

Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs): a Resource for Translation Research

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***“If we want more evidence-
based practice,
we need more practice-based
evidence.”***

Larry W. Green, 2004

Overview

- What are Primary Care Practice-Based Research Networks or PBRNs?
- Case example: LA Net
- Can they be a resource to RCMIs?

What is a PBRN?

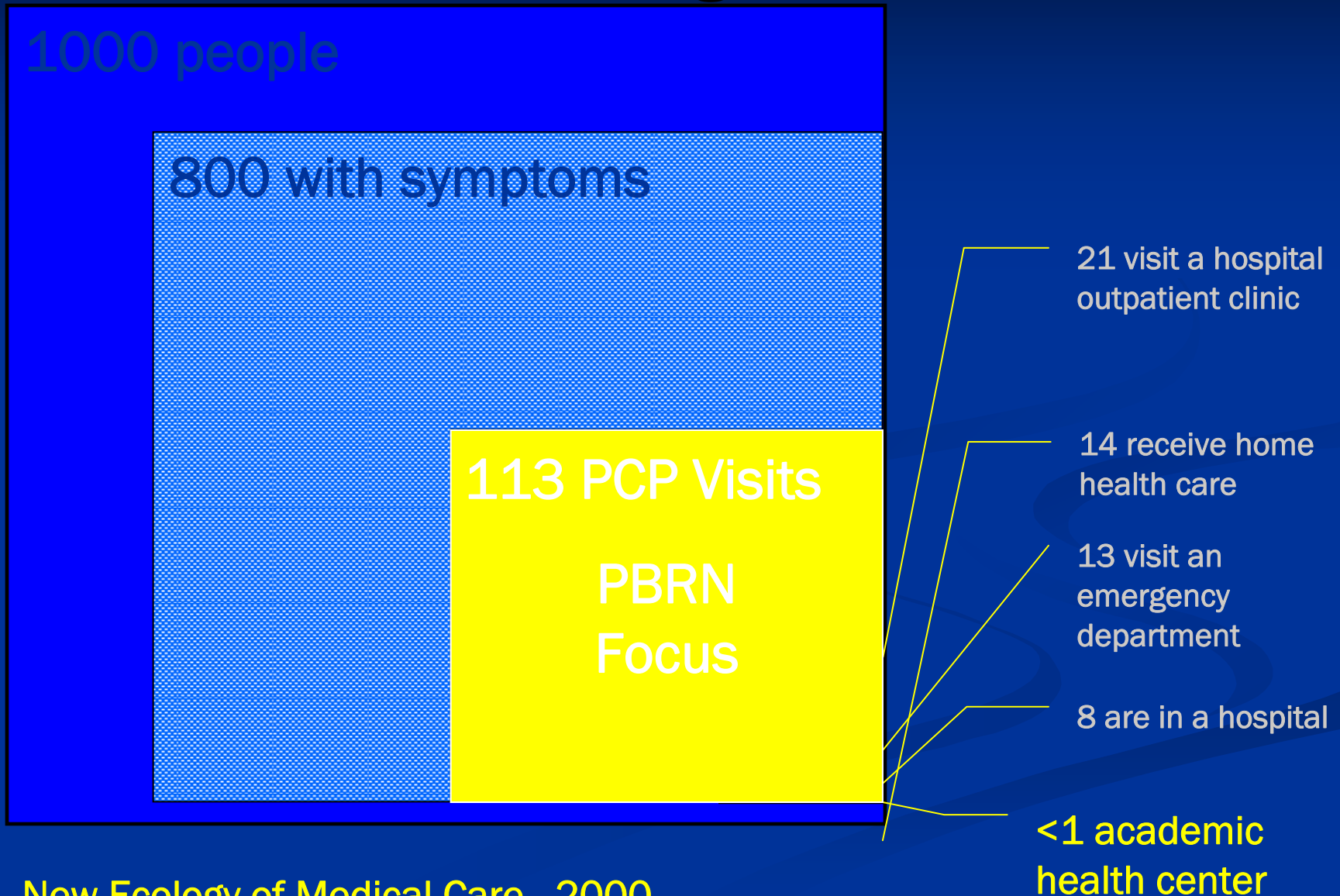
- A group of ambulatory practices devoted primarily to patient care -- affiliated with each other to investigate questions related to their practice
- Begun 30 years ago in US as a way to study process of primary care

Overview stats

- 89 PBRNs in US
- 14.7 million patients
- 12,957 providers

From: AHRQ National PBRN Resource Center Survey, 2005
N=89 out of 111 identified PBRNs

But why in primary care setting? In an average month:



LA Net

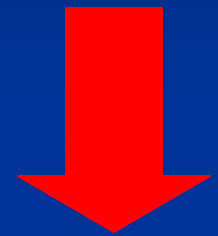
- Located in LA County
- Founded 2002 w/ funding from HRSA/AHRQ
- ~180 providers, 20 clinic partners in Los Angeles County
- Fluid membership – opt in or out based on interest



LA Net project generation

- TOP DOWN (40%)

