

Evaluation of Cigarette Smokers' Perceptions of Smoking Cessation and the Role of Health Care Professionals

Melanie A. Dodd and Gireesh V. Gupchup

The New Mexico Medicaid Retrospective Drug Utilization Review Program
College of Pharmacy, Health Sciences Center, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA

Objectives

- To determine cigarette smokers' knowledge and use of smoking cessation aides
- To determine if health care professionals have encouraged patients to quit smoking cigarettes

Method

- Adult patients with a diagnosis of tobacco abuse (ICD-9 code 305.1) were identified from a Medicaid claims database.
- 204 survey instruments were mailed to identified patients with 2 reminder mailings.

Results

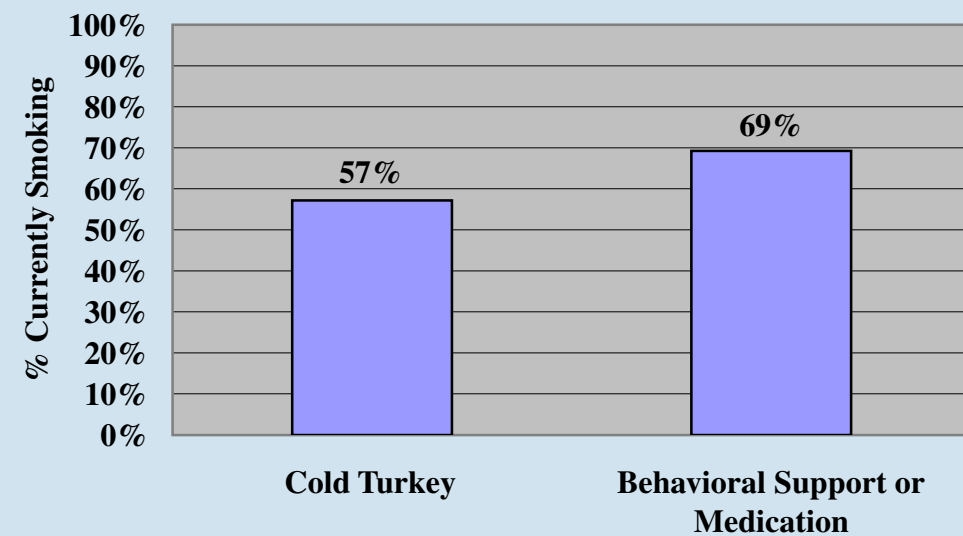
- 44% of the deliverable surveys were returned (n=80).

Patient Characteristics (valid responses)	Frequency
Gender (n=78)	
Male	24%
Female	76%
Age in years (n=79)	
20	3.8%
21-30	20.3%
31-40	16.5%
41-50	12.7%
51-64	20.3%
65	26.6%

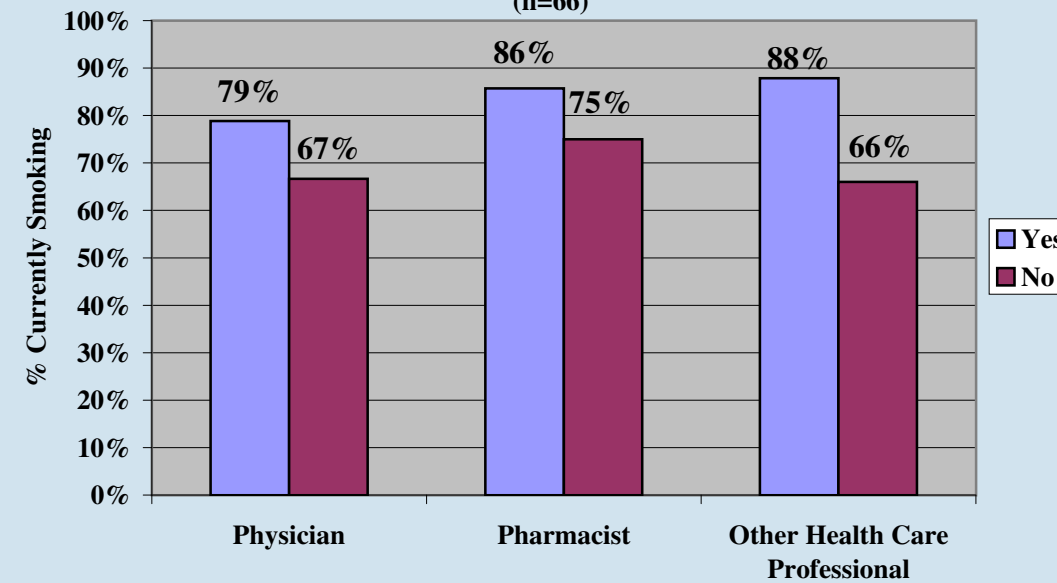
Patient Characteristics (valid responses)	Frequency
Patients Currently Smoking (n=68)	75.0%
Patients Who Have Ever Quit Smoking (n=68)	72.1%
Patients Aware of Smoking Cessation Aides (n=71)	77.5%
Patients Aware of How to Obtain Smoking Cessation Aides (n=70)	61.4%
Patients Aware of How to Obtain Smoking Cessation Aides through Medicaid (n=68)	25.0%

