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Acceptance of Primary Care Providers Acquiring Buprenorphine Waivers for Opioid Use Disorder Population in Rural Upstate New York

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Background

Approximately 2.6 million Americans have opioid use disorder (OUD), but only 10.6% have received treatment¹, mainly because there are not enough buprenorphine waived providers, especially in rural areas². There is a need to address attitudes and barriers of why primary care providers are reluctant to get buprenorphine waivers.

There are a number of reasons why primary care providers are not getting their buprenorphine license. A recent study reported that only 28.6% of family medicine residencies have a required addiction medicine curriculum and only 31.2% had at least one graduate obtain a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine in the past year. Promoting buprenorphine treatment through training and education increases the number of buprenorphine providers³.

Purpose

The purpose of this DNP project is to educate primary care providers (PCP) in Chenango County about the myths and barriers stopping PCPs from getting their buprenorphine waiver. Discussion will also include the benefits of treating patients in their community.

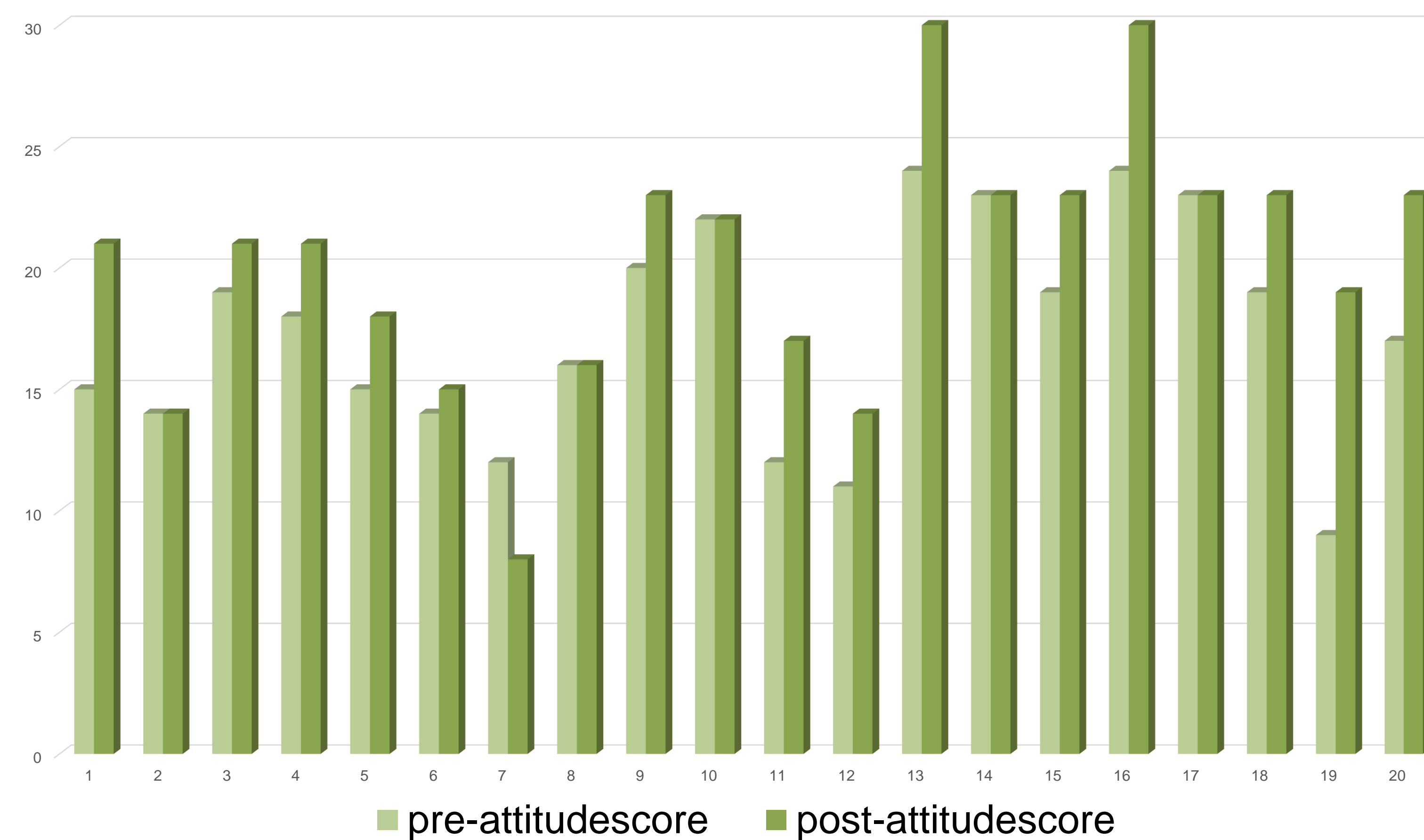
Methods

An educational program was presented to 24 health care providers in rural upstate New York. Participants include doctors (MD, DO), nurse practitioner (FNP, ANP, Nurse Midwives), and physician assistants (PA). There was no exclusion criteria. Pretests and posttests were given to measure attitudes and barriers before and after the presentation. 20 total pretest/posttest were included.

Results

When pretest attitude scores were compared to posttest attitude scores using paired T-test, $t = -3.756$, 2-tailed test it was found to be significant at $p = 0.001$. Providers that had buprenorphine training in residency or took a buprenorphine class, were more likely to have their buprenorphine license, which is statistically significant using descriptive statistics, crosstabs, $X^2 = 11.657$, $p = 0.001$.

Provider Attitude Scores



Opioids were involved in nearly 47,000 deaths in 2018, which is nearly six times the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths in 1999⁴.

41 PEOPLE die every day from overdoses involving prescription opioids.

CDC, 2020



Conclusion

This presentation improved provider attitudes in treating patients with OUD with buprenorphine. A small percentage of providers are willing to get their buprenorphine license. Education increases discussion about the benefits of treating patients with OUD in rural communities and it is recommended that medical professionals who already have their buprenorphine licenses, facilitate this presentation to fellow providers in an effort to educate and mentor them.

A rise in opioid overdoses is detected. What now?



References

Available upon request

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PARTICIPANTS BY SPECIALTY

- Primary Care
- OB GYN
- Pediatrics
- Orthopedics
- General Surgery
- Ophthalmology
- Emergency Room
- Anesthesiology
- Geriatric Medicine

