

## PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH WITH ORGANIZATIONS (PRO)

- Research with members of health organizations (diverse designs)
- Co-decision making: Members of health organizations are active decision makers, with researchers, throughout the research process

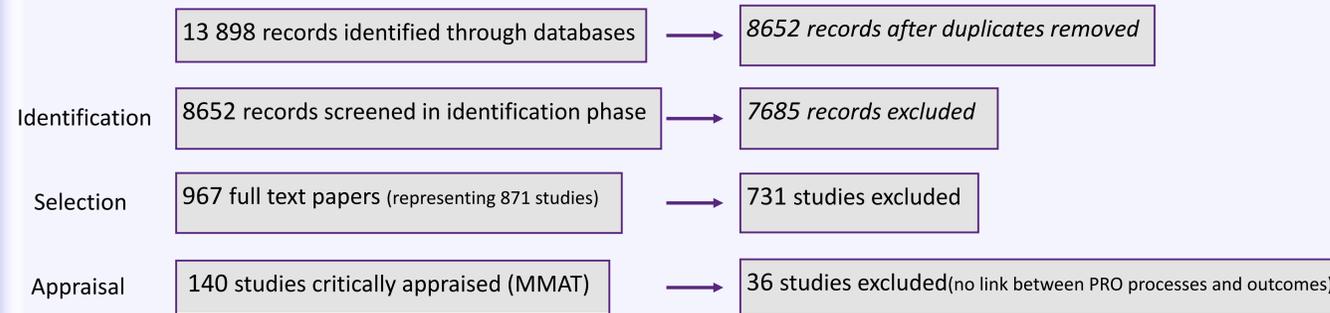
## BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

- No systematic review of the PRO literature
- Fragmented knowledge on PRO processes and outcomes
- Objective: Identify PRO processes contributing to outcomes

## METHODS

- Systematic mixed studies review conducted with organization partners\*
- Comprehensive search, Eligibility criteria, Reliable Identification, Selection & Quality appraisal
- Data: article text excerpts about PRO processes and outcomes
- Synthesis: construct stories from excerpts about PRO processes contributing to benefits/pitfalls

## RESULTS: Flow Diagram



## Synthesis

- 82 studies involving organization members as *co-decision makers* used to construct the stories about PRO processes contributing to benefits and/or pitfalls (141 papers)
- 22 studies involving organization members as *consultants* used in other phases of this systematic review

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS: PRO Processes, Benefits, and Pitfalls

### Key Processes

- Regular meetings
- Open communication
- Sharing experiences
- Discussing results
- Flexible research design

### Benefits

- Enhanced leadership, communication, and/or problem-solving skills
- Enhanced understanding of colleagues/patients
- Improved team work

### Pitfalls

- Insufficient or ineffective communication
- Scarce resources
- Tension between groups of health professionals and/or management

### Exemplar story:

*Open communication enabled and empowered the nurse co-decision makers to directly influence the development of the study. They felt able to share their ideas and the gaps in their knowledge, and recognised the importance of time for thinking and reflecting on nursing research and practice. Each of the nurse co-decision makers demonstrated ongoing positive and painful enlightenment through their own personal development and participation (Bellman, Bywood, & Dale, 2003).*

## DISCUSSION

Current PBRN Guidance	Recommendations based on Key PRO processes
Advisory board	Establish a work group composed of organization members (in PRO, the academic partner generally takes on a facilitator role)
Community hiring	
Group facilitation	
Frequent meetings	Hold regular meetings (e.g., 1-2 times per month)
Research agreement	Rarely used in PRO (n=9); Organization work group processes may be sufficient
	Use a flexible research design
	Communicate openly, share experiences & discuss results

## CONCLUSION

This review will provide insight for bottom-up PBRNs planning to use a PRO approach

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