

Clinical trial matchmaking: connecting sites to sponsors

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Top 3 resources cancer programs desire to become more research ready:

1 Communication about clinical research opportunities

2 Connection to clinical trial sponsors

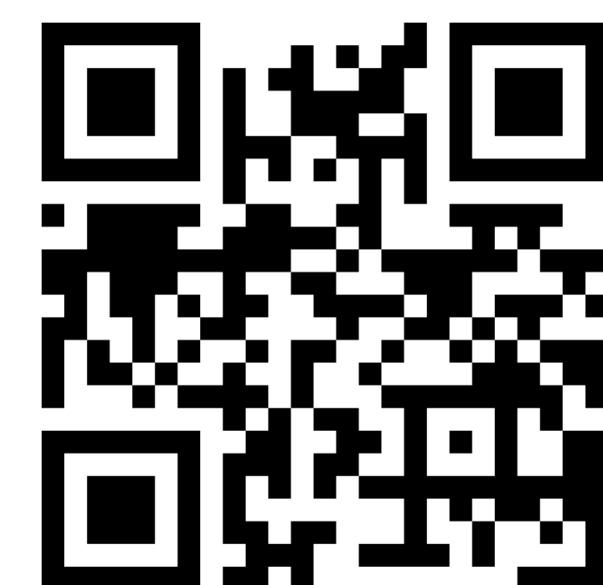
3 Coordinator training

BACKGROUND

Community oncology programs and practices encounter many challenges engaging their patients in clinical trials. In a previous analysis led by The Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC) Community Oncology Research Institute (ACORI), a survey was implemented to better understand how cancer programs engage in cancer clinical research, to gather insights into common barriers and solutions related to clinical trial implementation and patient recruitment, to better understand the needs of programs that do not currently offer clinical trials, and to identify tools and resources to support cancer programs. This survey revealed although most respondents participated in clinical research and referred patients for clinical trials, there was a need for improved communication between regional trial centers and clinical trial sponsors. These findings reinforce that community-academic oncology program communication gaps are pervasive nationwide, and support developing more integrated clinical trial infrastructure, training, and care coordination resources is needed.

INTRODUCTION

Oncology programs may encounter many challenges engaging in clinical trials. The Association of Cancer Care Center's (ACCC) Community Oncology Research Institute (ACORI) conducted a survey to gather insights on barriers to clinical trial provision and implementation, patient recruitment, and identifying resources to support cancer programs.



Scan this QR code for more information on this project and to download the poster. Or visit acc-cancer.org/ACORI

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METHODS AND MATERIALS

A survey of 29 questions was administered via online survey. The survey focused on research-naïve sites (i.e., sites with little to no clinical research experience). Survey recipients were identified from ACCC's membership database, and the survey was open from May 5 to October 10, 2023. One survey response was captured per member program.

Chart 1. Program breakdown by type.

