# Where do behavioural science practitioners learn about the science?

## **Results from a Survey**





14 March 2024

Summarized by Jingqi Yu and Bing Feng

Yu, J., & Feng, B. (2024). Where do behavioural science practitioners learn about the science? Behavioural Economics in Action at Rotman (BEAR), University of Toronto. <a href="https://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/FacultyAndResearch/R

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The authors would like to thank the research team at BEAR for many suggestions.



## **Summary**

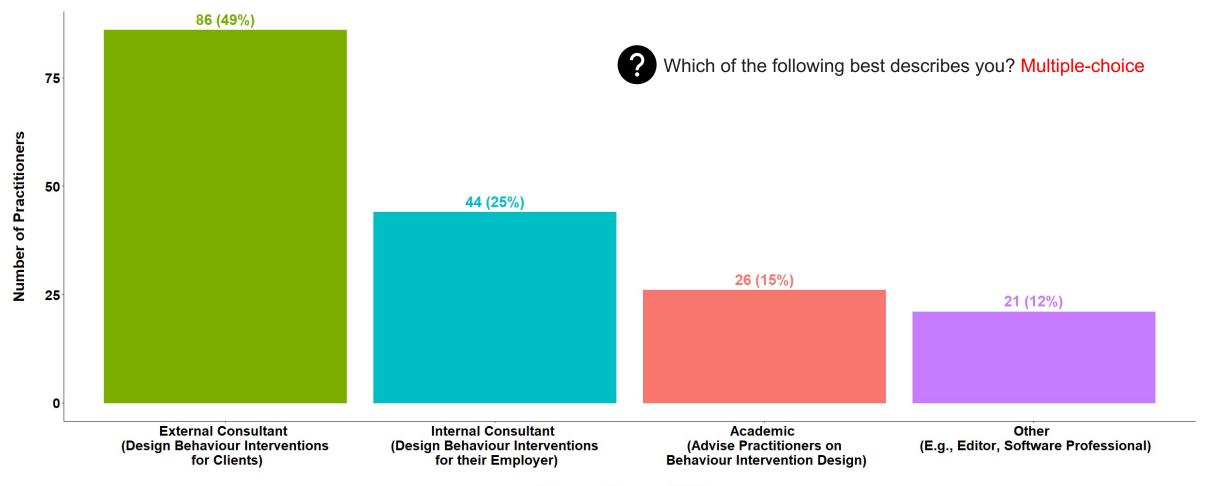
We are interested in learning more about the sources that practitioners who apply Behavioral Science to practical problems draw from, in designing interventions. In particular, we are interested in learning about what sources practitioners lean on to a) learn about the latest in behavioural science and b) get inspiration for designing their own interventions.

The survey, conducted from Feb 4<sup>th</sup> to Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, received valid responses from 177 practitioners. This report presents the results and insights gathered from these practitioners across four dimensions:

- Practitioners' roles and responsibilities.
- Practitioners' practice areas.
- Practitioners' primary source for learning about behavioural science research and the latest insights.
- Practitioners' selection of the top five most helpful academic journals for their applied work, categorized into two groups:
  - Selection from all practitioners.
  - Selection from non-academic practitioners only.



### Practitioner Profile: Roles and Responsibilities (N = 177)



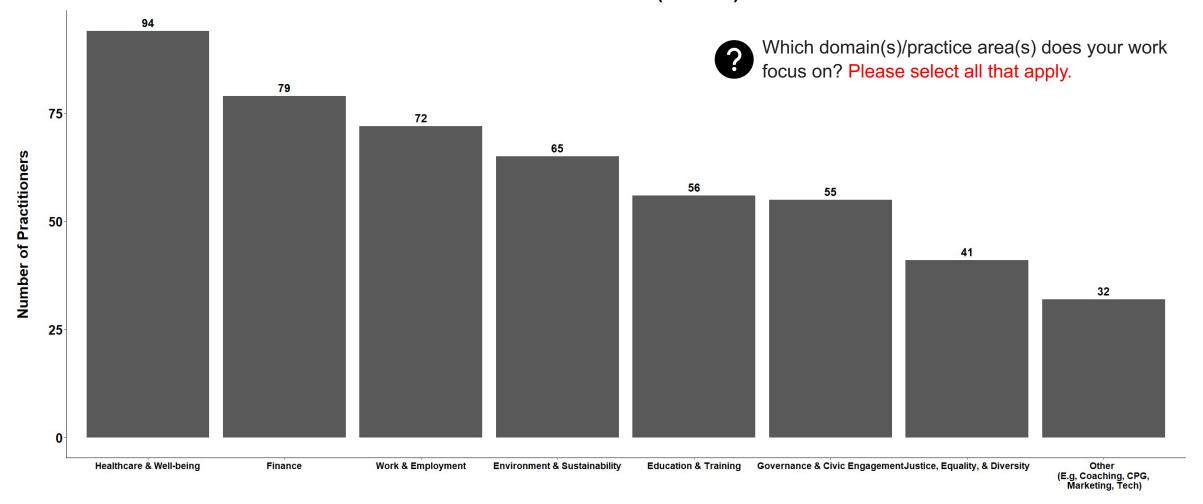
Roles and Responsibilities

Note. In this report, respondents are collectively referred to as practitioners. To provide clarity, the roles are displayed as follows:

