

# Building rehabilitation capacity in Honduras: Impact of workshops on professional networking

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# Outline

## Introduction

Network of Rehabilitation Workers  
Visiting Lecturer Series  
Setting - Honduras  
Professional Networking

## Methods

Research Design  
Participants  
Instrumentation  
Data Analysis

## Results

## Conclusions







# Visiting Lecturer and Workshop Series

## Teaching events



Workshops/Mentorship tutorial



Seminars



Public Lectures



Collaborative meetings

## Media Events



Local Television



Local Radio

## Research

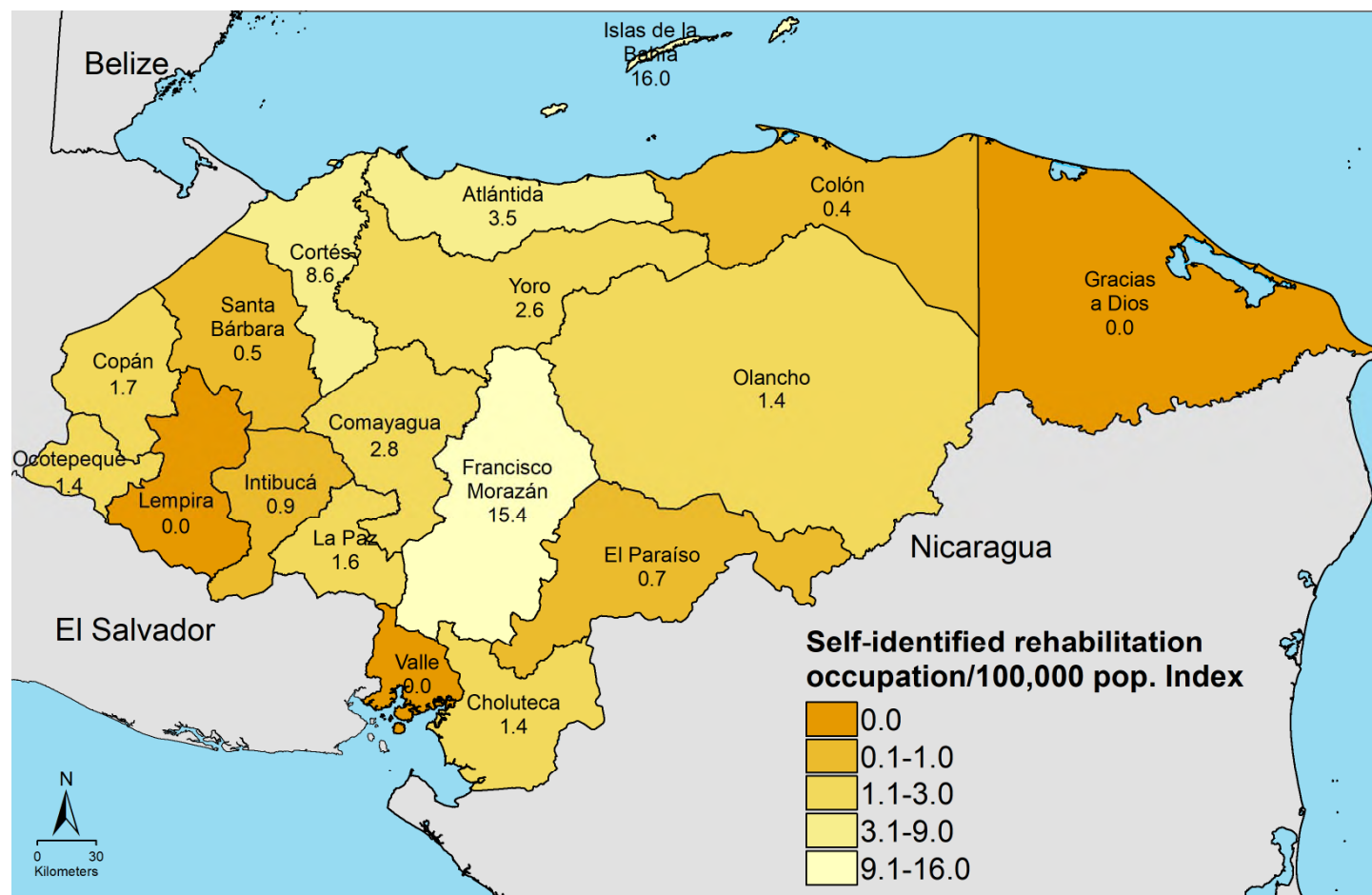


Workshop/Mentorship tutorial evaluation







Professional Networking

# Distribution of self-identified rehabilitation workers by province in Honduras - 2013



## Comparison

Rehab Workers/100,000		
Colón (1) (2013)	0.4	
Francisco Morazán (1) (2013)	15.4	
Saskatchewan, Canada (2) (Physical Therapists only 2018)	69.3	
Santander, Colombia (3) (Physical Therapists only 2000)	48.0	

1. Instituto Nacional de Estadística Honduras, 2013
2. Sask. College of Physical Therapists Annual Report, 2018
3. Asociación Colombiana de Fisioterapia. Caracterización de la fisioterapia en Colombia. Bogotá, 2008.

# Rehabilitation workforce in Honduras (2013)

Occupations*	n	Per 100,000
Physiotherapist (upper level)	118	1.54
Physiotherapy assistants and technicians	279	3.64
Speech therapist / audiologist	12	0.16
General Practitioner	3,376	44.09
Specialist physician	2,716	35.47
Total population	7,657,684	

\*Occupational therapy was not listed as an occupation

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística Honduras, 2013

# Rationale

In Honduras:

- ▶ Under-development of professional stature of rehab workforce
  - ▶ No professional associations
  - ▶ No university-based PT or OT programs
- ▶ Disconnect between rehabilitation centers and the national health care system
- ▶ Limited opportunities for professional networking



# Professional Networking

Networking is a deliberate activity to build, reinforce and maintain relationships of trust with other people to further your goals.

Professional networking is simply networking focused on professional goals.



# Purpose



To evaluate whether two continuing education workshops would strengthen professional networking among attendees

