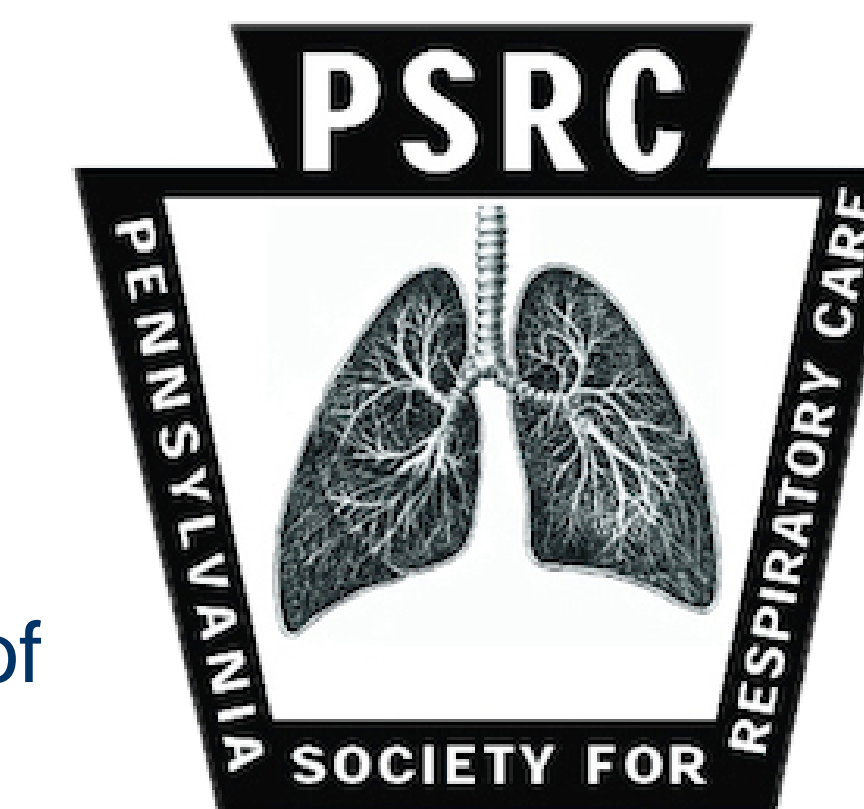


DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Rebecca Armaghan RRT-NPS¹, Brittany Geesey RRT^{2,3}, Jerin Juby MA RRT⁴, Javier Amador-Castaneda RRT⁵, Allison Bollinger RRT⁶, Karsten Roberts MSc RRT⁵ Rachel Newberry Med, RRT-ACCS RPFT^{7,8}, Mandy Harshberger Med RRT⁹, Nathan Radabaugh RRT-NPS RRT-ACCS³, Margie Pierce MS, RRT, CPFT⁵, Natalie Napolitano MPH RRT-NPS FAARC ¹

For the Pennsylvania Respiratory Research Collaborative



¹Respiratory Therapy Department, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, United States; ²Respiratory Therapy Program, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, United States; ³Respiratory Therapy Department, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA, United States; ⁴Respiratory Therapy Department, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, United States; ⁵Respiratory Therapy Department, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, United States; ⁶Respiratory Therapy Department, VA Medical Center, Lebanon, PA, United States; ⁷Respiratory Therapy Department, Wellspan York Hospital, York, PA, United States; ⁸Respiratory Therapy Program, York College, York, PA, United States; ⁹Respiratory Therapy Program, Reading Community College, Reading, PA, United States

Background

The Pennsylvania Respiratory Research Collaborative (PRRC) formed in January 2017 for the purpose of providing mentorship and opportunities to participate in statewide research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice projects.

The inaugural project was designed to investigate and describe the practice of respiratory therapists in Pennsylvania.

