



Student Pharmacist Perceptions of Palliative Care in the Academic Setting

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Statement of the Problem

- The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education does not require palliative care education.
- Schools of pharmacy do not routinely incorporate palliative care or hospice.
- Graduating pharmacists may be ill-equipped to care for patients facing a serious illness.



Background & Literature Review

- A literature review was conducted using the PubMed MEDLINE and Clinical Key Databases.
- Keywords palliative, education and pharmacist were used to identify articles.
- This review demonstrated inconsistency in palliative care pharmacy education.

Purpose

The purpose of this project was to assess knowledge, perceived importance and need for increased palliative care knowledge of student pharmacists at a single school of pharmacy.



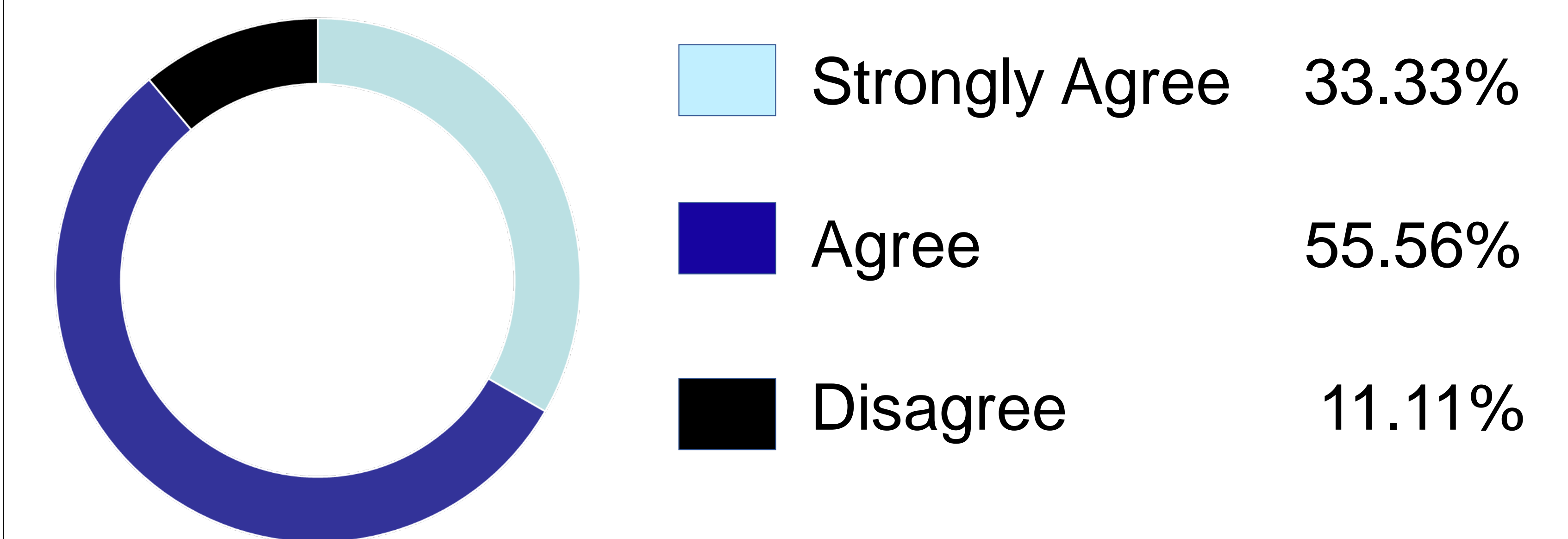
Methods

- Design: Educational project
- Sample: Third-year student pharmacists (N=46)
Fourth-year student pharmacists (N= 11)
- Setting: UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
- Evaluation: Surveys were collected before and after third-year educational sessions and after fourth-year Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs).
- Data Collection and Analysis: Surveys were administered via Survey Monkey® and descriptive statistics were used to evaluate data.
- Timeline:
 - October 2017: UNC ERRC approval
 - April 2018: Final surveys collected



Conclusions & Implications

- Graduating students desired more exposure to end-of-life issues in pharmacy school.

