

Profiling Knowledge Brokers in the Rehabilitation Sector Across Canada: A Descriptive Study

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Outlines

Research-Practice Gap

Knowledge Translation

Knowledge Brokers

Research Gaps

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Main Findings

Take Home Message

Q1: How long does it take for research findings to be adopted?

- Few months (1-6 month)
- Few years (1-5 yrs)
- Many years (5-10 yrs)
- Very long period (10-20 yrs)

Research-Practice Gap



Research-practice gaps can negatively impact the health outcomes of individuals and communities ²⁻⁴

- 44% of PTs use research evidence to inform their practice
- 50% of OTs time, use research evidence to develop intervention

Knowledge Translation (KT)

“The exchange, synthesis and application of knowledge – which includes a complex system of interactions among researchers and users - to accelerate the capture of the benefits of research for Canadians through improved health, more effective services and products, and a strengthened health care system”

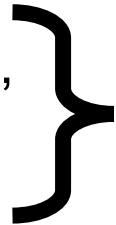
Q2: What is the most effective KT interventions? (multiple choices)

- Distributing educational materials
- Educational meetings
- Change agents
- Audit and feedback
- Outreach visits

The comparative effectiveness of KT interventions in professional practice

Passive

- Educational meetings,
- Educational materials



2-5%

Active

- Audit and feedback,
- Educational outreach,
- Interactive meetings



5-10%

- **Intermediary agents, up to 12%**



Knowledge Brokers (KBs)

“One of the human forces which bring people together to build relationships, uncover needs, share ideas and evidence aiming to improve job productivity” (CHSRF. 2003)



Q3: What are the roles that KB plays? (multiple choices)

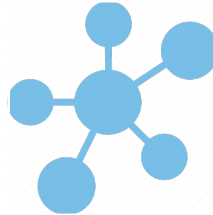
- Seek & share relevant information
- Link researchers, clinicians
- Provide education & mentoring in the clinical setting
- Promote inter-professional knowledge exchange
- Evaluate KT context, processes and outcomes

What they do?



Information manager

- Seek & share relevant information
- Deliver key information to target audiences



Linking agent

- Connect & foster trust and relationships among people with shared interests
- Link researchers, clinicians and decision makers



Building Capacity

- Develop skills, establish a common language
- Provide education & mentoring in the clinical setting



Facilitator

- Develop collaborations to address gaps in knowledge or skill
- Promote inter-professional knowledge exchange

