

# Identifying Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Student Confidence In NAPLEX Topics And Study Plans

Amanda Margolis, Jessica Bergsbaken, Denise Walbrandt Pigarelli, Mara Kieser

## Background

- In the last 5 years, there has been a meaningful decrease in first-time NAPLEX pass rates due to multiple etiologies<sup>1</sup>
- While many pharmacy programs have required NAPLEX preparation programs, a NAPLEX preparation program does not appear to increase NAPLEX pass rates; suggesting a preparation program alone to be insufficient<sup>2</sup>
- Students may not know what to expect early in their NAPLEX preparation, and a simulated mini-practice NAPLEX may help students develop study plans as early as fall semester
- Targeting preparatory materials to what concepts students struggle with and their learning styles may better facilitate student NAPLEX preparation

## Objective

To determine Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) student confidence in NAPLEX topics and study plans

## Methods

APPE students completed a mini-practice NAPLEX of 75 questions, developed by the pharmacy program, over 2 hours

Students completed an open-ended reflection describing:

- content they knew well
- content they need to study
- preparation plans and resources

Counts were determined to better understand student NAPLEX preparation needs

## Results

Of the 95 students in the 2024 graduating class, 94 (98.9%) completed the reflection

Figure 1: Content students felt confident about for the NAPLEX

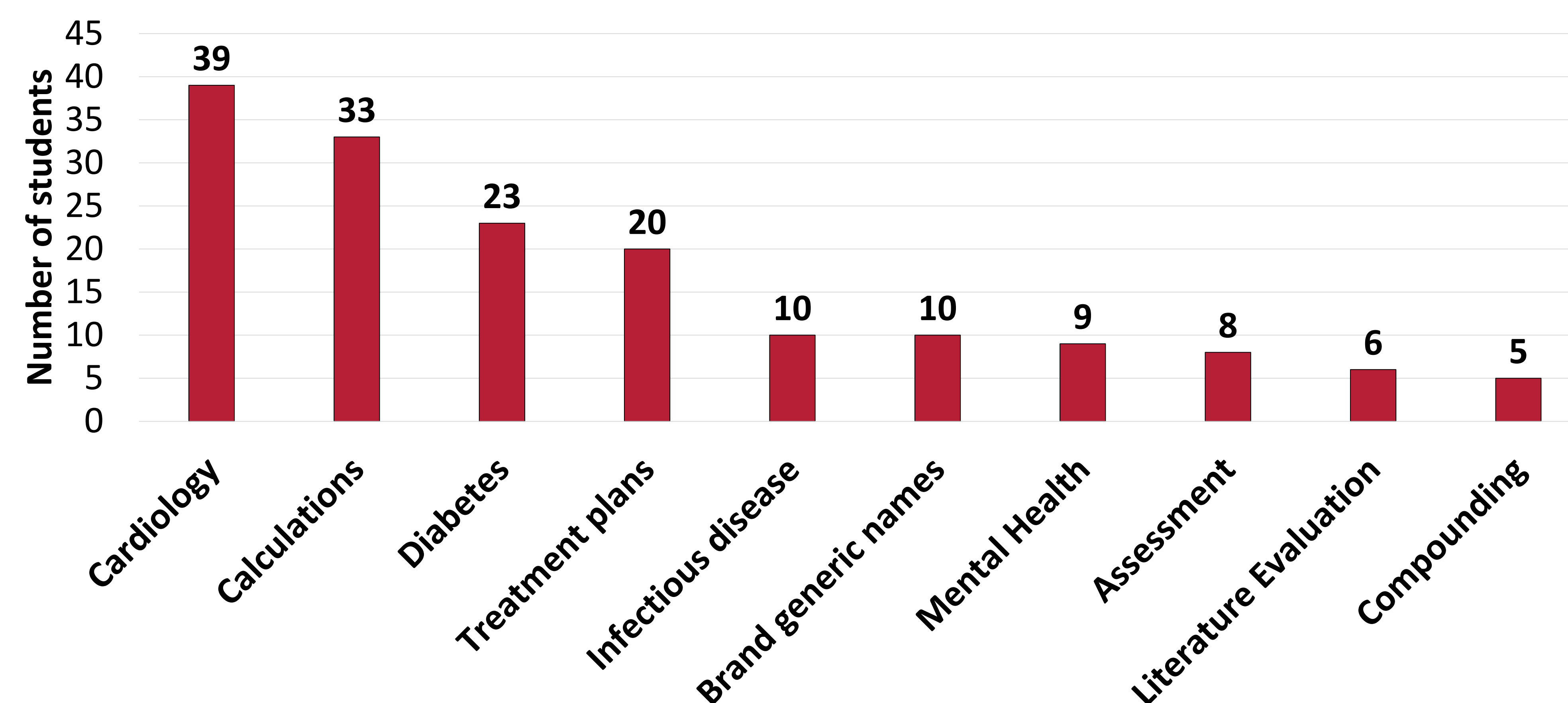


Figure 2: Content students felt they needed to study for the NAPLEX

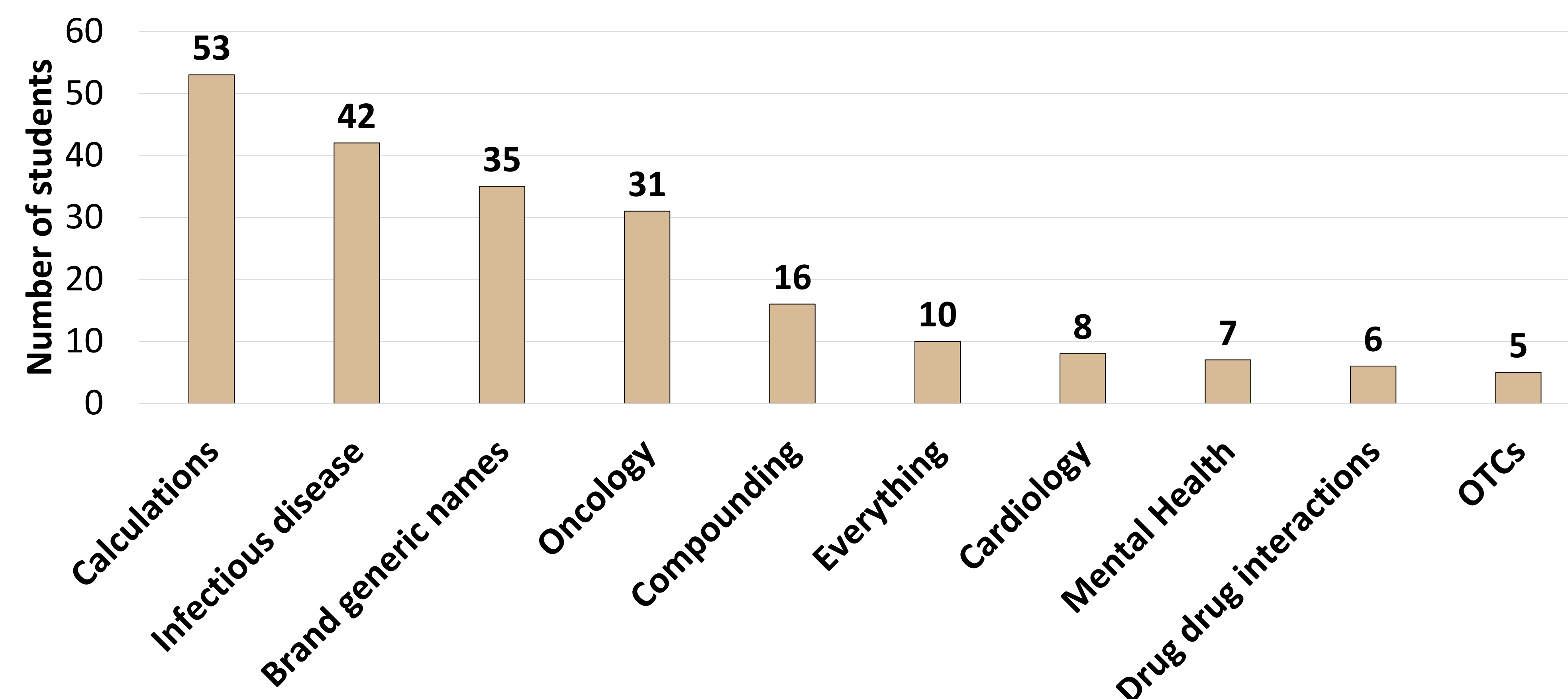
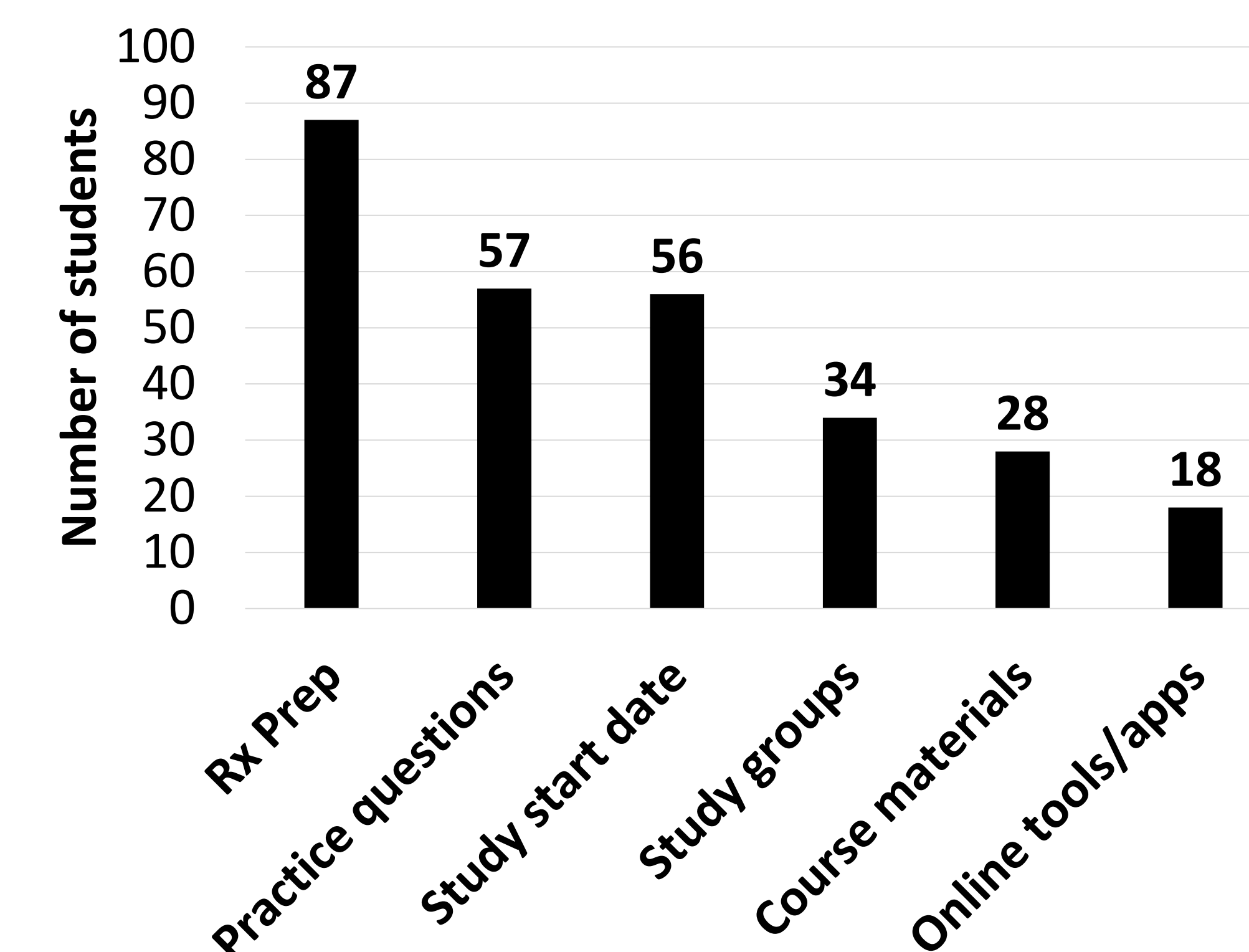


Figure 3: Study plans



## Discussion

- This information can be used to develop targeted preparation materials for NAPLEX preparation
- A similar mini-practice NAPLEX can help students determine preparation plans as they have a better idea of what to expect

### Limitations

- Student self-report of topics they understand or need additional study
- Open-ended reflection may have led to count errors (i.e. kinetics vs compounding calculations)

### Future directions

- Create NAPLEX preparation materials for APPE students based on self-identified content they need to study with practice questions
- Continue to follow NAPLEX rates longitudinally

## References

1. Dell KA, et al. Falling NAPLEX pass rates are cause for concern. *Curr Pharm Teach Learn.* 2024;16(1):1-4. doi: 10.1016/j.cptl.2023.11.001
2. Sobieraj DM, et al. NAPLEX preparation program characteristics and resources associated with first-time exam pass rates. *Am J Pharm Educ.* 2023;87(12):100580. doi: 10.1016/j.ajpe.2023.100580