

# A description of licensure exam preparation strategies among US pharmacy programs

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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



## BACKGROUND

### North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE)

- To practice, pharmacy graduates must pass a licensure exam (NAPLEX) and meet state-based law requirements (typically: MPJE)<sup>1</sup>
- Marker of curricular quality/effectiveness and may impact recruitment<sup>2</sup>

### NAPLEX and MPJE Preparation Programs

- Strategies to enhance preparation:<sup>2-6</sup>

#### Curricular components

Grand rounds

Topic presentations

#### Vendor-based programs

On-site reviews

Books

Practice questions

#### Practice examinations

PCOA

Pre-NAPLEX

- Blueprint and scoring has changed since recent publications along with declining graduate scores.<sup>1</sup> Thus, there is a need to update preparation program strategies.

## OBJECTIVE

To describe the different strategies used to supplement North American Preparation Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) preparation in US pharmacy programs during AY 21-22.

## METHODS



### Survey Development

- Literature review
- Developed
- Pre-tested



### Finalized Survey

- Items: 19 NAPLEX, 10 MPJE
- Content: timing, content, use of vendors, faculty involvement, and level of requirement



### Survey Distribution

- 141 accredited pharmacy programs to NAPLEX/MPJE preparation lead or assessment / academic affairs lead
- Qualtrics with 3 reminders
- Personal follow-ups to non-respondents

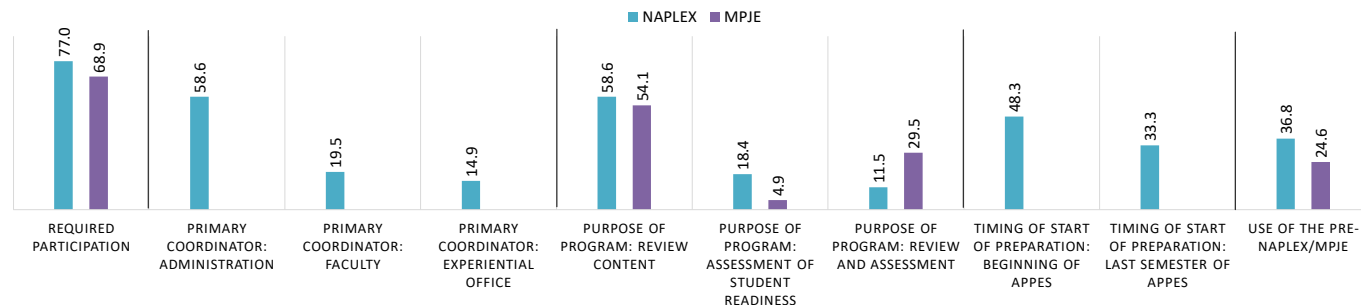


### Data Analysis

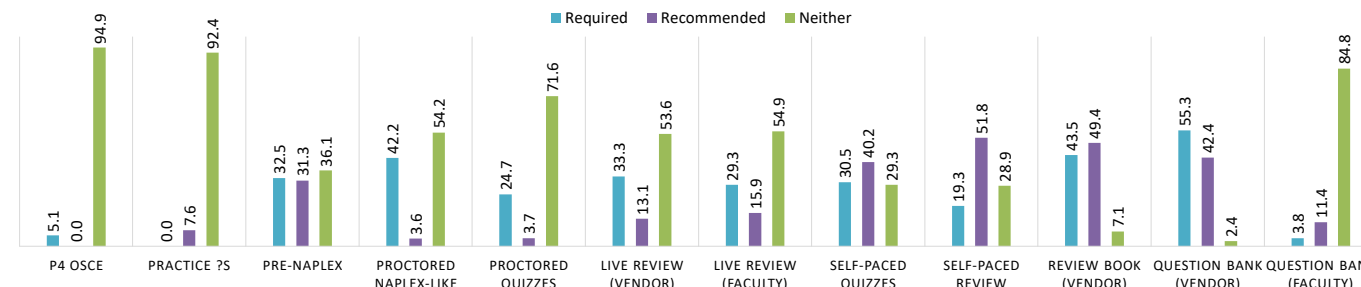
- SPSS
- Descriptive statistics
- Chi-square/t-test for program characteristic differences

## RESULTS

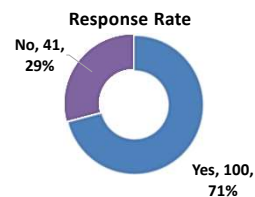
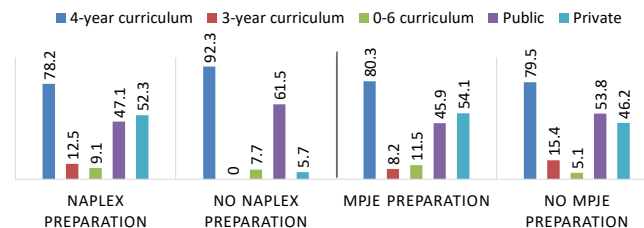
### NAPLEX AND MPJE PREPARATION PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS (%), N=87



### NAPLEX PREPARATION (%), N=87



### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS (%), N=100



## REFERENCES



## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### Discussion and Conclusions

- Most pharmacy schools/colleges had required NAPLEX and MPJE preparation programs.
- It raised the question of whether the curriculum alone should fully prepare graduates for their licensing exams or if additional review and test-taking skills programs should be offered.

### Limitations

- The study questionnaire was not validated but items were pretested and the instrument piloted.
- There was no measure of student engagement in the various preparatory programs.
- Impact of the pandemic on preparation program delivery is unknown.

### Future Directions

- Determining the effectiveness of the various approaches used for preparing students for their licensure exams is the next step. This should include individual vendor programs, locally developed programs, and combinations.
- Another area for further inquiry is to determine how knowledge base and/or test-taking skills of students impact pass rates.