- A practitioner who designs behavioural interventions for your employer is labelled as "External Consultant."
- A consultant that advises clients on the design of behavioural interventions is labelled as "Internal Consultant."
- An academic or student that works with or advises practitioners on the design of behavioural interventions is labelled as "Academic."



## Practice Areas of Practitioners (N = 177)



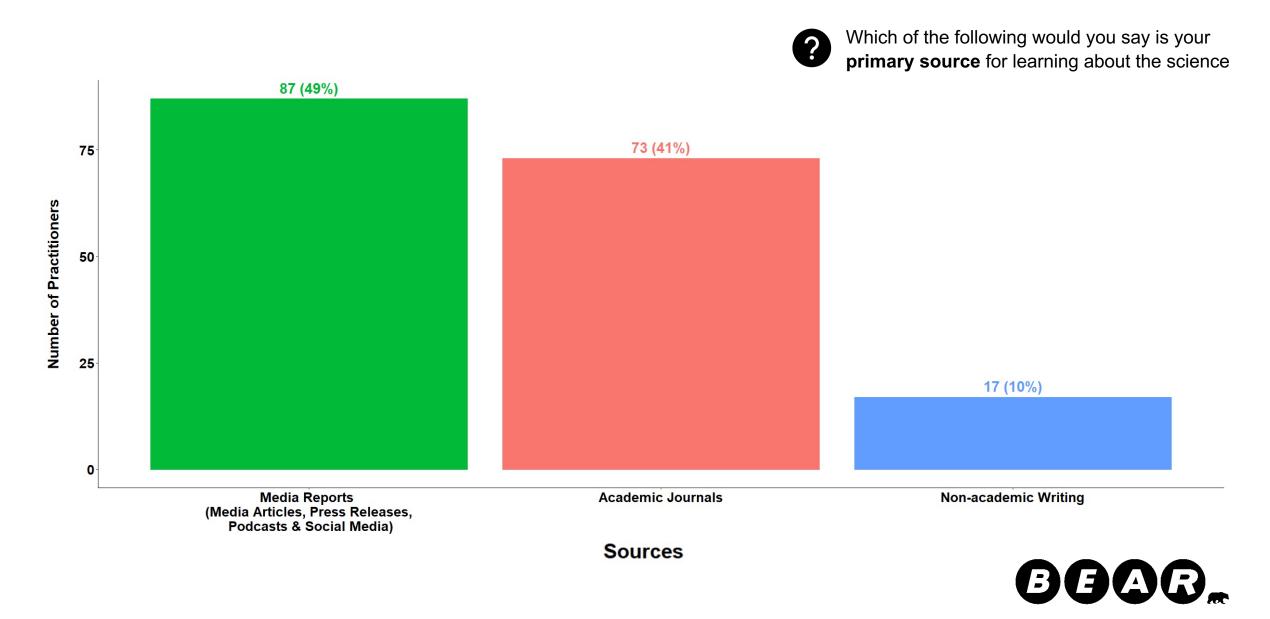
#### **Practice Areas**



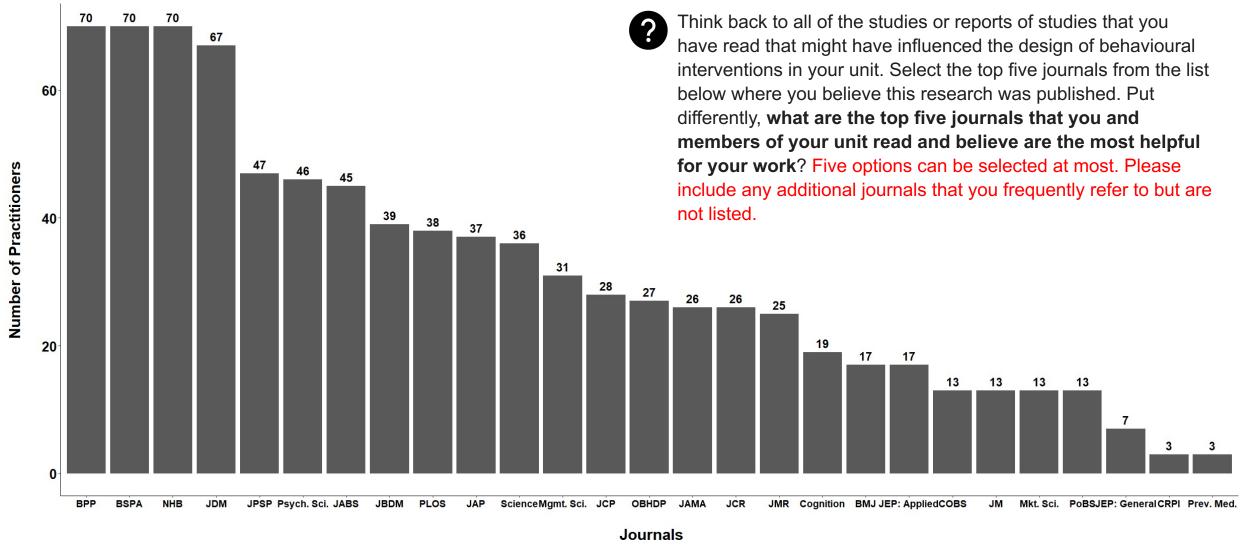
Our survey draws insights from practitioners spanning diverse domains/practice areas, reflecting the representativeness of our findings.



