

2004-05 OHPRS Provincial Needs Assessment

Assessing the needs of health promoters

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Ontario Health Promotion Resource System (OHPRS)

OHPRS is a collaborative network of 21 member organizations and 7 affiliates that support health promotion in Ontario

Vision:

The health of Ontarians is improved through the strengthened capacity of health promoters.

The OHPRS Key Initiatives:

- ❖ Focus on collaborative efforts
- ❖ Evaluation of Capacity measures of health promoters; and of Network strength among members
- ❖ Needs assessment with health promoters
- ❖ Facilitate joint ventures & services e.g. HP101 online course

OHPRS Collaborative Needs Assessment

Goal - To collect information from Ontario health promoters that could:

- ❖ **Support individual OHPRS organizations planning by reaching a broader target group than normally surveyed by each organization**
- ❖ **Identify potential areas of strategic collaboration**
- ❖ **Support system-level activities (e.g., communications, promotion).**

Needs Assessment Survey of Ontario Health Promoters – Survey Materials

❖ **Set of core questions**

- Accessing information and technical support
- Meeting training needs
- OHPRS familiarity, use
- French language services and supports
- Demographics & work characteristics

❖ **8 added modules on topical info. Needs:**

- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Evaluation, Capacity-Building, Health Communication
- Heart Health
- Maternal & Infant Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- School-based HP
- Tobacco Control

Survey to Engage Diverse Group of Health Promoters in Multiple Settings

- ❖ Targeted at past users of OHPRS organizations services, and non-users
- ❖ Health Promoters broadly defined as:
 - professionals and volunteers
 - working in public health, education, community development/ capacity building, self-help/mutual aid, environmental issues and health service delivery
 - their work focuses on any or all of the broad determinants of health
- ❖ Pre-tested, modified, translated

