

Highlights: SEARCH III Midpoint Evaluation

Key findings from the SEARCH III midpoint evaluation included:

- Participation in SEARCH resulted in improved professional and personal **networks**. The SEARCH network (defined as “connections between health care professionals, researchers, policy-makers, and decision-makers established through the SEARCH program”) was well utilized and valued by SEARCH III participants from the early stages of the program. For example, 96% of respondents reported that they “currently use the personal and/or professional networks established through SEARCH”. Focus group participants reported that the increased personal and professional network was one of the immediate impacts of SEARCH participation.
- Participants reported the development of a variety of **new skills** through SEARCH participation including skills related to literature and information searching, critical appraisal, proposal writing, qualitative research methods, group work, computers, networking, organizational analysis and development, understanding of the research process, and instrument/questionnaire design.
- 72% of respondents reported that they applied skills related to **choosing evidence** on a daily or weekly basis.
- At the midpoint of SEARCH III, participants requested additional **quantitative research skill development and training**.
- **Lack of time and associated guilt** for not being as far along as initially anticipated were reoccurring themes among SEARCH participants. The majority of survey respondents, for example, reported that they had initially anticipated being further along in their progress for both the individual and group projects at the 14-month point of the program.
- **The recommended 40% allocation of work time was not occurring in practice**. Survey respondents reported that they had allocated, on average, 18% of their work time to SEARCH over the past 14 months. In addition to work time, participants reported an average allocation of **5 hours per week of personal time** for SEARCH-related activities.
- Participation in the SEARCH program represented the first time that more than half of participants (60%) had engaged in online or web-based learning. **100% of respondents considered the SEARCH virtual learning community an important contributor** to their success in the program.