



General Dentistry Article Highlights Applicability of Practice-Based Research

According to a May/June 2009 article released by [General Dentistry](#), dental practice-based research creates opportunities to efficiently answer important everyday questions about prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options related to oral health.

- Health research traditionally has been conducted in academic research institutions such as major universities. However, only 1% of Americans are estimated to receive health care services in such settings (Green et al., 2001).
- An average of 17 years lapses before a small percentage of research findings are typically found to impact patient care (Balas & Boren, 2000).

Closing the gap between knowledge creation and improvements in care

Since the 1970s, practice-based research networks have been created with the goal of more efficiently facilitating the translation of research from bench to bedside.

Following successes in medicine, clinical questions in dentistry have also been recently investigated through the lens of practice-based research networks. A successful example has been the Dental Practice-Based Research Network (DPBRN) which encompasses more than 1,000 dentists enrolled in seven U.S. States and three Scandinavian countries. HealthPartners Dental Group enrolled dentists currently make up nearly 6% of the DPBRN.

A comparison by Makhija et al. of practitioners enrolled in the DPBRN and those responding to the American Dental Association's *Survey of Dental Practice* revealed similarities.

DPBRN dentists were found to be similar to dentists nationwide both demographically and with regard to practice characteristics—a promising conclusion regarding the ability to generalize DPBRN findings to the broader dental community.

Thank you to our dentist-investigators and staff members who have been integral to the success of the DPBRN. Your individual efforts benefit not only your patients, but also contribute to knowledge development that benefits the broader dental community and the public.

Interested in engaging in practice-based research? Visit the [DPBRN website](#) for more information or to enroll today.

Find the full article:

Title: Dentists in practice-based research networks have much in common with dentists at large: Evidence from the Dental Practice-Based Research Network

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