

Individual and School-Level Capacity to Critically Evaluate Research:



A Multilevel Organizational Analysis

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BACKGROUND

- Federal and state policies (e.g., under NCLB and ESSA) call for research to inform decision-making in schools, but little is currently known about educators' capacity to critically evaluate research evidence or to identify.
- The Center for Research Use in Education (CRUE) is developing and validating a series of survey measures related to use of research in school-based decisions through collection of multilevel data from district staff, school administrators, and classroom teachers. The results presented here focus on our survey scale of educators' capacity to critique research.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

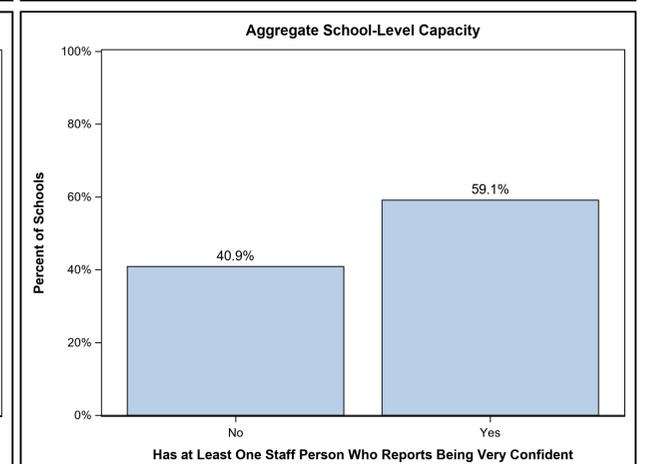
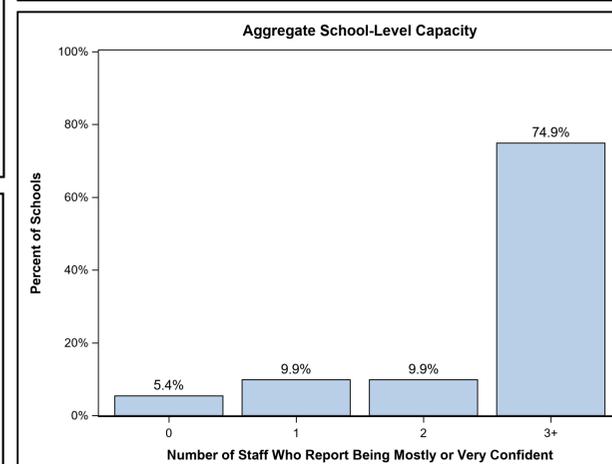
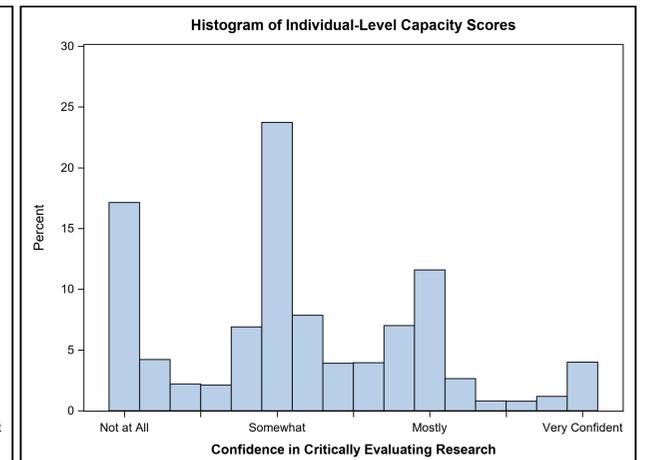
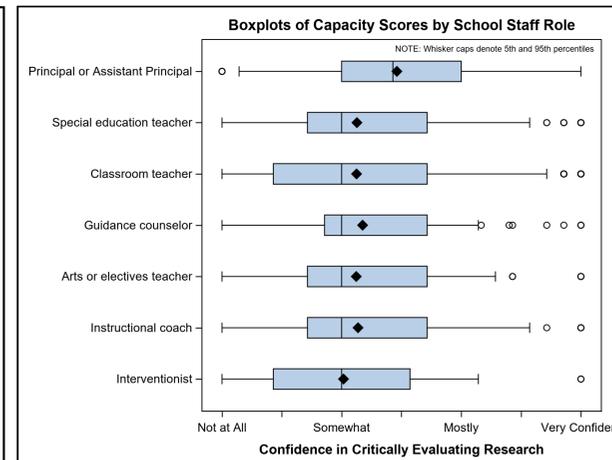
- How do educators rate their ability to critically evaluate quality of research evidence?
- How does educator ability to critique research relate to prior experience and training?
- How are educators with the highest capacity to critique research distributed across schools and staff roles?

METHODS

- A large-scale survey was conducted with 4,593 educators from 203 schools using a 2-stage stratified cluster sample of schools & districts.
- Survey responses were analyzed using psychometric (e.g., Cronbach's Alpha) and descriptive statistics.

KEY RESULTS

- Reliability of the Capacity Scale was high ($\alpha = .97$)
- Capacity Scores were generally low ($M = 1.14$, $SD = 0.80$)
 - 76% of scores were less than “mostly” confident
- School Principals had significantly higher scores ($F(6, 4311) = 5.14$, $p < .001$)
 - But most principals were still only “somewhat” confident ($M=1.46$)
- Higher scores ($F(3, 4573) = 41.80$, $p < .001$) were observed for respondents with a Masters degree ($M=1.17$) or a Doctoral degree ($M=1.84$)
- School-level organizational results were more promising:
 - Most schools had more than one person who scored “mostly” or “very” confident
 - About 60% of schools had at least one person who scored “very” confident



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTER

- Our Large-Scale Surveys include numerous scales and sections designed to capture connections (and disconnections) between the research community and practice community.
- Survey items and scales are available for use by other researchers.
- See <http://www.research4schools.org/> for more details, or follow us on Twitter @Rsrch4Schls