



Assessment of a Harm Reduction and Opioid Education (H.E.R.O) Program in Pharmacy Students

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Background

- In 2021 LA ranked 4th in opioid overdose deaths while also being above national average in opioid prescription rates.
- ULM COP faculty received a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for harm reduction education to combat the growing epidemic in LA.
- This study evaluated the implementation of an adaptable education program designed to train student pharmacists on harm reduction and substance use disorders (SUD).

Methods

- IRB-approved pilot study that recruited student pharmacists to participate in a voluntary SUD and harm reduction education and training session.
- The education consisted of an introduction to common opioids of abuse, medical facts, stigma, issues with administering opioid reversal medications, LA legislation, overdose risk factors and symptom recognition, fentanyl test strip demonstrations, and a simulated opioid overdose scenario on a mannequin.
- Data was collected through pre- and post-surveys measuring the impact of the training on the participants' knowledge.
- These surveys included the validated OOKS, OOAS, and competency of managing an overdose measurements, and the data was compared utilizing two-sided paired t-tests.

MEASUREMENTS	
Opioid Overdose Knowledge Scale (OOKS)	57 items
Opioid Overdose Attitudes Scale (OOAS)	28 items in total (Theoretical Maximum score of 140)
OOAS Subscales:	
Competencies to manage an opioid overdose	10 items (max score of 50)
Concerns about managing an opioid overdose	8 items (max score of 40)
Readiness to intervene in an opioid overdose	10 items (max score of 50)

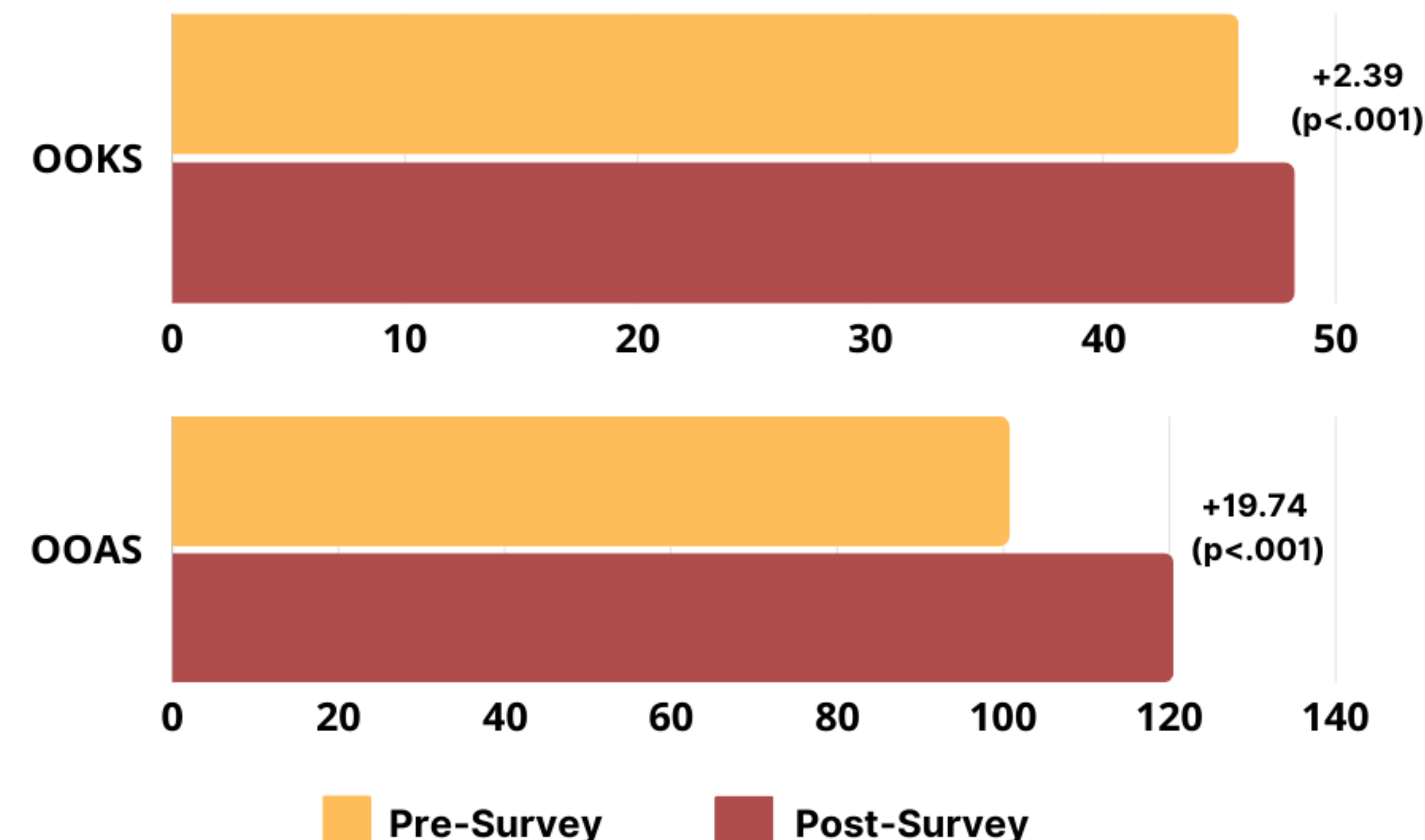
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HARM REDUCTION EDUCATION & REFERRAL FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL

