

UC Davis
Emergency Medicine

Title

Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physicians' Confidence in Assessment And Management Of Opioid Use Among Adolescents

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The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: N/A

Background

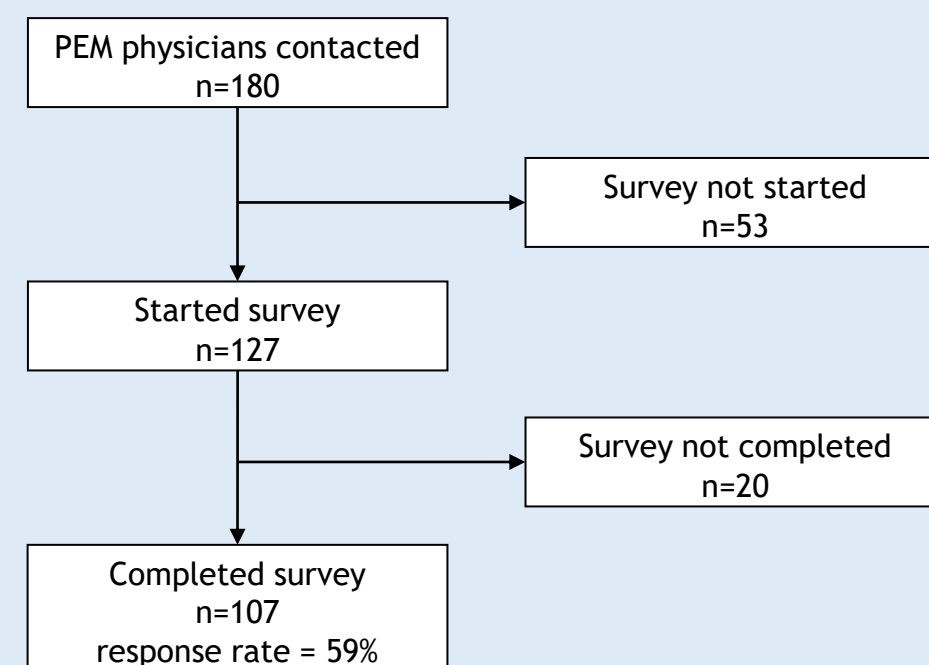
- Adolescents with complications from opioid use disorder (OUD) regularly present to the emergency department (ED) for medical stabilization
- Little data exists on pediatric emergency medicine (PEM) physicians' confidence in caring for these patients

Objectives

- Investigate PEM physician confidence in assessing and managing opioid and/or substance use-related complaints among adolescents presenting to the ED.
- Assess barriers to prescribing buprenorphine to patients in the pediatric ED.

Methods

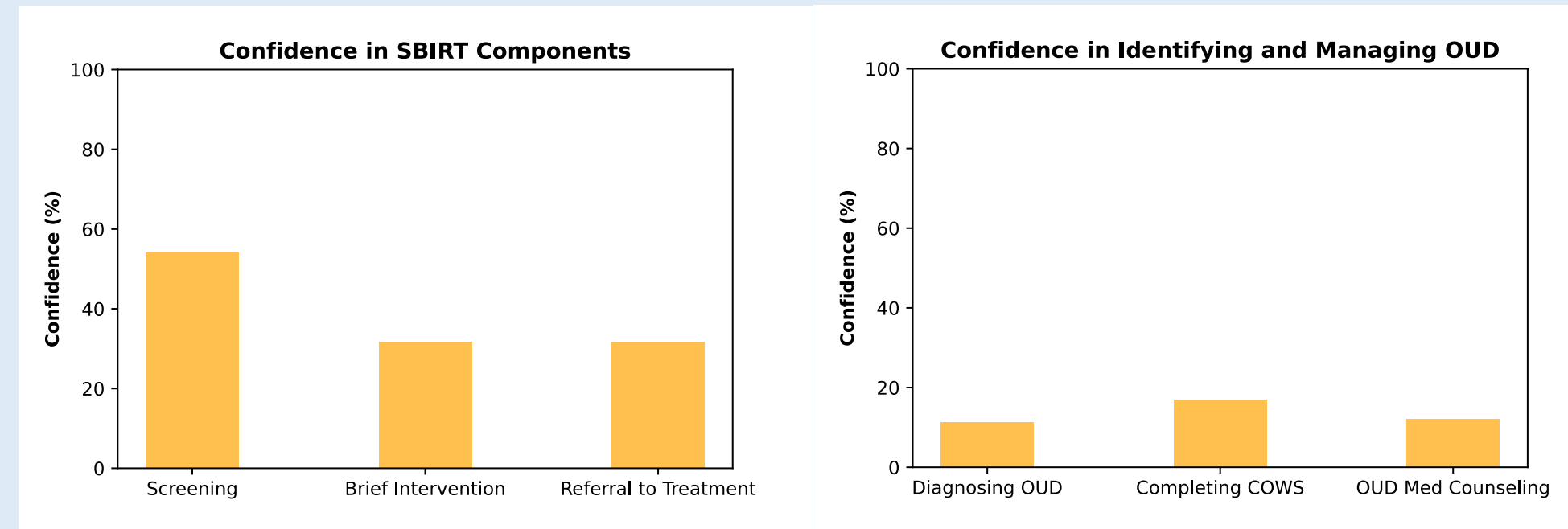
- Anonymous online survey of a convenience sample of 107 PEM physicians within Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN; response rate = 59%)



