

# NATIONAL SURVEY OF DNP PROGRAMS COMMONALITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DNP PROJECT

---

## Project Team:

Jeannie Scruggs Garber, DNP, RN, NEA-BC  
James Madison University

Cindy G. Zellefrow, DNP, MEd, RN, LSN, PHNA-BC  
The Ohio State University

Sharon Guthrie, PhD, ARNP, CPNP, NCSN, RN-BC  
Mount Mercy University

Linda Roussel, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNL, FAAN  
Texas Woman's University

1

## From Collegial Discussion to Exploration



**JMU**  
School of Nursing



 **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF NURSING



**MOUNT  
MERCY  
UNIVERSITY**



  
**TEXAS WOMAN'S  
UNIVERSITY**

2

## Guided by the Evidence: Our Integrative Review Team



Rene Love PhD, DNP,  
PMHNP-BC, FNAP,  
FAANP



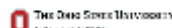
Margie Hamilton Sipe,  
DNP, RN, NEA-BC



Kerry Milner DNSc,  
RN



Joanne F. Fletcher  
EdD, RN, ACM-RN



Cindy Zellefrow DNP  
MSEd RN LSN  
PHNA-BC

3

## Special Thanks!

**Rosalie Mainous, PhD, AACN Staff Liaison**  
Director of Academic Nursing Development



4

## Table Topics

- Index Cards
  - White- General Questions
  - Colors- Activity at "The End"



- Fidget Toys



5

## Project Timeline



### October 2017

- Question Posted on AACN Discussion Board
  - 61 replies representing 44 Colleges/Universities

### December 2017

- Conference call with DNP Faculty from across the United States
  - Over 40 faculty participated
  - Topic generated tremendous interest and passionate discussion

6

## Project Timeline continued...



### January 2018

- Session held at AACN Doctoral Education Conference
- Approximately 50 conference attendees participated in the 7am meeting
- 2 subgroups were formed
  - Literature Review
  - Survey Development

7

## Project Timeline continued...



### Spring 2018

- Literature Review Subgroup
- Survey Subgroup
- Core Project Team Group

### Summer 2018

- Survey development
- WebEx planning sessions

### Fall 2018

- IRB
- Survey Deployment

8

# Purpose of National Survey

- To collect information to describe current practices related to :
  - Makeup of DNP project committees/teams,
  - Use of group DNP projects, and
  - DNP Scholarly Project final products.

## Framework for Inquiry:

### AACN August 2015 Report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP



## Research Questions:

- What are the commonalities in the implementation of DNP Projects among DNP programs in the United States?
- What are the differences in the implementation of DNP Projects among DNP programs in the United States?
- What are the specific practices in DNP Programs across the United States related to the makeup (composition) of DNP project committees/teams, current practices related to group projects and required DNP Scholarly Project final products?

11

## Integrative Review: Guiding Questions

1. What is the name of the DNP project?
2. Who makes up the DNP project team?
3. Individual vs. group projects?
4. Have the recommendations from the AACN August 2015 report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP project been adopted?



12

## Search Strategy

- **Databases**
  - CINAHL,
  - PubMed,
  - Medline,
  - Scopus,
  - Web of Science,
  - Cochrane Library,
  - Trip
  - Google Scholar
- **Gray literature**
- **Textbooks**



13

## Search Strategy

Search Terms: Doctor of Nursing Practice, and DNP.

Each of the following terms was searched by itself, then with “Doctor of Nursing Practice” and “DNP” preceding it:

Project	Advisor
Capstone	Committee Chair
Dissertation	Project team
Scholarly project	Committee
Group project	Scholarly Project Team

Boolean Operators:

- AND
- OR



14

## Identifying Our Body of Evidence: Methods

- 40 pieces of literature identified
- Reviewed for content addressing guiding questions
- 27 articles included in review
- Critically appraised by two appraisers and disparities resolved with third appraiser
- Evaluation/summary table created and housed on cloud-based platform for accessibility by the team



