



Opioid Use Disorder (OUD): An Interprofessional Approach to Educating Future Pharmacists about this Public Health Challenge

Amanda M. Morrill, PharmD, BCPS¹, Cheryl Abel, PharmD¹, Cheryl Babin, PT, DHS, MHA, FNAP², Karen Britt, DNP, RN³, Karen Lenehan, BS¹, Kaelen Dunican, PharmD¹

1. School of Pharmacy- Worcester/Manchester 2. School of Physical Therapy- Worcester 3. School of Nursing- Manchester MCPHS Worcester, MA and Manchester, NH

BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVE

BACKGROUND

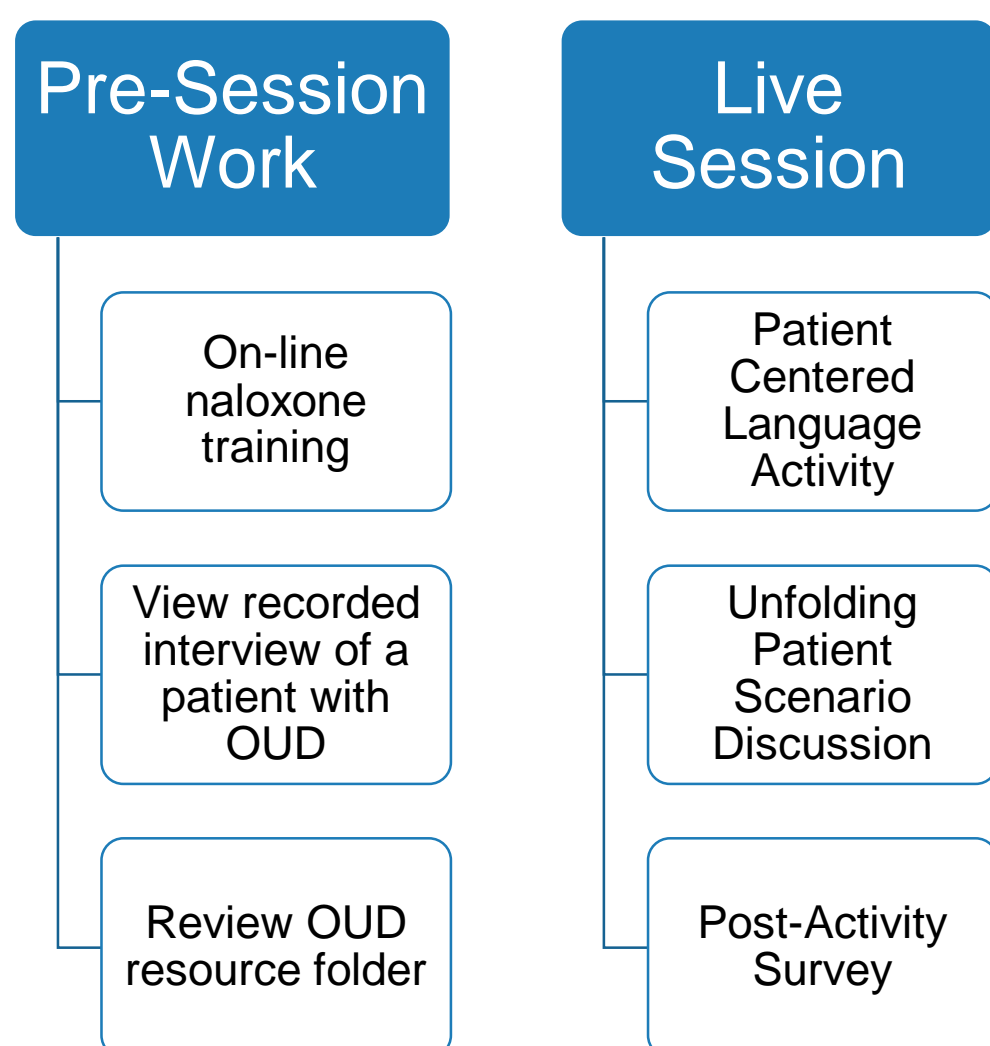
- Since 1999, national overdose deaths involving any opioid continues to be a public health concern.¹ Over 38% more drug overdose deaths related to synthetic opioids occurred during this period compared to the previous 12 months.²
- Pharmacists are uniquely suited to contribute to mitigating the opioid epidemic in both preventative and treatment roles.
- An effective response to OUD requires a multiprofessional and interdisciplinary approach, lending itself to an interprofessional education (IPE) learning activity.
- Based on review of the available literature, many Schools of Pharmacy have implemented OUD IPE activities, however there is limited information on sustained annual events of this magnitude.

OBJECTIVE

- Describe training Doctor of Pharmacy students about the pharmacists' role in caring for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) as part of the healthcare team.

METHODS

- Participating programs: acupuncture, diagnostic medical sonography, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies
- Activity was divided into 2 parts.
- During the live, in-person, interdisciplinary session, students were placed in small groups with students from other programs.
- They were presented with 4 different patient-case scenarios and given an opportunity to discuss course of treatment from their disciplines point of view.



