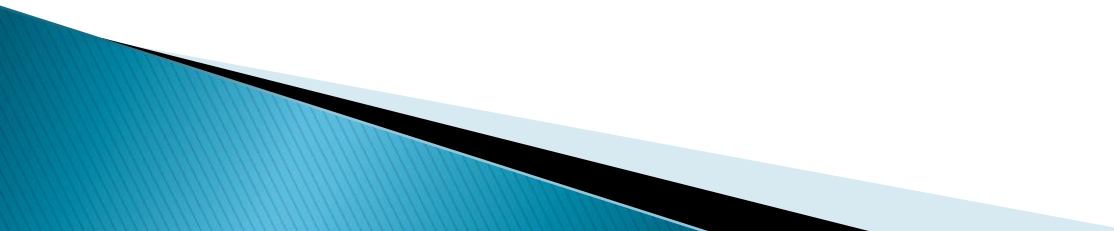


What are the Barriers that Medical Professionals Face When Making a Hospice Referral?

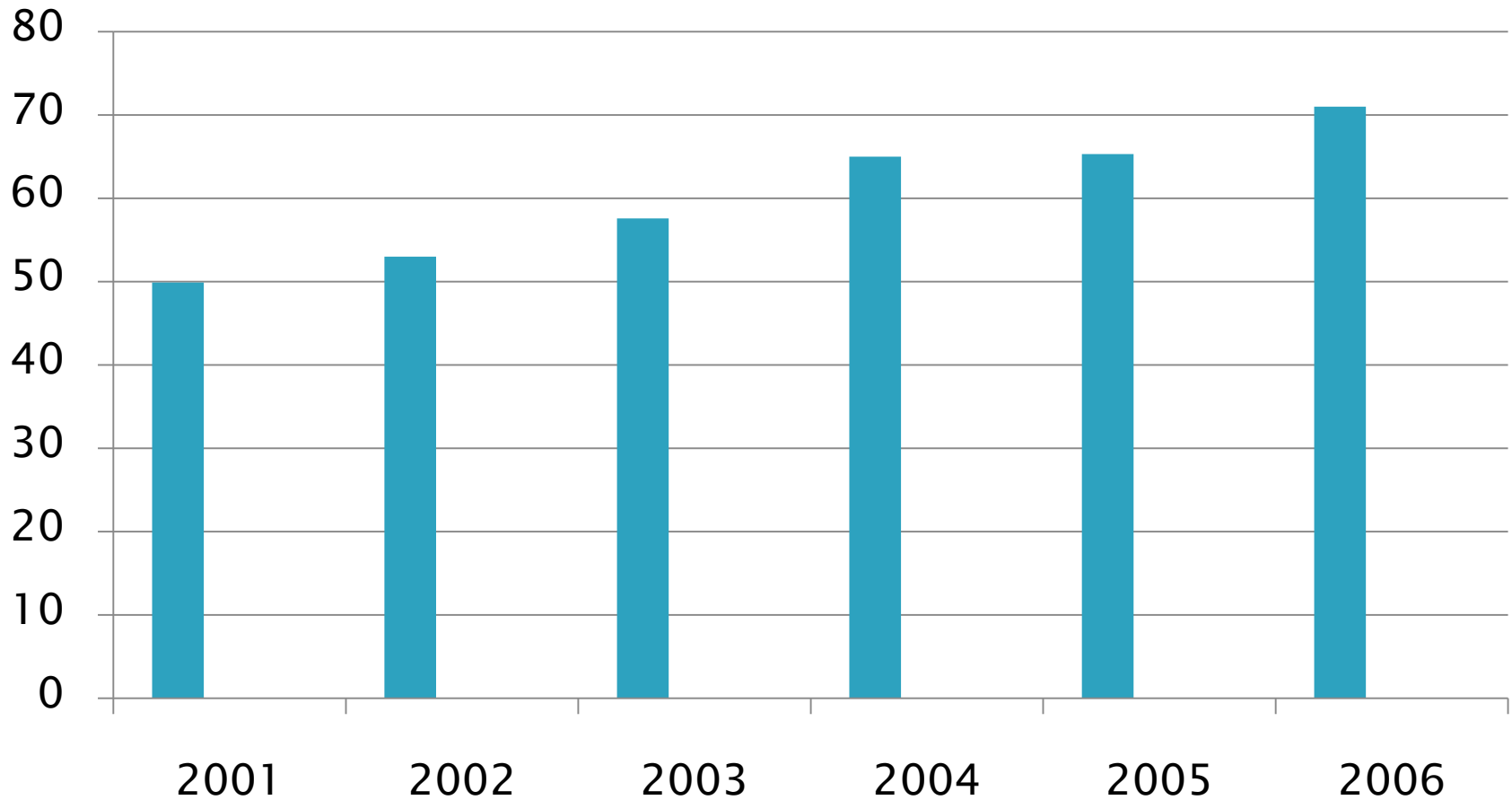
Research Proposal PA 705
Rosalie Beauchamp

