

Identifying barriers to APP involvement in health policy and advocacy efforts

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Introduction

- Advanced practice providers (APPs) are uniquely positioned to be strong advocates for their patients. There is limited research surrounding the role of APPs within health policy and advocacy (HPA) work. At our institution, APPs have shown significant interest in learning more about how to get involved in HPA
- We hope to increase APP knowledge of and involvement within HPA initiatives to provide better care and advocate for the patient populations we serve
- This project aimed to identify barriers to APP involvement in HPA initiatives

Methods

- Voluntary and anonymous survey sent to APPs (APRNs and PAs) over a three week period in the summer of 2023
- Nine question survey including:
 - Basic demographic information
 - Current interests
 - Background knowledge
 - Barriers to involvement
- Exempt from IRB approval

Contact Information

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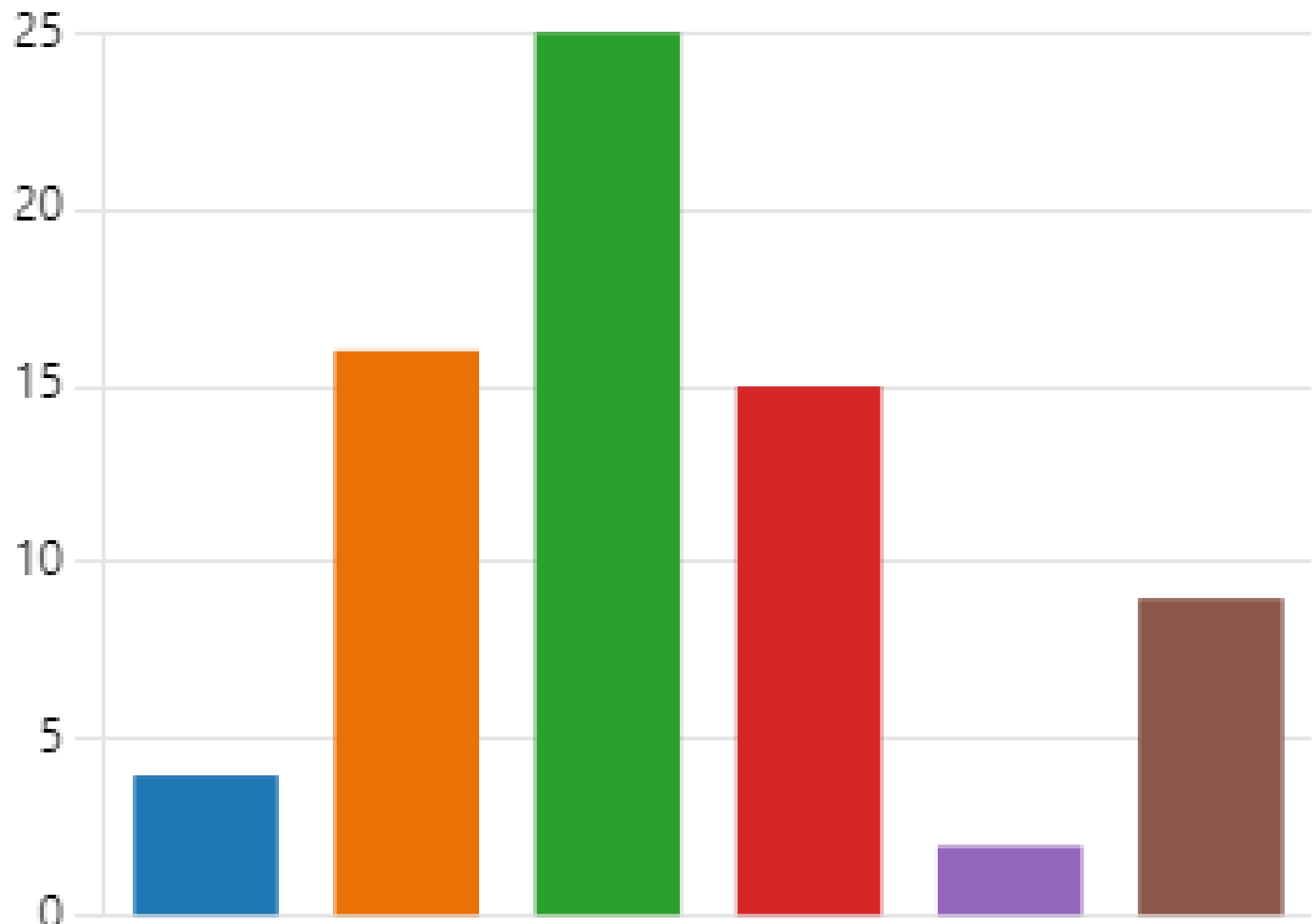
Disclosures

We have no conflicts of interest or financial relationships to disclose

Results

Do you perceive the work you can do within health policy and advocacy as an APP will make a difference?