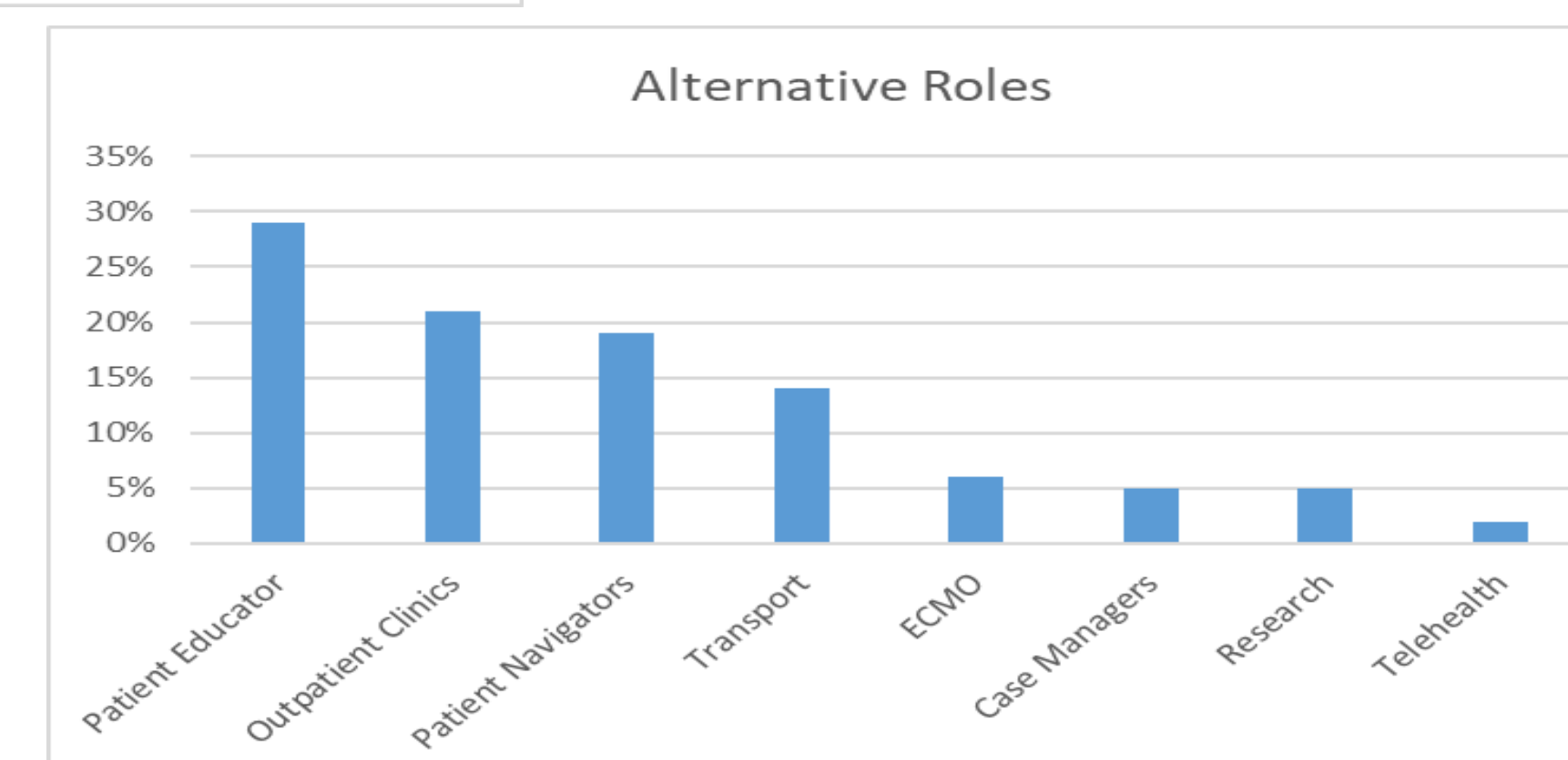
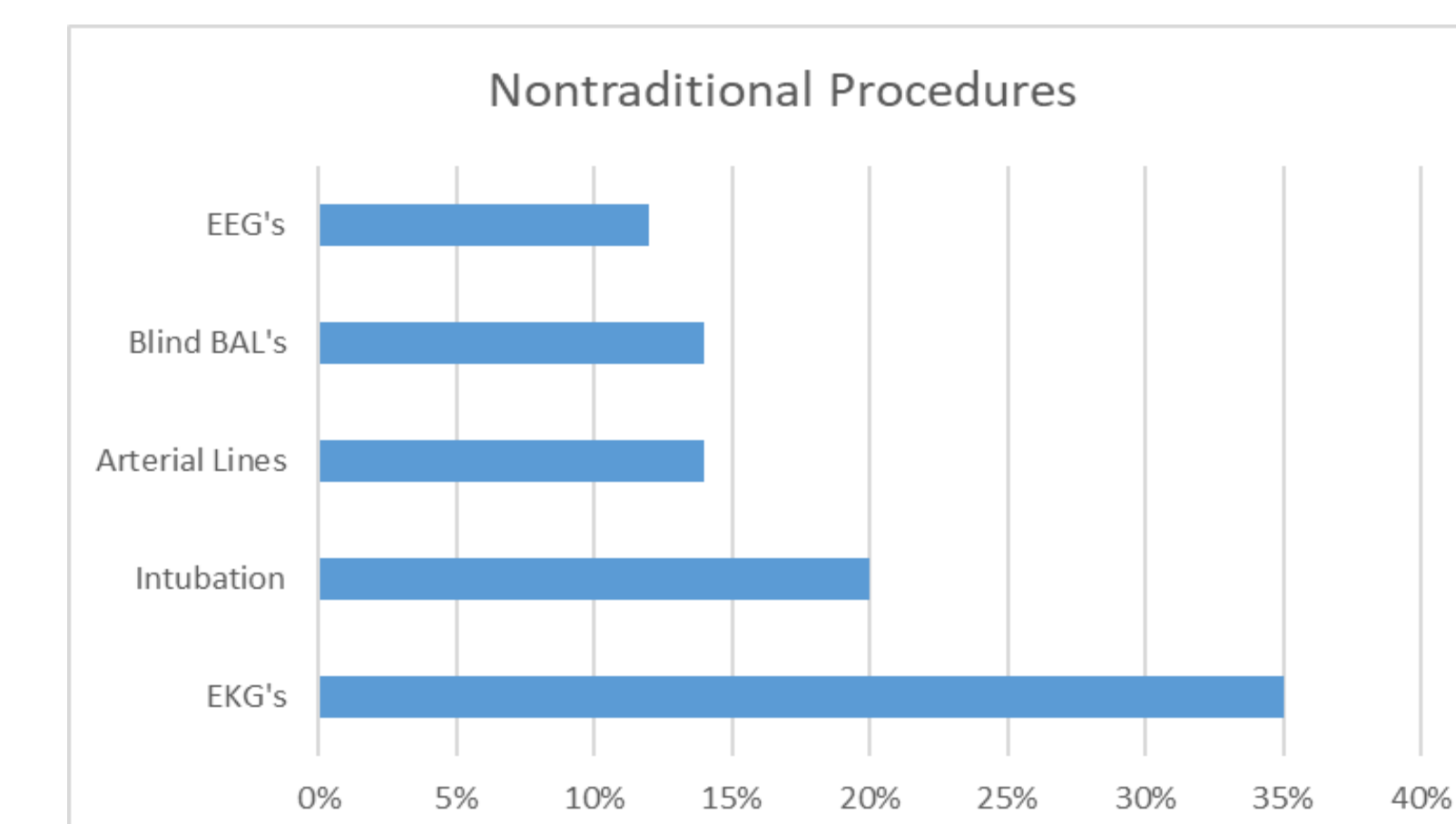
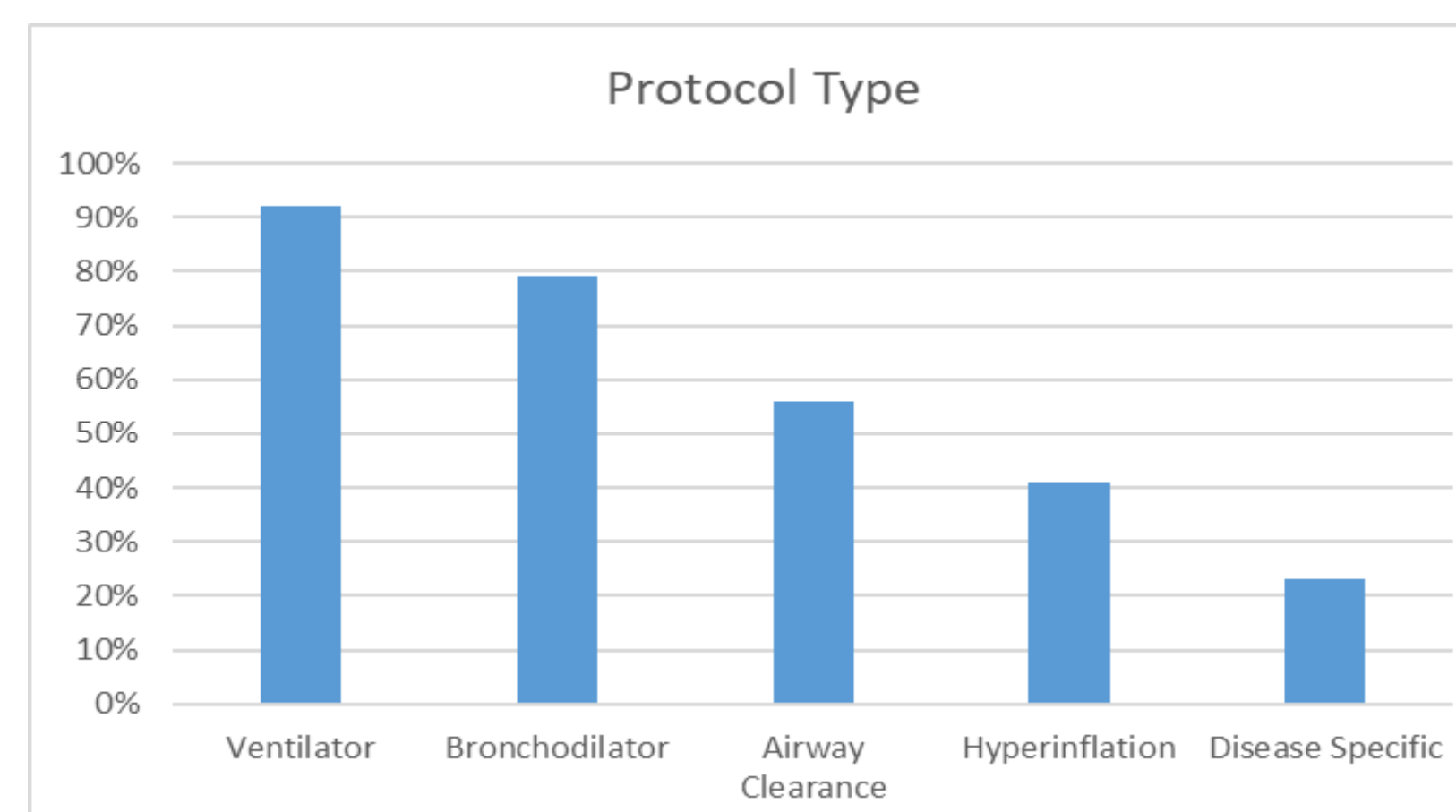
Methods

- A survey related to the practice and business of inpatient respiratory therapy departments was developed and sent to managers/directors of every hospital within the state of Pennsylvania
- Survey period was October 2017 – April 2018
- Survey committee members connected with Pennsylvania hospitals to determine contacts for the respiratory therapy department and to ask the manager/director to complete the electronic survey
- A total of 188 hospitals with inpatient Respiratory Therapy departments were contacted and we were unable to obtain contacts for the manager/directors 29 of the hospitals
- Survey was exempt as research by the CHOP IRB

Disclosures: None

Results

- Out of 188 hospitals in the state, 101 (53.7%) responded
 - 52% were academic centers
- Clinical ladders are utilized in 29% of hospitals
 - 72% of which are academic centers
- For staff positions 50% prefer BS degree and 78% prefer RRT
- Protocols are utilized in 74% of hospitals
- Nontraditional procedures are performed by respiratory therapists in 84% of the hospitals
- Respiratory Therapists are utilized in alternative roles in 42% of hospitals



Conclusions

The practice of respiratory therapists in the state of Pennsylvania varies greatly with a small number of hospitals practicing at the apex of the profession. Additional research is needed to understand variations in practice.