Diverse insights: exploring multistakeholder engagement during Delphi panels

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Scan the code to access further information on the aims and stakeholder backgrounds in included Delphi panel studies

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The Problem

Delphi panels provide a structured, systematic method to generate consensus and inform decision-making based on expert opinion.

However, for certain objectives and outcomes, engaging with one stakeholder group may miss important insights and impact the applicability of study outcomes.[1–3]

This research explores how and when Delphi panels utilize multistakeholder steering committees (SCs) and voting panels.



Methods

A targeted literature review was conducted using PubMed, to identify a prespecified threshold of 200 recent healthcare-related Delphi studies, sorted by date of publication.

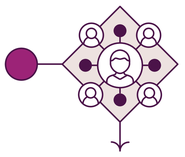
Eligibility criteria included full-text articles in English reporting original Delphi research.

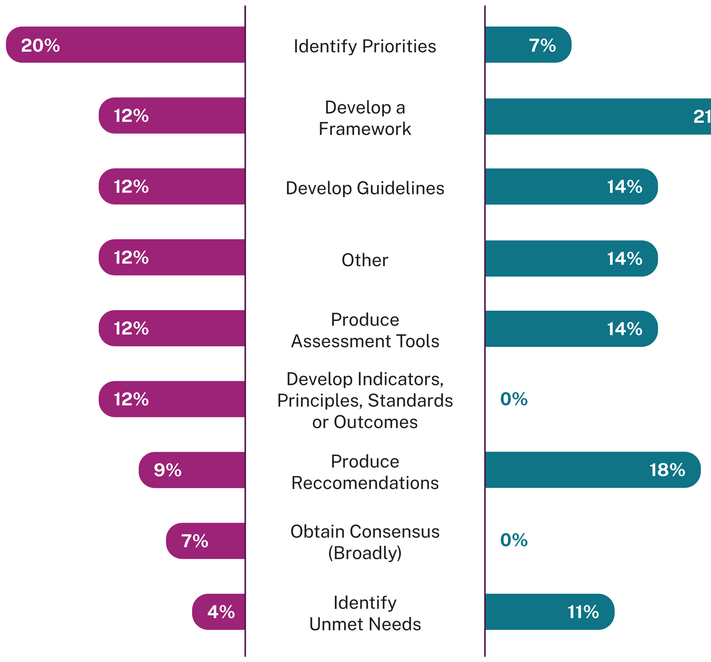
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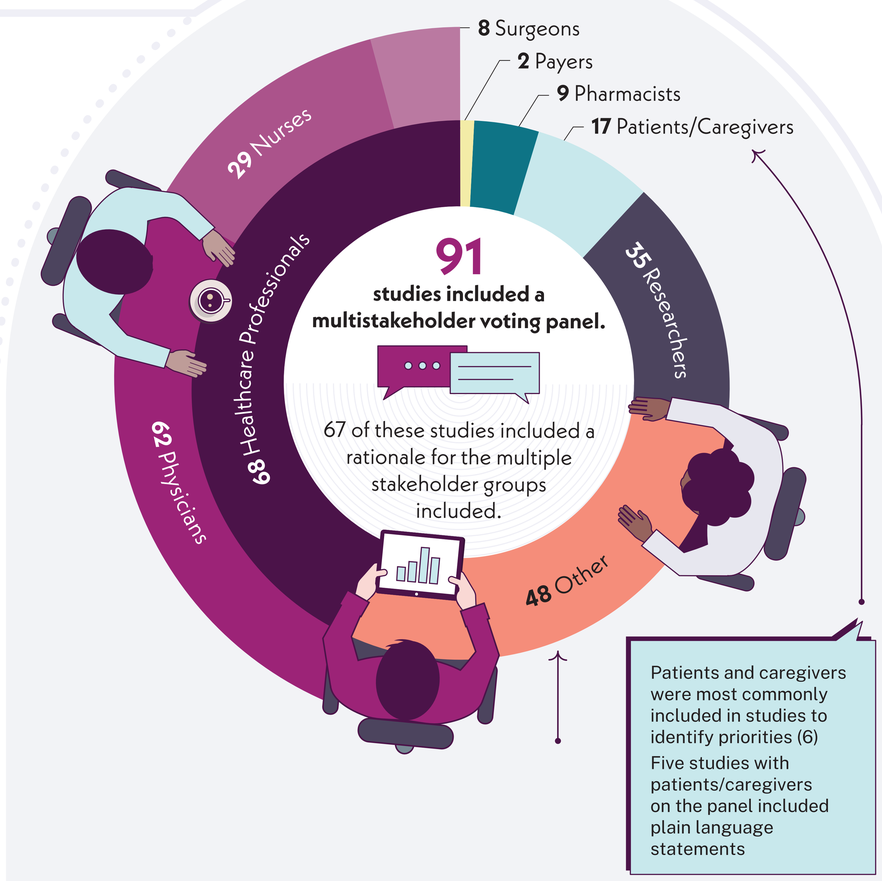
- ✓ Overall study objective
- ✓ SC/voting panel composition
- ✓ Panellist geography
- ✓ Accessibility adjustments (e.g. plain language statements, translations)