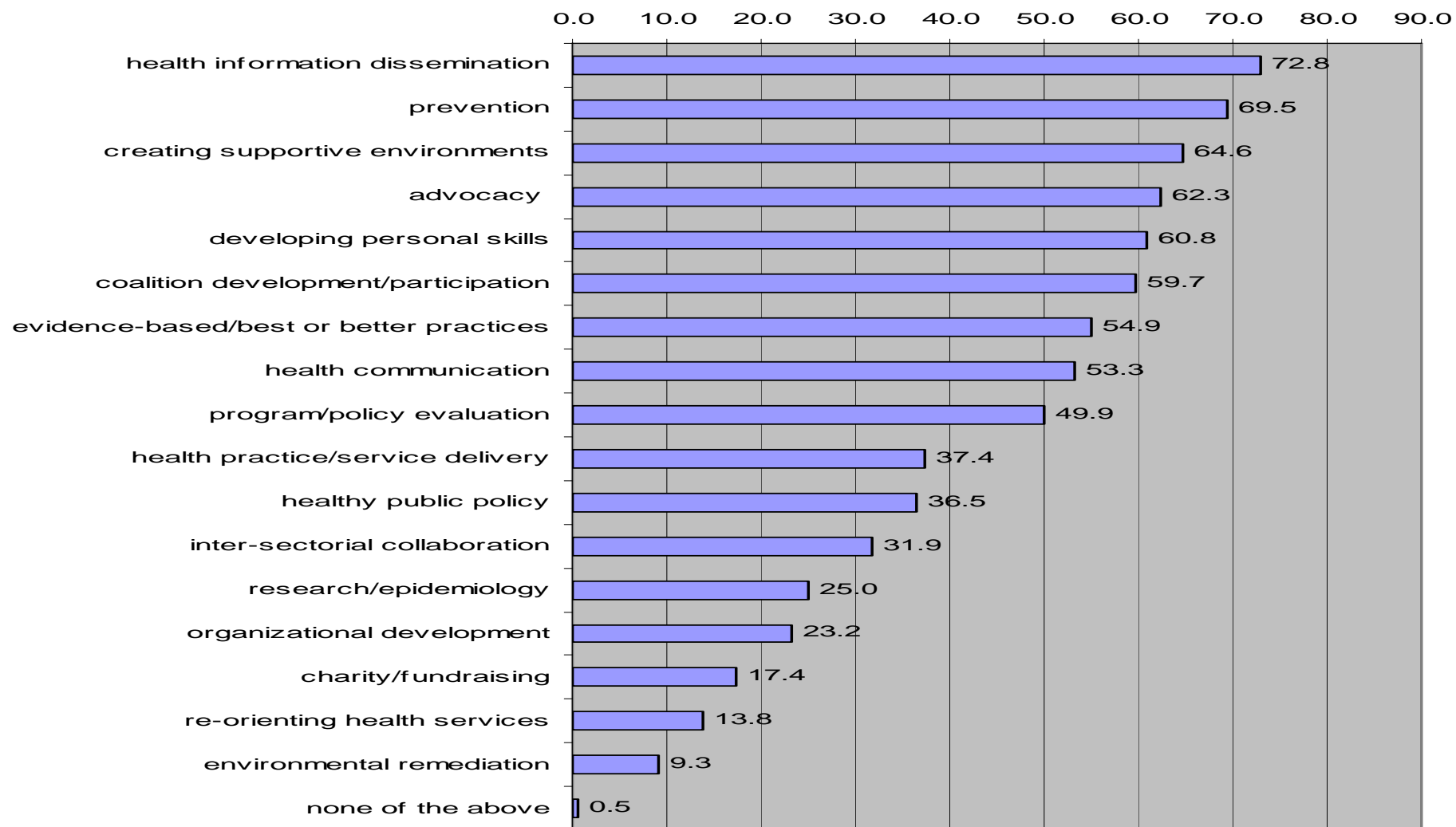
Survey Dissemination

- ❖ Survey sent out to 4277 contacts by email and mail
- ❖ Mail out survey package included the survey, and brief description of each OHPRS organization
- ❖ All survey materials were available in English and in French.
- ❖ Separate web links for on-line completion in either language.

Characteristics of Survey Respondents

- ❖ **875 respondents (20.5%)**
- ❖ **Diverse cross-section of respondents:**
 - Geographic focus
 - Length of time in the field
 - Position in work
 - Working on multiple topics and strategies

Health Promotion Strategies Implemented



Needs Assessment Summary points

- ❖ Main needs assessment report concluded with a series of key findings for system
- ❖ Individual Centres received results topic-specific modules and are working on implications for their work

