Research Community Survey Results

Baystate IRB 2024

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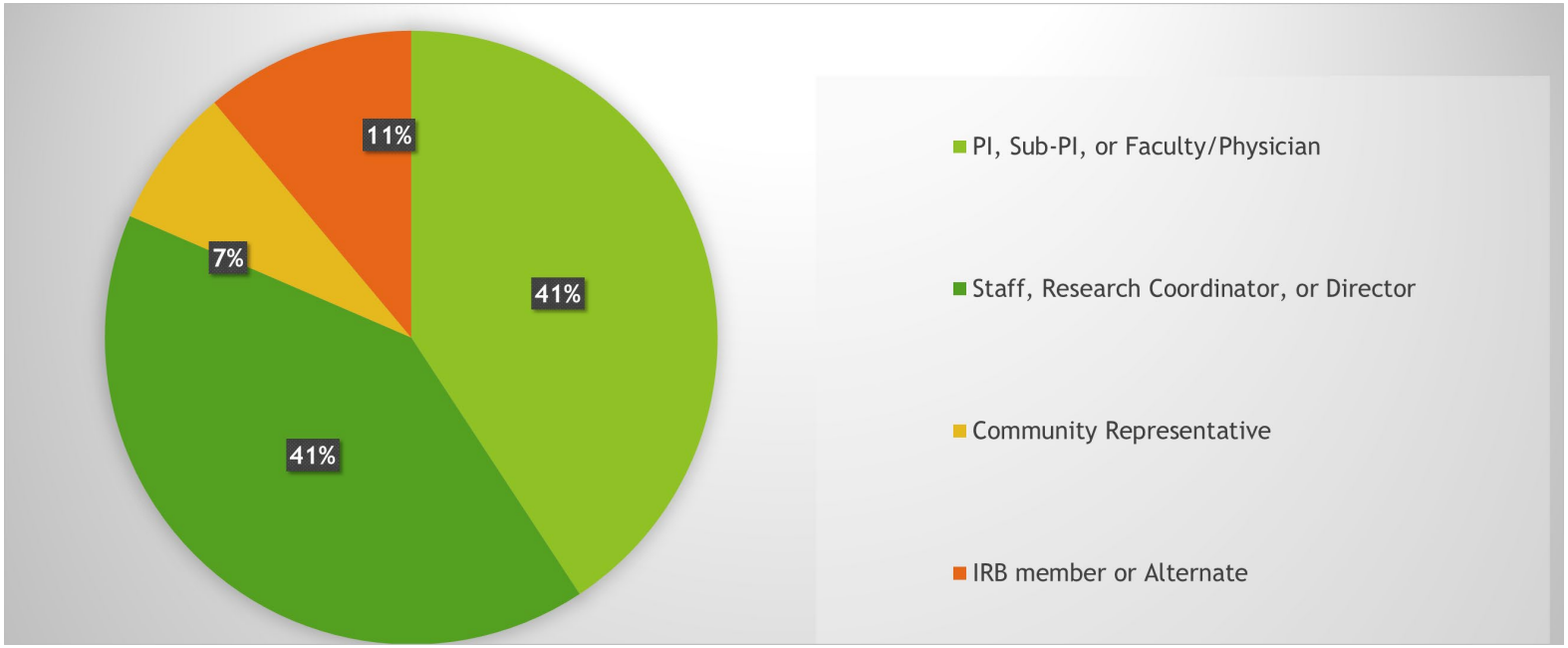
Baystate IRB Initiatives for 2023-24:

Baystate IRB implemented the use of Emotional Intelligence techniques towards effecting IRB perceptions across the Research Community. This included:

- Prioritizing one-on-ones with PIs
- Actively listening to PI concerns about the IRB process
- Reaching out to PIs who may need support
- Helping PIs design studies that are easily compliant with federal regulations
- Office consistency
- Revising IRB applications for user ease and readability

Survey Deployed to the Baystate Research Community

Baystate IRB deployed a survey to the research community in 2024 gauging current attitudes toward the IRB after implementation of these initiatives. This qualitative survey included a qualitative section and a Likert scale. The survey yielded 27 responses.



Responses

Generally, most responses to the survey were overwhelmingly positive about the Emotional Intelligence efforts made by the IRB in 2023-2024.

Example Survey Question: Please identify one IRB form or resource that you have found helpful and why?

PIs: Three faculty/PIs responded that they appreciated our streamlined and updated forms.

- "…the HSRD form, it really is a very concise and direct form, if you follow the directions on it…"
- "HSRD form has been updated nicely and makes much more sense than the last version"
- "I recently used the exempt review form and I found it to be very well written."

Staff/RC/Dir: Four staff/RCs/Dir mentioned our improved, streamlined consent form template. Others discussed the job aids for working in the IRB management system. Another RC appreciated the checklists we provide to help make sure they have a complete submission.

- "The new consent template is a huge improvement."
- "The checklists are very helpful and make the IRB review process feel much more approachable."

Community Representatives: Both representatives cited the helpfulness of our consent template.

IRB members/alternates: All mentioned our forms, the access to them, and how we continue to update, based upon community input

Likert scale statements:

- **I feel the IRB is accessible**
- **I feel that the updated submission documents are easier to use**
- **I can easily find the items I need for submission**
- **I feel supported by the IRB in my research**
- **It is easy to get my IRB questions answered**
- **I feel that it is easier to submit to the IRB than it used to be**

Faculty/PIs

- Out of the eleven in this category only 5 answered. **Four** answered **Agree** or **Strongly Agree** to all of the statements;
- **One** answered that they **Strongly Disagree**.
- The "Strongly Disagree" person didn't answer any other questions in the survey, except the Likert scale statements at the end.

Staff/RC/Dir:

- Only three members in this category responded, and all three chose **Agree** or **Strongly Agree.**

Community Representatives:

- Our two community members provided comments indicating they were honored to sit on the IRB, and/or strongly agreed that the IRB was helpful and easy to navigate.
- "It is an honor to sit on the IRB and to participate in the process of reviewing studies with the remarkable and dedicated professionals of (Our institution)."

IRB members/alternates:

- The three IRB members/alternates that responded either responded positively, with a **Neutral** or **Strongly Agree** to the statements.

Survey Follow Up

Thank you to the Baystate community for your participation in the 2024 Survey and the generally positive response to our queries. We look forward to implementing your suggestions and hearing your continued feedback in 2025.