RESULTS

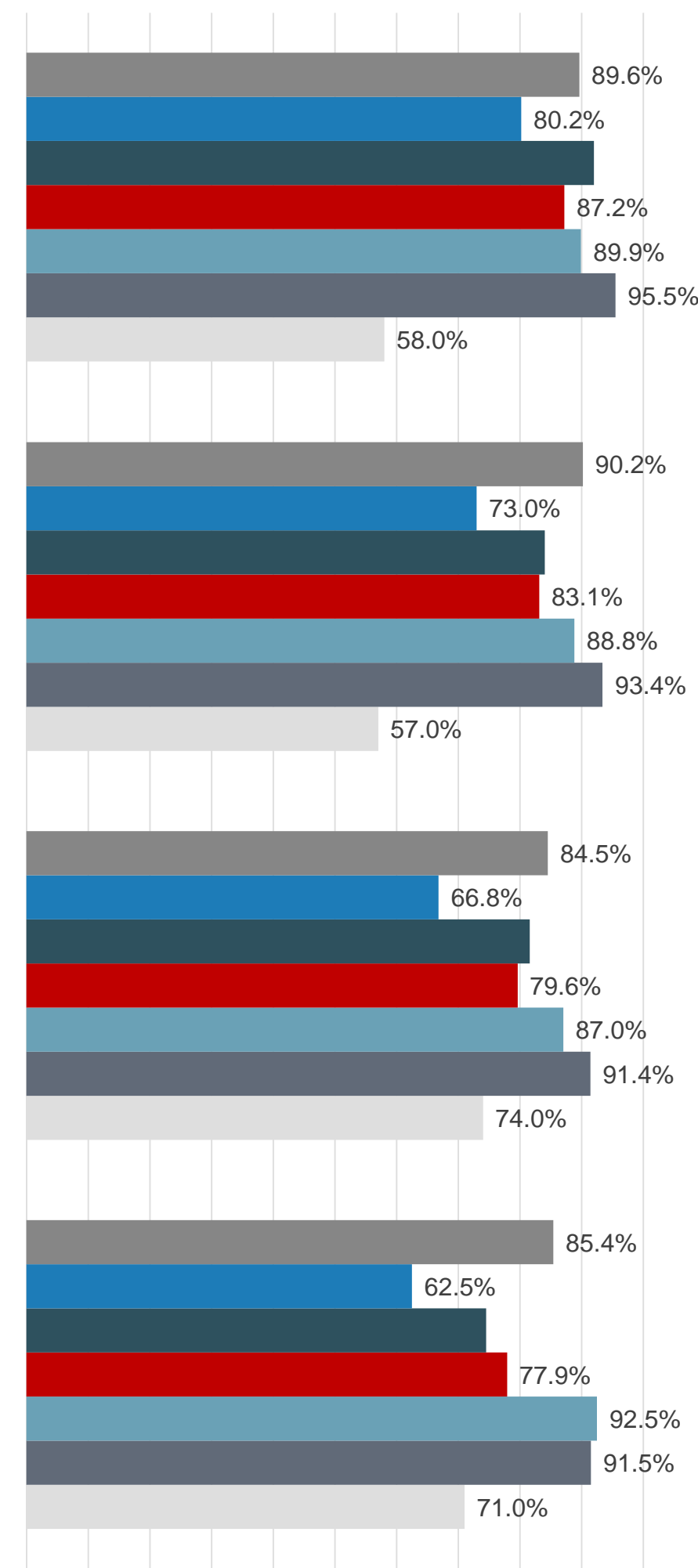
Percentage of students that agreed with each survey statement.

I was able to express my knowledge and opinions to the other professions in my group.

This activity allowed me to learn with the other health professions students in my group.

The information from this activity will help me be more effective in my profession.

This activity should be offered for future students.



■ 2023 (n=459, RR: 68.8%) ■ 2022* (n=853, RR: 45.6%) ■ 2021* (n=905, RR: 58.1%) ■ 2020* (N=795, RR: 72.8%) ■ 2019 (n=709, RR: 93%) ■ 2018 (n=732, RR: 95.6%) ■ 2017 (n=816, RR: 26%)
RR: Survey response rate; *virtual offering

DISCUSSION

- Survey responses show that students and faculty found this event to be beneficial and should be offered to future students
- Longitudinal data indicates students seemed to prefer in-person interactions.
- Limitations:
 - Clinical schedules prevented some programs' inclusion in live activities
 - Course schedules necessitated this being a lunch time activity
- Survey responses from students and faculty have helped to identify areas for improvement in the future.
 - Provide in person instruction on naloxone device use
 - Provide more discussion on costs of pharmacologic v. non pharmacologic intervention

CONCLUSION

- Given the complex nature of OUD, it is a high priority for health professionals to work collaboratively to provide optimal patient care to those affected by this challenging public health problem.
- Activities like this are important components of pharmacy education to help build a foundation for students' future practices involving the treatment of patients with OUD.
- Empowering pharmacy students to assist patients with OUD while being a contributing member of interprofessional teams is of paramount importance and attained by this activity.
- This large-scale sustainable IPE activity can be delivered in person or virtually and is transferable to numerous healthcare practice areas and professional experience levels

REFERENCES

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2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. overdose deaths in 2021 increased half as much as in 2020 but are still up 15%. 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/202205.htm#:~:text=T%20new%20data%20show%20overdose,in%202021%20compared%20to%202020. Accessed December 22, 2022

Conflict of Interest:

The authors have no conflicts of interest

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