15

## Results: The 27 “Keepers”

- Earliest piece of literature: 2001
- Eight published prior to 2015
- Seventeen published on or after 2015
- No date on two pieces of literature
- Levels of Evidence (Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt, 2014):
  - Level 6 (Single qualitative or descriptive studies): N=5
  - Level 7 (Expert Opinion): N=22



16



## Results: DNP project team name (N=15)

### Pre AACN August 2015 White Paper

- Committee N=2
- Supervisory Committee N=1

### Pre AACN August 2015 White Paper

- DNP Project Team \* N=6
- Project Committee N=1
- Faculty/Community Project Team N=1
- Team N=2
- Capstone Supervisory Team N=2

**WHAT'S  
IN A  
NAME?**

\* AACN recommended language

17

## Results: Name of team leader (N=15)

### Both Pre and Post August 2015 Report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP

- Chair N=8
- Lead N=2

### Post August 2015 Report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP

- Mentor\* N=3
- Advisor\* N=2
- Reader: N=1
- Coordinator N=1

**WHAT'S  
IN A  
NAME?**

\* AACN recommended language

18

## Results: Number of team members and credentials (N=11)

### Number of team members

- 1 plus student(s) N=1
- 2-3 plus student(s) N=7
  - 2 articles recommend 2-3 plus students but may vary based on project needs
- Defined by needs of project N=5

### Credentials of Team members

- “Doctorally Prepared” \* N=2
- PhD N=4
- DNP N=6
- No credentials specified for faculty team members N=6
- No credentials specified for community team members N=5

\* AACN recommended language

19

## Results: Individual vs. Group Projects

- Literature focused on group advising versus students doing group projects
- Group projects mentioned in two pieces of literature
  - Individual or student group projects (AACN 2015)
  - Survey of DNP programs done: 20 schools mention group projects (Minnick 2013)



20

## Project Design

- Exploratory, descriptive study
- Descriptive Statistics



21

## Population

Nursing faculty/administrators who are designing, implementing and evaluating DNP program practices

- United States DNP programs were identified on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) website of program listings



22

## Methodology



- Subjects were recruited via email
  - AACN Website listing of schools with DNP Programs ► searched school websites ► DNP Program contact email
- 27 Question Survey via Qualtrics



23

## Creating the Survey

- Essential to our purpose vs. “nice” to know
- Survey questions informed by integrative review
- Linked questions to AACN 2015 Report from the Task Force on Implementation of the DNP
- Majority of questions- reviewed by 5 nurse faculty x 3 rounds
  - Edits based on feedback from each group of 5
- Questions created in Qualtrics