- Respond to RFAs from funding agencies; collaborate with outside researchers



- BOTTOM UP (60%)

- Study ideas come from providers
- Use participatory process called the “Reflective Practitioner”

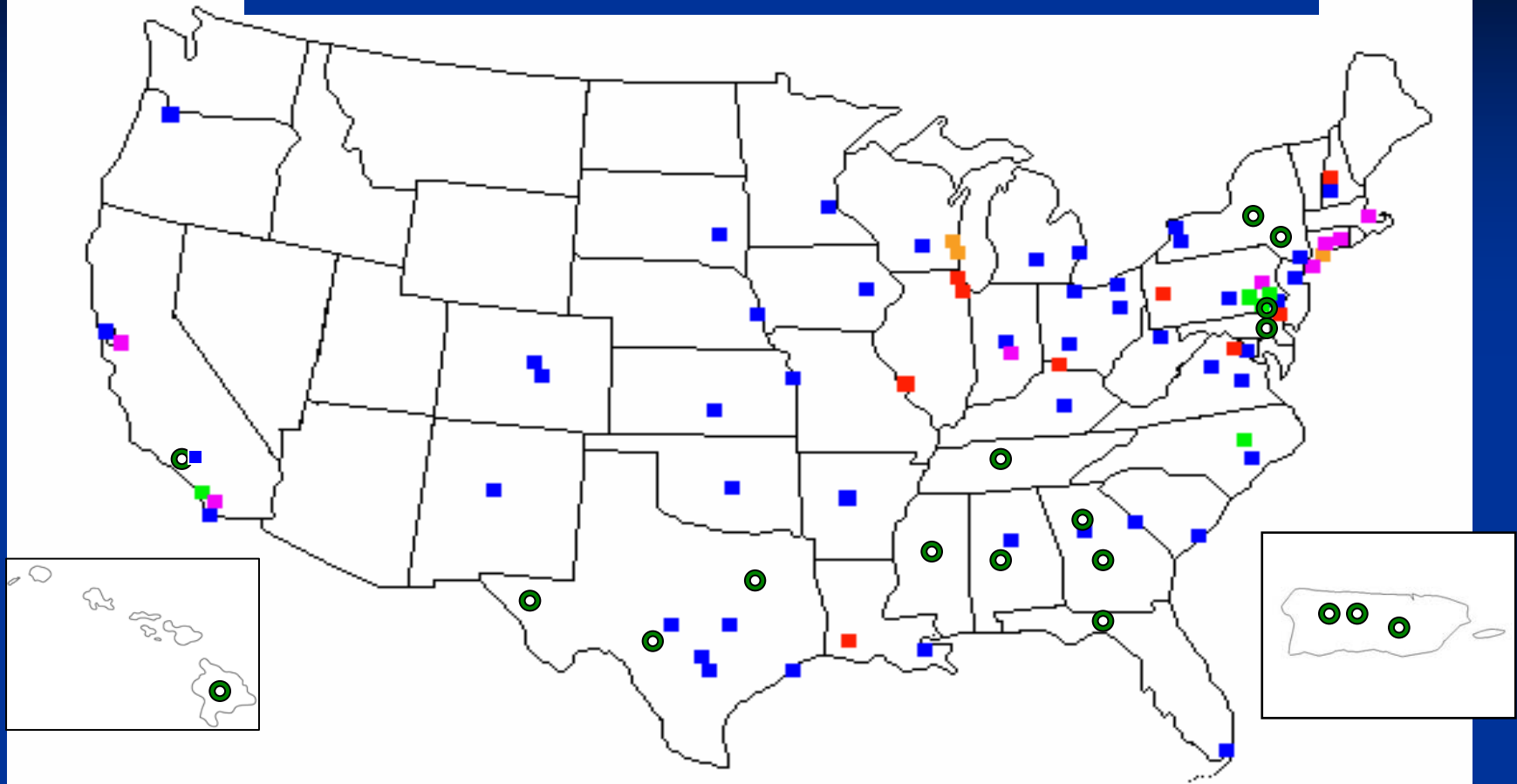


Examples of Current Health Disparity Studies by PBRNs

- Office-based modified colon endoscopy as an alternative to flexible sigmoidoscopy (LA Net)
- CAM Use and Disclosure by Latin American Immigrant Patients (LA Net)
- Longitudinal Study of Hyperlipidemia in a Primary Care Population (ProHealth)

- Ethnic Disparity in the Use of Joint Arthroplasty (ResNet)
- Black women's health study cheek cell collection (SCOR)
- Gene polymorphisms in relation to cancer in Black women and Black women's health study (SCOR)

Locations of PBRNs and RCMI Sites



Family Medicine PBRN

Pediatrics PBRN

Internal Medicine PBRN

Nursing/Nurse Practitioner PBRN

Other PBRN (includes Community Health Centers and multispecialty primary care networks)

RCMI Sites

Summary

- PBRNs are available and they work
- They can be effective partners for RCMI for translation research, and for increasing the relevance and eventual “translatability” of medical research