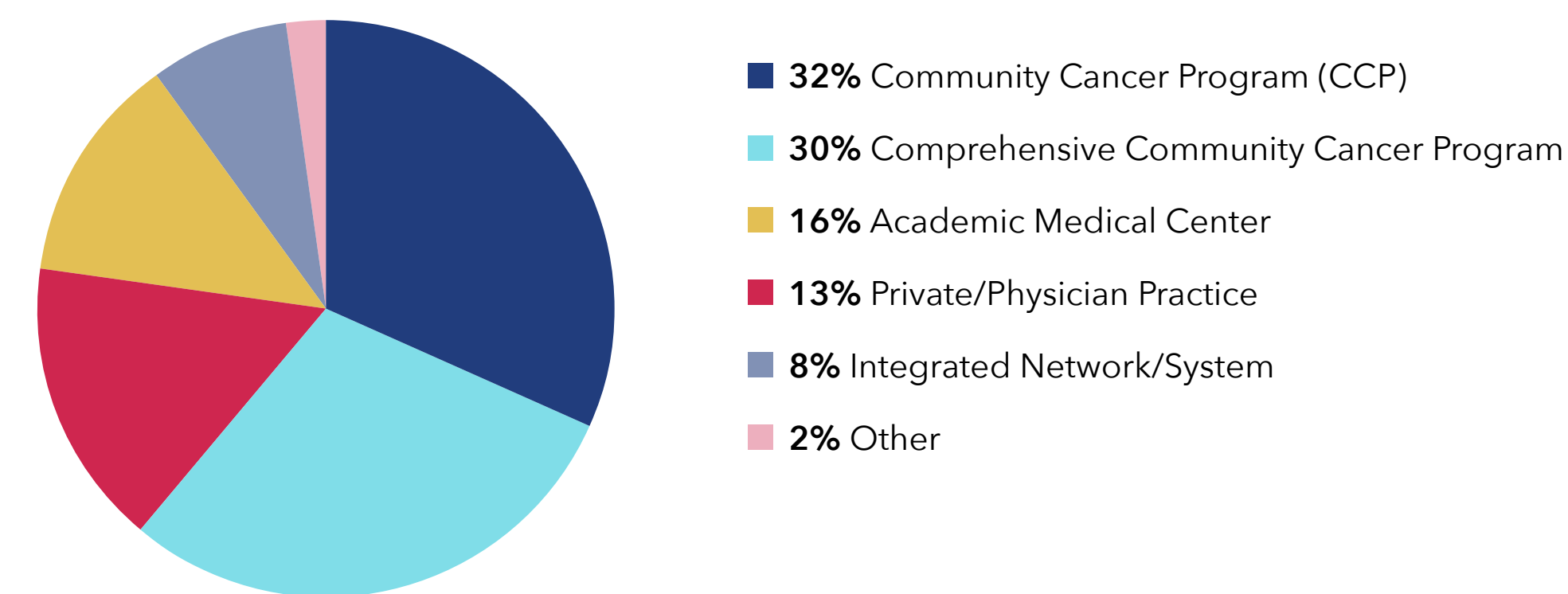
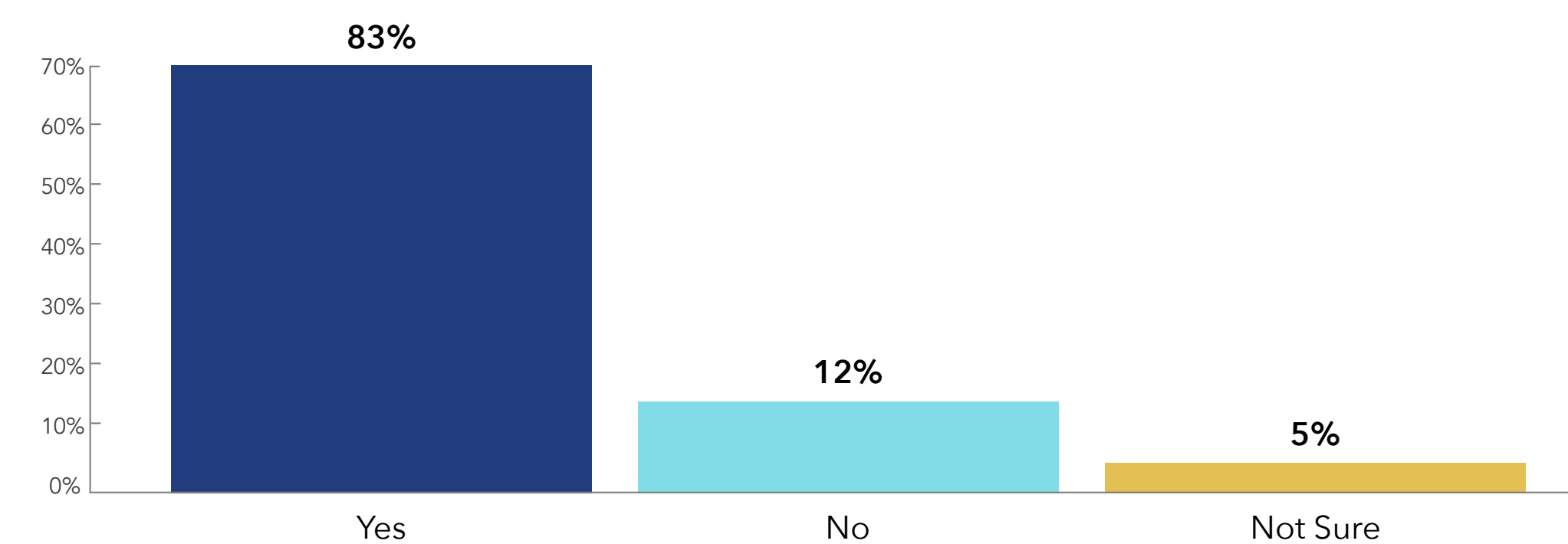