What Did We Find?

Aims of Included Delphi Panels







Patients and caregivers were most commonly included in studies to identify priorities (6)

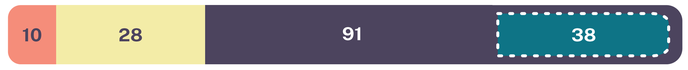
Five studies with patients/caregivers on the panel included plain language statements

Stakeholder Inclusion in Delphi Panels

Steering commitees



Voting panels

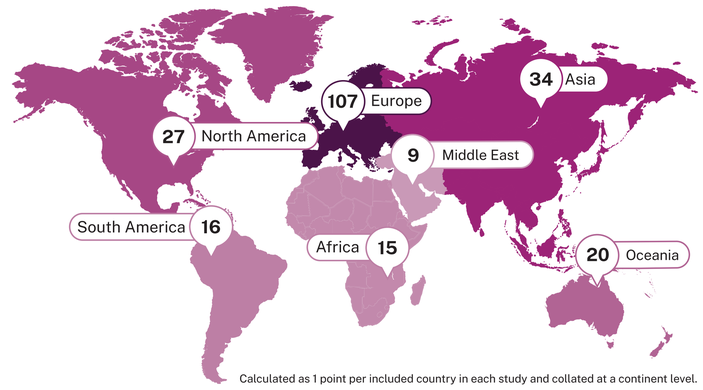


- Not reported
- Included only one stakeholder group
- Included a multistakeholder SC
- Included a multistakeholder voting panel

Multistakeholder Voting Panel Geography

- National focus: **54/91**
- International focus: **33/91** → Only 1 international study included statements in different languages
- Not reported: **3/91**

Countries included in international multistakeholder voting panels



Calculated as 1 point per included country in each study and collated at a continent level.

Conclusions and Unmet Needs

Conclusion	The majority of studies did not provide information on SC inclusion or composition	Most voting panels were multistakeholder, demonstrating that diverse stakeholder insights are valued in consensus generating	Less than half of the studies that had a multistakeholder group reported use of a multistakeholder SC	Very few studies reported the use of tools or approaches to improve accessibility of statements to participants
Unmet Needs	Increased transparency is needed on who is driving the development of statements and questions	Where appropriate, identify barriers to multistakeholder engagement and develop solutions to improve representation	Consider use of a multistakeholder SC to ensure that statements are relevant and appropriate for target audience	Use of plain language statements, translations and other approaches should be considered to improve accessibility to all stakeholder groups

- Integrating diverse stakeholder perspectives can enhance the inclusivity, relevance and applicability of some outcomes from the consensus-building process.
- Greater transparency and recruitment efforts are needed to ensure that diversity is also considered for Delphi panel SC composition, to ensure that statements are applicable to all stakeholders in the voting panel.

Abbreviations SC: Steering Committee

References [1]Gattrell WT. et al. PLoS Med. 2024;21(1); [2]Khodyakov D. et al. Health Expect. 2022;25(2):732-743; [3]Geist MR. Eval Program Plann. 2010;33(2):147-54.

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