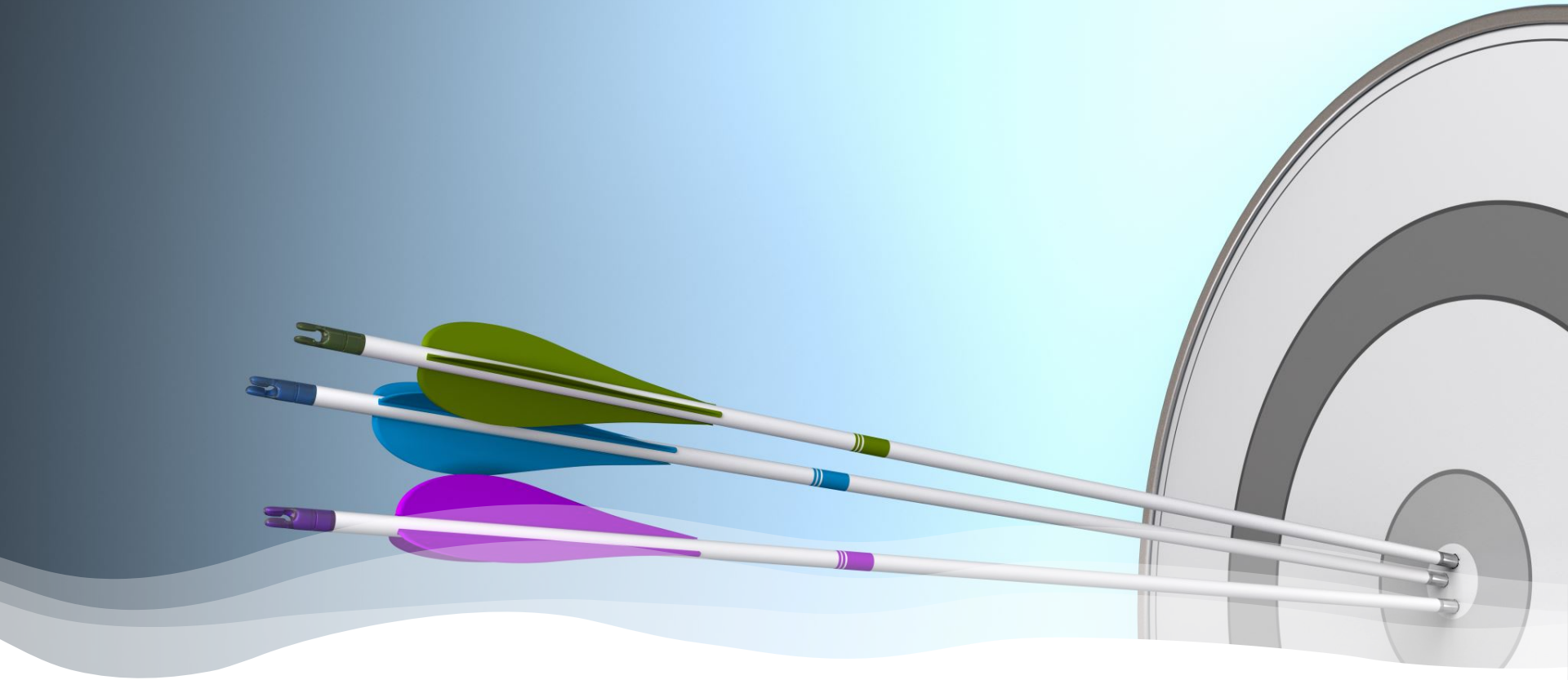


Evaluator

- Evaluate KT context, processes and outcomes,
- Evaluate the KB's own performance.



Research Gaps



Objectives

The overall objective was to describe the profile of KBs working within rehabilitation settings in Canada.

- Specifically, to describe the sociodemographic and professional characteristics, work activities, and training of KBs.



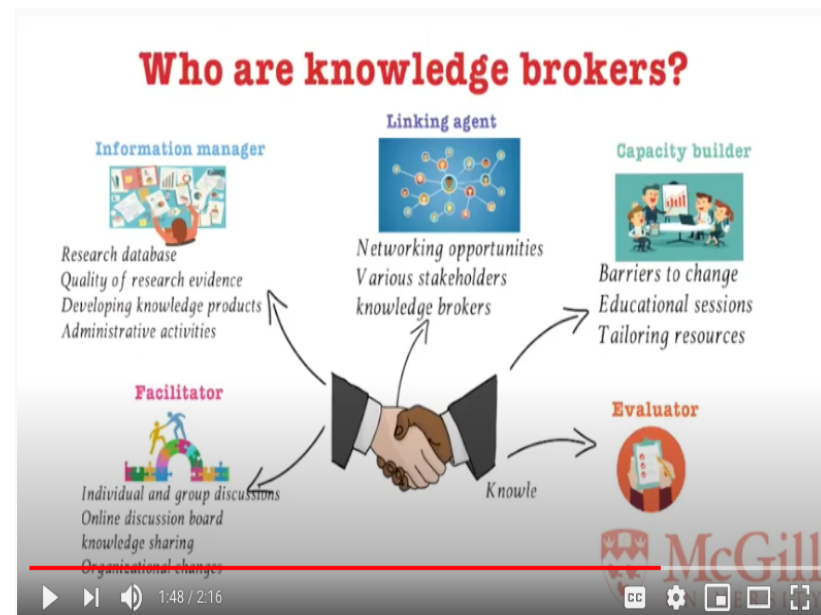
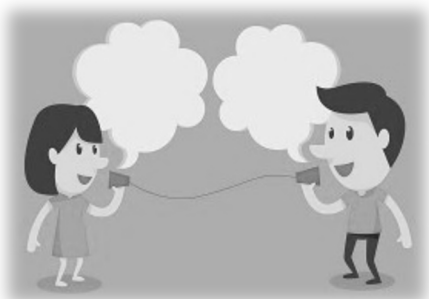
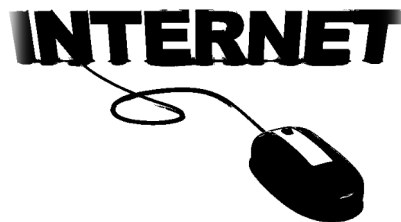
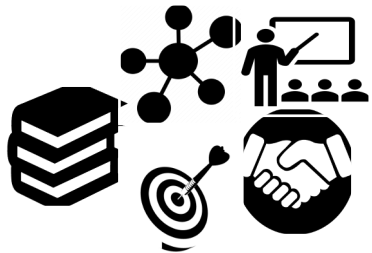


Methodology

I) Design

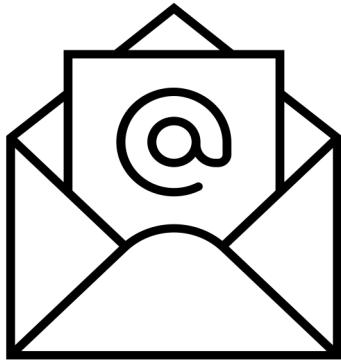
A descriptive study using a cross-sectional online survey administered to a convenience sample of KBs