# Methods

Design: Longitudinal study

Ethics: Exemption from USASK Behavioral Science Ethics Review Board

Data Analysis: simple and multiple mixed models

Instrumentation: Demographics questionnaire, professional networking questionnaire

# Professional Networking Questionnaire

## Items (10)

- ✓ 6 Likert Items
  - five point scale, Never = 0, Always = 4
- ✓ 4 Yes - No Items
  - No = 0, Yes = 4
- ✓ Items rated based on the past year
- ✓ Developed by the research team

## Subscales (2)

- Supportive Networking
- Exposure to Professional Networking Opportunities



# Professional Networking Questionnaire

## Supportive Networking Subscale (eg, clinical cases, work challenges)

- ▶ I collaborated in solving clinical problems with other colleagues of my profession in my workplace
- ▶ I collaborated with other professionals of the health team
- ▶ I worked with other colleagues in my profession outside my workplace
- ▶ I was in close contact with other professionals outside my workplace who can help me with my work.
- ▶ If I need to contact professionals in my region, I have enough information at my fingertips to contact them easily.
- ▶ I collaborated in solving clinical problems with other colleagues of my profession in my workplace
- ▶ I collaborated with other professionals of the health team
- ▶ I have a clinical mentor with whom I can discuss my cases



## Exposure to Professional Networking Opportunities Subscale

- ▶ I collaborated regularly with peers and professional colleagues at professional or educational meetings
- ▶ I participated in educational events related to my profession
- ▶ I belong to an association of my profession
- ▶ I belong to interest groups or discussion groups

# Workshops

1  
2017



**Neurorehabilitation Workshop**  
Acquired Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury  
Sept. 8 and 9, 2017, Tocoa, Honduras



**Isabel Cristina Gómez Díaz**  
Physiotherapist, MSc in Neurorehabilitation,  
Professor of Physiotherapy, Univ. of Santander,  
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Bucaramanga, Colombia



**Melvin Urbina Nuñez**  
Specialist in Rehabilitation Medicine,  
Member of the Association of Honduran Physiatrists,  
Director and attending physician  
Centro de Rehabilitación Integral del Litoral  
Atlántico (CRILA), La Ceiba, Honduras