24

## Preliminary Results

Demographics

DNP Project Team Makeup

Group Project Practices

DNP Scholarly Project

25

## Survey Response

- 287 Emails Sent

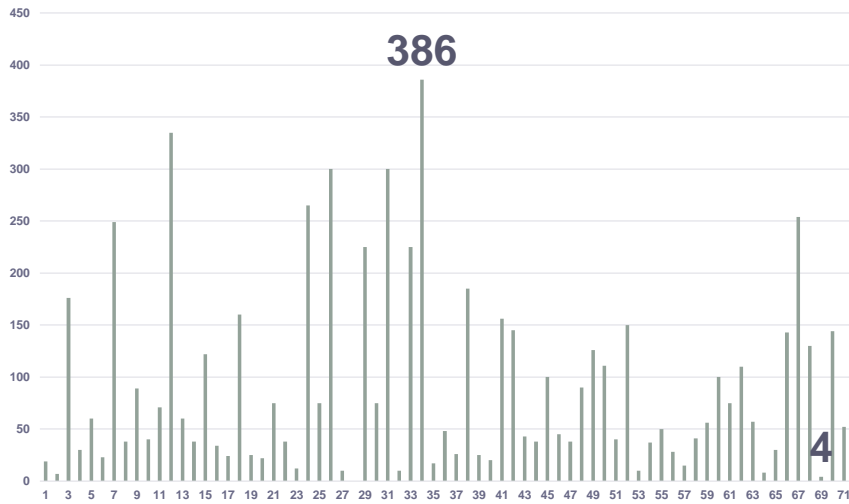


- 74 Responses



26

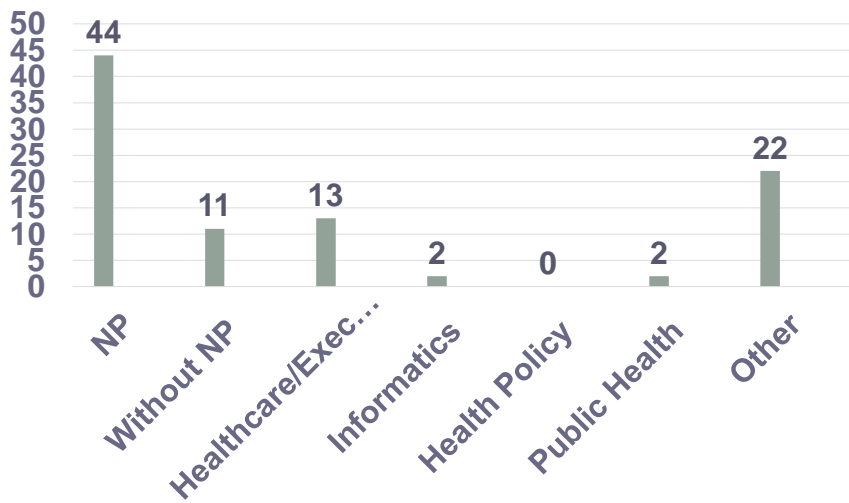
## Number of DNP Students in Program



27

## BSN-DNP Programs

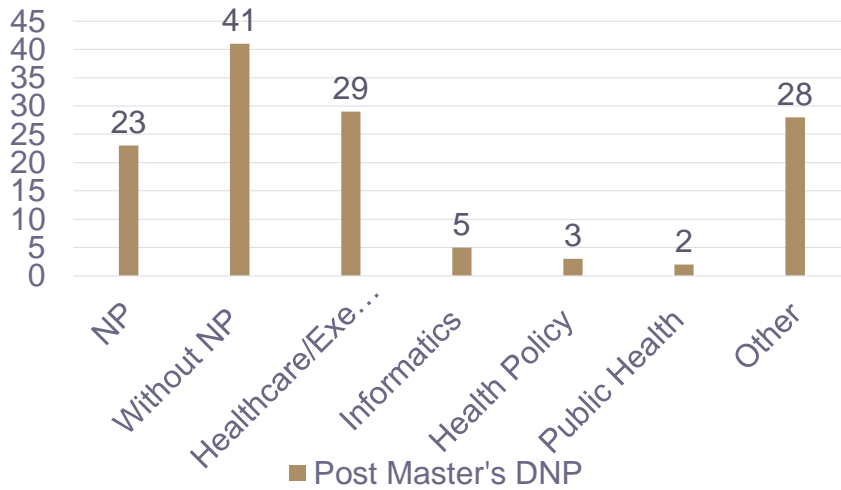
### Types of Programs and Specialties



28