Introduction

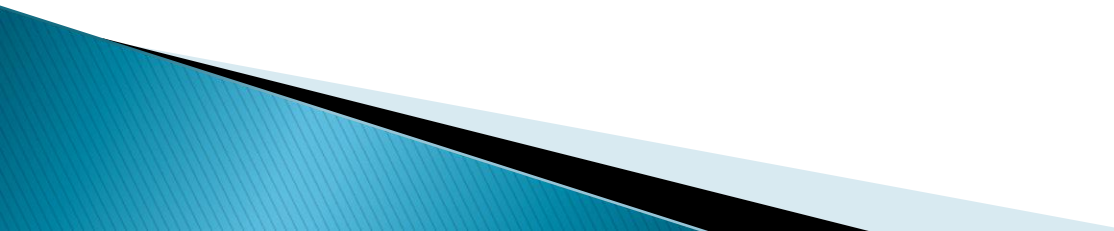
- ▶ Definition of Hospice under the Hospice Medicare Benefit
 - ▶ Criteria for Qualifying for Hospice Services
 - ▶ The main goal of the Medicare hospice benefit was to reduce costly inpatient hospital stays at the end of life and to provide care for Medicare beneficiaries with incurable, advanced illnesses
 - ▶ Presently, there are 3,300 hospices in the United States
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Average Days Per Client 2001–2006

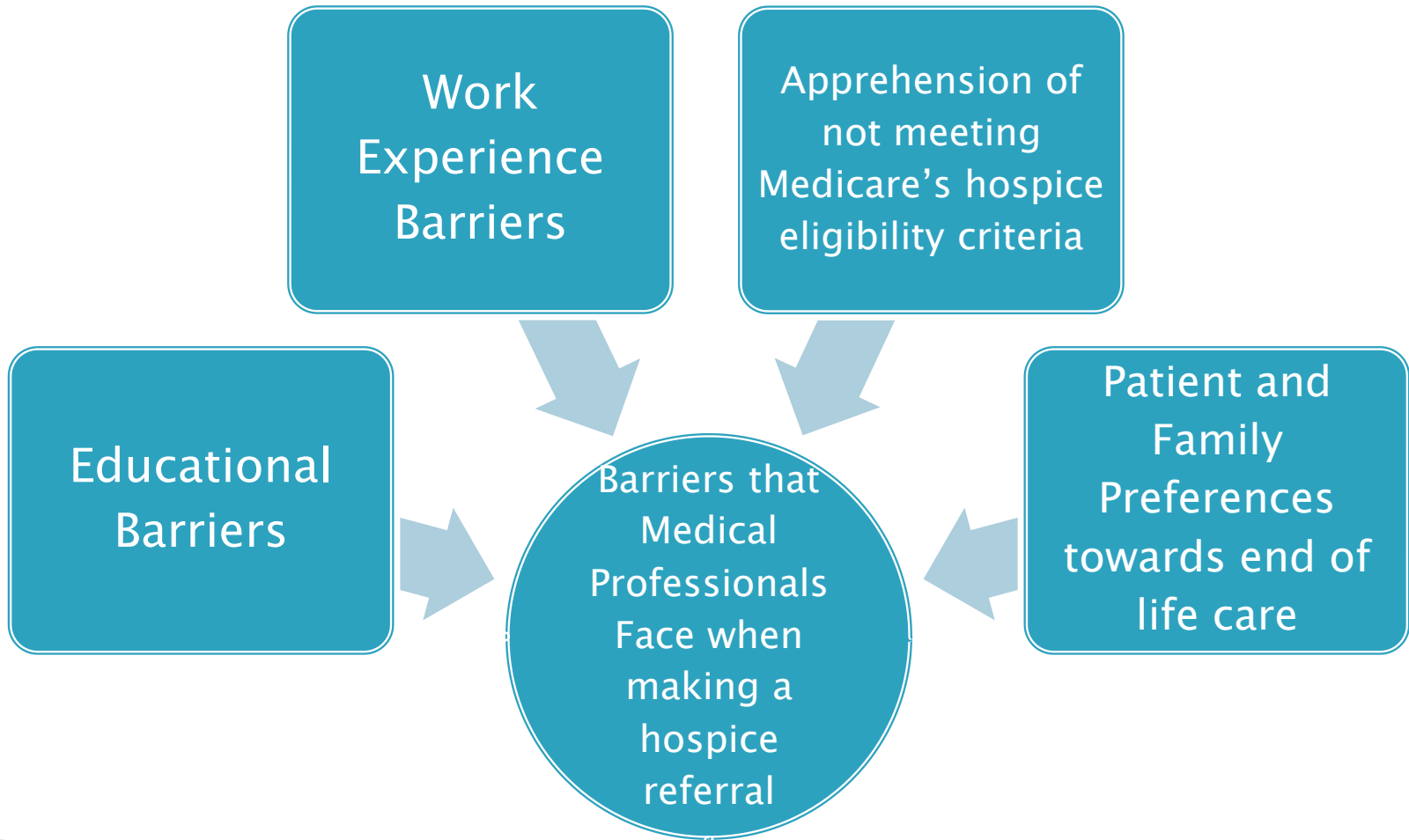
Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