**Ofelia Calderón Rodríguez**  
Physiotherapist,  
Manager of Rehabilitation  
Centro de Rehabilitación Integral  
de Colón, CRICOL, Tocoa, Honduras

2  
2017



**Workshop: Rehabilitation of children  
with delayed neuromotor development**  
September 13, 2017, Trujillo, Honduras



**Isabel Cristina Gómez Díaz**  
Physiotherapist, MSc in Neurorehabilitation,  
Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Santander,  
Researcher, Neurotrauma Center SAS,  
Bucaramanga, Colombia

3  
2018



**Taller  
Interdisciplinario de  
Rehabilitación**

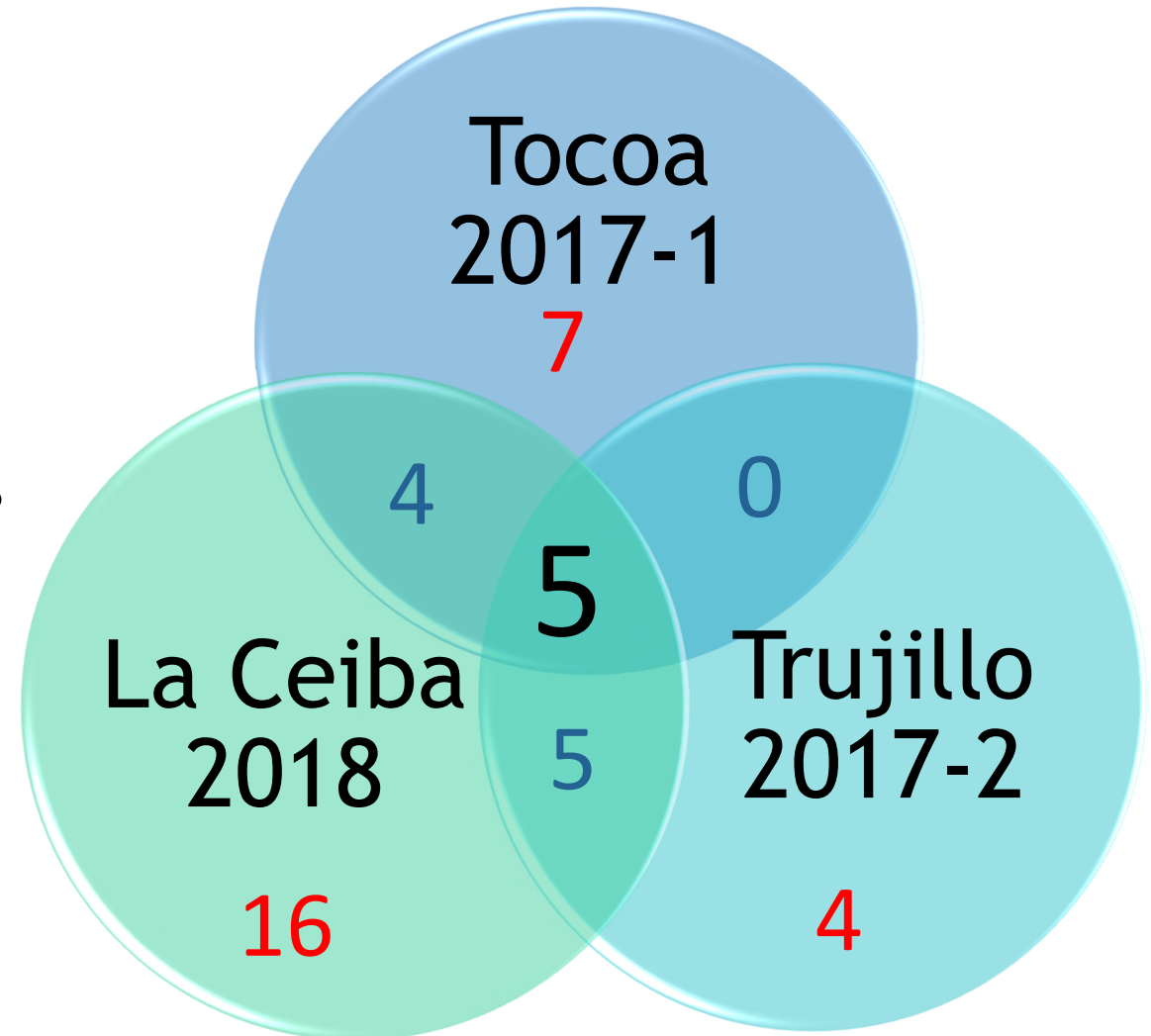




## Participants (n=41)

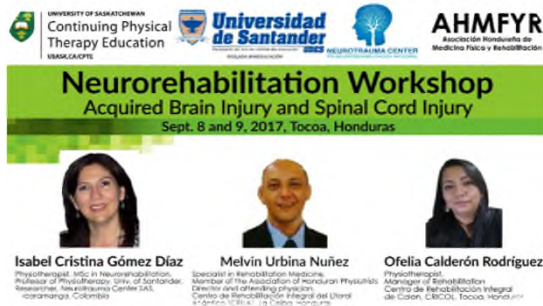
### Attendance - a closer look

- 27 people attended only one workshop
- 9 people attended two workshops
- 5 attended all three
- 41 unique individuals



# Evaluations at follow-up

Number of attendees per workshop



2017-1 n=16



2017-2 n=14



2018 n=30

Evaluations  
n=60

Attendance at Workshops	Time 0 $T_0$	Time 1 $T_1$	Time 2 $T_2$
Only 2017-1	7		
Only 2017-2	4		
Only 2018	16		
2017-2 & 2018	5	5	
2017-1 & 2018	4	4	
All three	5	5	5

$T_0=41$

$T_1=14$

$T_2=5$

# Variables

Main Independent



**Attendance at  
Workshops**  
 $T_0, T_1, T_2$

Dependent



**Supportive Networking**



**Exposure to Professional  
Networking Opportunities**

**Covariates:** gender, age, being a health care professional, position, state of residence, country of degree, workplace and experience working in health care.