Patient Characteristics (valid responses)	Mean
Number of packs per day smoked (n=64)	0.75 (± 1.1); Range: 0-9
Age started smoking in years (n=69)	10.6 (± 9.4); Range: 4-50

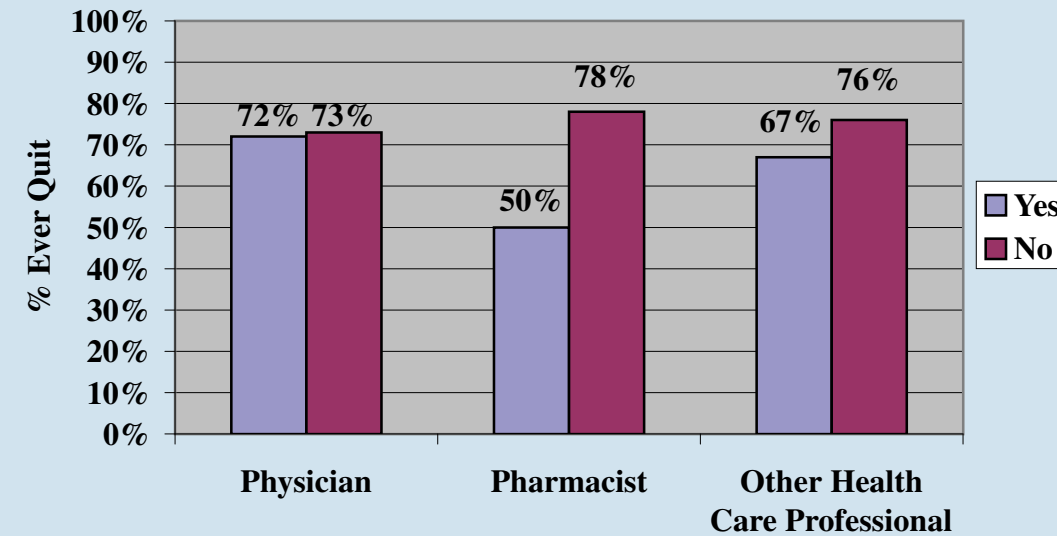
Smoking Cessation Method Used Last Time to Quit Smoking (n=41)



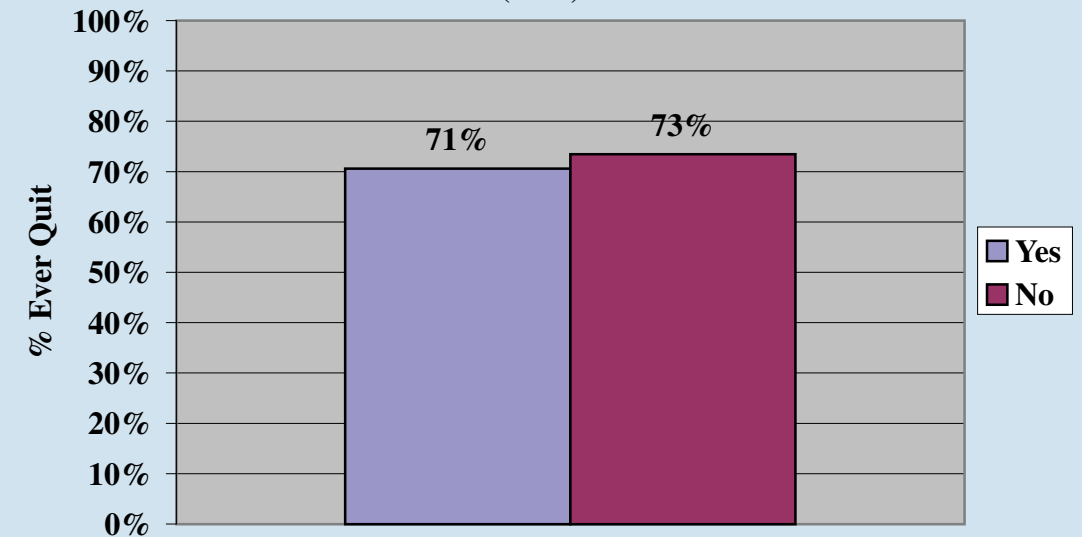
Patients Encouraged to Quit by a Health Care Professional (n=66)



Patients Encouraged to Quit Smoking by a Health Care Professional (n=68)



Patients Who Knew How to Obtain Smoking Cessation Medications from Medicaid Who Have Ever Quit Smoking (n=66)



Conclusions

- Many cigarette smokers start smoking at a young age.
- Additional societal education is needed regarding the risks of smoking and smoking cessation methods.
- Methods used by health care professionals to encourage patients to quit smoking need to change.

Contact Information

Melanie A. Dodd, Pharm.D., BCPS
College of Pharmacy
Health Sciences Center
The University of New Mexico
2502 Marble Blvd., NE
Albuquerque, NM, USA 87102
Phone: (505) 272-4998
FAX: (505) 272-5412
E-mail: mdodd@salud.unm.edu