II) Eligibility Criteria



III) Recruitment Strategies

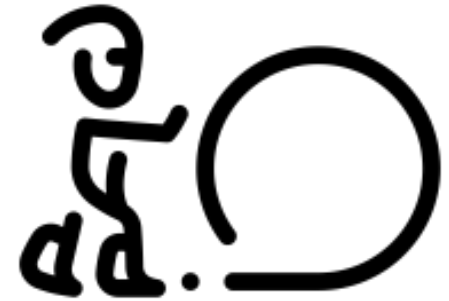
(June 2018-April 2019)



(n=76)

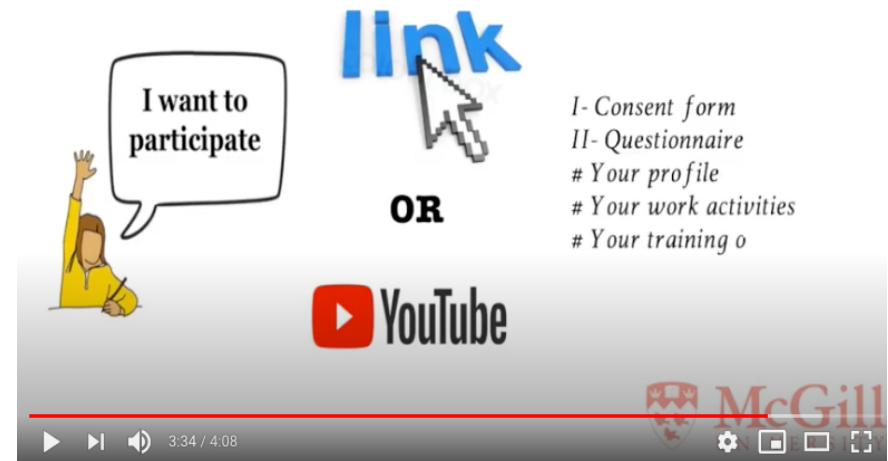


(n= 934)



IV) Procedures

- Invitation e-mail
- 4-minute YouTube
- Consent form → access online survey
- E-mail reminders were sent to the organizations and to the individuals up to three times within a 6 weeks period
- The data was collected from June 2018-April 2019
- Confidentiality of the data was protected by assigning each participant a unique identification number



V) Instrument



The online survey consisted of 20 questions:

- Socio-demographic and professional characteristics
- KBs' work activities
- KBs training opportunities (5 questions)

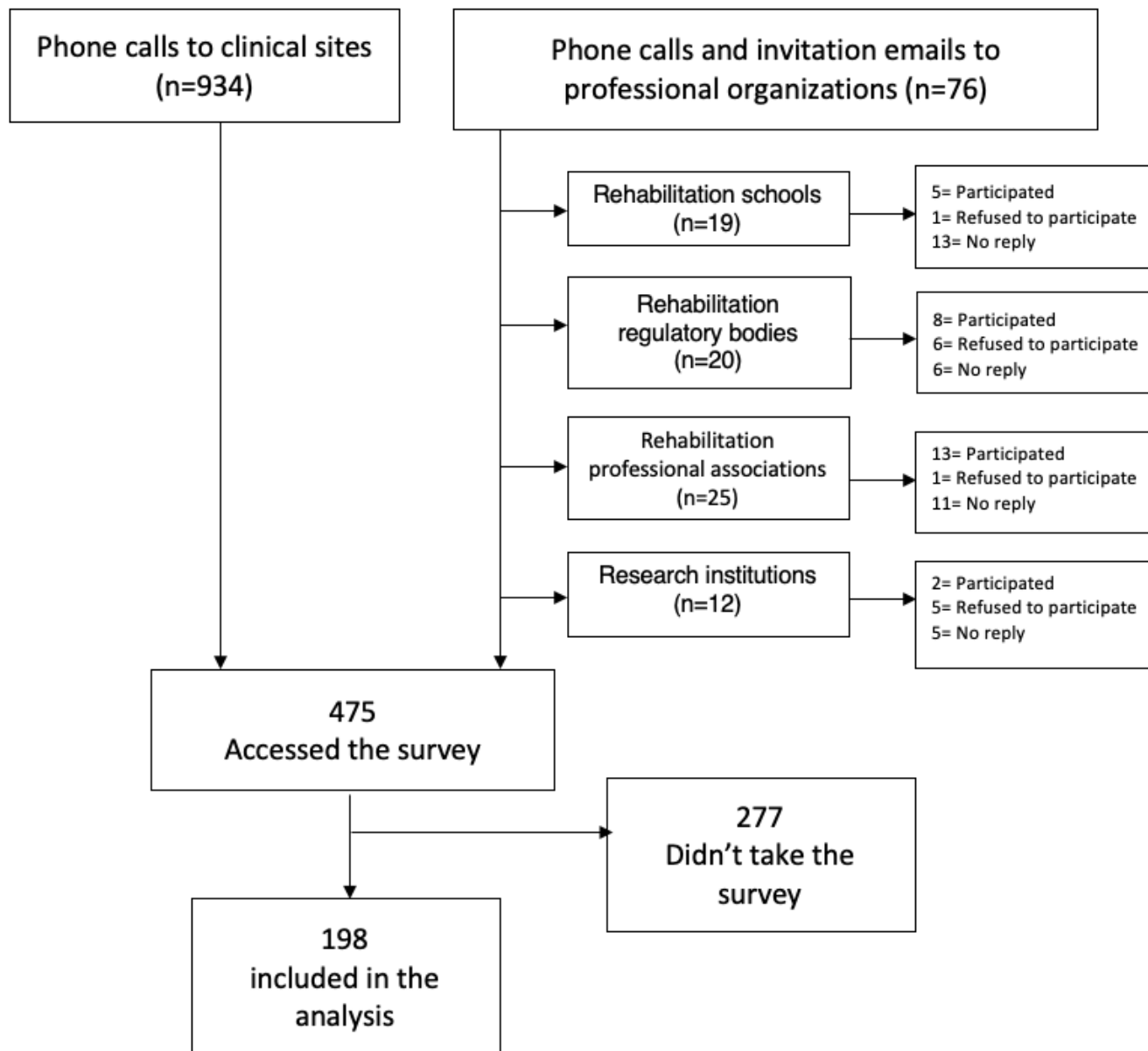
Translation: A professional translator → French