## Primary Source for Practitioners to Understand Behavioural Science Research (N = 177)



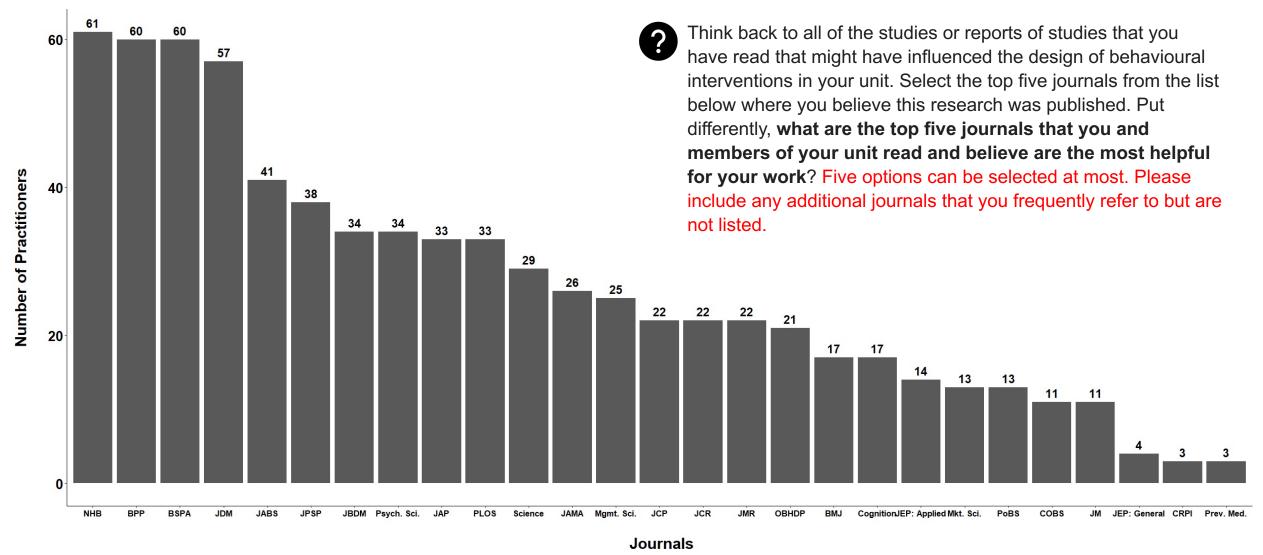
## Top Five Academic Journals: Most Useful for Academic and Non-Academic Practitioners (N = 177)



Notes. This result illustrates choices made by **both academic and non-academic practitioners**. Additional journals mentioned not on the list: *Nature*, *PNAS*, *JEBO*, *AER*, *HBR*, etc.



## Top Five Academic Journals: Most Useful for Non-Academic Practitioners (N = 151)



Notes. This result illustrates choices made by **non-academic practitioners only**.

Additional journals mentioned not on the list: Nature, PNAS, JEBO, AER, HBR, etc.