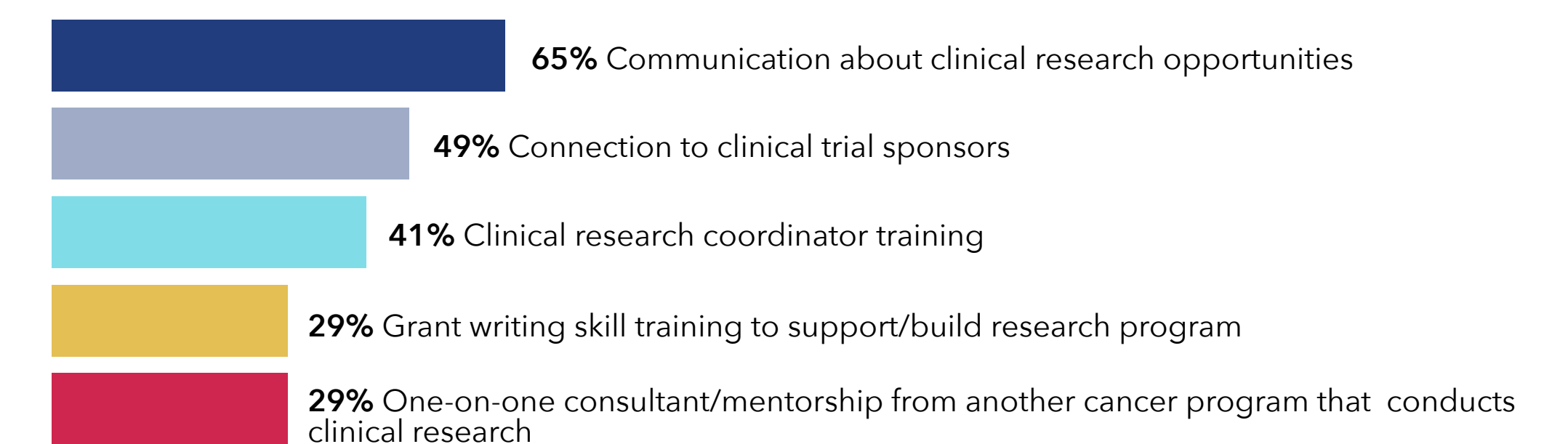
Chart 2. Does your program currently conduct clinical research?



RESULTS

The 350 respondents included physicians, investigators, or oncology fellows (20%), directors/administrators (16%), patient navigators (12%), and APPs (12%). Responding programs were categorized as a community cancer program (32%), comprehensive community cancer program (30%), or academic medical center (16%). Eighty three percent of respondents indicated their program currently conducts clinical research. The most common challenges included: patient recruitment (40%), limited staffing (36%), limited clinician time (32%), and lack of training in research administration and conduct (25%). The top 3 resources desired were communication about clinical research opportunities (65%), connections to clinical trial sponsors (49%), and clinical research coordinator training (41%).

Chart 3. Top resources desired by cancer centers to help them become more research-ready. Respondents were allowed to choose more than 1 option.



CONCLUSIONS

Survey results showed a clear need for improved communication regarding clinical research opportunities, connections to clinical trial sponsors, and education around clinical trial implementation. Data from this survey will be used to match sites with trial sponsors, especially sites that serve patients with cancer from under resourced geographic, socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups. Future efforts will seek to engage clinical trial sponsors in improving trial engagement and feasibility, workforce support, training, and clinical mentorship.