Validation: Three English-speaking and three French-speaking KBs → content validity (clarity of items, scaling responses, comprehensiveness of the survey)

Platform: Lime Survey platform (Version 2.63.1+170305)

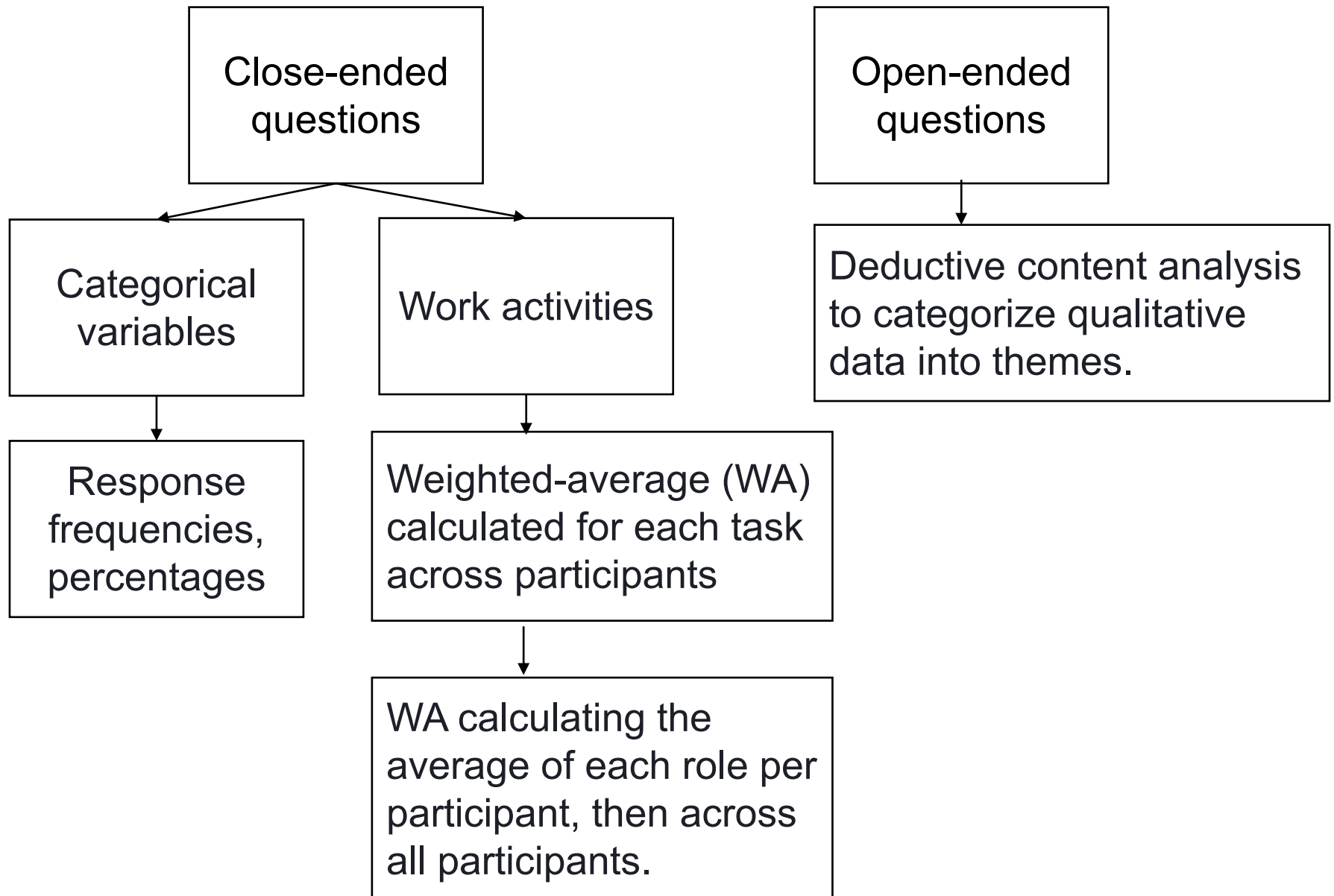
Duration: ~ 30 minutes

Flowchart of Recruitment Strategies





Data Analysis



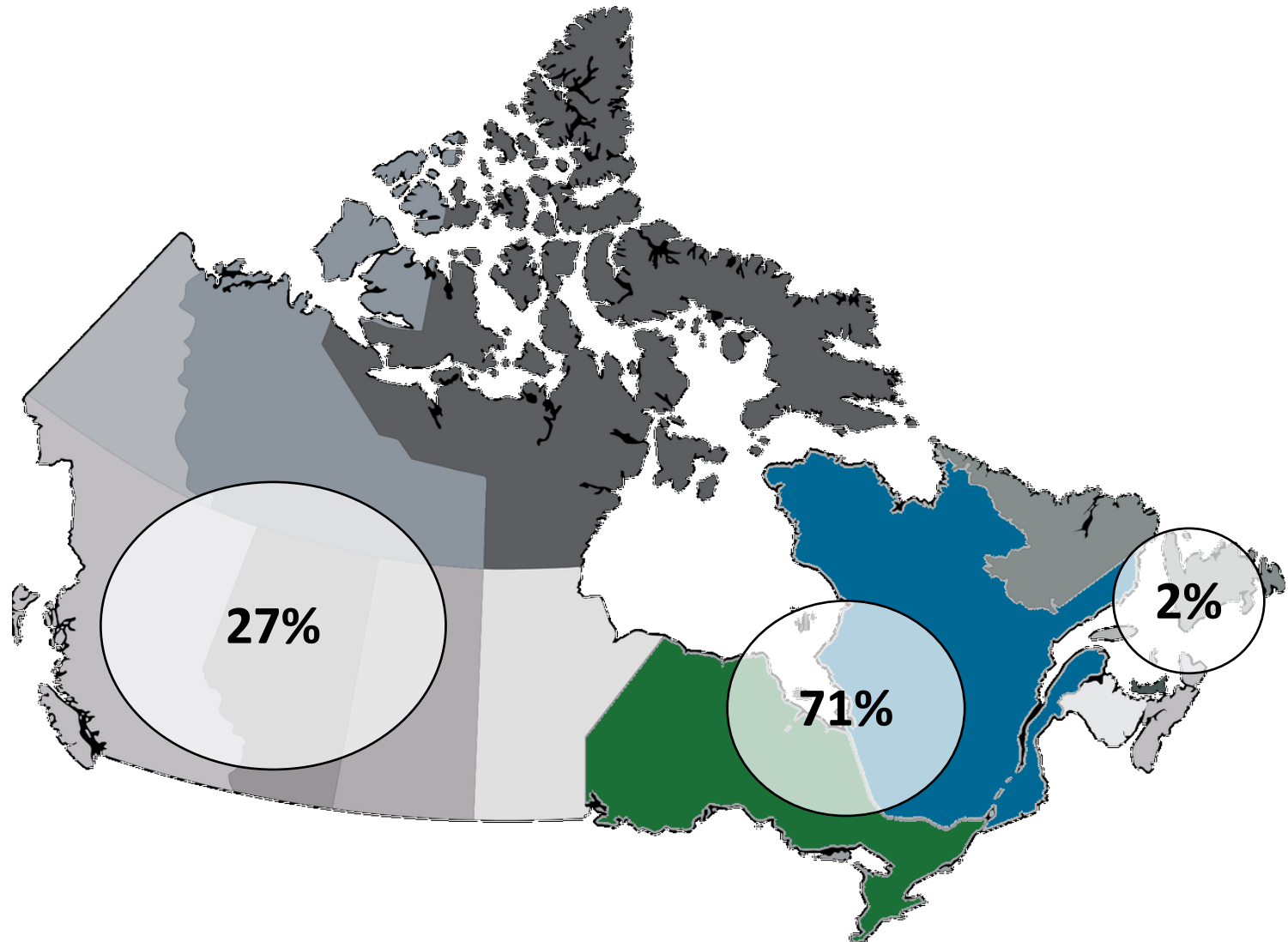


Main findings

Q4: Where do you think most of KBs located in Canada?

