

What are the knowledge, attitudes, behavior and practices of California Community Pharmacists in regards to OTC Narcan?

Rawan Alabdali (alabdali@usc.edu), Diana Ayoub (dayoub@usc.edu), Mera Eskandar (meraeska@usc.edu), Sema Massad (smassad@usc.edu)

Background/ Purpose

As of March 2023, the FDA approved 4 mg naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for OTC use. Some pharmacists oppose the reclassification of prescription naloxone to OTC due to the lack of patient education which leads to inappropriate use of Narcan¹ per the Society of Pain And Palliative Care Pharmacists Position Statement on the Proposed Change of Naloxone to OTC Status. Per the article, Considering the Potential Benefits of OTC Naloxone, Pharmacists are now slowly embracing the right to dispense Narcan as OTC. However, they have encountered issues of safety and efficacy and feel that educational outreach and affordability will lack effectiveness. The availability of OTC 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 OTC Narcan switch will be revealed through research.

Methods

This is a prospective survey study of California community pharmacists. Participants will be invited to complete a verbal questionnaire telephonically. Inclusion criteria includes pharmacists currently employed at a community pharmacy who consent to participate. Data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics. IRB approval will be obtained prior to initiating the study. The sample size will be approximately 100 pharmacists. There will be a variety of 15 questions ranging answer from a scale of 1-5, 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agreeing.

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

Questionnaire

1. Do you consent to our anonymous questionnaire?
2. What is the name and location of your Pharmacy?
3. Is your pharmacy in an urban or rural area?
4. Is your pharmacy a chain, independent, or outpatient?
5. How many years have you been in practice as a pharmacist?
 - a. <5
 - b. 6-20
 - c. 20+
 - d. Decline to state
6. What is your gender

- a. Man
- b. Woman
- c. Non-binary/other
- d. Decline to state

Knowledge

- 7. Did you know that Narcan is approved for OTC?
- 8. Does your pharmacy currently distribute/sell Narcan as an OTC product?
 - a. If yes, how much does it cost at your pharmacy?

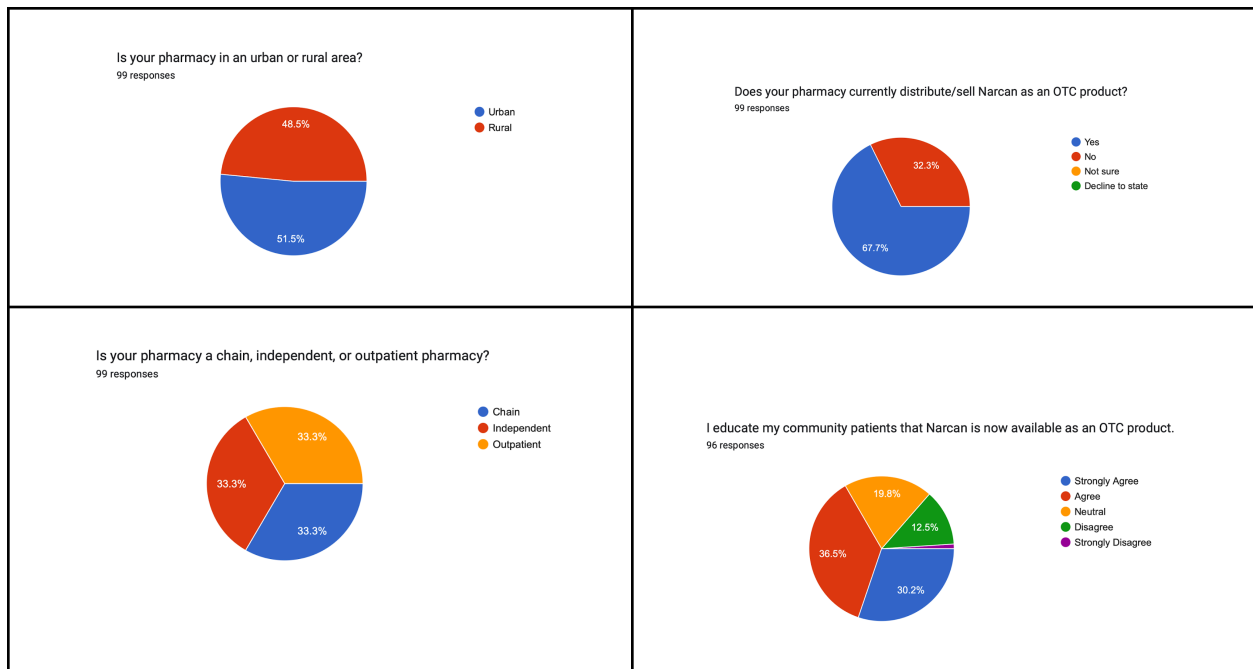
Attitudes

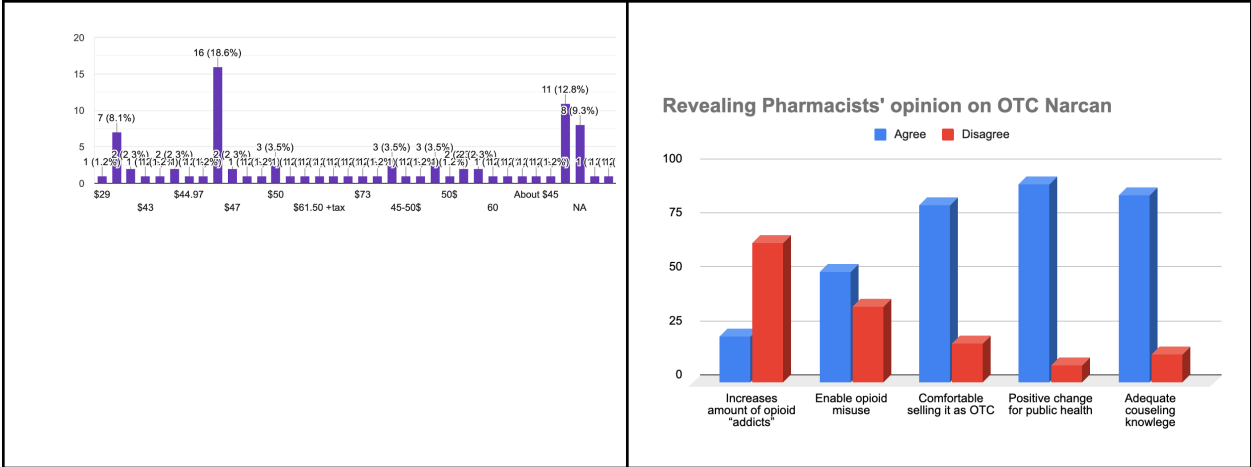
- 9. The availability of Narcan OTC is a positive change for public health overall.
- 10. The availability of Narcan OTC will enable opioid misuse.
- 11. I am comfortable distributing/selling OTC Narcan to patients of my community
- 12. I have adequate knowledge to counsel a patient effectively on Narcan OTC.
- 13. I am concerned that the availability of Narcan OTC will increase the amount of opioid “addicts” who frequent the pharmacy

Behavior/Practices

- 14. OTC Naloxone can help prevent opioid overdose deaths.
- 15. I educate my community patients that Narcan is now available as an OTC product.

Results





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.