

Dimensions of Community Inclusion in Research: Using Evaluation to Improve Community Engagement Across the Research Design-to-Dissemination Continuum



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Abacus Evaluation

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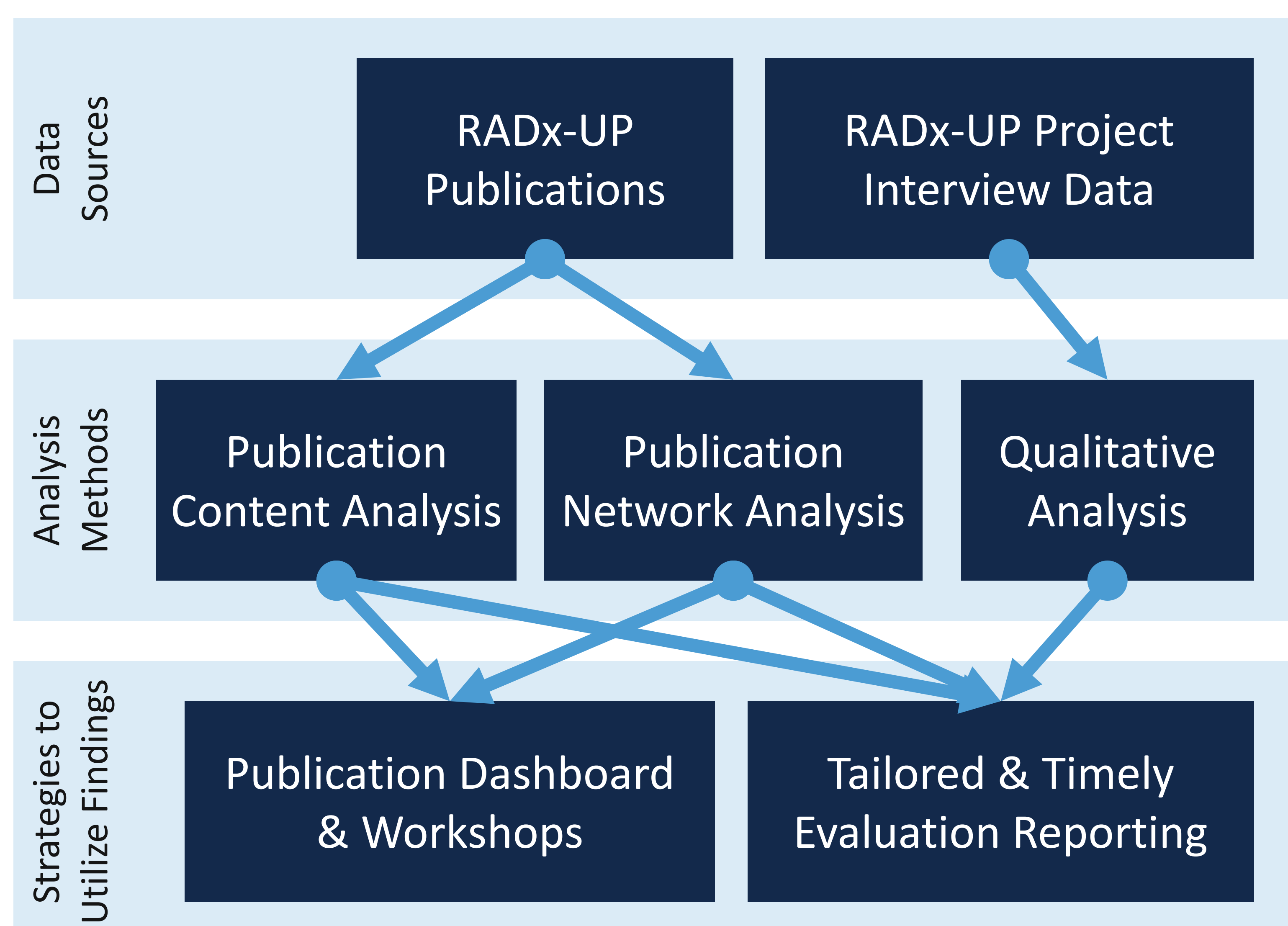


Introduction

- **Rapid Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP)** is a multisite grant with a coordinating center (CDCC) funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to increase COVID-19 testing access and uptake.
- Evaluation objectives included (1) **assess contributions to the research and practice of community engagement** and (2) **strengthen community partner inclusion** throughout the research continuum.