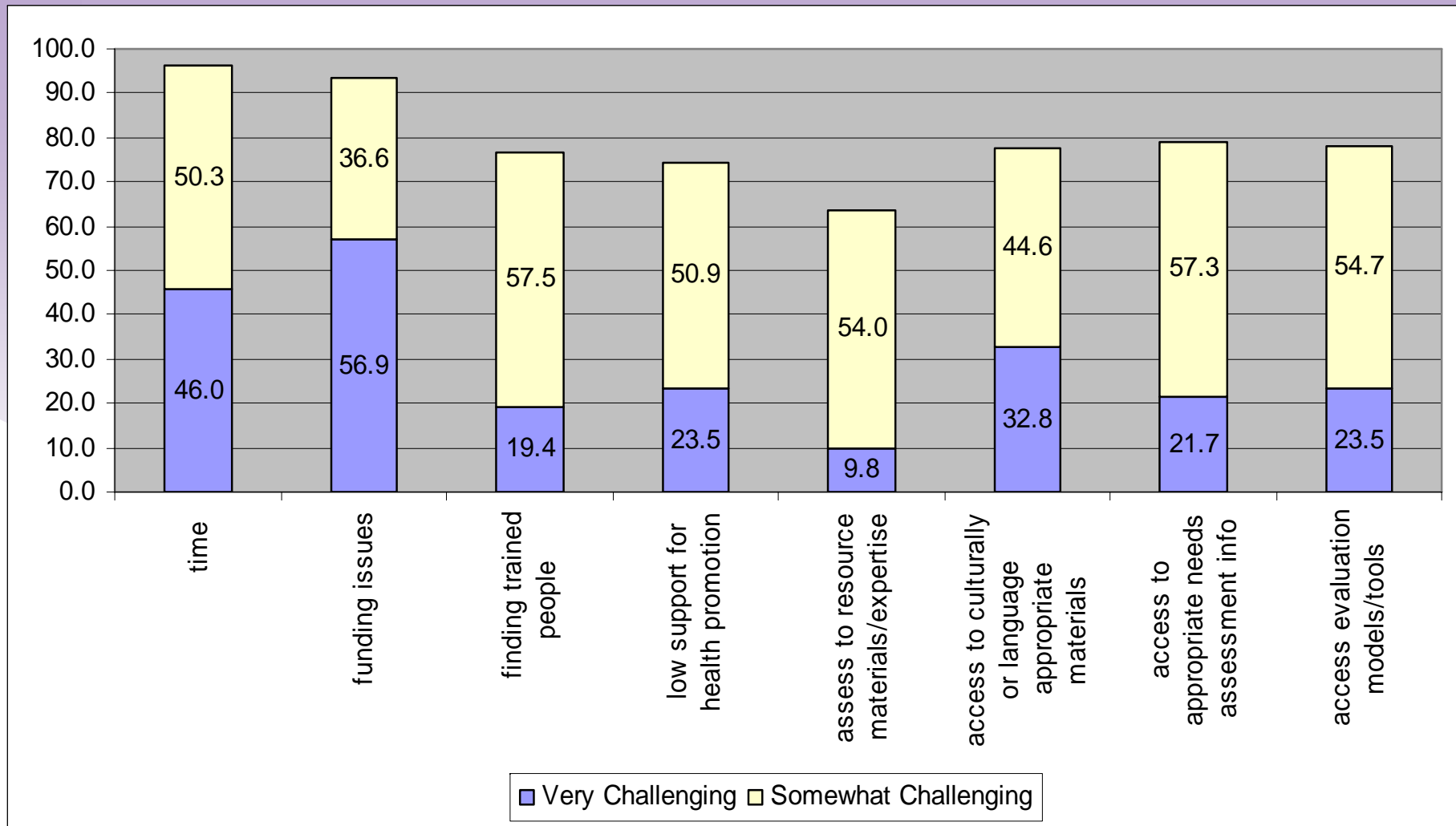
Key Findings

- ❖ Access to information and support remains a barrier for many
- ❖ Challenges in Planning/Implementing HP activities
- ❖ Challenges related to cultural and language diversity
- ❖ Needs / Issues in Training and Education – Topics, Format, Location
- ❖ OHPRS organization and communication issues

Key Findings: Access to information and support remains a barrier for many

- ❖ **Access to information for HP work “easy” or “very easy” 75%**
- ❖ **Depended on sector and type of work**
 - determinants of health and French language – difficult
- ❖ **Access to information for HP work “difficult” or “very difficult” 25%**
 - specific challenges on topics,
 - cultural and language relevance or
 - available in their community or jurisdiction
- ❖ **More streamlined access to information would be helpful to many**

Key Findings: Challenges in Planning/Implementing HP activities



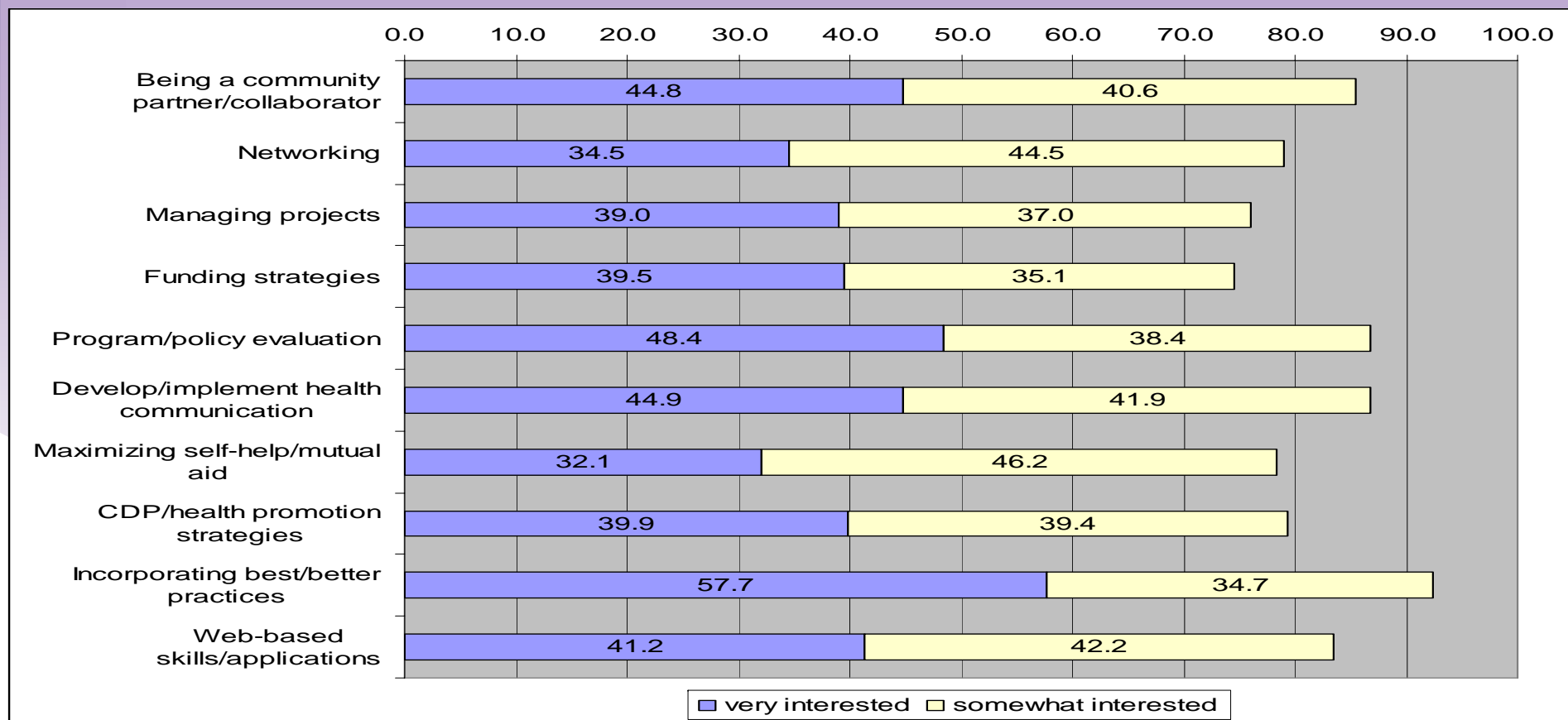
Key Findings: Challenges in Planning/Implementing HP activities