- Eastern Canada
- Western Canada
- Central Canada

Sociodemographic characteristics

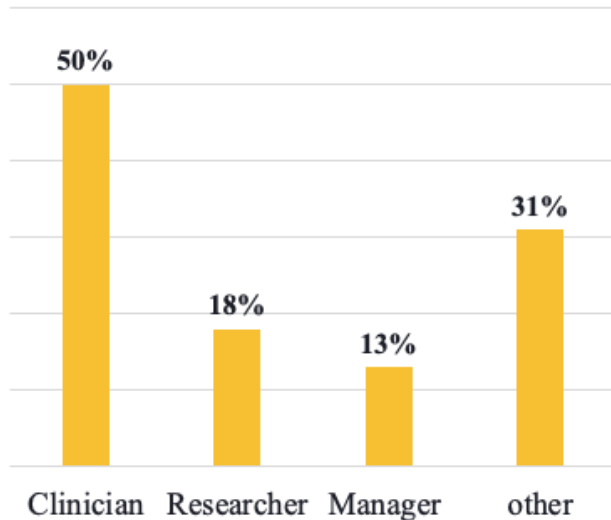


Q5: KBs are usually:

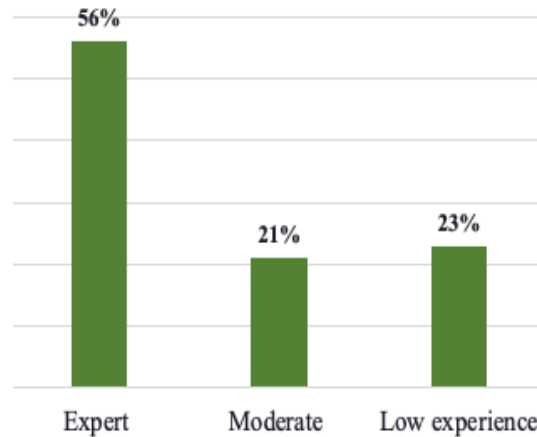
- Clinicians
- Researchers
- Managers

Professional characteristics

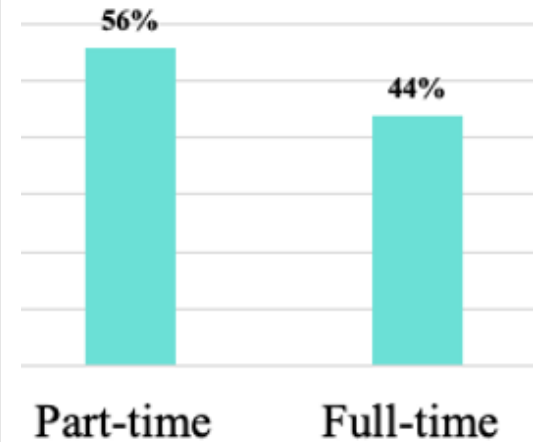
Profession



Clinical Experience



Job status



Many KBs are experienced clinicians, performing their brokering activities part-time.

