

Opiate Addiction and Overdose: Medical Students' Experiences, Satisfaction with Learning, and Attitudes toward Community Naloxone Provision

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Background

- 1.3 million opioid users in Europe; 2.2% of deaths among Europeans aged 15 to 39 are drug overdoses involving opioids
- Over 200 opiate overdose deaths occur annually in Ireland among the registered methadone population
- Addiction medicine teaching has been demonstrated to improve medical students' knowledge, skills and self-rated competence in treating patients with substance use disorders
- Limited undergraduate addiction medicine education Ireland - graduates may not be adequately prepared to diagnose / manage opioid use disorders and overdose
- We examined final-year medical students' learning experiences and attitudes toward opioid use disorder, overdose and community naloxone provision as an emerging overdose treatment

Background

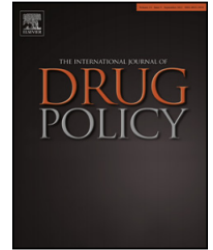


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Viewpoint

Primary Care - A key route for distribution of naloxone in the community



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Opiate Addiction and Overdose: Experiences, Attitudes and Appetite for Community Naloxone Provision. Barry T, Klimas J, Tobin H, Egan M, Bury G. BJGP (in press).



Methods

Participants

243

undergraduate students, three months before graduation

Data collection

Paper based survey

11 questions – demographics, experience, attitudes, competence

Data analysis

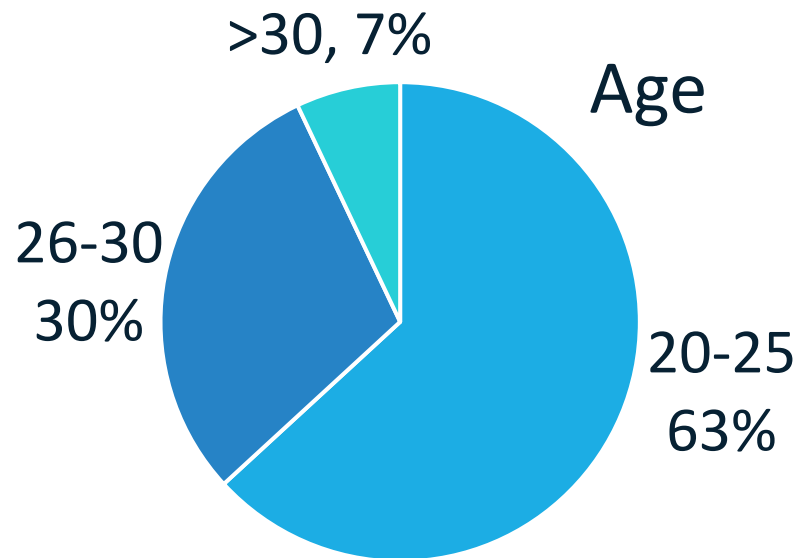
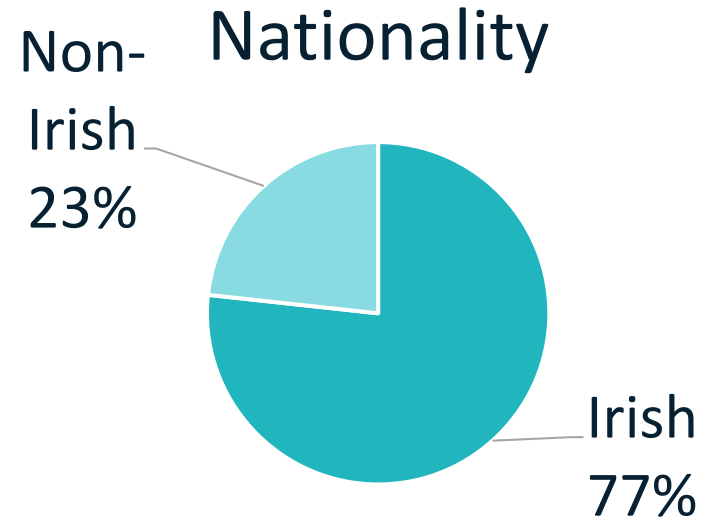
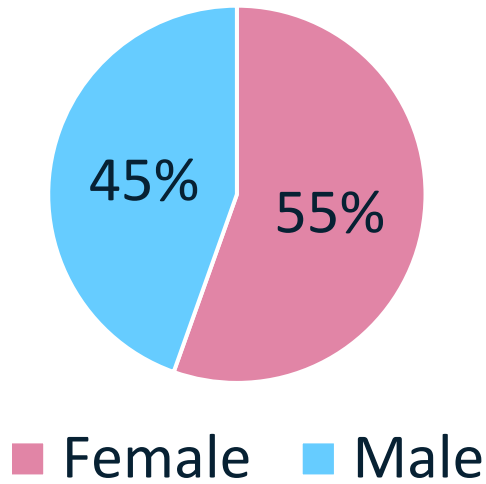
Descriptive statistics

