

BACKGROUND

- The ProQOL questionnaire assesses compassion satisfaction, perceived support, burnout, STS, moral distress, and compassion fatigue, core concepts crucial for healthcare workers' well-being⁴. However, there is limited research examining ProQOL responses within the pharmacy department.
- Research on healthcare professional students reveals that burnout peaks in pharmacy students during their final years, negatively impacting their psychological well-being^{1,2,3}. Prioritizing students' physical and mental health during these challenging periods is essential, necessitating support systems during and after their academic years.
- This study aims to evaluate ProQOL health concepts among fourth-year pharmacy students at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy who completed Community Pharmacy and Internal Medicine rotations. These rotations offer distinct perspectives within the field, with the hypothesis that students finishing Community Pharmacy rotations will exhibit higher moral distress rates, while those concluding Internal Medicine rotations will show higher burnout rates.

METHODS

- Study conducted at SIUE SOP, focusing on fourth-year pharmacy students who completed APPEs for Community Pharmacy and Internal Medicine.
- Surveys distributed via email through the experiential office to ensure privacy under FERPA.
- Exclusion criteria applied to surveys lacking specification of completed APPE.
- Utilized Qualtrics survey with 30 questions from ProQOL Health, ensuring anonymity and individual score calculation, see Table 1 for scoring.
- Surveys sent at the end of each rotation for rotations 2-7, spanning July 2023 to March 2024.
- All eligible responses were collected and analyzed to show averages for each category in both arms.

RESULTS

A total of 89 surveys were sent out throughout the 6 rotations, only 25 surveys were completed. Of those, 1 survey was disqualified as they did not specify which rotation they had completed. This resulted in 24 total responses included in the final analysis. Of the 24 responses, 41.7 % (n=10) of them were from community rotations and 58.3% (n=14) were from internal medicine rotations. For an overview of the results, please refer to Table 2 below.

Table 2: Average Scores of ProQOL Survey

	Compassion Satisfaction	Burnout	Secondary Traumatic Stress	Perceived Support	Moral Distress
Community Pharmacy	21	19.8	18.9	20.6	16.1
Internal Medicine	23	17.3	17.4	22.9	11.8

- Job Satisfaction: Similar levels observed in community pharmacy and internal medicine rotations, with average scores of 21 and 23, respectively, reflecting moderate satisfaction and emphasizing the importance of fostering job satisfaction.
- Burnout: Comparable levels found between both rotations, with average scores of 19.8 and 17.3, indicating an 'average' classification for burnout risk and highlighting the need to address factors contributing to burnout.
- Secondary Traumatic Stress: Comparable results revealed, with average scores of 18.9 and 17.4, suggesting an 'average' risk for both rotation types and emphasizing the importance of addressing factors contributing to stress.
- Perceived Support: Similar results between community pharmacy and internal medicine rotations, with average scores of 20.6 and 22.9 respectively, indicating an 'average' level of support and its significance in fostering student well-being and professional development.

Table 1: ProQOL Scoring Categories

Score	Risk Category
12 or less	Low
13 - 23	Average
24 or more	High

- Moral Distress: Discrepancies noted between community pharmacy and internal medicine rotations, with average scores of 16.1 and 11.8 respectively, suggesting varying levels of risk, emphasizing the need for tailored interventions to support ethical development.

CONCLUSION

- Participants across both rotation types reported moderate levels of compassion satisfaction, burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and perceived support.
- Students who had just completed their community pharmacy rotation showed higher rates of experiencing moral distress than those who has just completed their internal medicine rotation.
- Limitations include a small sample size, low survey completion rate, potential response bias, inclusion of working individuals, and limited existing data.
- Further research could focus on expanding the scope with a larger population, incentives for survey completion, and demographic questions to gain deeper insights into work-related factors affecting student well-being and quality of life.

References

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