

Attitudes and Barriers to Buprenorphine Prescription in El Dorado and Sacramento County



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About Us



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- ❖ Lindsay Coate
- ❖ SSVMS Director of Programs

Our goal is to characterize local prescription patterns of Buprenorphine and better understand the needs of the community to address the opioid crisis

Introduction

- In 2016 there were 42,000 overdose deaths in the United States
- There have been a combined 742 deaths from opioid overdose in the Sacramento and El Dorado counties from 2008-2016
- Buprenorphine is an effective opioid cessation drug that has a better safety profile and risk of dependence compared to Methadone
- Buprenorphine can also be administered in outpatient clinics
- Despite the efficacy of Buprenorphine, there are only 96 x-waivered providers in El Dorado and Sacramento County

Bottom Line: How do we expand prescription of Buprenorphine to this community in order to offer a powerful tool to mitigate opioid dependency?

Our study

This is a descriptive study that identifies provider practices, attitudes, and barriers toward Buprenorphine prescription

- We interviewed 36 x-waivered providers (37.5% of total) from Sacramento and El Dorado counties
- Provider contact info was found through SAMHSA and through SSVMS membership rosters
- 19 question anonymous survey was administered through Survey Monkey via phone and email
- Survey included questions such as basic demographic information, drug satisfaction, and barriers to prescription of Buprenorphine

Participants (N)	36
Professional Specialty (N)	
Family Medicine	19
Internal Medicine	5
Addiction Medicine	8
Psychiatry	8
Emergency Medicine	1
Neurology	1
Occupational Medicine	1
Pediatrics	1
Aerospace	1
Years in Practice (N)	
0-5	10
6-10	4
11-15	5
16-20	2
20<	15
Sex (N)	
Male	24
Female	12

Results

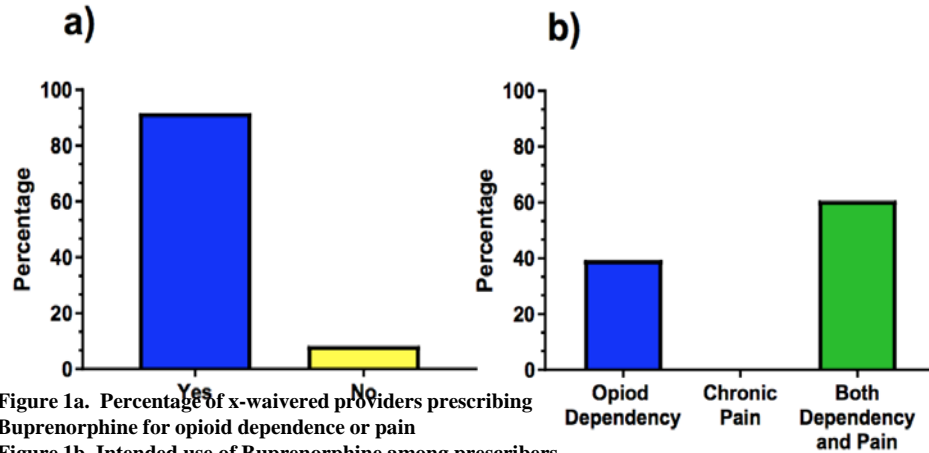
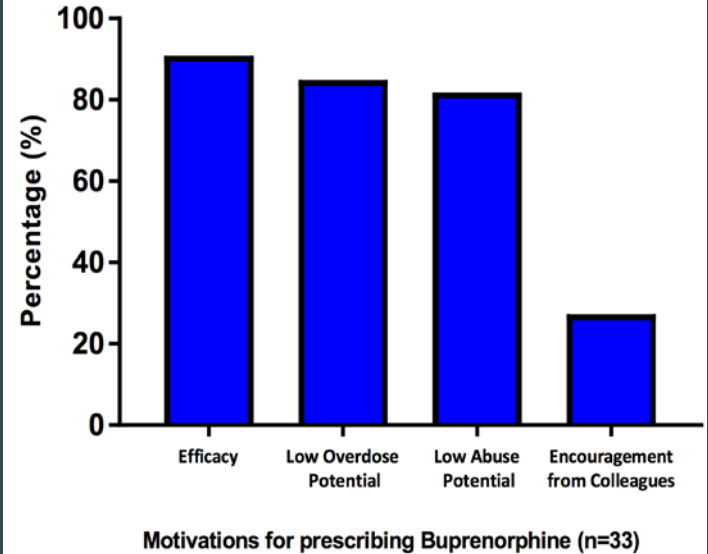


