

Saskatchewan Health Libraries Association (SHLA) Mobile Device Use Survey

JULY 2013

Saskatchewan College of Psychologists Summary of Results

Mobile device use among health care professionals is of growing interest to health sciences librarians. Mobile devices allow professionals to access current practice guidelines, diagnostic and treatment information, and research findings at the point of care. In order to better understand how health sciences librarians in Saskatchewan can meet the needs of their users, a multi-disciplinary team of researchers distributed a survey about mobile device use in April and May of 2012. This team, led by Susan Baer, Director of the Health Sciences Library for the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, solicited information about current mobile device use, the resources most widely used and requested, familiarity with current offerings, and attitudes toward the use of mobile devices in health care settings.

The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists was one of 10 professional associations in the province that distributed the survey to its members. We wish to thank all who took the time to respond to this survey. This brief report highlights the overall findings of this study, as well as findings specific to your profession.

Thank you!
-The SHLA Mobile Device Use Study Team

Response Demographics

- 16,622 surveys were distributed; responses were obtained from 973 health care professionals (6%). Psychologists had a response rate of 11% (58 out of 520).
- The mean (“average”) age of all respondents was 47 years. Approximately two thirds of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 58 years.
- The mean age of psychologists who responded was 49 years. Approximately two thirds of respondents were between the ages of 37 and 61 years.
- Overall, most respondents worked primarily in a large urban setting (Regina or Saskatoon) and spent the largest proportion of their work time providing direct patient care.
- Respondents from the SCP had been in the health field for fewer years than the overall survey sample (see Figure 1).

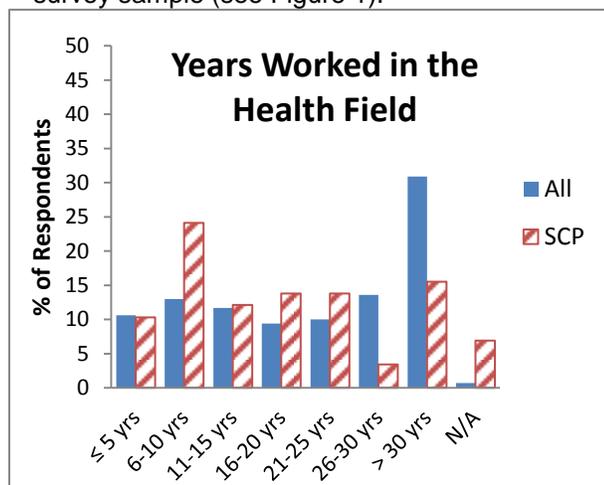


Figure 1. Years worked in the health field, all respondents vs. psychologists.

	Overall n (%)	SCP n (%)
Female respondents	765 (79%)	44 (76%)
Majority of work hours spent on:*		
Clinical research	8 (1%)	0 (0%)
Management/administration	101 (11%)	5 (9%)
Patient care	697 (72%)	37 (66%)
Education/training	74 (8%)	8 (14%)
Other	38 (4%)	6 (11%)
Size of primary community of practice:*		
Large (pop. ≥ 100,000)	547 (60%)	48 (83%)
Mid-sized (pop. 30,000 – 99,000)	84 (9%)	4 (7%)
Small (pop. 10,000 – 29,999)	109 (11%)	1 (2%)
Smaller and rural (pop. < 10,000)	222 (23%)	5 (9%)
Works in more than one community	197 (20%)	12 (21%)
Regional Health Authority employee	572 (59%)	18 (31%)
Private practice/self-employed	219 (23%)	12 (21%)
Sees > 10 patients/day	611 (47%)	1 (2%)
Has heard of SHIRP	359 (46%)	18 (42%)
Familiar with SHIRP online resources	211 (27%)	5 (12%)

Note: Missing values are excluded in percentage calculations except as noted by *.

Table 1. Demographics.

Mobile Device Use

Respondents were asked whether they use a mobile device and, if so, for what purposes.

- Approximately half of all respondents ($n = 484$) indicated that they use a mobile device for both work and personal reasons.
- More than 1/5th of all respondents ($n = 216$) did not use a mobile device.

Do you use a mobile device?	Overall n (%)	SCP n (%)
Yes, for work only	25 (3%)	1 (2%)
Yes, for personal use only	206 (22%)	10 (19%)
Yes, for both work and personal use	484 (52%)	31 (60%)
No	216 (23%)	10 (19%)

Table 2. Mobile device use.

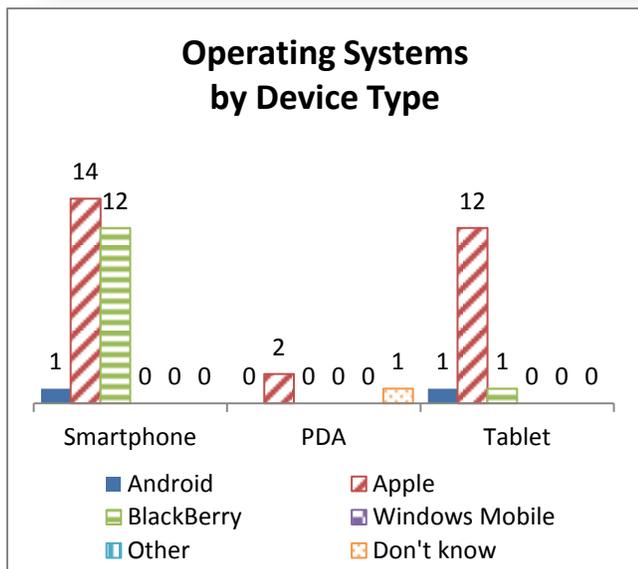


Figure 2. Types of operating systems (OSs) and mobile devices employed by psychologists for work or work/personal use. Respondents could indicate more than one device type/OS.