Methodology

1. We searched publication databases to **identify publications** ($N = 70$) with a cutoff of March 15, 2022.
2. We systematically **classified publications content** and coders extracted qualitative data.
3. We created a **publications dashboard** and facilitated dashboard engagement sessions.
4. We conducted **interviews with community partners** ($N = 13$) of RADx-UP projects to explore program impacts.
5. We categorized authors to **analyze publication and coauthor networks**.



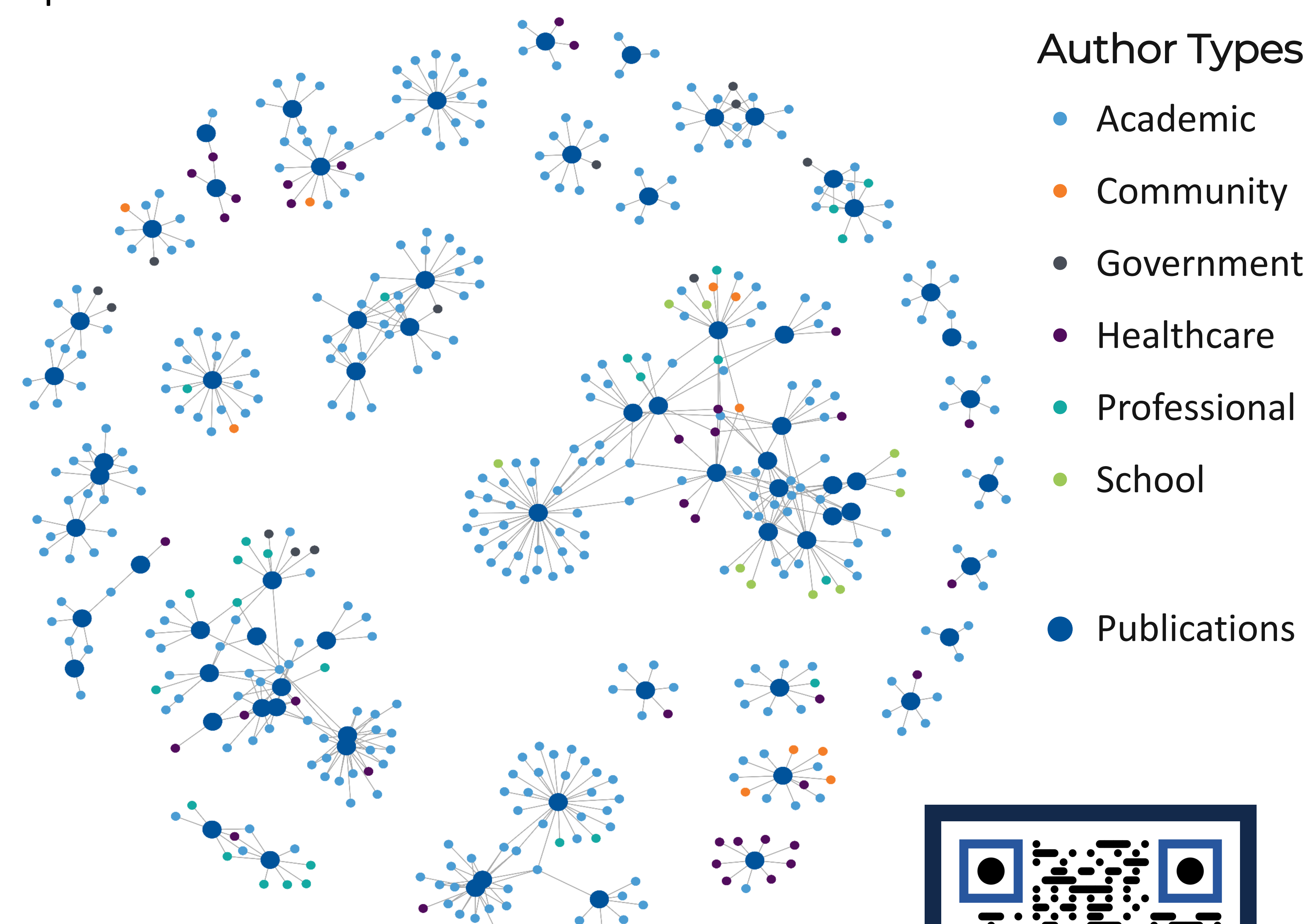
Targeted support to amplify community voices in RADx-UP research dissemination