# Results



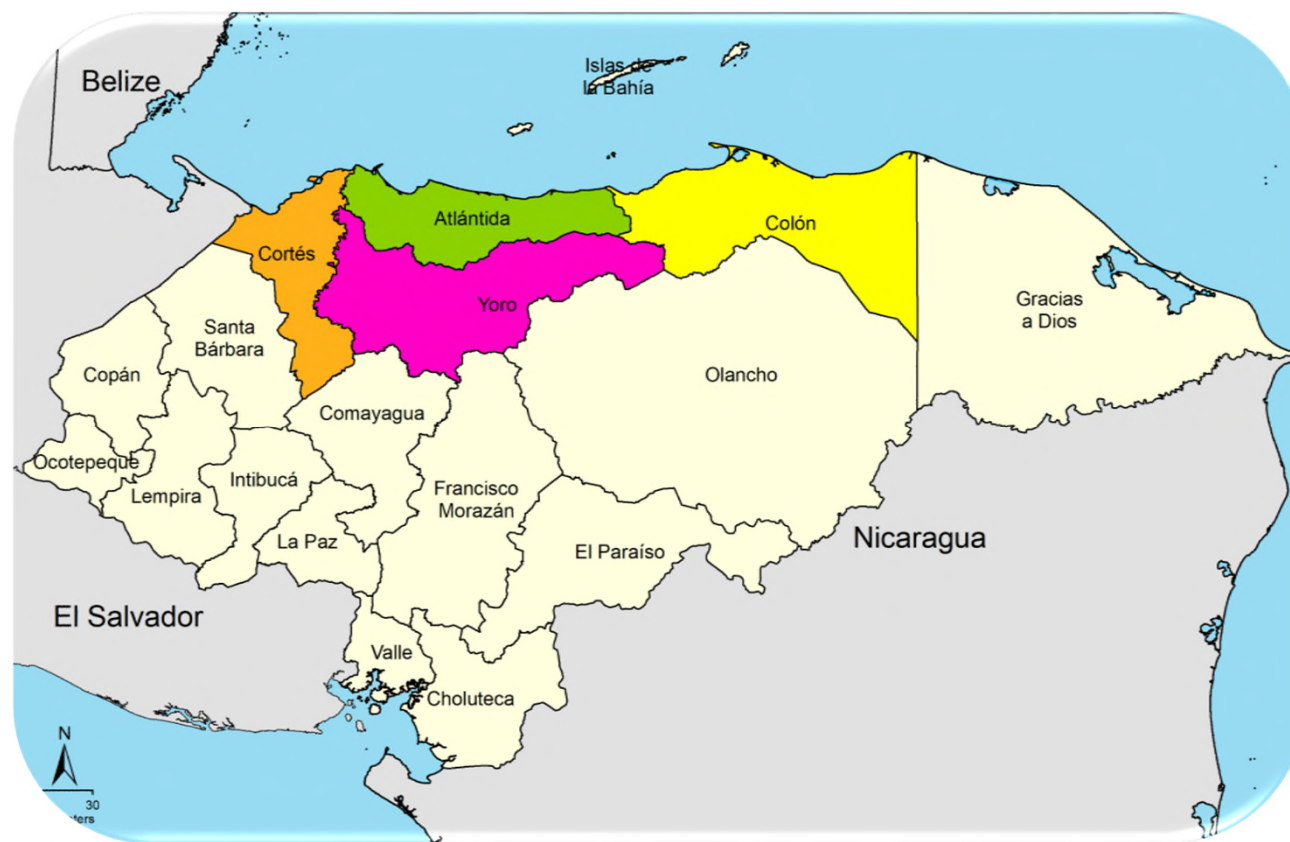