Comparison to parallel GP and GP trainee surveys



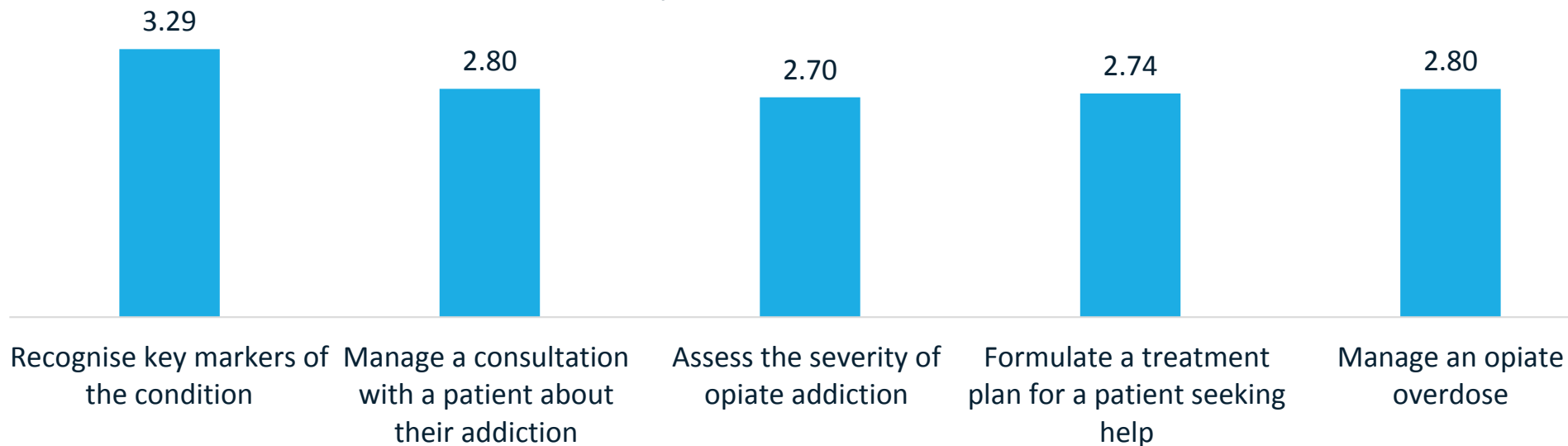
Response rate - **81%** (197/243)