## Post Master's DNP

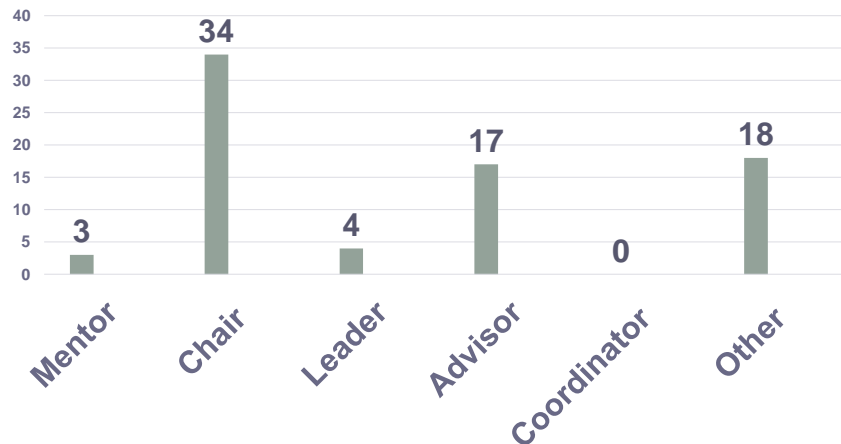
### Types of Programs and Specialties



29

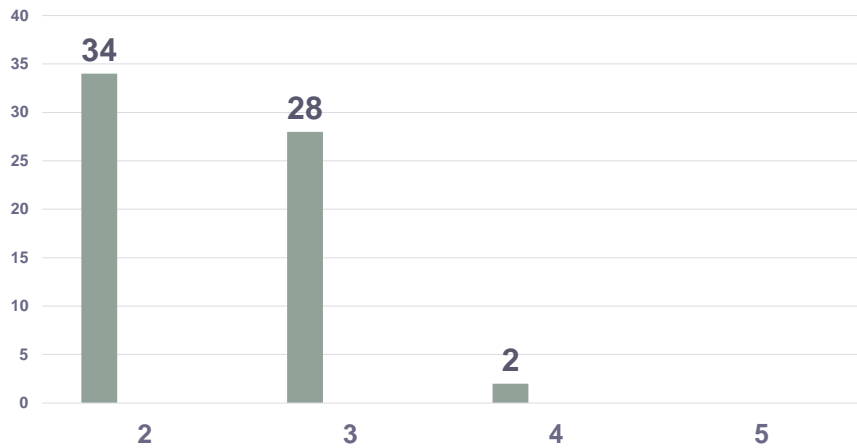
## DNP Project Team Makeup

### Title for Faculty Leader of DNP Project



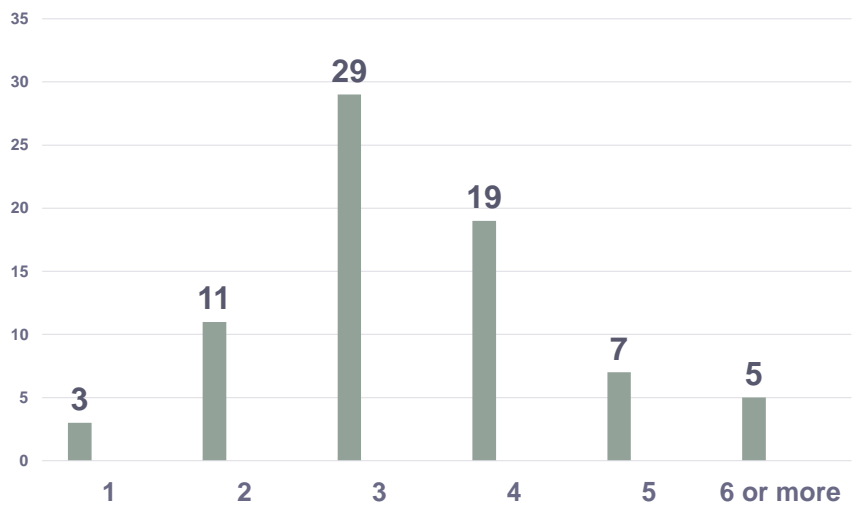
30

## Minimum Number of DNP Project Team Members



31

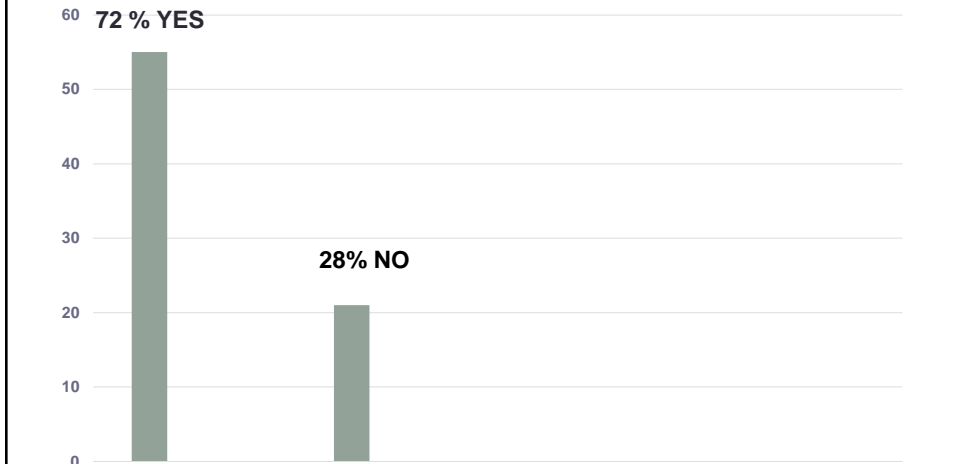
## Maximum Number of Individuals on DNP Project Team



