Heartland Project ECHO: Overview and Evaluation Results

2024 HRGN Annual Meeting

April 24, 2024

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HEARTLAND REGIONAL GENETICS NETWORK

Project ECHO®

What is Project ECHO?

- ECHO stands for Extension for Community Health Outcomes.
- Founded in 2023 by Dr. Sanjeev Arora from the University of New Mexico.
- Tele-education and mentoring model that aims to demonopolize specialty knowledge and support non-specialists in providing high quality care.
- Uses an “all teach, all learn” philosophy where a virtual community of peers share support, guidance, and feedback.

University of New Mexico Health Sciences. (2023). *About the ECHO Model.* https://hsc.unm.edu/echo/what-we-do/about-the-echo-model.html

Project ECHO for Genetics

- While historically implemented to share specialty knowledge related to the prevention and treatment of communicable disease, project ECHO shows promise to share information about genomic medicine and genetic testing.
- Our team implemented the first genetics project ECHO series in 2019.
- A second series on genetic testing was offered in the summer of 2022.
- In winter of this year (2024) we implemented an ECHO series on newborn screening conditions.
  - This presentation will share information from the 2022 and 2024 series.

- 2022 series focused on genetic testing topics including:
  - Basics of genetic testing
  - Payment and authorization
  - Sponsored testing
- Lead by Erin Beaver, MS, CGC; Julie Wiedower, MS, CGC; and hub team members.
  - Later work with NCC navigating medical necessity

- 2024 series addressed newborn screening (NBS) conditions:
  - Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH)
  - Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
  - Mucopolysaccharidosis type II (MPS II)
- Lead by Jo Ann Bolick, BSN, MA, APN, CPNP and hub team representative of the NBS community

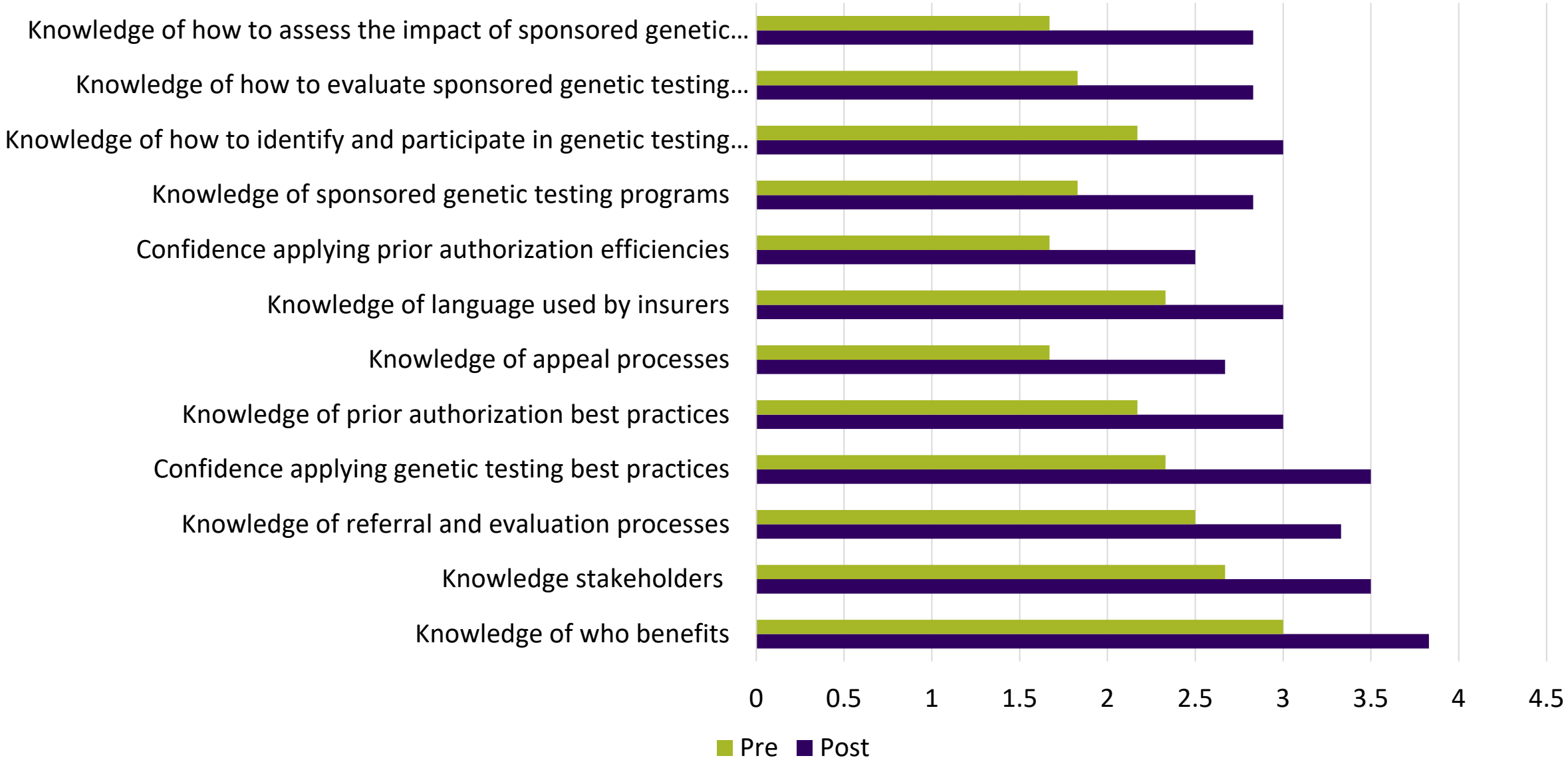
Genetic Topics ECHO Planning Steps

1. Conduct needs assessment of community members
2. Form and train ECHO hub team
3. Identify training topics and develop content, informed by needs assessment
4. Advertise and recruit participants
5. Solicit cases and ensure deidentification
6. Implement sessions with ECHO team and community members
7. Evaluate participant satisfaction and change in knowledge
8. Debrief with the team for continuous quality improvement