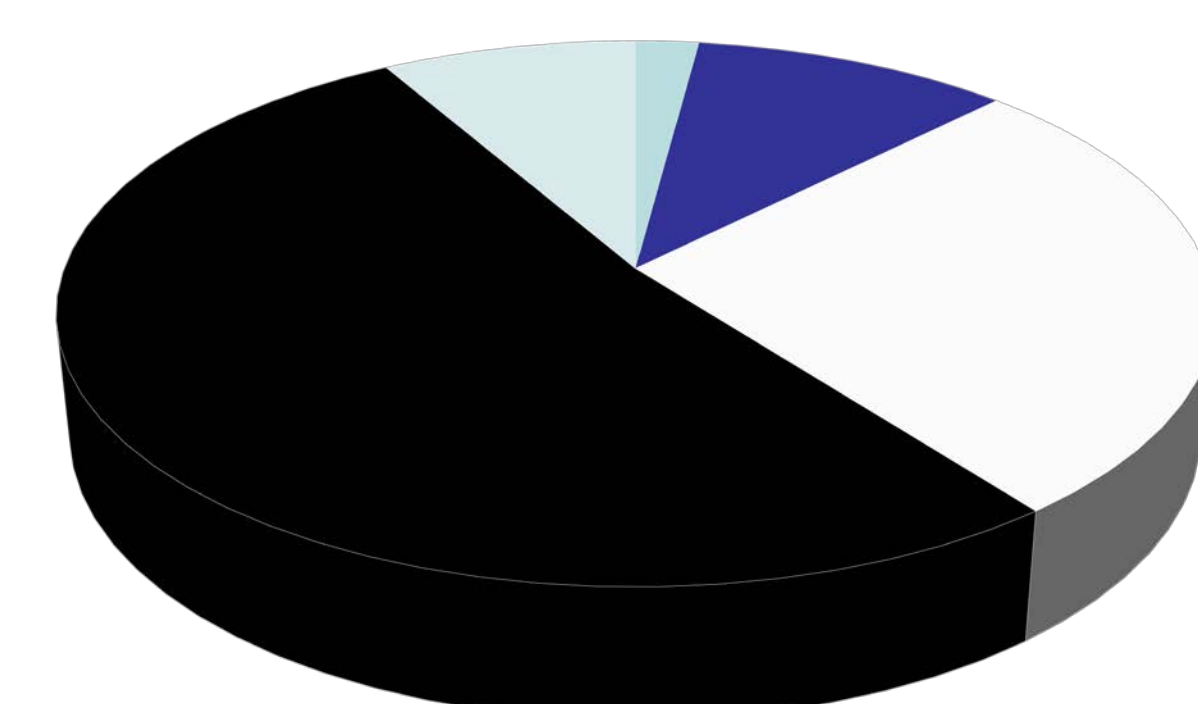


- Student pharmacists included in this project perceive pharmacists as having an important role in end-of-life care and feel palliative care should be required pharmacy education.
- Further investigation is warranted to ensure schools of pharmacy are graduating pharmacists prepared to provide palliative care.

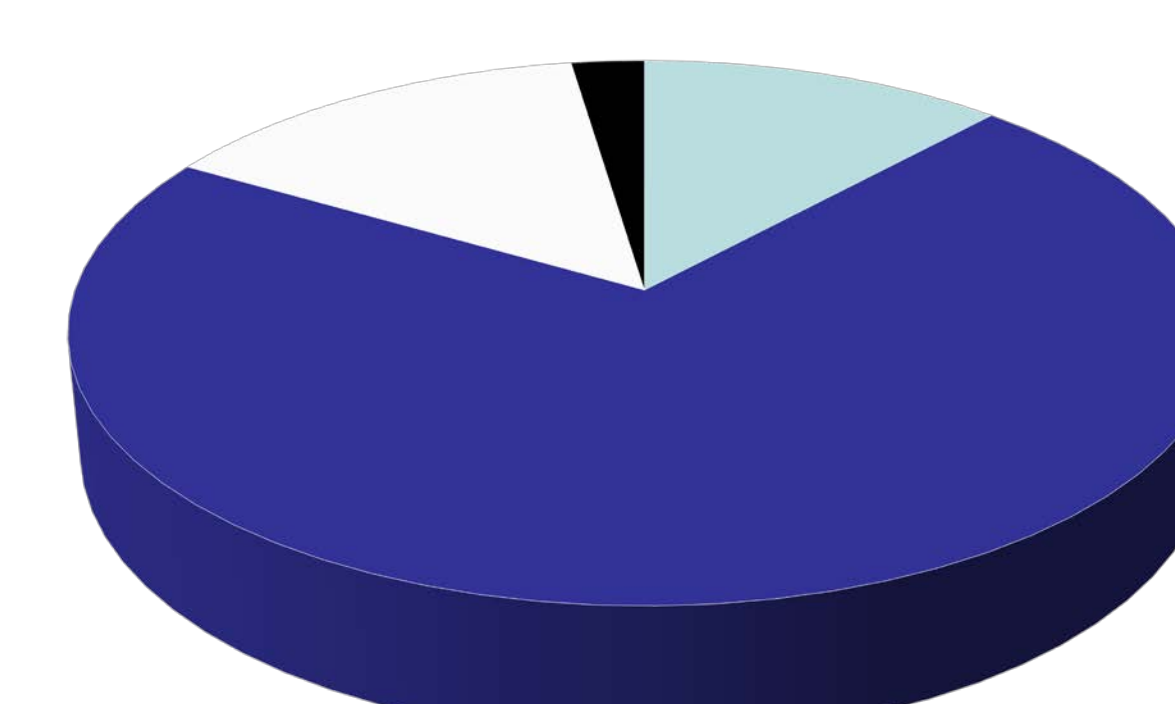
Findings and Results

- Third-year students reported a desire for additional end-of-life education in required and elective pharmacy coursework.
- Third-year students reporting an understanding of palliative care:

Pre-Session Survey



Post-Session Survey



Strongly Agree (light blue) Agree (dark blue) Neutral (white)

Disagree (black) Strongly Disagree (light green)

Limitations

- The project involved a single school of pharmacy.
- Fourth-year cohort had an elective hospice APPE.

Acknowledgements & References

Mentor: Shaun Gleason, PharmD, MGS

References: ACPE. Accreditation Standards and Key Elements for the Professional Program in Pharmacy Leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. Chicago, IL: ACPE; 2015.