32

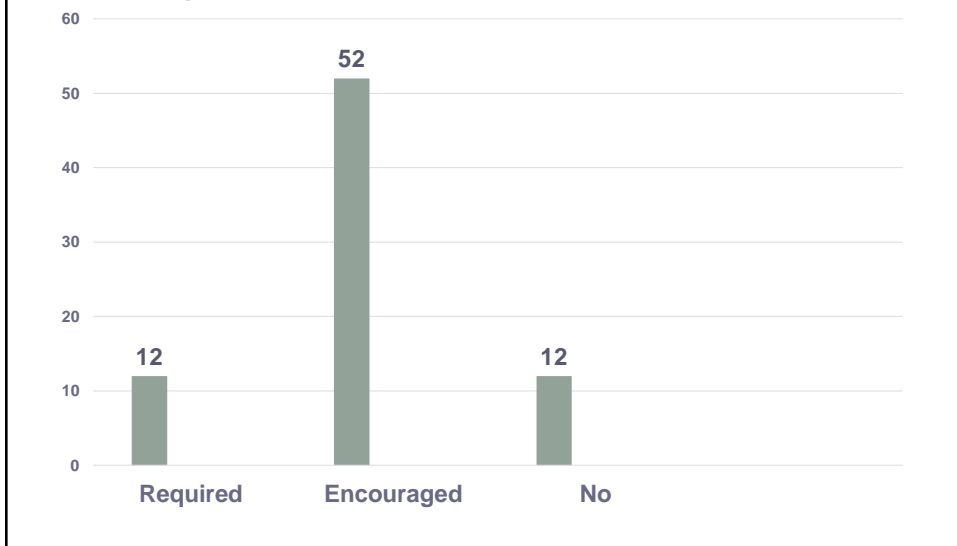


## Is DNP project faculty member involvement included in faculty workload?



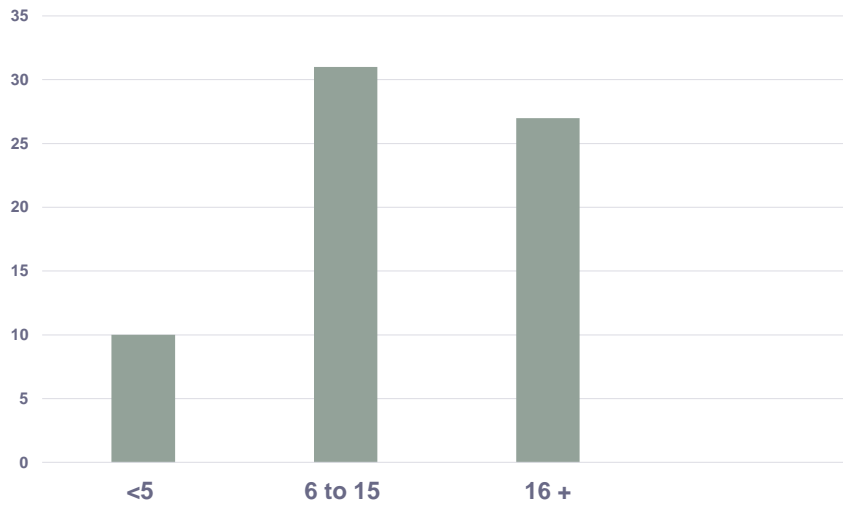
33

## Are DNP project topics linked to faculty interest and/or expertise?



34

## # of DNP Projects Lead/ Facilitated



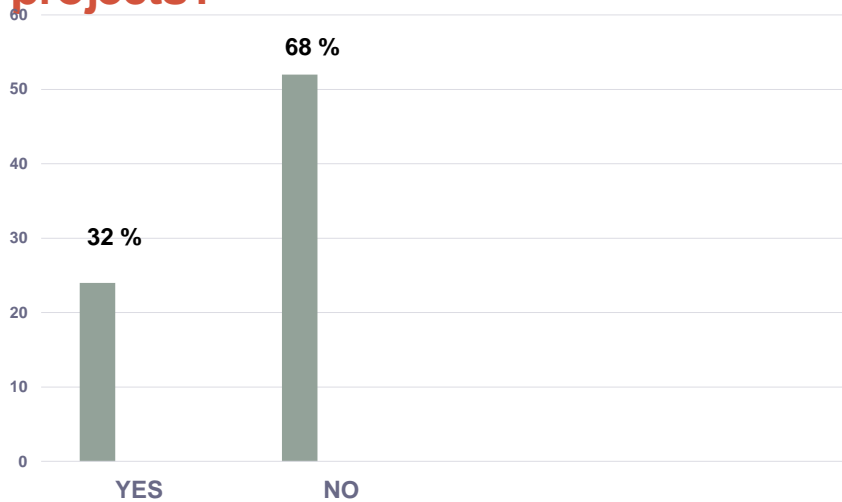
35

## Do you teach courses in the DNP plan of study?



36

## Does your program offer the option for students to engage in group DNP projects?



37

## DNP Group/ Team Projects

- Variability in-
  - How group projects are defined
  - How the work is divided among the group