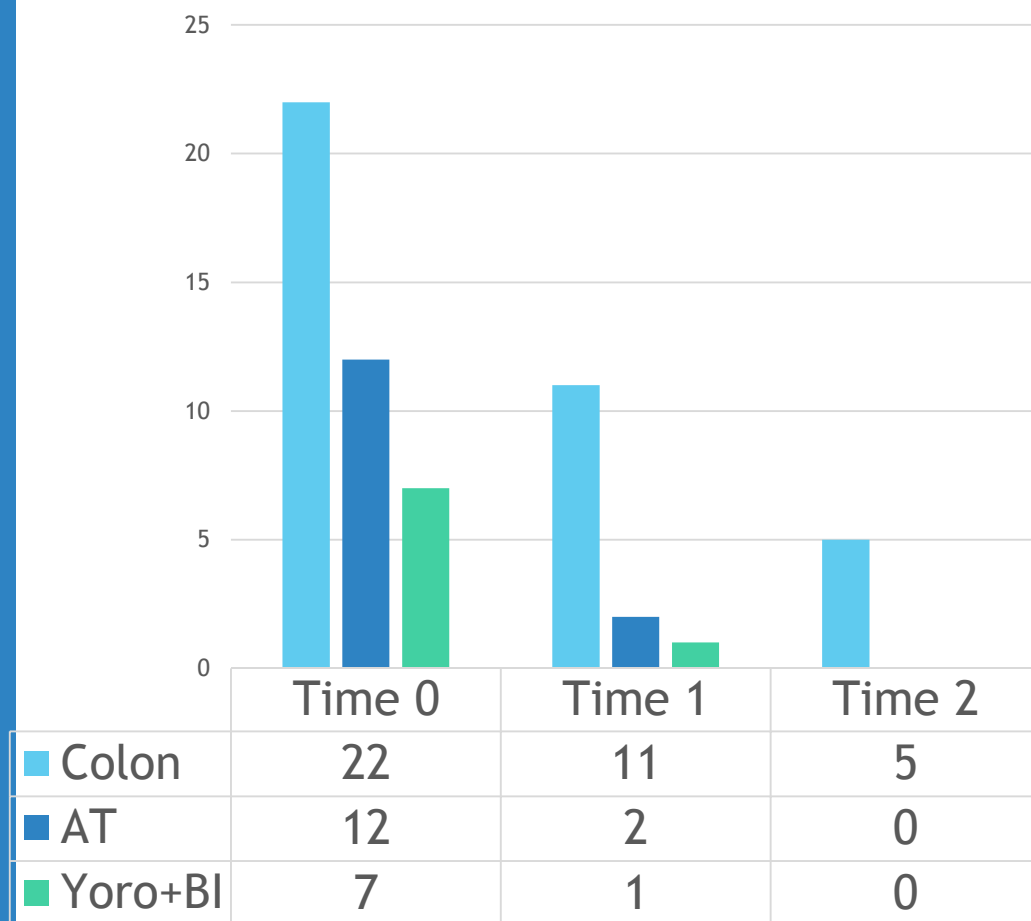
# Demographics at baseline

