



PASSION FOR PATIENTS

Pharmacy Student Perspectives On Oncology Education

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Background

- The American Society of Clinical Oncology reports that there is an uneven rise in the demand of oncology services compared to the rise in cases of cancer.^{1,2}
- With cancer rates on the rise and pharmacists becoming more vital members of the oncology team, it is more important than ever for pharmacy students to receive a robust oncology education.
- In order to evaluate student perceptions of their oncology training, a survey was completed by pharmacy students across North America to see how they viewed their education and if it was sufficient enough for them to feel confident working with cancer patients.

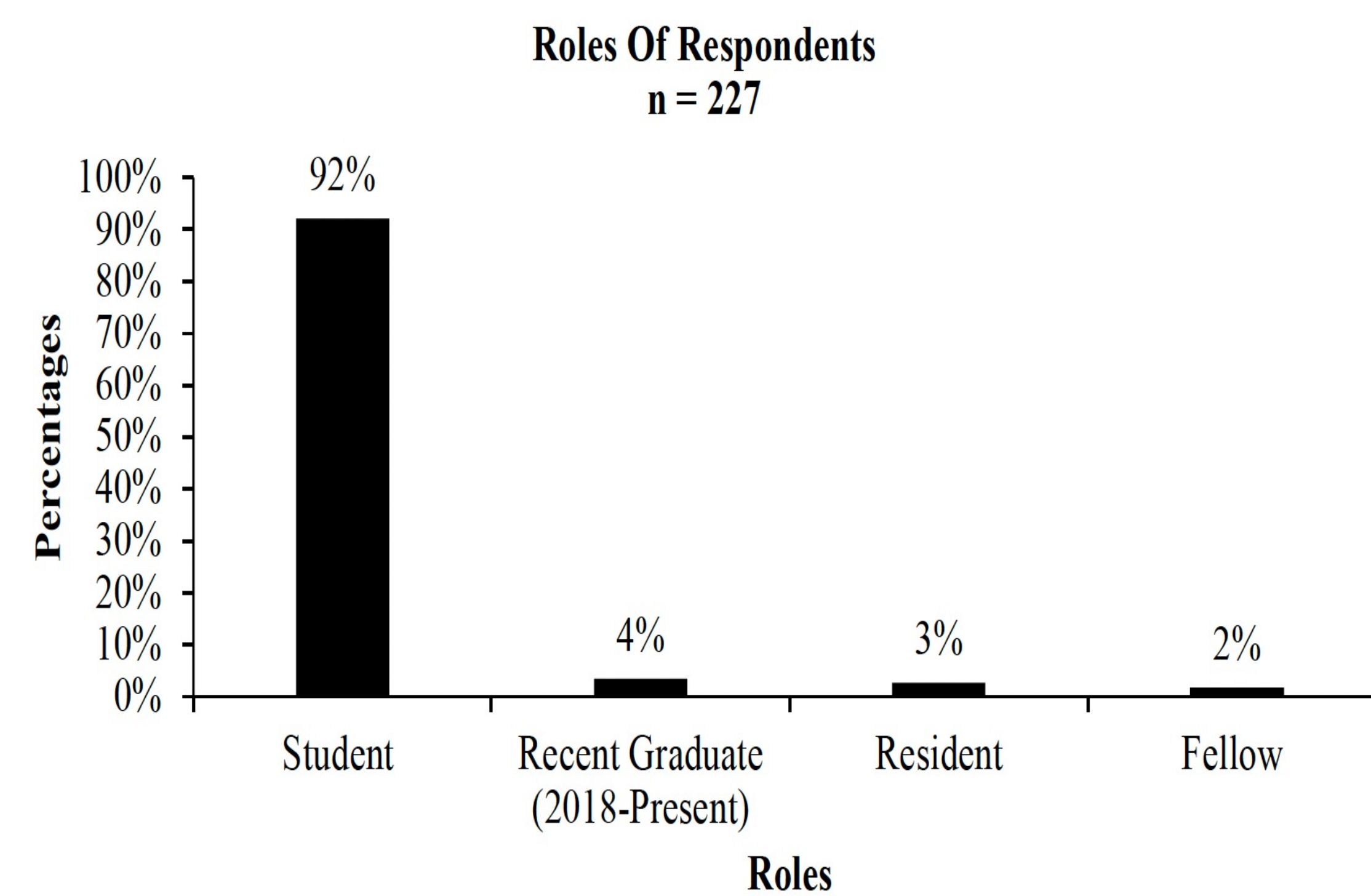
Methods

- A survey was created through SurveyMonkey and was distributed across multiple pharmacy schools in North America. The survey was conducted from March 1st through March 23rd.
- The survey was shared on LinkedIn, the Annual APHA meeting, Instagram, Facebook, and emailed out to students.
- The survey was completed by recent graduates and current pharmacy students. We also completed a sub-group analysis to determine the impact on an oncology professional organization on campus.

