

CAHPR South West needs survey report results

The survey was conducted from 5th June to 15th June 2023 to gather information regarding research engagement and training preferences among Allied Health Professions (AHPs) within the South West region. A total of 25 responses were received from various disciplines, including Physiotherapists (11), Occupational Therapists (4), Dietitians (4), Radiographers (2), Speech and Language Therapists (1), Paramedics (1), Art Therapists (1), and Other (1). This report aims to provide an overview of the survey findings.

Research Engagement

Most respondents (64%) indicated they dedicate a few hours or less to research. Additionally, 8% of respondents allocated between ½ day to 1 day, 12% dedicated 2 days, 8% devoted three days, and 12% invested four days for research activities. Notably, no respondent indicated having five full days dedicated to research.

Preferred Research Events

The survey explored the interest of respondents in various research events. The most popular preferences included training in research skills (21), talks from experienced researchers sharing their journey in research (16), an annual conference (15), discussions on securing research funding (15), conversation cafés (14), and journal clubs (11).

Training Topics

Respondents highlighted their interest in diverse research training topics. The most popular choices were as follows: how to write a funding application (16), research design - how to design a study (15), systematic literature reviews (14), introduction to statistical analyses (14), methods for service evaluation/quality improvement projects (14), study protocol development and registration (14), qualitative research methods (13), paper writing skills (13), poster creation (13), presentation skills (11), abstract writing (10), and critical appraisal skills (10).

Event Format Preferences

Regarding event formats, many respondents (68%) preferred a hybrid approach combining online and face-to-face components. Conversely, 32% of respondents preferred exclusively online events, with no respondents preferring solely face-to-face events.

Timing Preferences

Regarding event timings, most respondents (56%) preferred lunchtime events. Other preferences included unspecified timings (20%), evening events (12%), late afternoon events (8%), and after-work events (4%). This information will aid in planning future events to accommodate the attendees' preferences.

Conclusion

The survey provided valuable insights into the research engagement and training preferences among AHPs across the Southwest. The preference for a hybrid event format, particularly during lunchtime, emphasises the need for flexibility and accessibility. We have renamed the research café to "conversation café" to foster inclusivity.