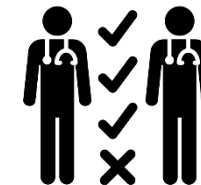
4

Videos



4

Clinical Practice Guidelines

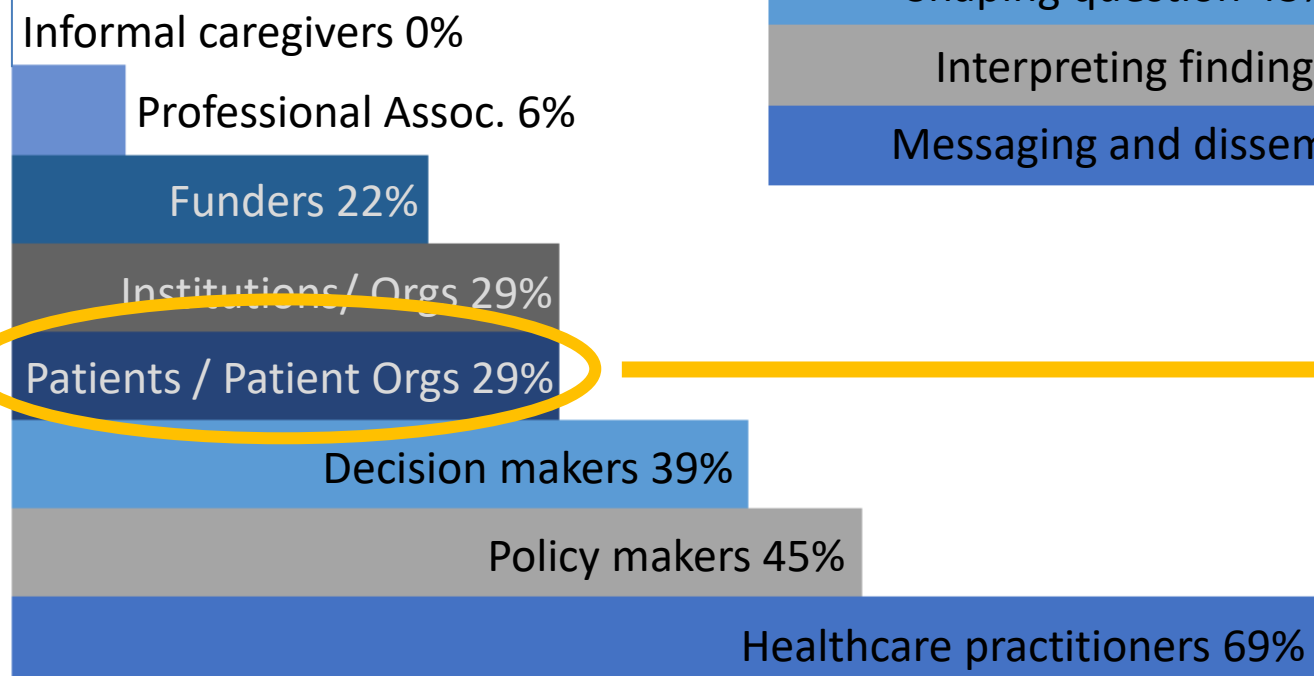


2

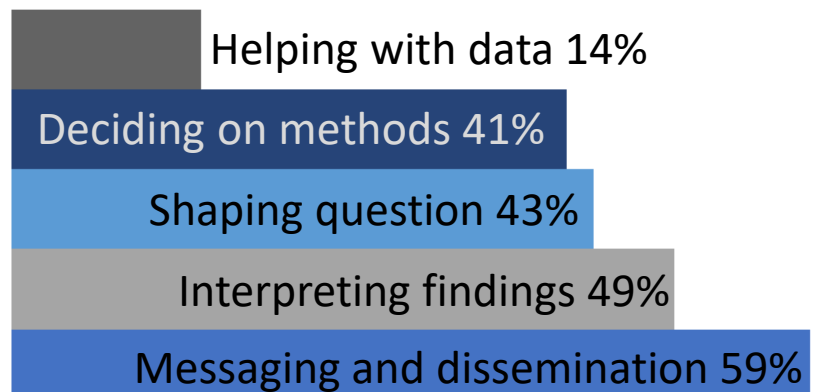
Results – Follow Up Survey

49 studies (78%) reported including knowledge users

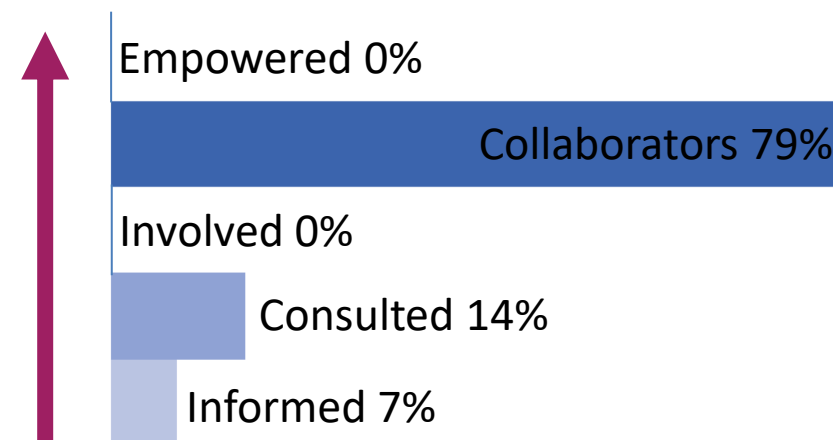
Knowledge Users



Roles of Knowledge Users



Level of Involvement (IAP2)



Findings

- Continuing interest in KS research in Alberta
- Diverse community undertaking KS projects
- Ongoing demand for KS methods direction and services

- Less than half of the KS projects reported having any KT plan
- Used traditional methods of disseminating results
- Few projects developed KT tools

Moving Forward

- Include KT early in the KS process to bridge the knowledge to practice gap
 - Integrated KT (IKT)
 - Researchers and Knowledge Users work together throughout the research process

➡ Initial KS consults now include a KT specialist and sample KT template

➡ Coordinate with stakeholder engagement experts on how to involve knowledge users and stakeholders

➡ Capacity development – include all of the KTA framework

Conclusions

- KS projects have the potential to bridge the research-practice gap and impact patient health outcomes
- Efforts to embed KT considerations in KS projects and engage knowledge users in the process are needed to ensure optimal impact for patients and the health system

Contact Information

Alberta Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) SUPPORT Unit
Knowledge Translation Platform

Contact: Denise Thomson, Associate Director
dthomson@ualberta.ca

 @AbSPORU_KT

www.absporu.ca