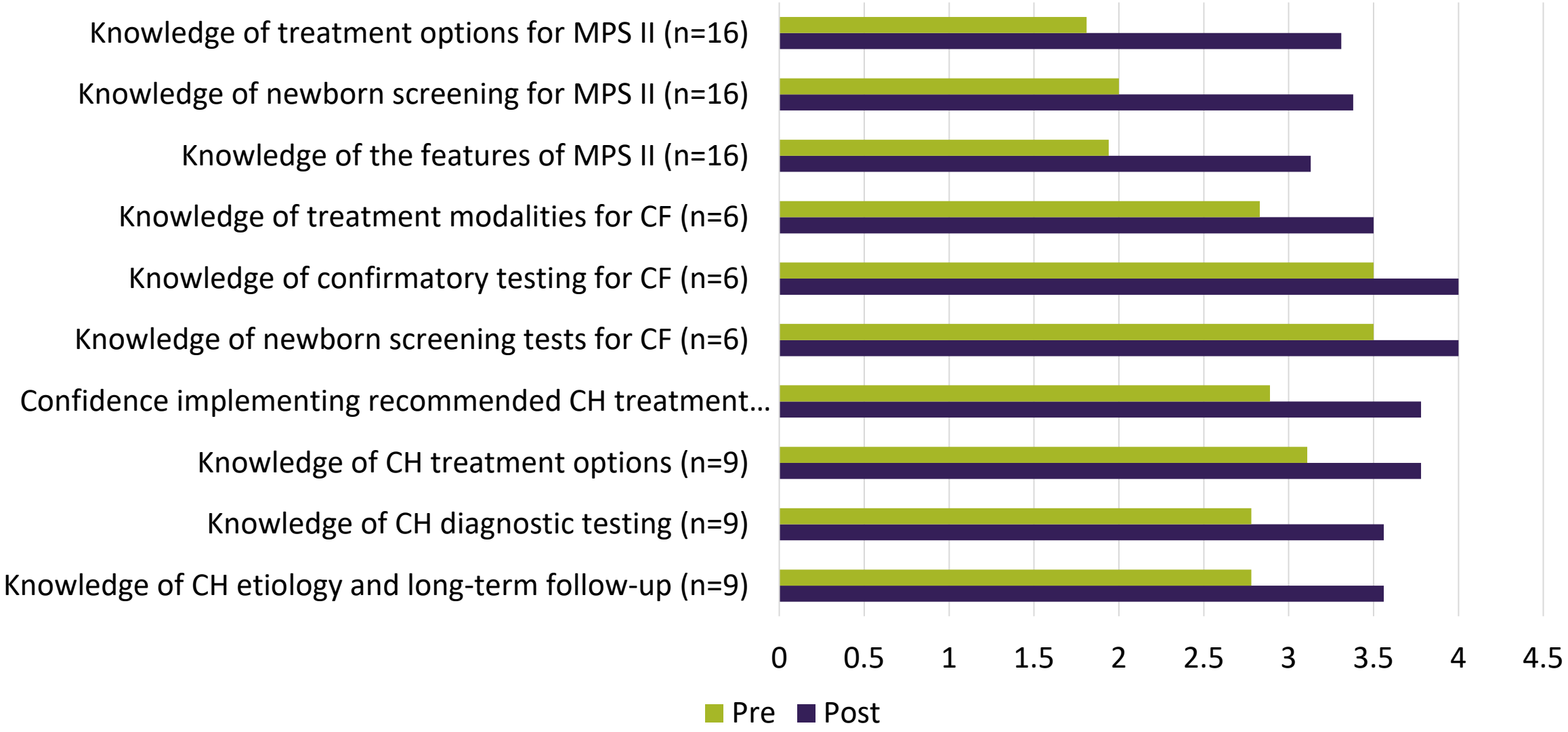
Evaluation Methods

- Demographic data collected via participate online registration
- Sessions evaluated through retrospective pre/post surveys, where participants reported change in knowledge and confidence regarding session objectives
  - All knowledge and confidence questions based on a 5-point Likert scale with mean scores reported

Mean Score by Learning Objective - 2022 Genetic Testing ECHO Series



Mean Score by Learning Objective – 2024 NBS ECHO Series



Overall Evaluation Summary

- Number of session participants grew over time with almost twice as many participants attending the 2024 series compared to 2022.
- In 2022 series family advocates were the most represented participant discipline whereas in 2024 most represented disciplines included nursing and public health.
- Qualitative comments showed satisfaction with case-base learning and there is demand for future ECHO sessions on new topics.

Thank you! Any Questions?

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