  - Stage of planning/implementing group projects

38

## DNP Scholarly Product ***Presentations*** What do most require?

- In person
- Public
- Large group
- Poster and/or
- Podium



39

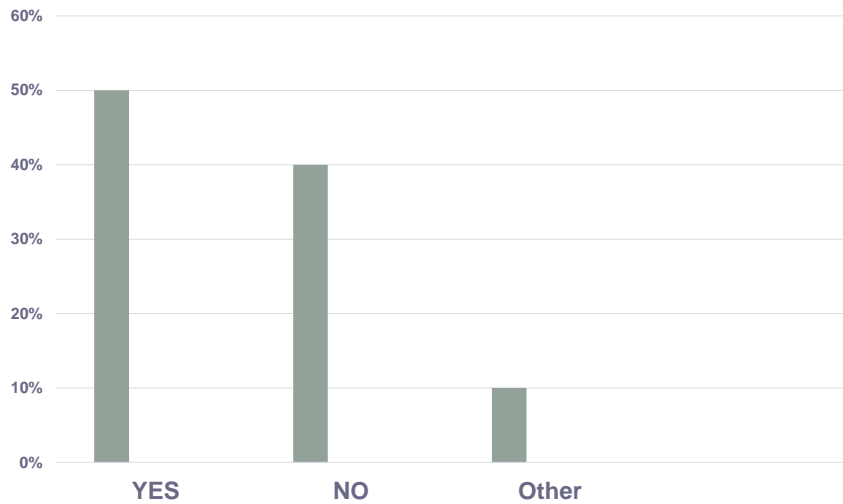
## DNP Scholarly Product ***Publications*** What do most require?



- 38% require a scholarly document of publishable quality
- 22% require a document similar to the traditional dissertation
- 12% require a scholarly document that has been submitted for publication
- 5% require a scholarly document that has been accepted for publication