A great deal	4
A lot	16
A moderate amount	25
A little	15
None at all	2
Unsure	9



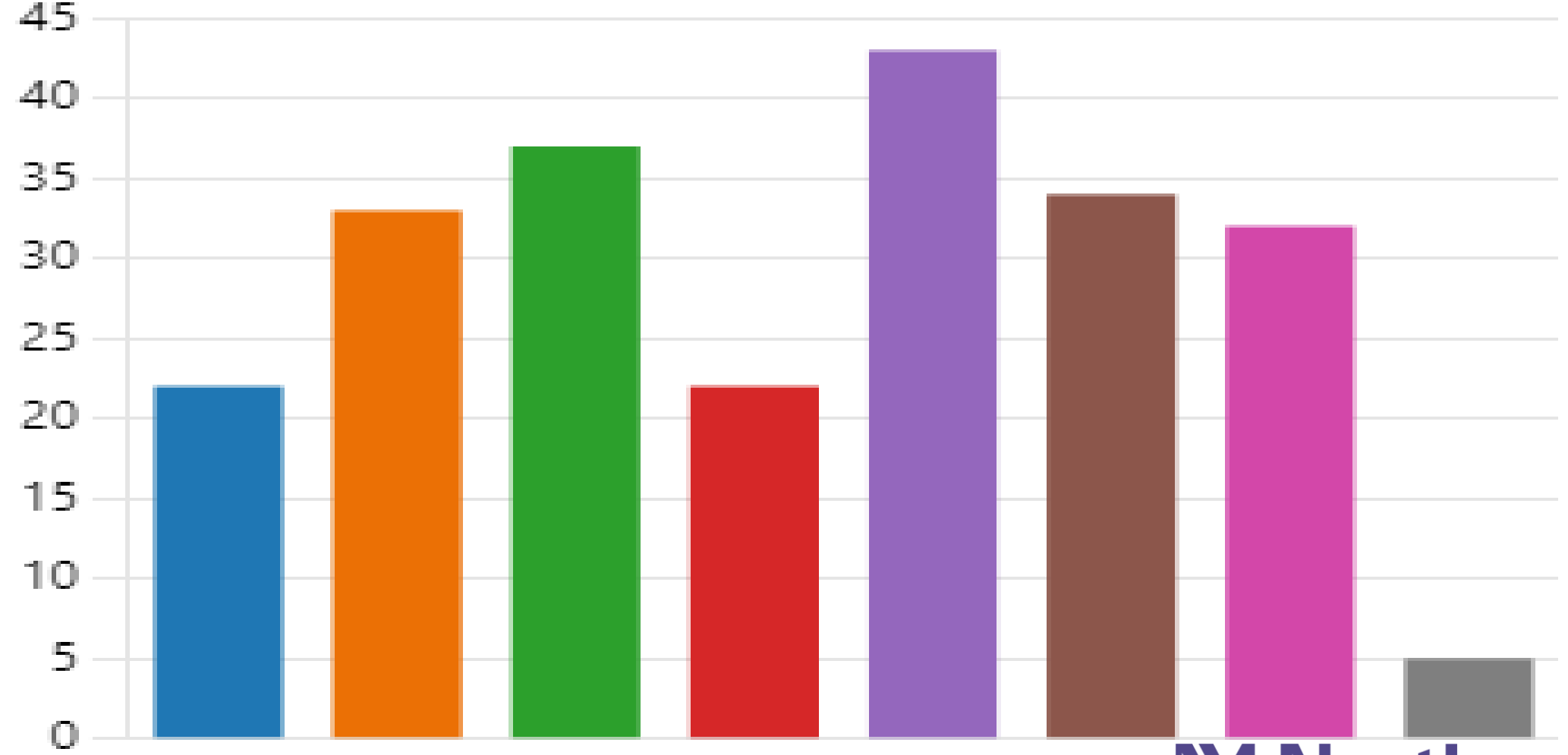
Are you interested in health policy and advocacy work?

A great deal	4
A lot	12
A moderate amount	26
A little	24
None at all	5



What health policy and advocacy topics are of interest to you?

Pediatric Mental Health	22
Access to Healthcare	33
Health Inequities	37
Social Determinants of Health	22
APRN/PA Professional Issues	43
How APPs can shape Healthcare through Advocacy	34
Pediatric Populations with Special Health Care Needs	32
Other	5



Conclusions

- Total of 71 APPs responded to the survey (response rate for our institution correlated to ~20%)
- Over half (~59%, n = 42) of APPs who responded indicated at least a moderate amount of interest in HPA work
- ~63% (n = 45) felt that the work APPs can do within HPA can make a difference
- Biggest barriers to involvement were lack of time (~76%, n = 54) followed by lack of knowledge of how to get involved (~57%, n = 41)
- Majority (~86%, n = 61) of APPs would like more information about work being done in our subcommittee via
 - Monthly emails (~53%, n = 38)
 - Quarterly house wide APP meetings (~49%, n = 35)

Discussion

- Results indicated:
 - Opportunity for increased education initiatives
 - Desire for participation with hands on involvement
 - Preferred introductory educational level
- Next steps include:
 - Consistent message board posts with opportunity for feedback and questions to allow for real time engagement with open dialogue
 - Education regarding cornerstones of health policy and advocacy work created by committee members
 - Reassessment of knowledge and involvement of APPs at our institution

References

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 Kung, Y.M. and Rudner Lugo, N. (2015), Political advocacy and practice barriers: A survey of Florida APRNs. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 27: 145-151. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2327-6924.12142>