

Current Status of Tobacco Education in Doctor of Pharmacy Programs in the United States

Karen Hudmon,^{1,2} Alexa Lahey,¹ Julia Czarnik,¹ Nervana Elkhadragy,³ Robin Corelli,²

1 Purdue University College of Pharmacy | 2 University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy | 3 University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy

BACKGROUND and STUDY OBJECTIVE

- A survey of US schools during the 2001-2002 academic year revealed a median of 2.8 hours (170 min) of tobacco-related curricular content.
- A shared tobacco cessation curriculum, Rx for Change, was created and disseminated to US schools of pharmacy via train-the-trainer programs (2003-2005; 97.8% of schools participated (n=89 of 91).
- Seventeen states (and more pending) have passed legislation allowing pharmacists to *prescribe* tobacco cessation medications; thus, enhanced training of PharmD students in this area is needed.
- A national survey was conducted to assess: (a) tobacco cessation content, delivery, and assessment methods and (b) faculty interest in enhancing curricular content as a result of pharmacists' expanding role for prescribing tobacco cessation medications.

METHODS

- Faculty responsible for teaching tobacco cessation-related content were identified for each of 142 U.S. accredited PharmD programs.
- Qualtrics surveys, with reminders and \$30 gift card incentives, were administered to assess:

School characteristics

- # of students entering the PharmD program in 2021-2022

Tobacco cessation content

- Number of hours devoted to tobacco cessation
- Topic areas covered in the required coursework
- Use of Rx for Change program teaching materials

Content delivery and assessment methods

- Educational methods for delivery of tobacco content
- Assessment methods to test student competencies

Interest in expanded tobacco cessation training

- Faculty train-the-trainer programs and TTS training for students

CONCLUSIONS

- Compared to prior baseline data, U.S. colleges of pharmacy have almost doubled the curricular hours of instruction on tobacco-related content, however only 39% currently teach the minimum recommended 6 hours of tobacco content.
- Given the expanding scope of practice for prescribing tobacco cessation medications, there is a need to enhance curricular content in PharmD programs.
- Faculty express strong interest in train-the-trainer programs for tobacco cessation (99%) and incorporating Tobacco Treatment Specialist training into the PharmD curriculum (95%).



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RESULTS

- 132 of 142 schools completed a survey (93.0%).
 - 67 (50.8%) were public institutions; 65 (49.2%) were private
 - Median 2021-2022 entering class size, 78.5 (range, 15 to 310)
 - All but one of the 46 states with one or more pharmacy schools was represented in the respondent population
- The most common content (Figure 1) addressed in curricula were medications for quitting, comprehensive tobacco cessation counseling, and nicotine pharmacology.
- The most common methods of teaching (Figure 2) were lecture, case studies, and assigned readings.

Figure 1. Tobacco cessation content addressed in core curricula (%).

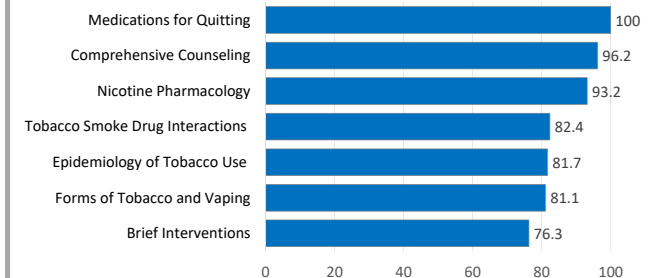
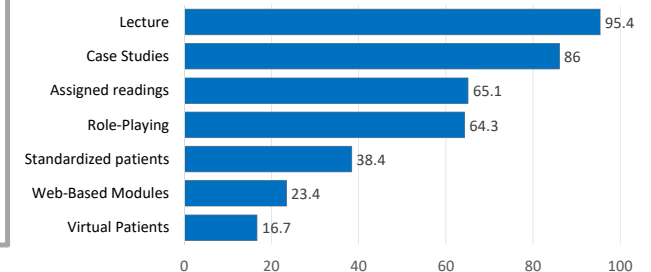


Figure 2. Methods for teaching tobacco cessation (%).



Median number of content hours averaged **5.0** (range, 1 to 18)

39.2% achieved the minimum recommended 6.0 content hours

57.6% used Rx for Change modules for teaching