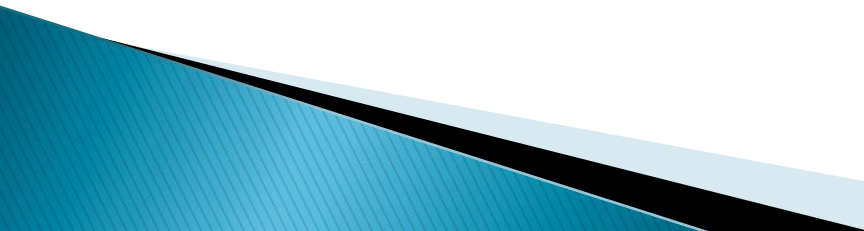
Hypothesis: Four Barriers Exist

- ▶ Educational barriers
 - ▶ Work experience barriers
 - ▶ Fear of not meeting Medicare's qualifying criteria of having six months or less to live
 - ▶ Acting upon patient and family preferences towards end of life care
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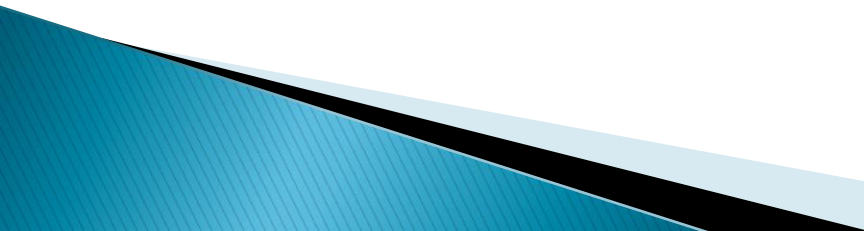
Schematic Model: Hypothesis



Research Design and Data Collection

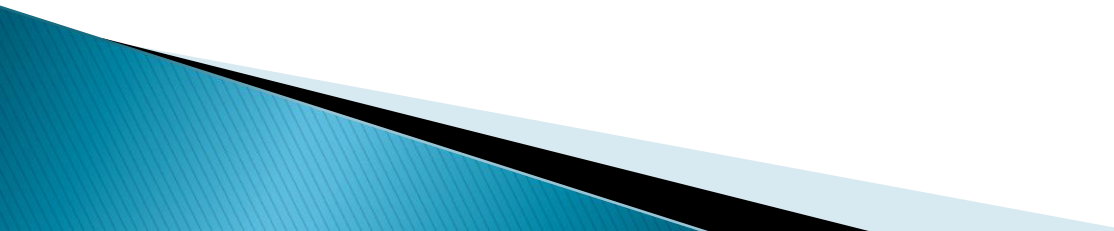
- ▶ Non-Experimental Design: Web based Survey
 - ▶ Single Group Post Test
 - ▶ Survey provided to Sonoma County Medical Professionals (Target Population)
 - ❖ Physicians (40)
 - ❖ Registered Nurses (40)
 - ❖ Medical Social Workers (40)
 - ❖ Expectation of at least 25 total responses
- 

Survey Design

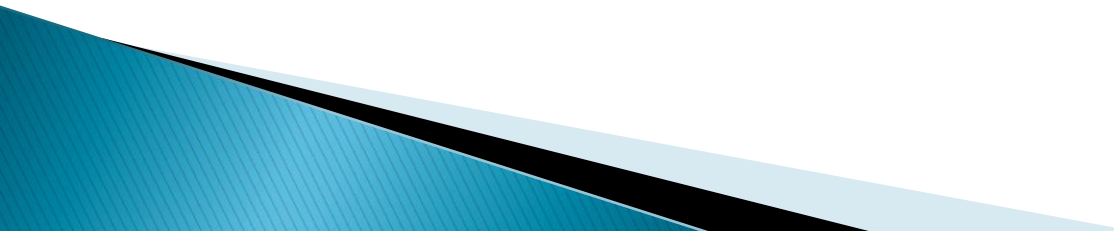
- ▶ Survey Measuring by Nominal and Ordinal Scales
 - ▶ Measuring five categories:
 - ❖ Type of Medical Professional and type of professional setting they reside
 - ❖ Educational Experience
 - ❖ Work Experience
 - ❖ Apprehension about Meeting Medicare's eligibility guidelines
 - ❖ Perception of patient and families end of life preferences
- 