Variable	Categories	
Age groups n (%)	> 30	21 (51.2)
Gender n (%)	Women	33 (80.5)
Health Care Prof. n (%)	Yes	20 (48.8)
Position n (%)	PT	12 (29.3)
	Rehab Assistant	7 (17.1)
	MD and RN	9 (22.0)
	Educ	6 (14.6)
	Psych	6 (14.6)
Workplace n (%)	Rehab Centre	21 (51.2)
	Hosp/Private Clinic	10 (24.4)
	Sp.Ed.Rehab/ /Sp.Ed./Uni	10 (24.4)
Experience HC	Median (IQR)	3 (1-8)



# Demographics at baseline

## State of Residence



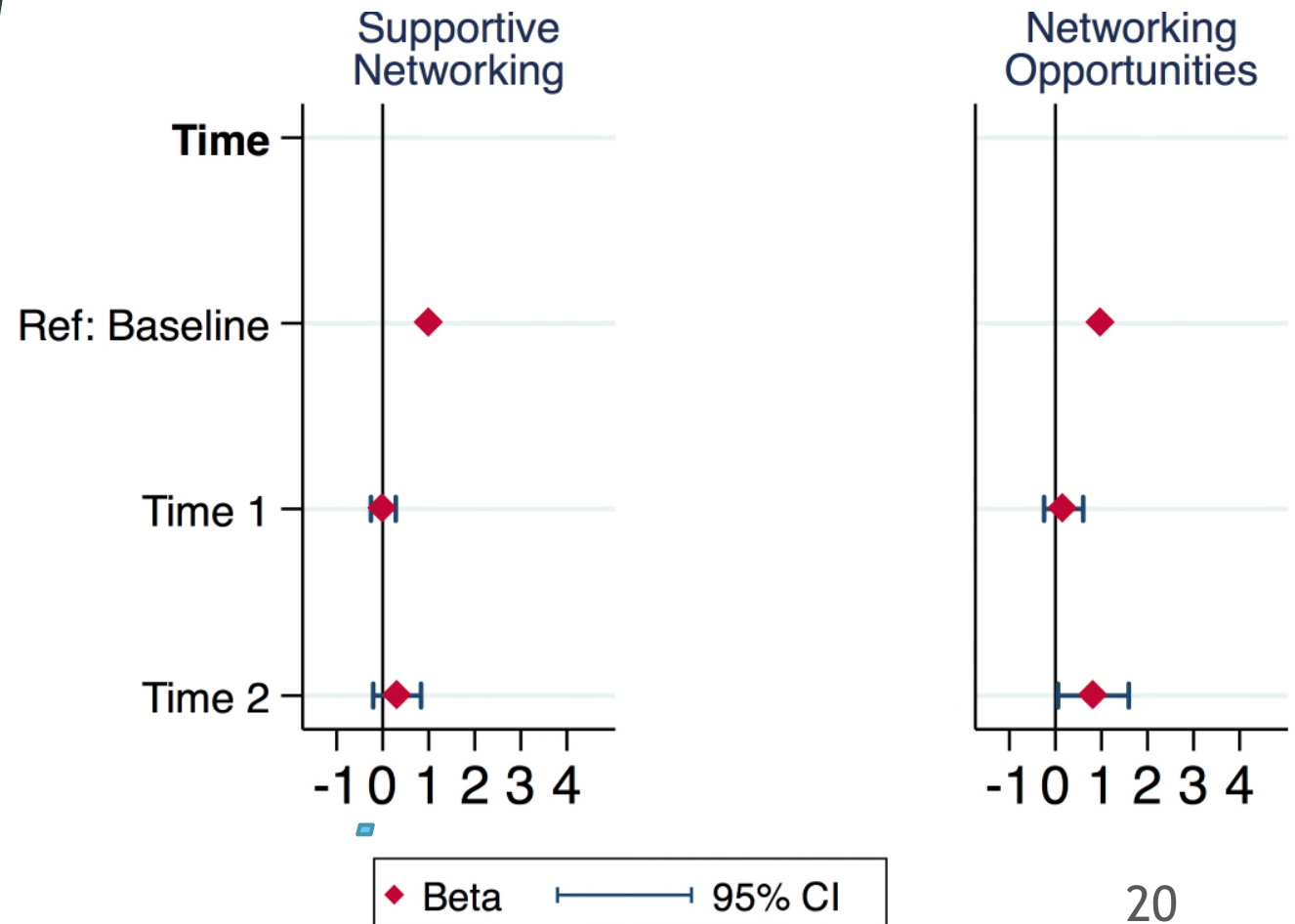
# Forest Plots

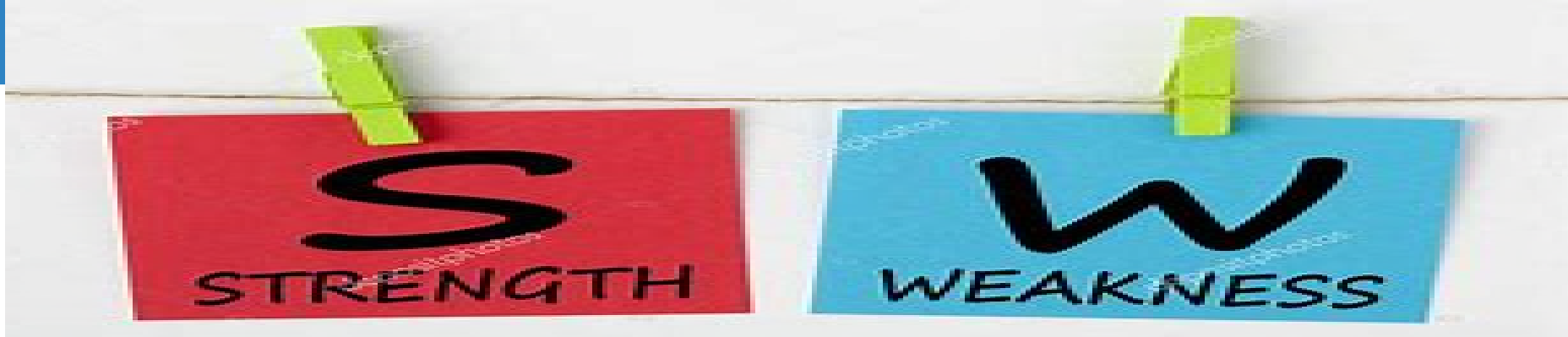
## Covariates Considered:

- ▶ gender
- ▶ age
- ▶ being a health care professional
- ▶ position
- ▶ state of residence
- ▶ country of degree
- ▶ workplace
- ▶ experience working in health care

## Association:

Workshop attendance (time) and Professional Networking Subscales





This study was largely exploratory

## Strengths

- ✓ Development of a new questionnaire
- ✓ Focus on an important issue
- ✓ Provide baseline data for future studies

## Weaknesses

- ✓ Sample size
- ✓ Convenience sample
- ✓ We suspect that some of the questions were not fully understood due to language and culture
- ✓ Lack of validity and reliability of the Professional Networking Questionnaire
- ✓ Longitudinal design did not control for other networking activities

# Future Directions

Validation of the Professional Networking Scale (Spanish and English)

Further exploration of Construct Validity

Comparison of Rural and Urban Settings

Evaluate online opportunities available in Honduras

Ensure networking is maximized at future workshops

Assess the impact of future professional associations as they develop

# Conclusion

Our results demonstrated how attending the workshops has increased the professional networking opportunities in rehabilitation workers in northern Honduras



# References

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