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Pharmacists Provision of Non-Dispensing Services in Health Professional Shortage Areas

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Ohio Pharmacists Provision of Non-Dispensing Services in Health Professional Shortage Areas

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ONU Student Research Colloquium



Introduction

- Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Many residents living in HPSAs have social determinants of health markers including
 - Rurality
 - Poverty
 - Population sparsity
 - High proportions of older adults
 - Lower education levels
 - Greater racial/ethnic diversity
 - Higher levels of unemployment

Introduction (cont.)

- Community pharmacists
 - Accessible healthcare professionals
 - 95% of population lives within 5 miles of a community pharmacy
- Non-dispensing services
 - Patient-centered care services

Study Objectives/Purpose

- Primary objectives:
 - Characterize non-dispensing services that Ohio community pharmacists currently provide
 - Compare such services among pharmacists practicing in HPSA and non-HPSA counties
- Secondary objectives:
 - Determining pharmacists'
 - Interest and barriers in providing such services
 - Opinions regarding the importance of such services
 - Perceptions of impact on public health

Methods

- Study sample obtained from State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
 - Active license in the state of Ohio
 - All community pharmacists in counties entirely designated as Primary Care HPSA (11 counties, n=162)
 - Comparison group of community pharmacists randomly selected (n=162)
 - Total sample size = 324 (4 undeliverable)
- IRB approved, Qualtrics 19-item survey (pilot tested prior to distribution)
 - Open 19 days, 7 reminder emails
- Incentive for survey completion
 - Fifteen \$25 Amazon gift cards, one \$100 card
- Statistical analyses using IBM SPSS Statistics 27 (IBM, New York)



Results

74 total respondents (23% response rate)

Gender

Female/transgender female	43 (61%)	
Male/transgender male	21 (30%)	
Prefer not to say	6 (9%)	
Missing		4

HPSA designation

Full HPSA county	26 (36%)	
Non-HPSA county	45 (62%)	
Partial HPSA county	2 (3%)	
Missing		1

Results

- Impact on public health
 - 99% of respondents agree
- Pharmacists practicing in HPSAs were less likely to correctly recognize HPSA designation compared to those in non-HPSAs (p=0.008)
- Non-HPSA community pharmacies were more likely to offer 11 or more non-dispensing services than pharmacies in HPSAs (p=0.002)

Results

- Barriers to providing non-dispensing services
 - Top three reported barriers:
 - Workflow
 - Space
 - Reimbursement
 - Similar responses among all pharmacists
 - No statistically significant differences between HPSA vs. non-HPSA

Results

- Pharmacists practicing in HPSAs reported interest in learning more about non-dispensing services:
 - Roles in public health (61%)
 - Infectious disease testing (42%)
 - Smoking cessation (41%)
 - Depression screening (39%)

Discussion

- Gap in recognition of practicing in an HPSA
 - Important to understand community need
- Public health professionals can advocate for better pharmacist-patient relationships
 - Fill health inequity gaps
- Limitations
 - Results may not be generalizable to:
 - all Ohio community pharmacists
 - Small sample size
 - Possible participant bias
 - Community pharmacists in other states
 - Pharmacists' scope of practice varies by state
 - May influence the non-dispensing services offered

Future Research

- Examine rural vs. urban care
- Determine other state's HPSA's barriers
- Identify ways to overcome barriers
- Identify ways to fill the gaps in health equity in HPSA

Conclusion

- Community pharmacies in HPSAs provided fewer non-dispensing services
- Pharmacists in HPSAs were less likely to recognize they are in designated HPSAs
- Many pharmacists were interested in learning more about non-dispensing services
- Public health professionals can facilitate relationships with local pharmacies and increase collaboration to alleviate gaps in care for individuals residing in HPSAs

Resources

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Questions?

Thank you!

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Counties

HPSAs

- Brown
- Carroll
- Champaign
- Hardin
- Harrison
- Holmes
- Licking
- Monroe
- Morrow
- Auglaize
- Pickaway

Non-HPSAs

- Franklin
- Delaware
- Ashland
- Wyandot
- Knox
- Portage
- Butler
- Lorain
- Medina
- Marion
- Jefferson

Results/Discussion- Collaborative Practice agreements

- Collaborative Practice Agreement/provider status/desire for creating CPAs
 - 30% of respondents had an established CPA
 - HPSA pharmacists interest in forming CPA (65% vs. 41%.
 $p=0.104$)
 - 66% of respondents indicated interest in provider status