

Sarah Bachle

Mentor: James Lynch

Title: *Patients' Knowledge About Opioids and Factors Involved in Addiction*

### Introduction

The purpose of this study is to determine the knowledge participants have surrounding opioids and addiction. This study will evaluate which factors participants believe contribute to opioid addiction such as: family history, physicians' impact, and unsafe storage.

### Methods

Participants completed an anonymous online survey that was distributed via Facebook. All participants were 18 years of age or older. The survey consisted of 4 demographic questions, 4 knowledge questions, and 5 opinion questions. 109 participants completed the survey from November 29, 2018 to December 10, 2018.

### Results

38.53% of participants are current or previous healthcare professionals. 36.7% were able to identify tramadol as an opioid, and 96.33% identified oxycodone as an opioid. A majority of participants were able to identify opioids including: hydromorphone, methadone, fentanyl, morphine, and hydrocodone. 94.5% knew of a proper disposal method for opioids. 92% identified naloxone as the opioid reversal agent. 96.33% recognized respiratory depression as a sign of opioid overdose. Blue lips and fingers were recognized by 77.9%. Almost 70% agreed people lack the self-discipline to use opioids without addiction. Over 95% agreed people do not safely store opioids. Almost 90% agreed family history can make opioid abuse more likely. Over 90% agreed doctors over-prescribe opioids. 80% agreed opioid prescriptions are obtained too easily.

### Conclusion

Based on the results, there is confusion deciphering which medications are opioids. Many were able to identify signs of opioid overdose, and the correct reversal agent. Results regarding self-discipline to opioids shows evidence of the stigma of addiction. Improper storage, family history of opioid abuse, ease of obtaining prescriptions, and over prescribing opioids were all identified factors that contribute to the opioid epidemic. With pharmacist counseling and intervention, that knowledge can increase and the stigma decreased.