Barriers to Use

Among psychologists who did not use a mobile device at work, the top barrier was not needing a device for their work (60%). Those who used mobile devices at work most frequently cited patient privacy and confidentiality (27%), synchronizing with a computer (23%), and not being able to print from the device (23%) as significant barriers.

Devices Used

Among psychologists who used a mobile device at work, most reported that their primary device uses apple's operating system (55%). Smartphones (83%) were the primary device of more psychologists for work or work/personal use than any other type of device. Approximately one third (35%) have used their mobile device to look up health or medical information.

Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Partnership (SHIRP)

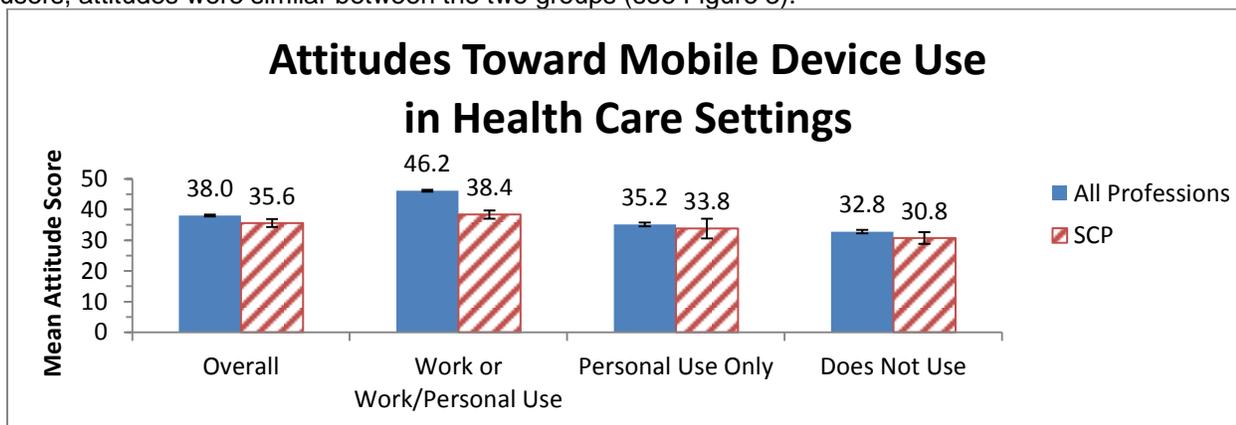
Of the 43 psychologists who responded to questions about SHIRP, 42% had heard of it and 12% were familiar with its online resources.

Attitudes Toward Mobile Device Use in Health Care Settings

Participants were asked 10 questions in order to determine how favourable they felt toward the use of mobile devices in health care settings. Responses to each question ranged from 1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree").

When the responses of participants from all professions were examined, men were slightly more favourable toward mobile device use (mean score = 40.5; SD = 8.1), than were women (mean = 37.4; SD = 8.0). There was also a difference in attitude based on age: The younger the respondent, the more favourable the attitude toward mobile device use in health care settings. When comparing scores based on age groups, both Generation X (born 1966-1980; mean = 39.6; SD = 7.6) and Generation Y (born 1981-2000; mean = 39.5; SD = 7.8) participants had slightly more favourable attitudes toward mobile device use than did Baby Boomers (born 1946-1965; mean = 36.9; SD = 8.34).

Psychologists who use mobile devices for work or for a combination of work and personal use were less favourable toward mobile device use in health care settings than was the overall survey group. For other types of users, attitudes were similar between the two groups (see Figure 3).



Note: Bonferroni corrections were applied to correct for multiple one sample t-tests ($p < .0125$). Error bars represent standard error.

Figure 3. Comparison of attitudes toward mobile device use in health care settings: Psychologists vs. overall survey responses.

Study Team

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Apps and Other Mobile Resources

Among psychologists:

The most frequently used **apps** (applications) were:

1. 3D Brain ($n = 1$)
Psych Drugs ($n = 1$)
STAT!Ref ($n = 1$)

The most frequently used **non-app mobile resources** were:

1. General medical/health information resources ($n = 3$)
2. Medline ($n = 1$)
Google/Google Scholar ($n = 1$)
General health websites ($n = 1$)
Wikipedia ($n = 1$)
Training resources ($n = 1$)

The most frequently **requested mobile resources** were:

1. DSM-IV-TR/DSM-5 ($n = 6$)
2. Calendar – self and others ($n = 4$)
3. Email ($n = 3$)
General medical/health information ($n = 3$)

Training

Among the entire survey sample, respondents indicated interest in receiving training on information about which applications might be helpful in their work (56%), how to use the device to obtain health information (48%), how to load applications onto their device (31%), and general information on how to use the device (30%).

Survey respondents were most interested in receiving training via online videos that could be viewed at their convenience (39%), hands-on, interactive small group sessions (38%), and face-to-face group lectures led by an instructor (31%).

Next Steps

The results of this survey will help health sciences libraries in Saskatchewan to further develop their resources and outreach in ways that will best address the unique needs identified by each user group. This feedback will help health sciences libraries and SHIRP to focus on which types and methods of training to develop to educate users about the benefits of mobile device use in health care service provision, address some of the barriers to mobile device use, and inform priorities for collection development. This information will also help in advocating for increased library services and resources to meet health care professionals' needs.

Conclusions

Attitudes toward mobile device use in health care settings were most favourable among those who currently make use of these devices in their work. The overall survey results and those provided specifically by psychologists will be beneficial to Saskatchewan health sciences libraries and SHIRP in targeting the needs of their users.