



Barriers to Health Care Research for Children and Youth with Psychosocial Problems

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Background

Large numbers of children have mental health problems but few receive services for these problems.

- § Most children in the US have a primary care provider
- § Primary care providers identify significant numbers of children with mental health issues
- § Most psychotropic drug prescriptions to children and adolescents are prescribed by primary care physicians



Background

Central role of primary care physicians in providing mental health services was identified as early as 1978 by Regier and colleagues.

- § Primary medical care system was labeled the defacto mental health care system
- § Young children and the elderly most likely to receive treatment for mental health issues within the primary medical care system



Background

Recognizing the key role primary care clinicians have in identifying and treating mental health problems, federal agencies have incorporated an emphasis on primary care in their research planning documents for children and adolescents.

- § 1989 Institute of Medicine. Research on Children and Adolescents with Mental, Behavioral and Developmental Disorders
- § 1990 National Plan for Research on Child and Adolescent Mental Disorders



Background

- § 1998 Bridging Science and Service: A Report by the National Advisory Mental Health Council's Clinical Treatment and Services Research Workgroup
- § 1999 Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health
- § 2000 Report of the Surgeon General's Conference on Children's Mental Health
- § 2000 Strategic Plan: Children as a Priority Population (AHRQ)
- § 2001 Blueprint for Change: Research on Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- § 2003 President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Illness



Question

Are the federal research agencies' portfolios of funded grants consistent with the attention to primary care-based research on mental health services for children referred to in their planning/policy documents?

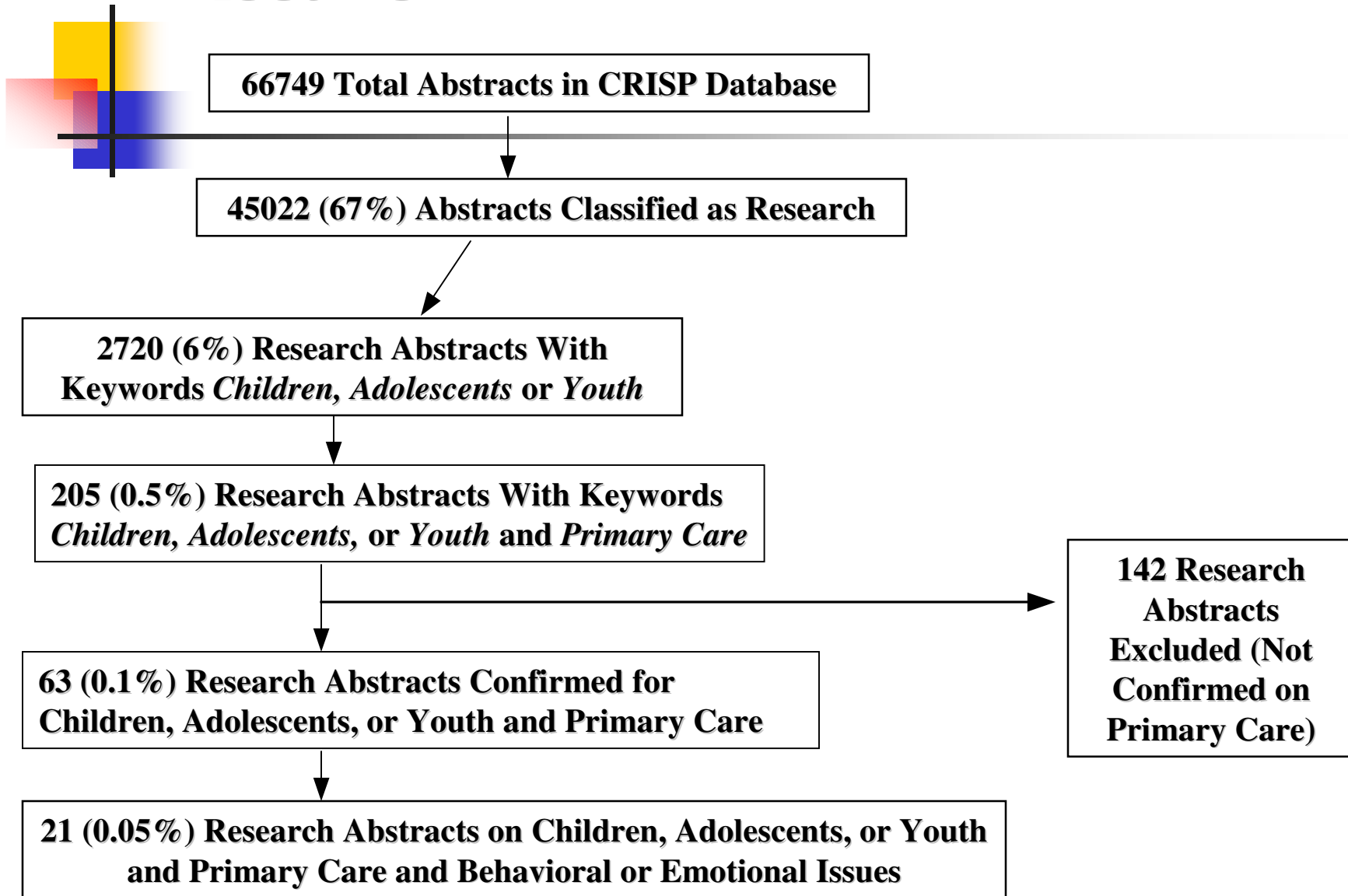


Methods

Searched the 66,749 abstracts listed in the April 2001 Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP)

- n All searches completed twice.
- n Keywords: children, adolescents, youth; children and primary care; adolescents and primary care; youth and primary care.
- n Abstracts rated as to whether:
 - n Targeted primary care;
 - n Examined behavioral or emotional issues;
 - n Examined/modified a facet of primary care.

Results



Results



Of the 24 institutes listed on CRISP

§ 11 funded the 63 research projects on children and primary care.

§ 5 funded the 21 research projects on emotional/behavioral problems in primary care.

§ AHRQ 2 (0.52%) NICHD 1 (0.05%)

§ NIAAA 6 (0.70%) NIMH 11 (0.41%)

§ NIDA 1 (0.06%)

§ 5/6 NIAAA projects represented a body of work focused on usual practice.

Results: 2004 Update on Emotional/Behavioral Problems in Primary Care

Agency	2001		2004		# with Key Words
AHRQ	2/383	.52%	1/542	.18%	47
NIAAA	6/850	.70%	1/1026	.01%	5
NIDA	1/1693	.06%	0/2124	0%	9
NICHD	1/2061	.05%	1/2689	.004%	51
NIMH*	11/2703	.41%	10/3584	.27%	40

*8/10=ADHD



Conclusions:

Although federal planning documents devote considerable attention to the need to understand identification and treatment of children's behavioral and emotional issues within primary medical care settings, there is little evidence that this attention has resulted in research programs in this area.

§ 2001 21 grants in this area

§ 2004 13 grants in this area in spite of the growth in number of research grants funded by NIH.



Conclusions:

Examination of the 2001 CRISP research abstracts on the treatment of depression in primary care showed that only 6 of 103 abstracts (5.8%) had children or adolescents as a focus. This suggests that the health/healthcare research gaps between adults and children previously noted may not yet be closed.

Conclusions:



Without understanding the opportunities and barriers facing physicians confronted with mental health problems in children we can not develop strategies for practice change. Generating this knowledge will require a well-planned research agenda that builds knowledge in an orderly fashion. Such an agenda must be supported by specific announcements and review considerations.



QUESTIONS?