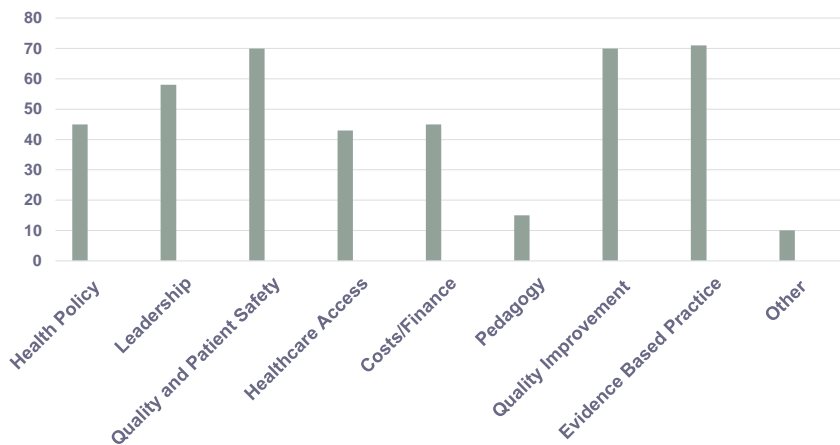
40

## Require a Portfolio



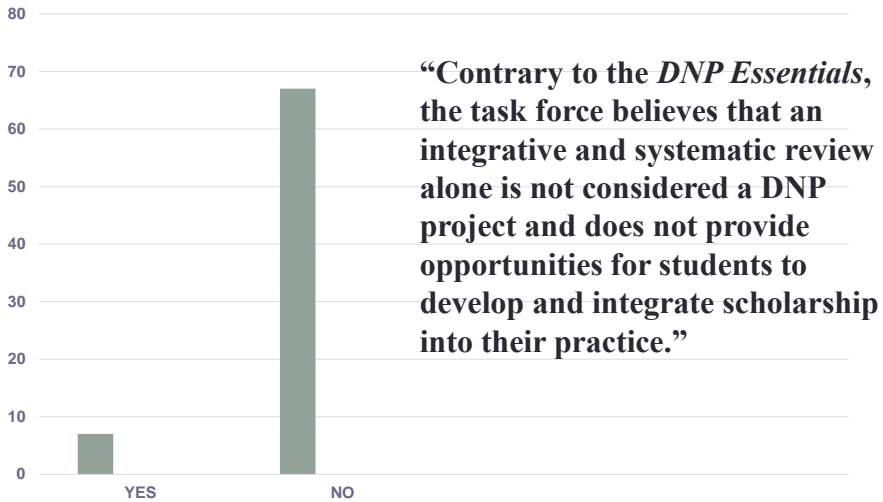
41

## Topics represented in DNP projects



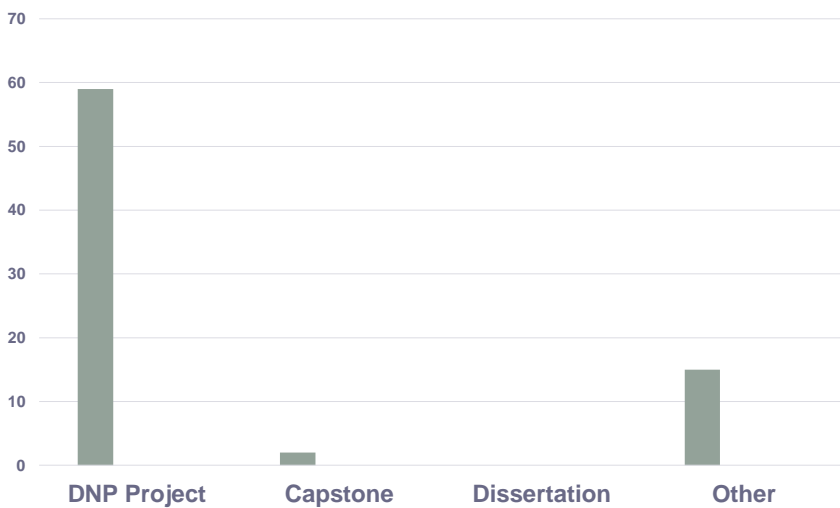
42

## Allow Systematic Literature Review as Project



43

## What do you call your DNP Scholarly Project?



44

## Number of DNP Students/Faculty

- DNP Faculty Chair ranged from 0-12 students/semester
- DNP Faculty as a Project Team/Committee member ranged from 0-8 students/semester



45

## Preliminary Results: Qualitative Themes

- Feedback and insights from questions generating much discussion
- **Major areas of focus:**
  - Faculty Workload
  - Strengths of DNP Project Team
  - Challenges
  - DNP Project and Curriculum Integration
  - Group Projects

46

## Faculty Workload

**Is DNP project faculty member involvement included in faculty workload? Elaborate on faculty workload distribution regarding DNP projects**

