

Physicians' Perceptions on the Scope of Practice and Knowledge of Athletic Trainers

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ATHLETIC TRAINING

Interprofessional Collaboration

- Association of American Medical Colleges Consensus
- Interprofessional Competencies¹
 - Respect and share values
 - Share knowledge to benefit patient
 - Communication/team-based approach
 - Utilize each others expertise/roles



Previous Studies

McRae- *Physicians' Knowledge of Perceptions of the Roles and Responsibilities of Athletic Trainers*²

Storch- *Orthopedic Surgeons' Perceptions of Athletic Trainers as Physician Extenders*³

- Focused on small regions (Mid-Atlantic/Oklahoma)
- Studied physician extender AT roles
- Found no difference in Ortho/Sports Med vs. other disciplines
- More exposure = greater knowledge
- No study on Interprofessional Collaboration Perceptions (IPC)

Purpose

Determine if physicians have an accurate knowledge of athletic trainers' education, legal obligations, and scope of practice

Utilize a validated Interprofessional Collaboration Scale⁴ to determine where IPC is succeeding or failing

Evaluate if previous experience working with an AT or participating in athletics with access to an AT impacts knowledge and perceptions

Research Design

Descriptive

- Qualtrics

Participants

- MD/DO
- Practicing physicians

Instrument - 29 Questions

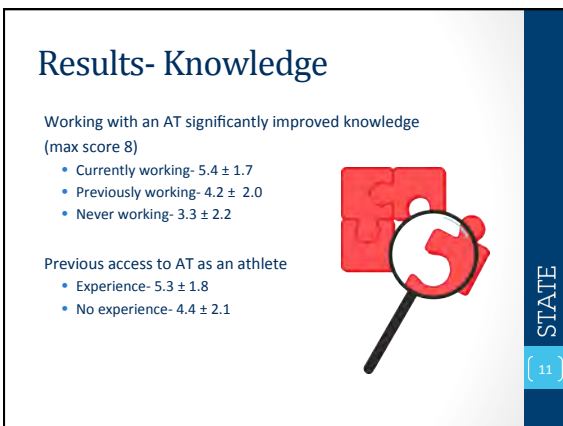
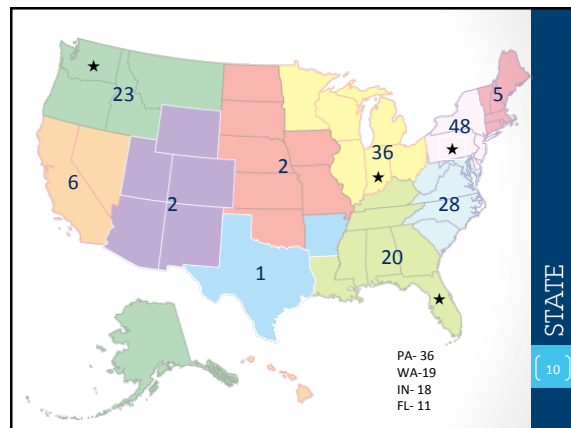
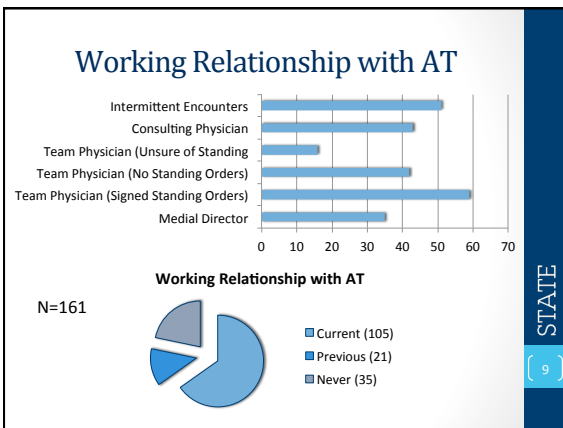
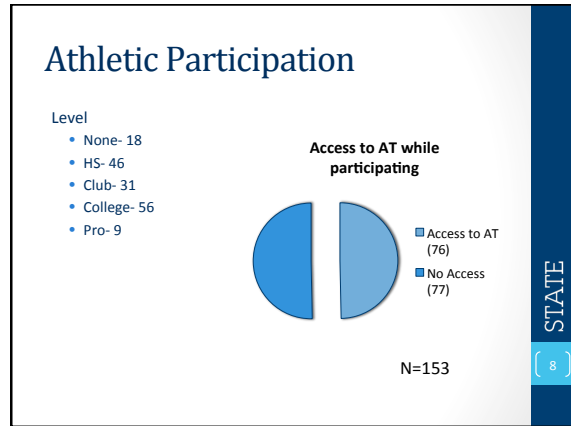
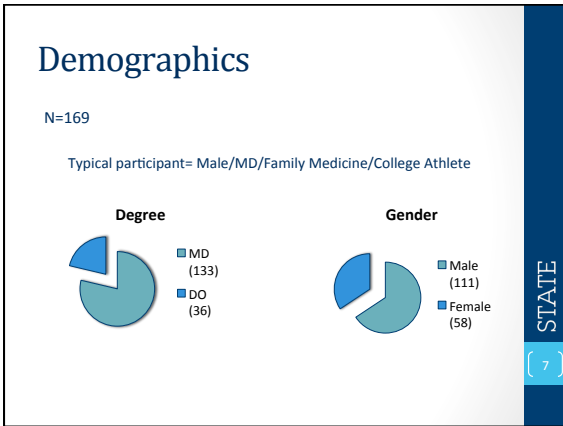
- Demographics
- Knowledge of AT Educational Requirements
 - Confidence Scale (D.A. Hankemeier, Written Communication, April 2015)
- Interprofessional Collaboration Scale
- Relationship with Athletics
- Overall Experience Perception