Evaluators can assess community engagement in research through:

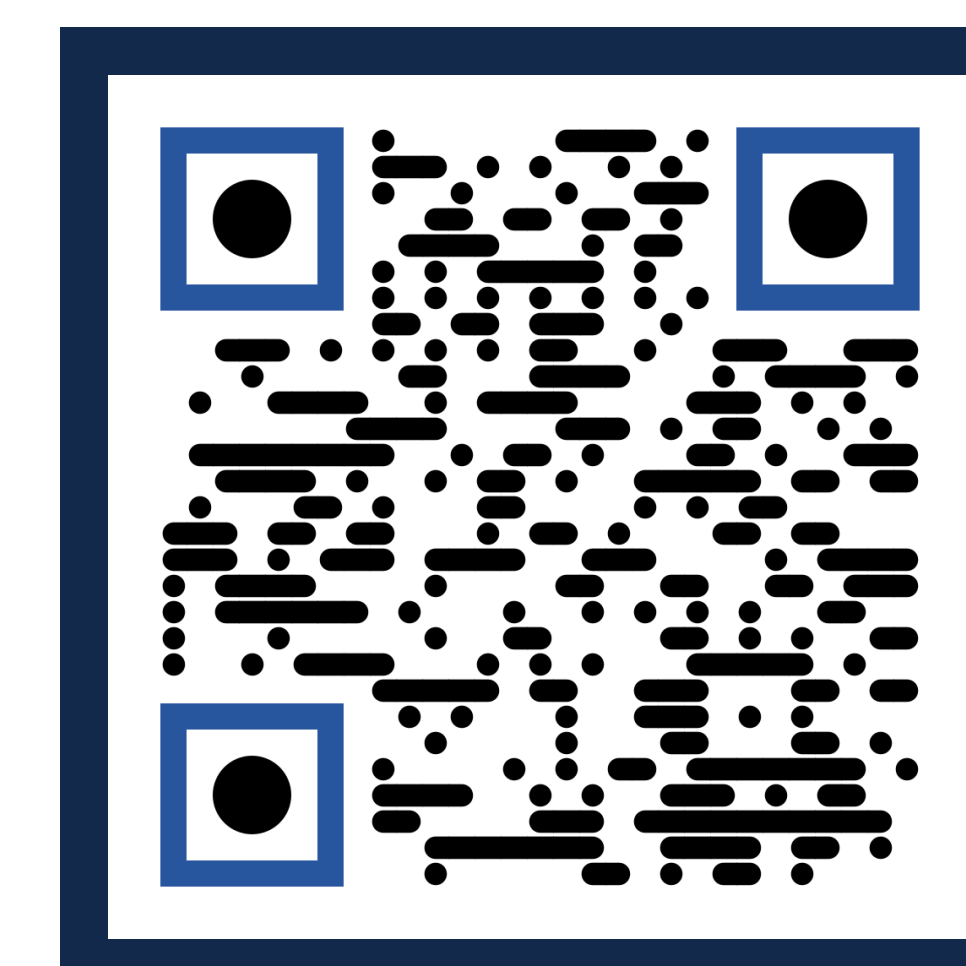
- Interviews with community partners
- Community engagement methods for research
- Community coauthorship
- Acknowledgment of community partners & research participants

Results

- **Network Analysis.** Community partners tend to cluster in a small number of projects, with academic, healthcare, school and professional coauthors.