- ❖ **Resource-related issues:**
 - Funding
 - Time
 - Finding trained people
- ❖ **Appropriate needs assessment information**
- ❖ **Evaluation models/tools**
- ❖ **Cultural and language appropriate materials and expertise**
- ❖ **Support for health promotion**

Key Findings: Challenges related to cultural and language diversity

- ❖ **Need translated/cultural specific materials (general statement) 35.8%**
- ❖ **Need people who speak the language/know the culture 12.8%**
- ❖ **Need translated/cultural-specific materials - French (10.1%), Others (10.1%), Aboriginal (9.4%) 29.6%**
- ❖ **Readability level of materials is too high – literacy issues 7.8%**

Key Findings: Needs / Issues in Training and Education – Topics, Format, Location



- *Computer skills and using IT capacity issues*
- *Training and education format: Go local*
- *Challenges to conference/ event participation*

Key Findings for OHPRS organization

- ❖ Need for French language materials and other supports is clear and widespread
- ❖ Large majority of respondents had accessed the services and supports of >1 OHPRS organization in the past 2 years and 1/3 had accessed >6 OHPRS organizations.
- ❖ OHPRS functions within the context of a much larger network of services and supports for health promotion

Follow up on Needs Assessment

System-wide Strategies to Accommodate Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

- Need for culture-specific resources
- Address linguistic barriers
- Identify culture-specific health promotion needs

Outreach Working Group initiated

- Survey & Report: *Towards More Inclusive Services for Newcomer and Aboriginal Clients*
- Panel at OHPRS Forum on Ethnoracial Communities
- Report *on serving Aboriginal populations*

Follow up on Needs Assessment

System-wide Strategies to Address FLS needs

- **Need for training opportunities**
 - **Need for resources**
 - **Need for French-speaking Health promoters**
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- ❖ **French Health Promotion Capacity Tour**
 - ❖ **FLS Supports provided to OHPRS members**
 - ❖ **System strategic plan for French services**

Follow up on Needs Assessment

System-wide Training and Capacity Building strategies

- **Local and regional training (more accessible)**
 - **Training and support on use of computer and internet (more inclusive)**
 - **Alternative training and capacity building, e.g. Train trainers model (more diverse)**
 - **Accommodate smaller NGOs with part-time staff and turnovers (more equitable)**
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- ❖ **Collaborative workspace on OHPRS Intranet for topics, methods and training opportunities;**
 - ❖ **E-Learning Subcommittee formed – Webinars, HP101 online course**

Follow up on Needs Assessment

System-wide Communication and Promotion Strategies

- **Better communication about types and range of available services**
- **Better promotion of events and conferences through the System**
- **Improve access to health promotion information**

❖ Communication Plan on services and promotion strategies

Follow up on Needs Assessment

System-wide Strategies to Address Broad Determinants of Health and other issues e.g. Mental-health, Violence, Physical environment

- **How to create a coordinated support system for HPs working in these areas**

❖ Issue for OHPRS Member Forums and Coordinating Committee.

Summary – key areas of OHPRS follow-up to Needs Assessment report

- ❖ **Streamlining/improving access**
 - Multi-cultural and aboriginal populations**
- ❖ **FLS provincial strategy**
- ❖ **Potential collaborations in training/ support on specific topics and need areas**
- ❖ **Promoting OHPRS and what is available / how to access / scope of reach**
- ❖ **Determinants of health / Mental health**

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