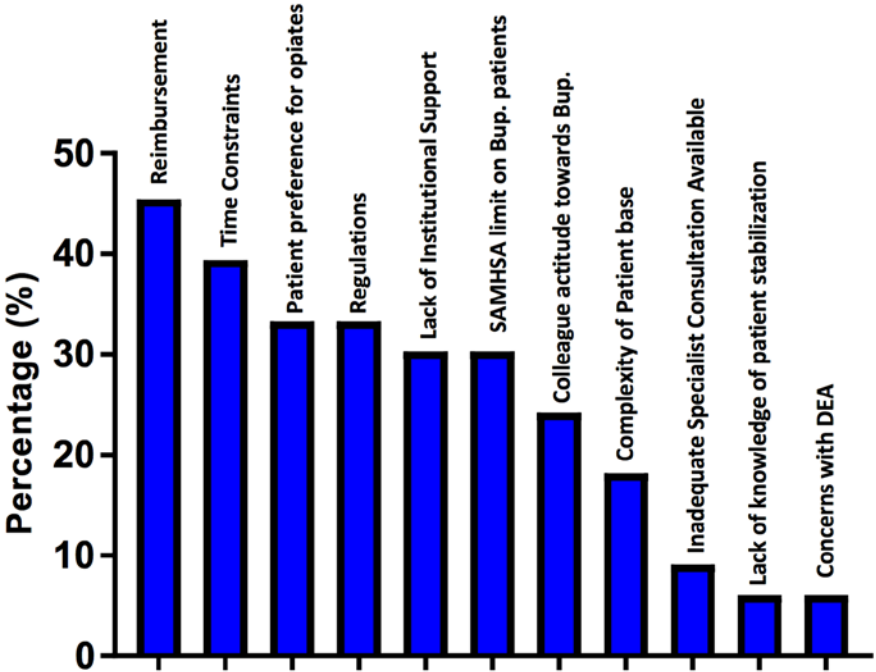
Figure 1a. Percentage of x-waivered providers prescribing Buprenorphine for opioid dependence or pain

Figure 1b. Intended use of Buprenorphine among prescribers

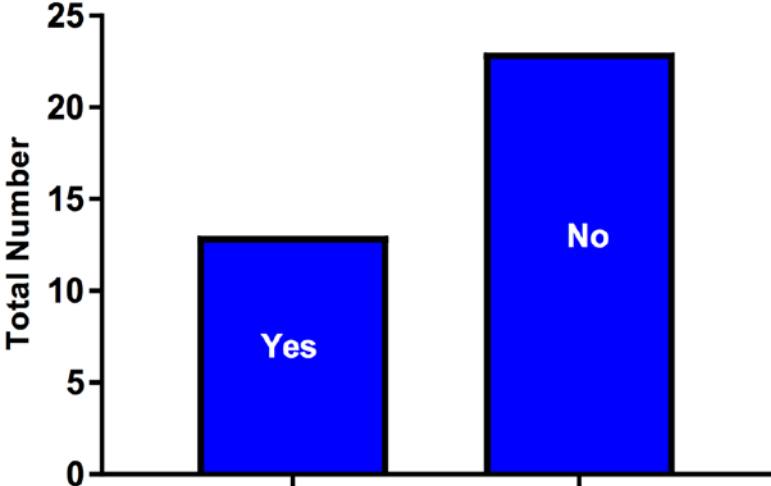


Motivations for prescribing Buprenorphine (n=33)

Results



Barriers to prescribing Buprenorphine to eligible patients (n=33)



Provider Willingness to Expand Buprenorphine Prescriptions to More Candidates if Specialist was Available to Stabilize Patient

Results

Type of Practice	Buprenorphine Waiver Capacity	Current Number of Patients on Waiver
Group	30	0
Group	100	1
Group	275	12
Group	280	210
Group	30	4
Group	100	16
Group	30	10
Group	30	2
Group	100	60
Group	430	196
Solo	275	45
Solo	100	58

Discussion

- There are not many Buprenorphine prescribers in this area, but those who have their x-waiver tend to prescribe
- Buprenorphine is becoming more commonly used for pain management in addition to opioid use cessation
- Those who do prescribe are not using their waiver to the full capacity
- Of the providers surveyed, they emphasized barriers such as reimbursement, regulation, and time constraints
- Tracking down the x-waivered providers through SAMHSA was difficult, indicating a barrier to access
- Barriers to prescription exist and need to be addressed

Future Directions

- Publication
- Work with Lindsay Coate on medical society programming to increase Buprenorphine awareness among physicians in this community, and to increase number of x-waivered providers

References

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