Titles of KBs

Several titles used interchangeably to refer to KBs

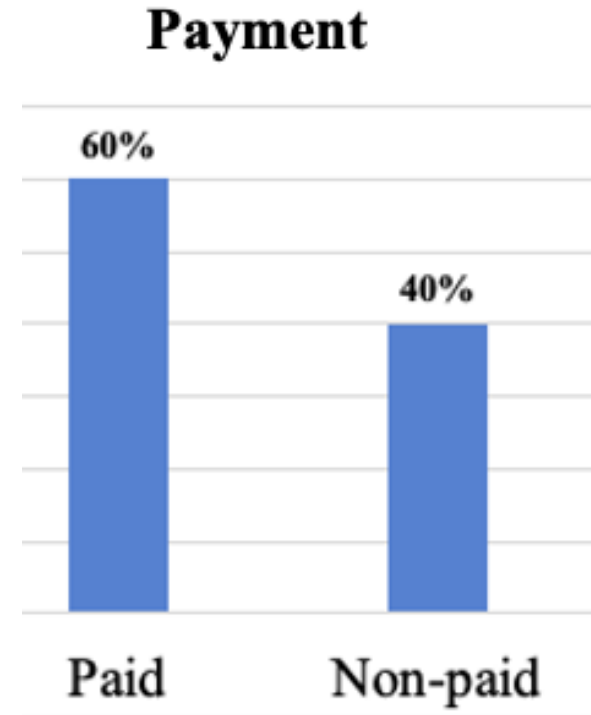
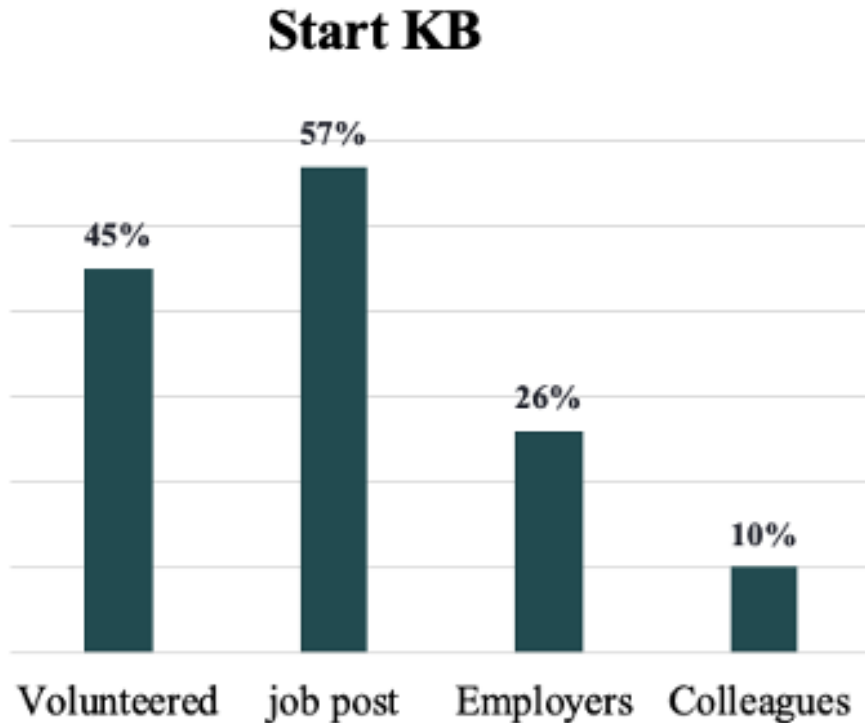
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational therapist,
- Knowledge mobilization specialist
- Research coordinator
- Professional practice lead
- Clinician champion
- Clinical educator



Q6: How can you start performing KB activities?

- Apply for this position
- Talk to my manager
- Obtain a certificate
- Involve myself in research activities

Professional characteristics



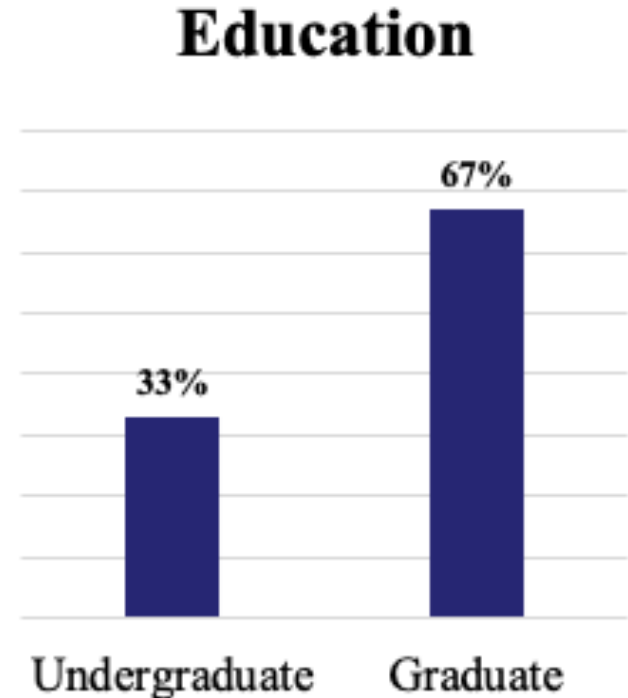
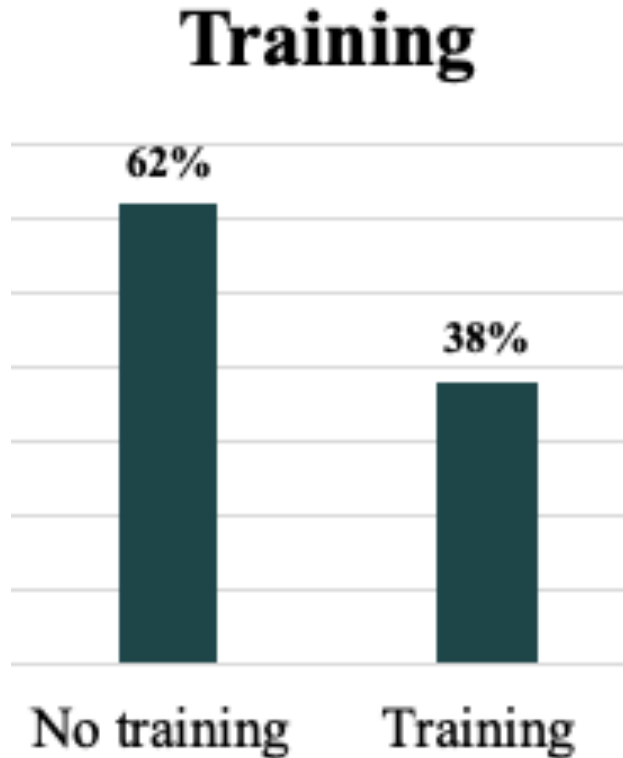
KBs perform the brokering role voluntary → KBs are motivated individuals.

