B5.3: The Practice-based Research Network as a Model for Advancing Research and EBP in School Settings

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Abstract:
Introduction: School health initiatives are increasing in importance as current health policy embraces schools as a valuable resource for advancing preventive health strategies designed for children and youths. The need for evidence-based practice (EBP) in schools requires that school personnel, including school nurses, conscientiously use the best current evidence in making decisions regarding student health. In part, this requires the generation of new knowledge as well as the appropriate use of available knowledge, for utilization in clinical practice.

Method(s): This presentation will compare and contrast models for conducting research across school settings. Emphasis will be on Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs), an AHRQ-endorsed model originally designed for research conducted across primary care settings, but that is readily adaptable to use in community settings including school health. The organizational structure, communications network, funding, of PBRNs as well as the types of studies appropriate for PBRNs will be described.

Results: Practice-Based Research Networks can be used as a model to increase research and evidence-based practice in schools. Studies using these types of networks can be effective in promoting research and applying findings to children and youth in the school setting.

Discussion & Conclusions: Effectively addressing health concerns of children and youth requires both the generation of knowledge and appropriate application of findings. Various models can be utilized to promote both research and encourage application of findings in the school setting.
Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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