

Advancing Leadership Skills: A multiyear examination of LEND trainee self-efficacy growth



Betsy P. Humphreys, Alan Kurtz, Carrie Portrie, Leslie Couse, Fatemeh Hajnaghizadeh

Background

- The developmental nature of leadership is of particular interest to MCH training programs, as each year the network supports over 2,000 long term trainees.
- O Understanding how the MCH Leadership Competencies can be utilized to examine individual leadership skill development has the potential to strengthen leadership training within this network (Humphreys, Couse, Sonnenmeier, Kurtz, Russell & Antal, 2014; Reed, 2009).
- o In 2009, MCH published a conceptual framework for leadership development and twelve validated leadership competencies. The *MCH Leadership Competencies* are a clearly defined set of leadership competencies situated in an evidence-based conceptual framework. MCH-funded training programs have integrated the framework and the competencies into program and curriculum development.
- o Examining Trainee Perceived Leadership Competence (TPLC) through the *MCH Leadership Competencies Self-assessment* has the potential to further inform our understanding of the developmental progression of leadership development within MCH training programs. Self-identity provides a central structure around which learners can organize their understanding of 'self as leader' (Lord & Hall, 2005).
- This poster will describe how the NH-ME LEND program utilized the *MCH Leadership Competencies* to examine TPLC across five cohort years. The study examined the following research questions:
- O Did participation in the NH-ME LEND Program result in an increase in TPLC scores in each sphere of influence over time within each cohort?
- Did the cohorts differ in the extent to which individual TPLC scores on the MCH Leadership Competencies Self-Assessment changed over time?
- O Did the cohorts differ in the extent to which their individual TPLC scores changed over time when controlling for age, discipline,

Participants (n=102)		
Discipline	Totals	% Overall
Family member ^a	21	20.6%
Social work	20	19.6%
Education	16	15.7%
Communication Sciences & Disorders	14	13.7%
Occupational therapy	11	10.8%
Nutrition	5	4.9%
Other ^b	5	4.9%
Nursing	4	3.9%
Medicine, pediatric	3	2.9%
Public health, health administration	3	2.9%

"If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."
—Mahatma Gandhi

Methods

- Five cohorts of NH-ME Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities trainees (n=102) completed the MCH Leadership Competencies Selfassessment at three time points.
- Paired-sample t-tests examined TPLC scores. A one-way analysis of variance tested for statistically significant differences in mean difference scores.
- A General Linear Model was used to examine the extent to which TPLC scores changed when controlling for specific variables.

Results

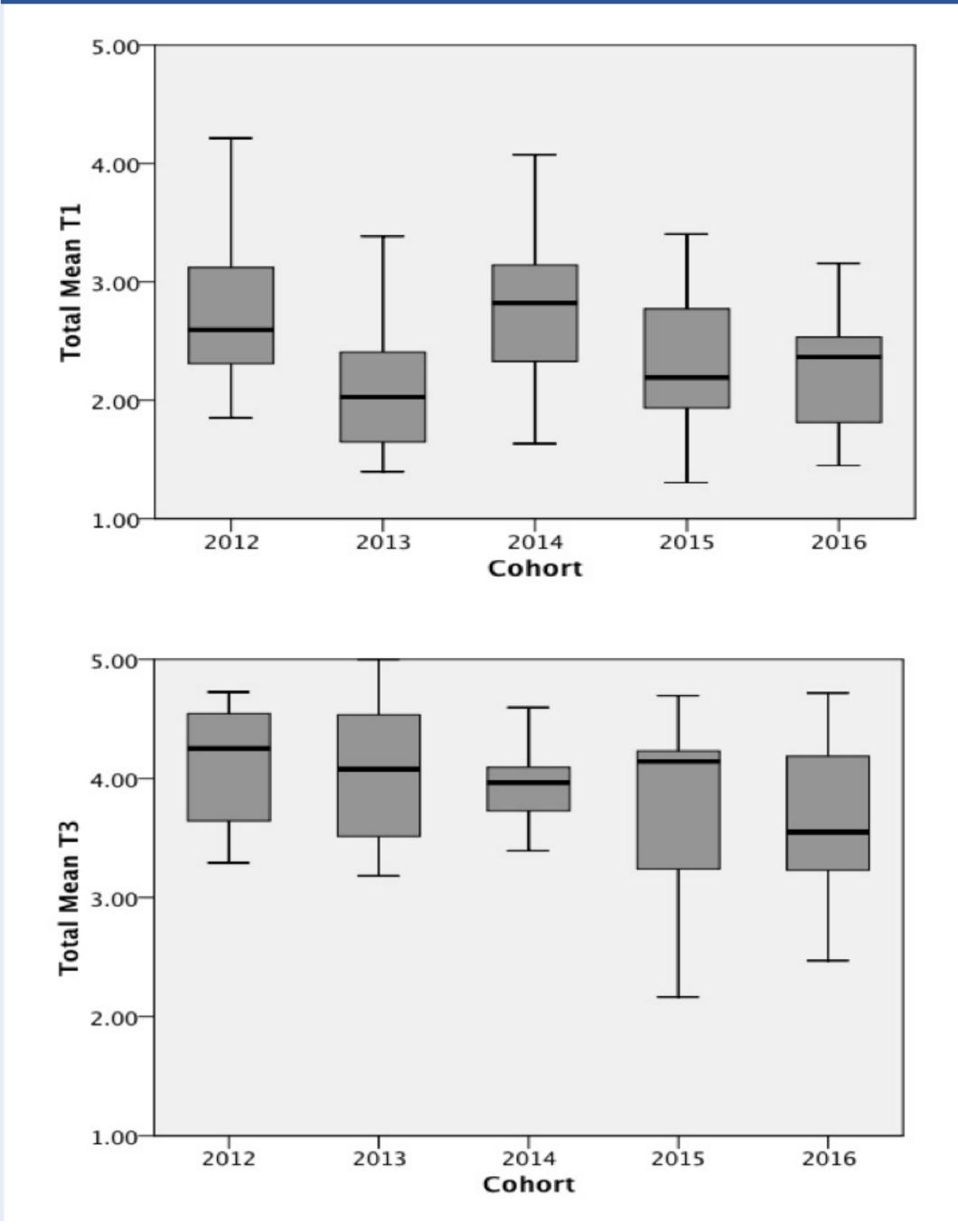


Figure 1. Comparison of MCH Leadership Competency Self-Assessment total mean scores at time 1 and time 3 by year

Discussion

- Results suggest that participation in the NH-ME LEND Program consistently supported the development of leadership self-identity.
- Future research in this area could also be used to validate the MCH Competencies by examining links between self-evaluations on the competencies and the actual demonstration of leadership skills in the field.
- Small sample sizes limit the ability to draw definitive conclusions from these results. Further study with a larger sample may reveal relationships between cohort characteristics and change scores.