Q7: I have to get a certificate in KT to be a KB:

- True

- False

Training opportunities



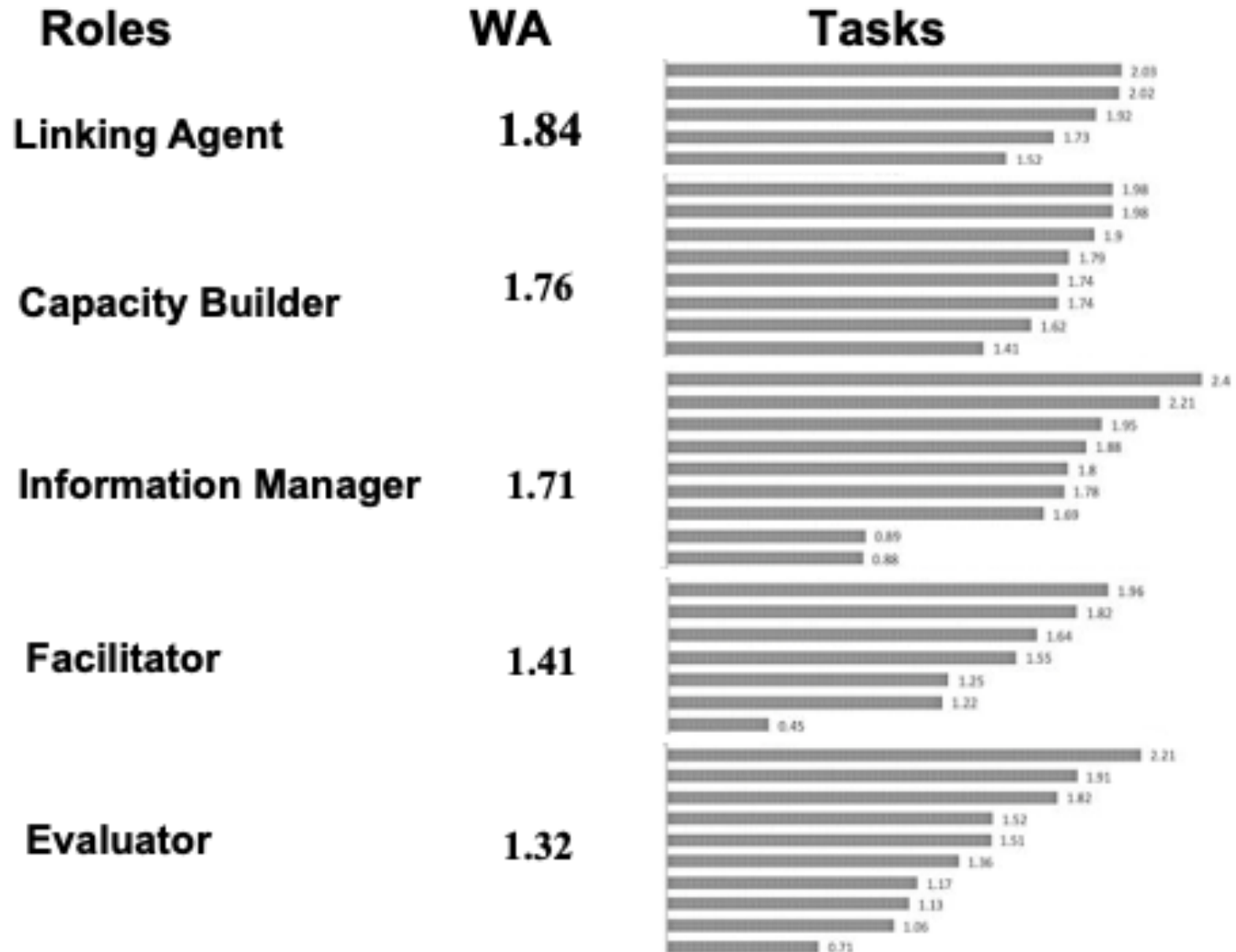
Few KBs received formal training, while many had higher education credentials.

Requisite training

A need for additional training to increase their knowledge and skills in several areas

- Knowledge translation
- Knowledge brokering
- Research topics
- Organizational change strategies
- Communication skills
- Interpersonal abilities

Work activities



Take Home Messages

Valuable information to organisations wishing to employ KBs to help improve clinical practice.

- Expert clinicians, tend to perform brokering activities on a part-time basis.
- Mainly perform linking agent role
- Tended to perform self-directed learning tasks and less time-consuming tasks
- Lack of training delivered to KB



Thank you

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