- Credit:
  - Yes (72.3%)
  - No (27.6%)
- 52 comments/feedback on survey . . . wide variation of credit and workload distribution.
- **Theme:** *Workload determination is challenging and confusing—difficult to explain and how decided upon*
- **Theme:** *Workload variation*

47

## Strength of DNP Project Team

**Describe the strengths regarding your program's DNP faculty project team structure: (70 responses)**

- **Theme:** *Relationship of faculty team with student includes faculty expertise and support*
- **Theme:** *Project team make-up with experienced and content expert faculty*
- **Theme:** *Form and function important to successful projects*

48



## Challenges with DNP Project Team

**Describe challenges experienced with your DNP faculty project team structure: (72 responses)**

- **Theme:** *Students, Students, and More Students*
- **Theme:** *So much to do, so little time: How do you manage it all?*
- **Theme:** *Experience and Expertise: How much is enough?*
- **Theme:** *We need structure and consistency in project work*

49

## DNP Project and Curriculum Integration

**If the DNP project is linked to a course, provide a brief description of how the DNP project is incorporated into the course. (68 responses)**

- **Theme:** *Start early, and stay focused*
- **Theme:** *Coursework, project work, practice: How do we integrate for greater effectiveness and efficiency*

50

## Group Projects

**If your program offers the opportunity to engage in group DNP projects (select all that apply): (over 40 responses)**

- Yes: 31.5%
- No: 68.4%
  
- **Theme:** *Teams can work with clear, well-defined roles, responsibilities, structure*
  
- **Theme:** *Impact and sustainability*

51

## Conclusions Related to Research Questions

**Commonalities in the implementation of DNP Projects among DNP programs in the United States:**

### **Demographics**

- Offer BSN-DNP and Post MSN DNP programs
- Teach courses in the DNP Program

### **DNP Project Team Makeup**

- 2-3 members plus the student
- Chair is the most common title for the faculty project lead
- 72% of programs provide workload consideration for DNP project work

### **Group Project Practices**

- 68% did not engage in group/team DNP projects

### **DNP Scholarly Project**

- Dissemination In person, public, podium/poster presentation
- Similar topics/categories of project types

52

## Conclusions Related to Research Questions

**What are the differences in the implementation of DNP Projects among DNP programs in the United States?**

### **DNP Project Team Makeup**

- Maximum number of project team members highly variable
- Only 12 programs require projects to be linked to faculty interests
- Number of projects lead/facilitated – highly variable

### **Group Project Practices**

- Programs are in various stages of implementing group/team projects
- Details around implementation are highly variable

### **DNP Scholarly Project**

- Differences in scholarly project publication requirements
- About 50% use a portfolio

53

## Conclusions Related to Research Questions

**Specific practices related to the makeup of DNP project committees/teams, current practices related to group projects and required DNP Scholarly Project final products:**

Shared in the preliminary qualitative results

54

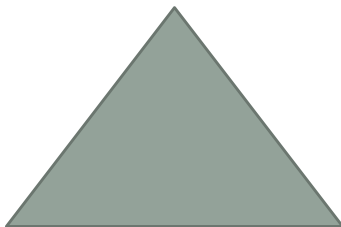
## Overall Conclusions

- Many similarities in what we call projects, who is on project teams and types of projects.
- Wide variations in facets of the project from the planning, implementation, evaluation and dissemination phases.
- Faculty Workload remains a concern specific to how time/credit/workload allocated.
- The practice mentor's role/impact needs further exploration.
- Project format and more structured guidance for the DNP Project is desired by some.
- Execution of group/team projects needs further exploration.
- DNP project outcomes and sustainability needs further study.

55

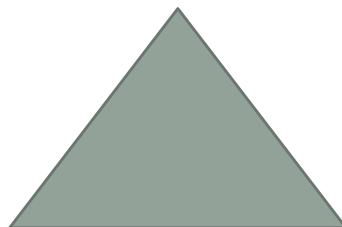
## Feedback Triangles

Front of Card



Three Key Points/Takeaways

Back of Card



Three Pointed Questions

**-Leave Your Contact Information if you are interested in joining our tribe to continue this work!**

56

## Discussion/Next Steps.....