- **Publications Dashboard.** Publications have few community partner coauthors, so the CDCC guides projects in forming manuscript teams.



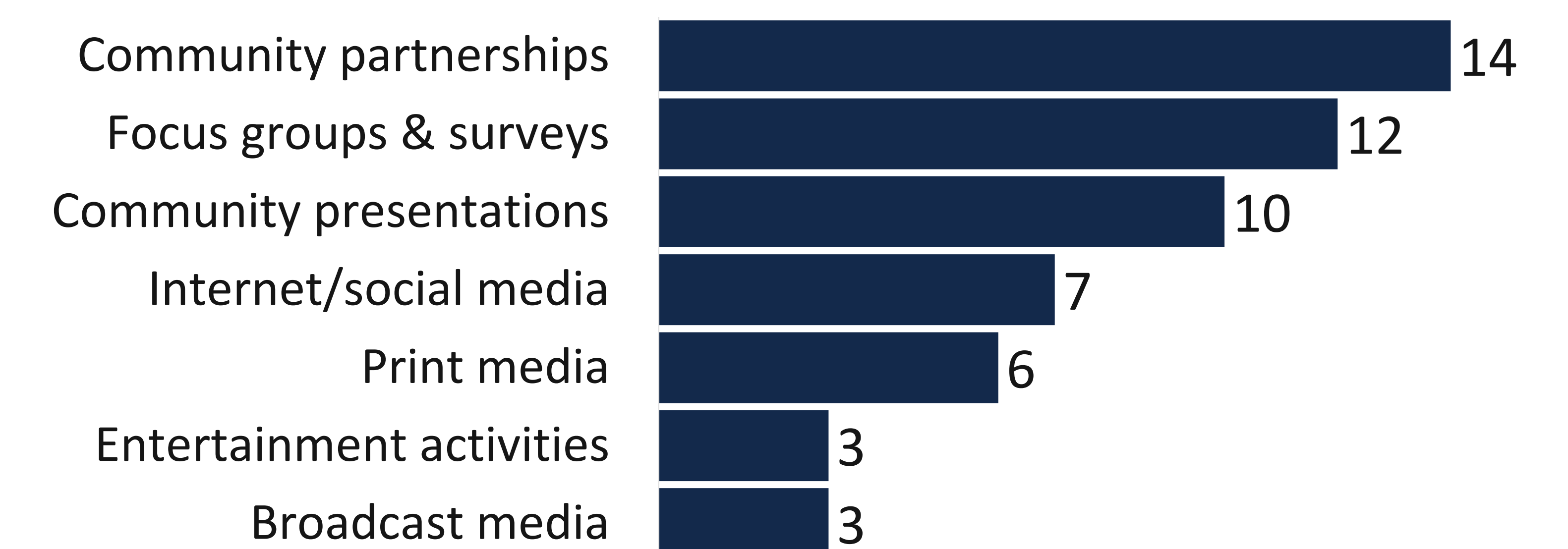
Results (cont.)

- **Community Partner Interviews.** Community partners have diverse levels of interest and experience in research.

“my motivation is strictly meeting the needs of my community... if I have access to the resources, then I need to make those resources available to them. And if it means me collaborating with a local university or other community partners, then that's what I need to do so that I can invest into my community”

- **Content Analysis.** RADx-UP projects most employ partnerships with community-based organizations.

Community Engagement Methods in Publications



Conclusions

- We analyzed RADx-UP engagement strategies to **assess how community partners are included** and supported efforts to **strengthen community inclusion** in research.
- RADx-UP cannot address the underlying structures that create barriers for community researchers to publish, but **efforts to support community partner engagement in research should consider their diverse needs.**

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