

The Knowledge, Attitudes, Behavior and Practices of California Community Pharmacists in Regards to OTC Narcan

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Introduction

- As of March 2023, the FDA approved 4 mg naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for Over-the-Counter use.
- Some pharmacists oppose the reclassification of prescription naloxone to Over-the-Counter due to the lack of patient education which leads to inappropriate use of Narcan per the Society of Pain And Palliative Care Pharmacists Position Statement on the Proposed Change of Naloxone to Over-the-Counter status.
- Per the article, Considering the Potential Benefits of Over-the-Counter Naloxone, Pharmacists are now slowly embracing the right to dispense Narcan as Over-the-Counter. However, they have encountered issues of safety and efficacy and feel that educational outreach and affordability will lack effectiveness.
- The availability of Over-the-Counter Narcan will in fact be beneficial to the patients of the community depending on its affordability.²
- The knowledge, attitudes, behavior, and practices of California Community Pharmacists of the Over-the-Counter Narcan switch will be revealed through research.

Objective

- To determine the level of knowledge and awareness of California community pharmacists
- To evaluate California community pharmacist attitudes on stocking and proper counseling of OTC Narcan
- To assess the practices of California community pharmacists regarding stocking OTC Narcan

Methods

- A prospective survey on human subjects. Using descriptive statistics, data was analyzed.
- Attained IRB approval.
- Sample size: 99 pharmacists.
- Inclusion criteria: California licensed pharmacists in independent, outpatient, or chain pharmacies.
- Random community pharmacies in rural/urban counties were verbally contacted for a questionnaire. For privacy protection, survey was anonymous consisting of a scale, 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree.

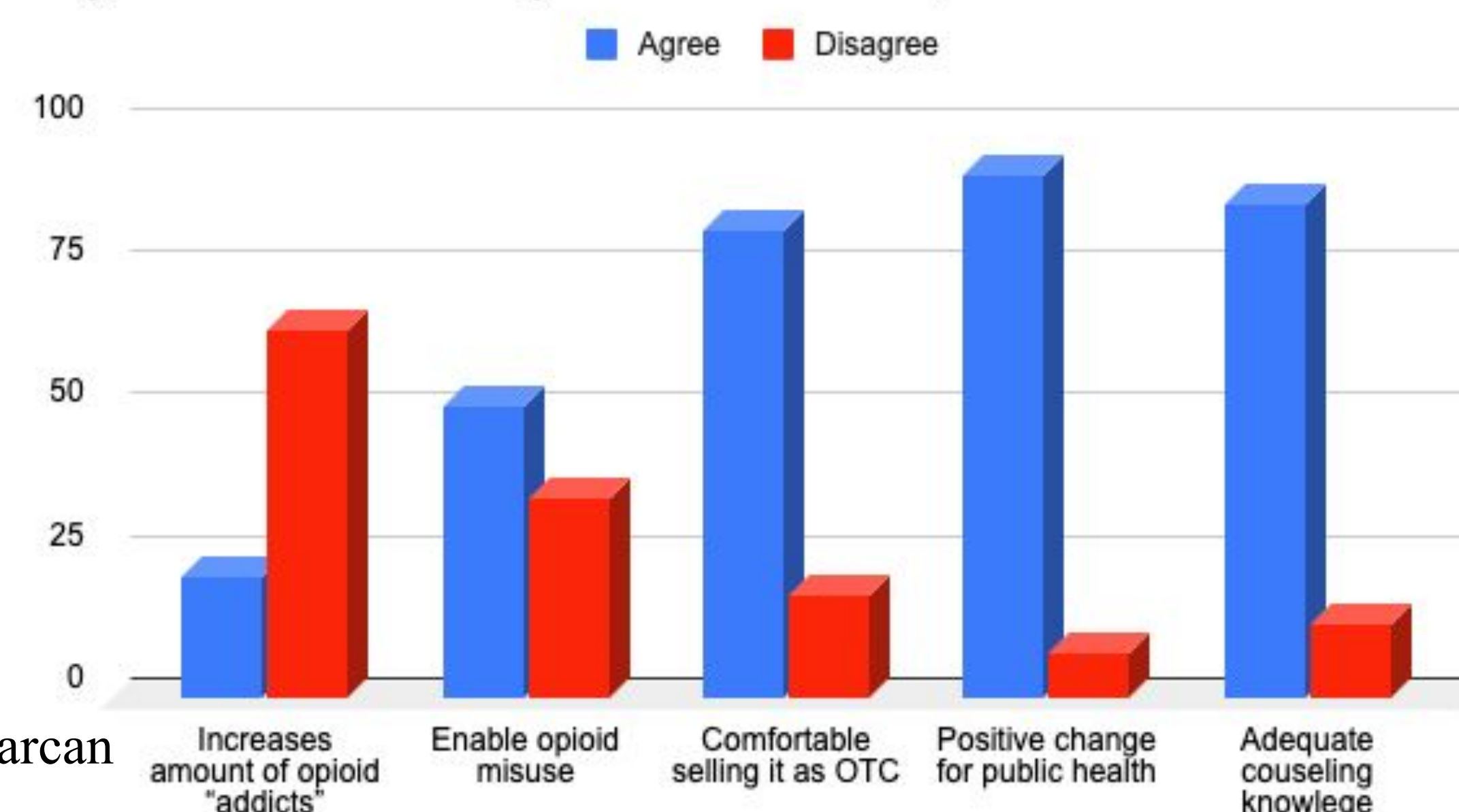
Results

Table 1: Rural Vs Urban Counties

Rural	Urban
Alpine County	Los Angeles
San Bernardino	Orange County
Santa Barbara	Long beach
Upland County	San Clemente

- 48.5% Rural, 51.5% Urban
- 33.3% independent,
- 33.3% outpatient,
- 33.3% chain pharmacies
- 67.2% dispense OTC Narcan,
- 32.3% do not dispense OTC Narcan
- Cost ranged from \$15- \$75

Figure 1.2: Revealing Pharmacists' opinion on OTC Narcan



Discussion

- The knowledge, attitudes, behavior and practices of 124 pharmacies of California Community pharmacists in regards to OTC Narcan were collected. However, 99 responses were successfully obtained.
- A small population responded neutrally to concerns of enabling drug use and a lack of understanding of the important harm reduction strategies.
- About 80% of the pharmacies that were contacted agreed to participate in the study.
- Many pharmacists lack adequate knowledge to dispense and counsel on proper administration of OTC Narcan.
- Approximately 85% of independent pharmacies lack Narcan as an OTC product, highlighting a critical gap in harm reduction efforts.
- Further examination is needed to determine whether pharmacists' discomfort with selling Narcan arises from concerns about patient safety or other factors.

Limitations

- California Licensed pharmacist
- Outpatient, community, and independent pharmacies
- Urban vs Rural

Conclusion

- Our findings indicate that pharmacists hold varying perspectives on the impact of OTC Narcan, with those who view it as beneficial for their community while others express concerns about its potential to attract more individuals struggling with addiction at the pharmacy.
- It is concluded that despite OTC Narcan being a positive change for public health, many pharmacists still believe that it will increase the amount of opioid addicts who frequent the pharmacy. Therefore, indicating opioid misuse that it may further cause in areas where its availability has been maximized.

References

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