ULM HERO program successfully provided education on harm reduction and opioid reversal training to pharmacy students

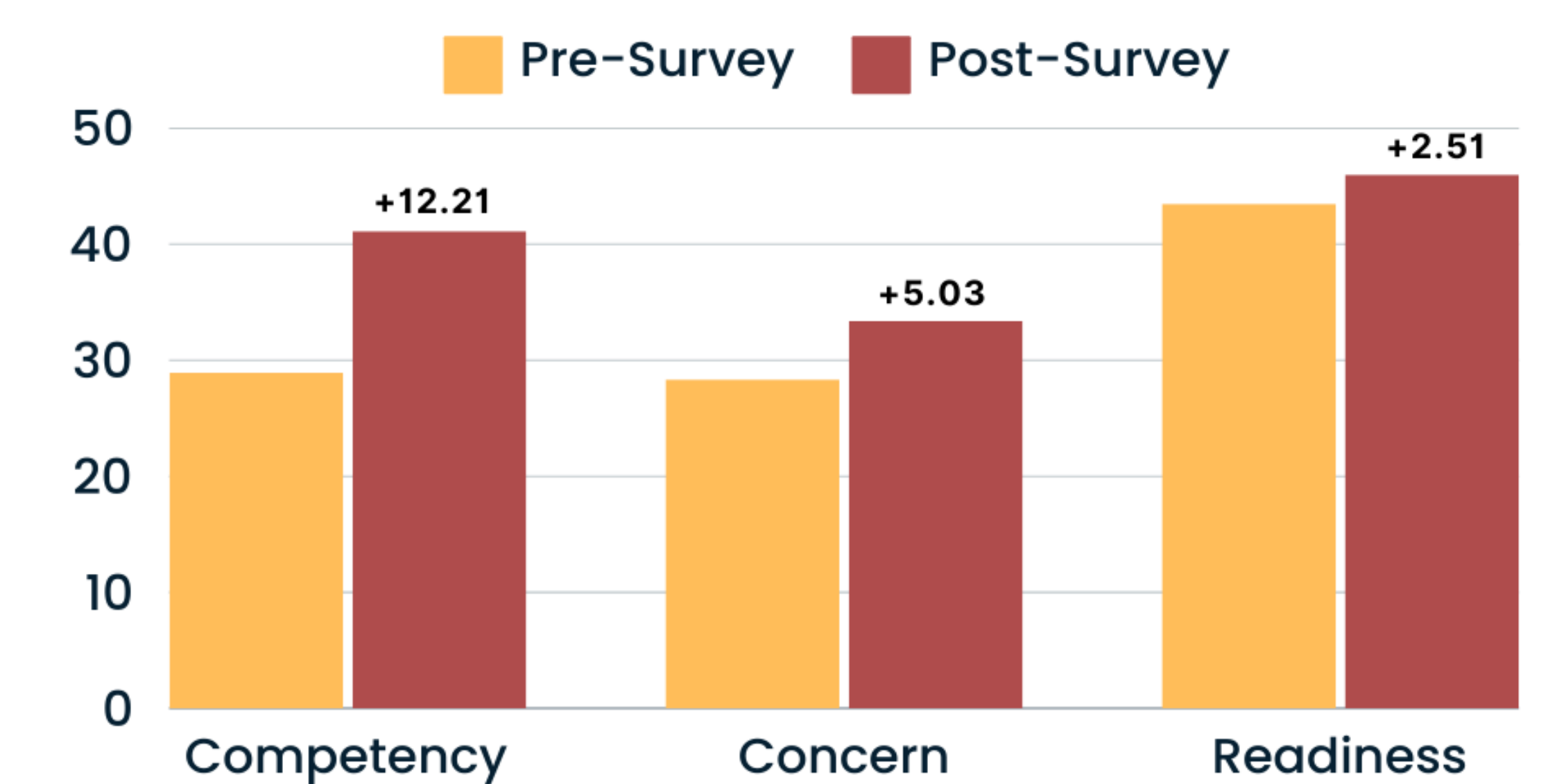
Average OOKS and OOAS Scores



Results

- Total Participants: 41
- Demographics:
 - 80% between 18-25 years old
 - 68% White/Caucasian
 - 24% Black/African American
 - 93% Straight/Heterosexual
 - 73% Women
- **OOKS:** The increase of the mean score indicated the intervention had a statistically significant positive effect on opioid overdose knowledge pre- 45.83 vs. Post- 48.22.
- **OOAS:** The increase of the mean score indicated the intervention had a statistically significant positive effect on competencies, concerns, and readiness, pre- 100.77 and post 120.51.

OOAS SUBSCALES



Conclusions

- Overall participants' opioid overdose knowledge and attitudes significantly increased.
- The findings of our study indicate the H.E.R.O program can be successfully applied to student pharmacists.
- Future plans include providing education to other allied health professions.

DISCLOSURES

Authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.