

Creating a National Network of Research Networks

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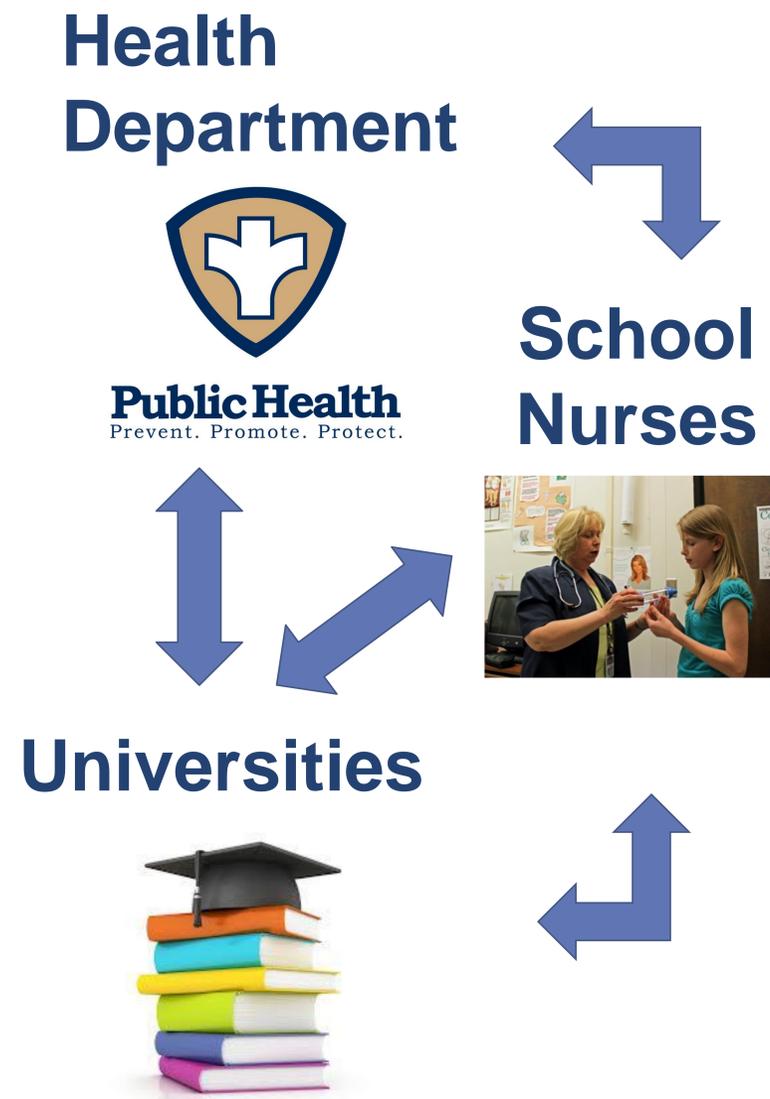
Background

- School nurses had many questions that lent themselves to research projects
- School nurses lacked the research skill need to carry out projects
- Universities and the Health Department wanted to conduct research in the schools but needed assistance in collecting data

Solution: Regional Research Networks

Focusing on the **STRENGTHS** of each group:

- **SCHOOL NURSES:** Access and practice questions
- **UNIVERSITY:** Research expertise, IRB, Funding
- **HEALTH DEPT:** Leadership and resources



Next Steps

- Develop national webinar series to educate school nurses about research.
- Work with individual states to identify what will work for them.
- **MODEL can work for other areas of public health.**

Strengths

- Strong partnerships
- Best use of resources
- Furthers everyone's goals

Barriers

- Different agendas
- Different backgrounds
- Varying levels of commitment

Lessons Learned

- No two networks are structured the same
- Set established rules/policies from the beginning
- The first year should focus on training.
- All participants need to be involved during the entire process
- An oversight committee is needed for sustainability
- Decide authorship early
- Many people are willing, but do not realize the commitment involved

Information also obtained from informal interviews and discussions conducted with members of networks in Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts, and North Carolina

References

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