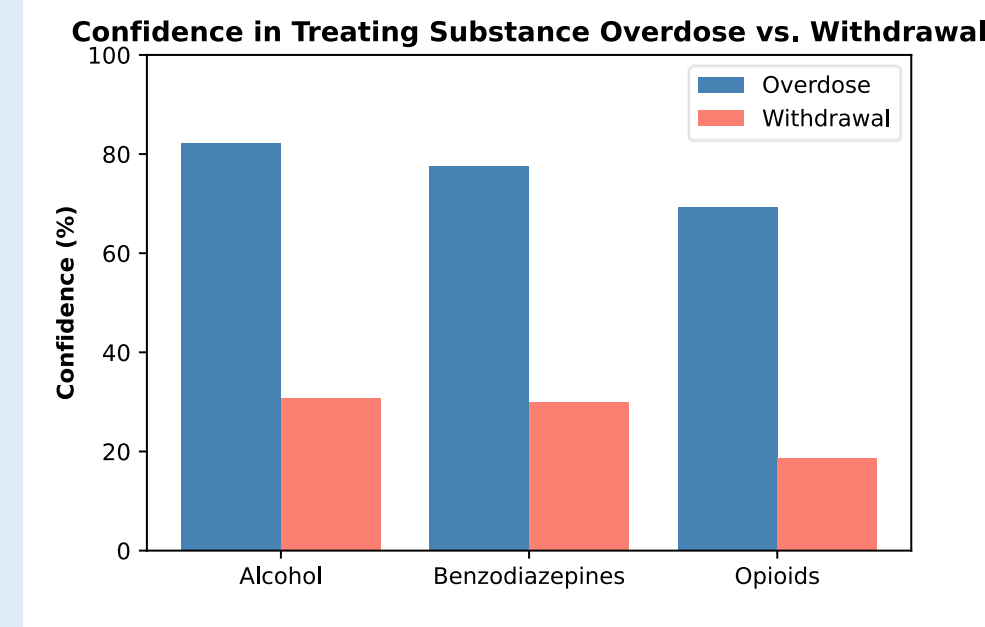
- Survey items included:
 - Demographics
 - Confidence in substance use screening/brief intervention
- Confidence in OUD diagnosis and treatment
 - 4-point Likert scale, from “not confident” to “highly confident”. Confidence defined as “confident” or “highly confident”
- Interest in obtaining a buprenorphine waiver
 - 10-point Likert scale, from “not interested” to “extremely interested”