Abbreviation	Journal	
BSPA	Behavioral Science & Policy Association	
BPP	Behavioural Public Policy	
BMJ	British Medical Journal	
Cognition	Cognition	
CRPI	Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications	
COBS	Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences	
JAP	Journal of Applied Psychology	
JBDM	Journal of Behavioral Decision Making	
JCP	Journal of Consumer Psychology	
JCR	Journal of Consumer Research	
JEP: Applied	Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied	
JEP: General	Journal of Experimental Psychology: General	
JM	Journal of Marketing	
JMR	Journal of Marketing Research	
JPSP	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	
JAMA	Journal of American Medical Association	

JDM Judgment and Decision Making  Mgmt. Sci. Management Science  Mkt. Sci. Marketing Science  NHB Nature Human Behaviour  OBHDP Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes  PoBS Perspectives on Behavior Science  Prev. Med. Preventive Medicine  Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science  JABS The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science	Abbreviation	Journal
Mkt. Sci. Marketing Science  NHB Nature Human Behaviour  OBHDP Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes  PoBS Perspectives on Behavior Science  Prev. Med. Preventive Medicine  Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science	JDM	Judgment and Decision Making
NHB Nature Human Behaviour  OBHDP Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes  PoBS Perspectives on Behavior Science  Prev. Med. Preventive Medicine  Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science	Mgmt. Sci.	Management Science
OBHDP Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes  PoBS Perspectives on Behavior Science  Prev. Med. Preventive Medicine  Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science	Mkt. Sci.	Marketing Science
PoBS Perspectives on Behavior Science  Prev. Med. Preventive Medicine  Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science	NHB	Nature Human Behaviour
Prev. Med. Preventive Medicine  Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science	OBHDP	Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes
Psych. Sci. Psychological Science  PLOS Public Library of Science  Science Science	PoBS	Perspectives on Behavior Science
PLOS Public Library of Science Science Science	Prev. Med.	Preventive Medicine
Science Science	Psych. Sci.	Psychological Science
	PLOS	Public Library of Science
JABS The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science	Science	Science
	JABS	The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science
Nature Nature	Nature	Nature
PNAS Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences	PNAS	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
JEBO Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization	JEBO	Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization
AER American Economic Review	AER	American Economic Review
HBR Harvard Business Review BEAR	HBR	Harvard Business Review BEAR

## **Appendix A. Survey of Academic Journals That You Draw On**

full name:	
Email address:	
Organization / Unit that you work for:	

- 1. Which of the following best describes you: Multiple-choice
  - A practitioner who designs behaviour interventions for your employer
  - A consultant that advises clients on the design of behaviour interventions
  - An academic or student that works with or advises practitioners on the design of behaviour interventions
  - Other (briefly describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Which of the following would you say is your primary source for learning about the science and the latest studies? Please rank order the options below. Rank order 1-5, no two options can get the same rank.
  - Academic journals
  - Popular press articles (e.g., Behavioral Scientist) or follow Podcasts (e.g., Hidden Brain)
  - Books other than non-academic writing by the original authors (e.g., blogs or essays)
  - Press reports/coverage in newspapers and periodicals
  - Social media (e.g., Twitter or LinkedIn)



## Appendix A. Survey of Academic Journals That You Draw On (Cont'd)

3. Think back to all of the studies or reports of studies that you have read that might have influenced the design of behavioural interventions in your unit. Select the top five journals from the list below where you believe this research was published. Put differently, what are the top five journals that you and members of your unit read and believe are the most helpful for your work? Five options can be selected at most.

Behavioral Science & Policy Association (BSPA)	Journal of Behavioral Decision Making (JBDM)	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (JPSP)	Perspectives on Behavior Science (PoBS)
Behavioural Public Policy (BPP)	Journal of Consumer Psychology (JCP)	Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA)	Preventive Medicine (Prev. Med.)
British Medical Journal (BMJ)	Journal of Consumer Research (JCR)	Judgment and Decision Making (JDM)	Psychological Science (Psych. Sci.)
Cognition	Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied (JEP: Applied)	Management Science (Mgmt. Sci.)	Public Library of Science (PLOS)
Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications (CRPI)	Journal of Experimental Psychology: General (JEP: General)	Marketing Science (Mkt. Sci.)	Science
Current Opinion in Behavioural Sciences (COBS)	Journal of Marketing (JM)	Nature Human Behaviour (NHB)	The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science (JABS)
Journal of Applied Psychology (JAP)	Journal of Marketing Research (JMR)	Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes (OBHDP)	Other (Please specify)

If you strongly feel that there were more than 5 that yo	ou routinely draw from, please add any additional names
here.	BBAR

## Appendix A. Survey of Academic Journals That You Draw On (Cont'd)

- 4. Which domain(s)/practice area(s) does your work focus on? Please select all that apply. Checkbox
  - Healthcare and well-being
  - Finance
  - Education and training
  - Environment and sustainability
  - Justice, equality, and diversity
  - Governance and civic engagement
  - Work and employment
  - Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_