

1 BACKGROUND

- Research guided by family physician expertise and informed by patient needs is necessary to improve primary care.
- Family physicians interested in research often face difficulties in patient recruitment due to competing clinical priorities.¹
 - Previous studies have shown reduced levels of patient recruitment when physicians were required to obtain consents.^{2,3}
- Delegating research tasks to study-designated research assistants (RAs), including recruitment, may help facilitate family physician-led research.

2 OBJECTIVE

This study aims to compare patient recruitment rates by family physicians and clinic staff versus those facilitated by RAs.

3 STUDY DESIGN & ANALYSIS

The **Cohort in Primary Care (COPRI)** study is a prospective cohort study of patients enrolled in Family Medicine Groups at McGill-affiliated clinics in Québec.

- We carried out a descriptive cross-sectional analysis.
- Rate of recruitment was evaluated by consent forms completed, and surveys completed, by recruitment strategy (physicians/staff vs. RAs).

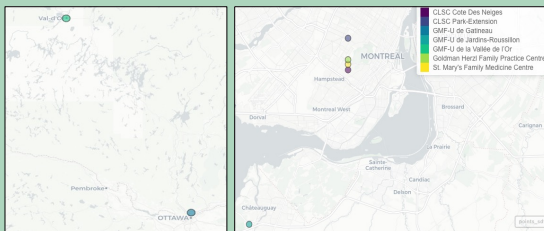


Figure 1. Maps illustrating the locations of participating McGill-affiliated clinics.

4 RESULTS

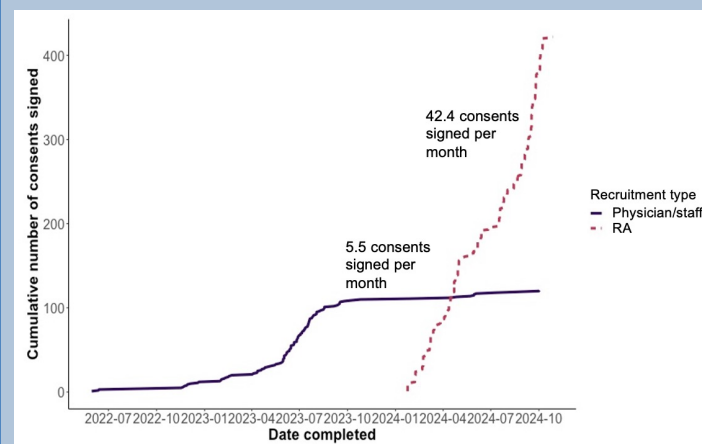


Figure 2. A graph illustrating the trends in consent completion among participants recruited by physician/staff (n=122) and RAs (n=422).

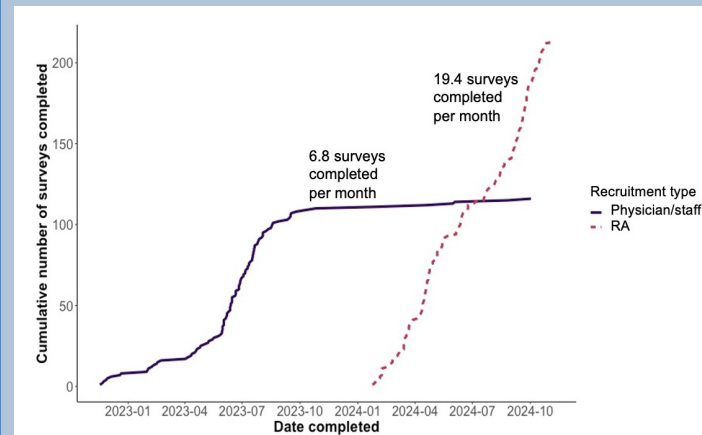


Figure 3. A graph illustrating the trends in survey completion among participants recruited by physician/staff (n=116) and RAs (n=213).

5 SIGNIFICANCE

Our results suggest that hiring and training RAs to approach patients on behalf of family physicians is an effective strategy that helps address existing recruitment challenges.

Acknowledgements

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References

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