Result 1 - Demographics



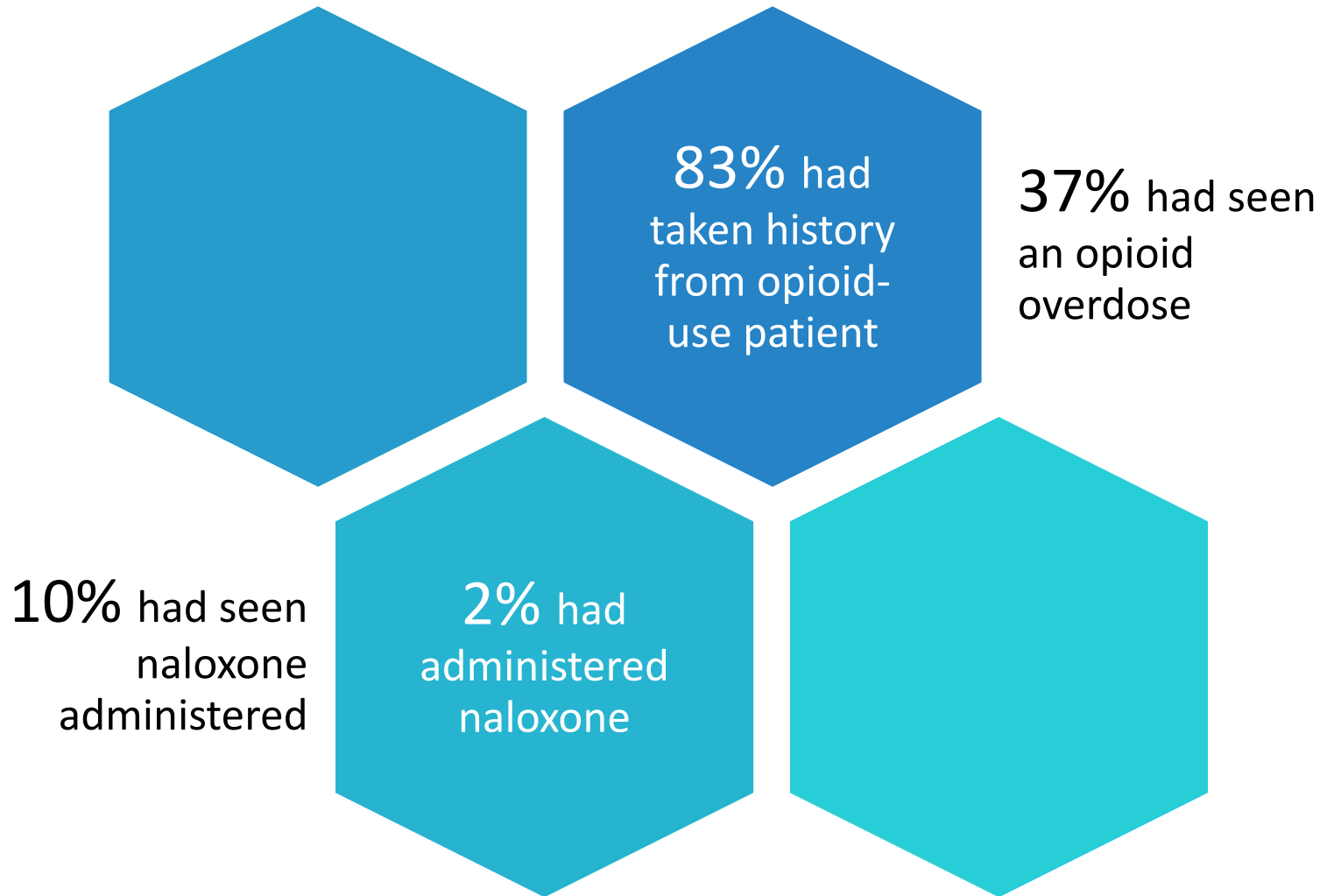
Result 2 – Learning Satisfaction

As an intern in 2016, I am satisfied that I have learned enough about opiate addiction to:



Mean Scores
1=Strongly Disagree; 5=Strongly Agree

Result 3 – Experience



Result 3 – Comparison with GPs / GP Trainees

	Demographics	Agree with wider naloxone availability	Agree with potential lay distribution of naloxone
Med Students	N = 197, 44% male	52%	54%
GP Trainees	N = 136, 23% male	63%	64%
GPs	N = 448, 65% male	53%	66%*

* p < 0.05



Strengths and Limitations

High response rate among all undergraduate medical students close to graduation in 2016

Some students may not go on to specialities with high exposure to opiate addiction

Self reported competencies may differ from clinical abilities

Instrument not standardised / tested for validity, but was piloted

Only one academic year tested; other cohorts may differ



Drugnet Ireland (2014)

Take home naloxone
recommended to reduce
drug related deaths



Conclusions

Recognition of opioid use disorder moderate, management competencies poorer

Half support wider naloxone availability and its lay distribution; similar to GPs / GP Trainees

Few had direct experience of overdose management, though it is a large and growing problem in Ireland

Curriculum reforms are needed to raise perceived competence, particularly for managing opioid overdose

High levels of student exposure to patients using opiates suggest we have an opportunity to do better





Questions?

Thank you to all of the students who participated in this survey.



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