Results

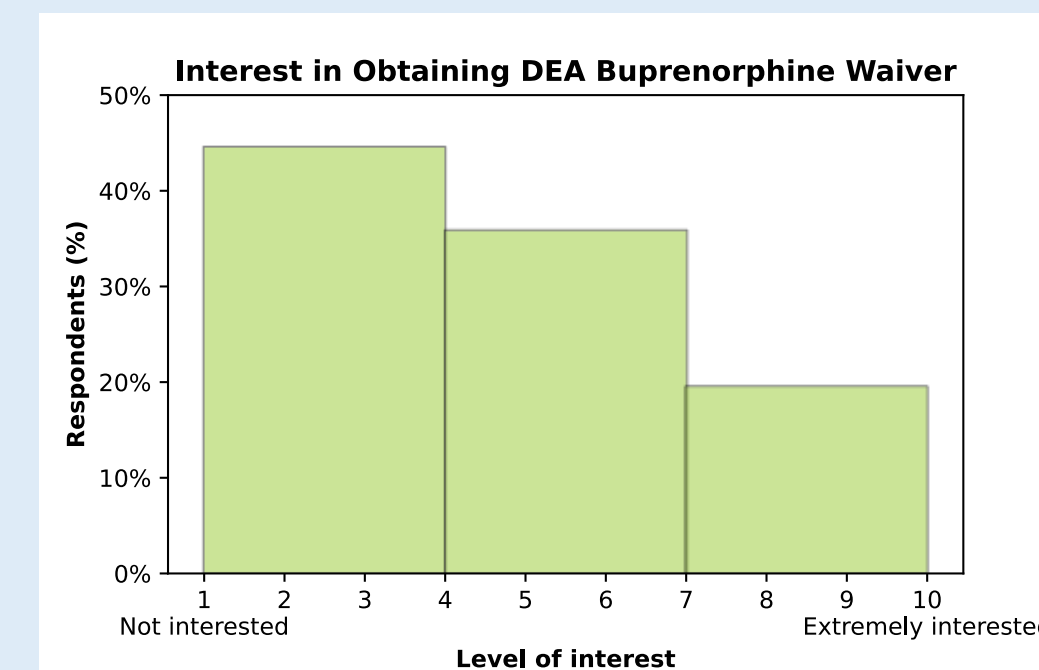
Confidence in Assessment and Management



- PEM physicians felt more confident treating overdose than withdrawal, especially in the setting of opioid use.
- PEM physicians were more confident in identifying and treating overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or benzodiazepine use than overdose or withdrawal from opioid use

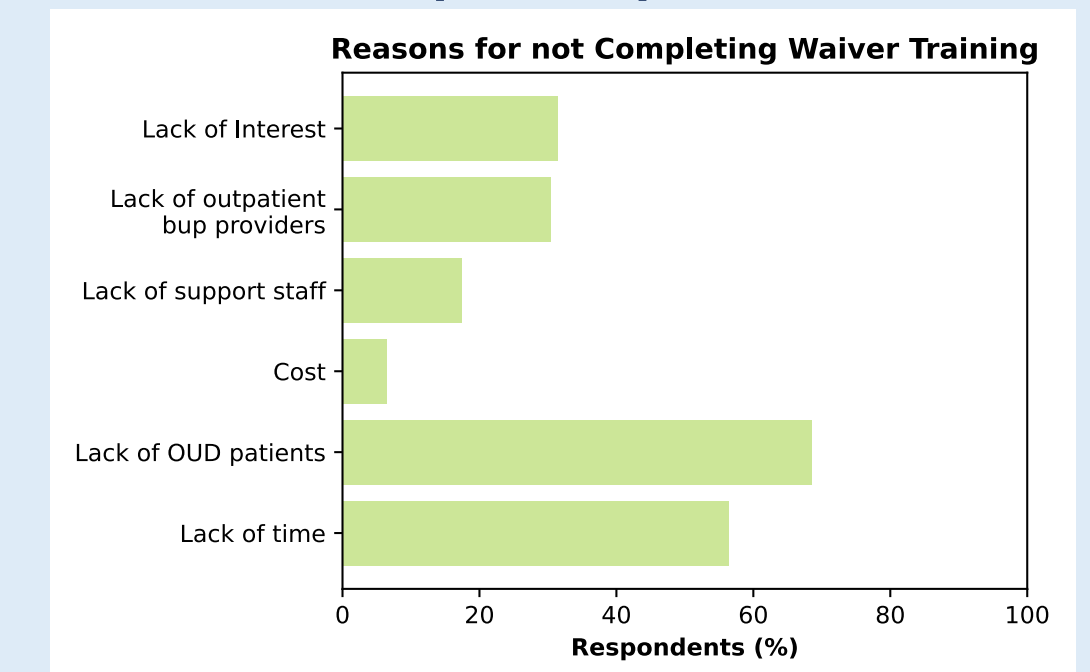


Interest in Obtaining Waiver to Prescribe Buprenorphine



- 86% of PEM physicians did not have a DEA waiver to prescribe buprenorphine
- After learning that regulation now enables providers to obtain a DEA waiver without going through an 8-hour training course, 44.6% of those without a waiver expressed increased interest in obtaining one

Barriers to Obtaining Waiver to Prescribe Buprenorphine



Conclusions

- PEM physicians reported low confidence in the assessment and management of OUD, opioid overdose, and opioid withdrawal.
- Education to inform providers about reduced requirements to prescribe buprenorphine may help increase the availability of OUD treatments in the ED.
- Limitations: Over 80% of current respondents were from an urban, university-affiliated ED
- Strategies to increase access to OUD treatment among adolescents in the ED may include:
 - PEM provider training in substance use management
 - PEM provider outreach/education to increase enrollment for buprenorphine DEA waivers

Acknowledgements