Recruitment

- Professional Organizations
 - Social Media⁵ (243 Tweets/Reach of 28,262)
 - Personal Email/Relationships
 - Emails to Medical Schools
 - Sports Medicine Clinics
 - PBRNs
- Majority of responses (164/169)





Results- Knowledge

Question	Correct Answer	n	# of Participants Answering Correctly	Confidence Average Score (Max Score=4.00)	SD
What is the minimum degree required to practice as an athletic trainer?	Bachelors	169	134 (79.3%)	2.88	0.94
What is the most common degree held by practicing athletic trainers?	Masters	168	73 (43.5%)	2.58	0.79
What is the credential for an athletic trainer?	ATC	167	134 (80.2%)	3.02	1.12
In your state, how are athletic trainers regulated?	Varied	166	87 (52.4%)	2.44	1.06
Athletic trainers are recognized by the American Medical Association as Allied Health Care Professionals. True or False?	True	165	138 (83.6%)	2.46	0.97

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Results- IPC

Current Working relationship = more positive perceptions

- Understanding each others responsibilities
- Sharing similar patient care approaches
- Consultation
- Cooperation
- Anticipating each others needs
- Sharing Information

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IPC

Average Score (Max score=4.00)	Prompt
2.99±0.76	The athletic trainers and physicians have a good understanding about their respective responsibilities.
2.99±0.55	Athletic trainers and physicians are usually willing to take into account the convenience of individuals when planning their work.
2.29±0.83	I feel the patient treatment and care are not adequately discussed between and among athletic trainers and physicians.
2.90±0.63	Athletic trainers and physicians share similar ideas about how to treat patients.
3.29±0.60	Athletic trainers and physicians are willing to discuss individual's issues.
3.08±0.71	Athletic trainers and physicians cooperate with the way care is organized.
2.03±0.66	Individuals are not usually asked for their opinions.
2.90±0.60	Athletic trainers and physicians anticipate when they will need each others' help.
2.48±0.76	Important information is always passed between and among athletic trainers and physicians.
2.14±0.66	Disagreements between athletic trainers and physicians often remain unsolved.
2.62±0.71	Some individuals may think their work is more important than the work of others on the team.
2.43±0.70	Some individuals would not be willing to discuss new practices with others on the team.

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Conclusions

Maximize Every Interaction^{6,7}
 Community Engagement/Public Relations
 Educating Supervising Physicians
 Increased Communication




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Questions?



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