Sampling Approach:

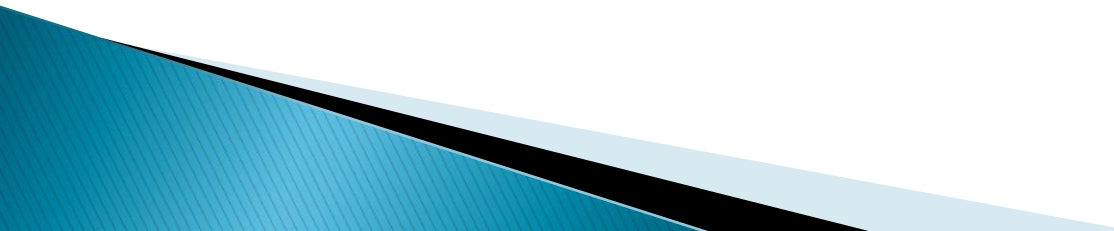
- ▶ Systematic Sampling and Cluster Sampling
 - ▶ Sonoma County Medical Association Physician Directory
 - ▶ Sonoma County Telephone Directory

 - ▶ Locations:
 - ❖ Private Medical Practices
 - ❖ Skilled Nursing Facilities
 - ❖ Acute Hospitals
- 

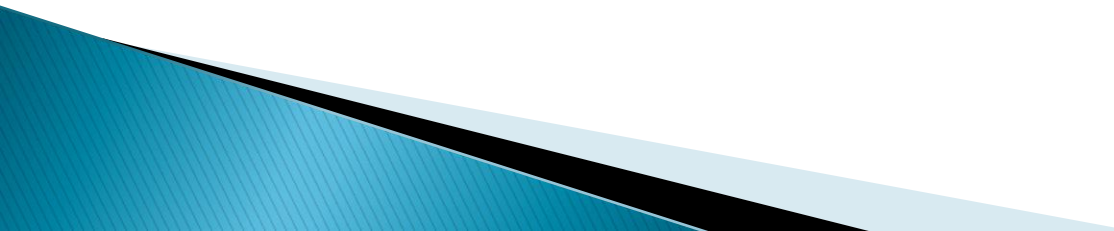
Data Collection Process

- ▶ Send out invitations to potential respondents
 - ▶ Stating the purpose of the study
 - ▶ Researchers background
 - ▶ Benefits of the study
 - ▶ Confidentiality guidelines
 - ▶ IRB Process
- 

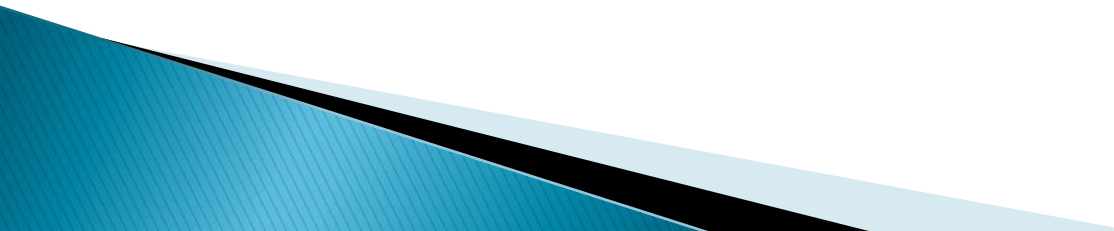
Data Collection Process Continued

- ▶ Two weeks later, send out the actual survey postcard with survey website included
 - ▶ Survey will be approximately 20–25 questions
 - ▶ Duration: 10–15 minutes to complete
 - ▶ Three weeks later, send out a reminder postcard
- 

Limitations

- ▶ Target population may be too busy or not interested in responding due to a bombardment of these types of requests by other researchers
 - ▶ Physicians, Nurses and Social Workers usually do not have a large amount contact with the internet because they are often “on the floor,” and taking care of patients within their work setting
 - ▶ Researcher is not offering any incentives for target population to participate
- 

What are the Benefits to this Research?

- ▶ If medical professionals prescribed hospice sooner...
 - ▶ 1) Terminal patient's pain could be managed sooner
 - ▶ 2) Patients and families could receive bereavement and grief support earlier
 - ▶ 3) Medical professionals could potentially increase their knowledge about terminal illness and feel confident about making hospice referrals
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Conclusion

- ▶ There is a very low length of stay both nationally and in Sonoma County, CA for patients on hospice services
 - ▶ A Web based survey given to Sonoma County medical professionals may help understand why there are barriers towards making hospice referrals
 - ▶ Retrieval and Evaluation of the resulting data from the survey will be further studied and discussed in PA 706
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