Results

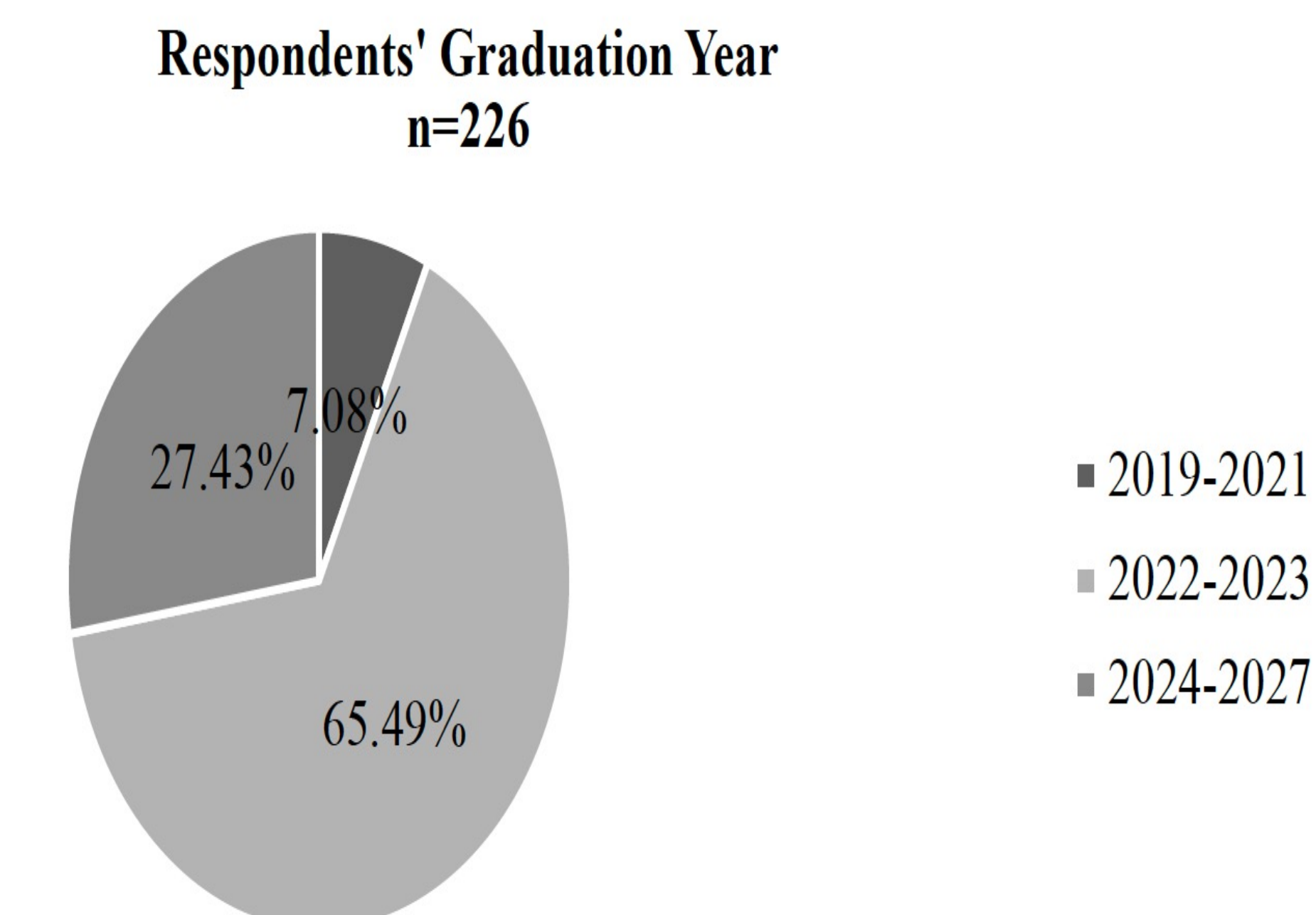
- This survey was completed by 226 participants from 72 different colleges of pharmacy in the United States and 3 from Canada, with 55% having completed their didactic training before completing the survey.
- The sub-group analysis reported the following results:
 - 66% have received "little" to "no" exposure to oncology before the oncology module;
 - 58% are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the didactic oncology coursework that their program provides
 - 66% from schools that have an NCODA chapter reported that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the didactic oncology coursework that their program provides in comparison to 48% of respondents from schools that do not have an NCODA chapter.

Figure 1:



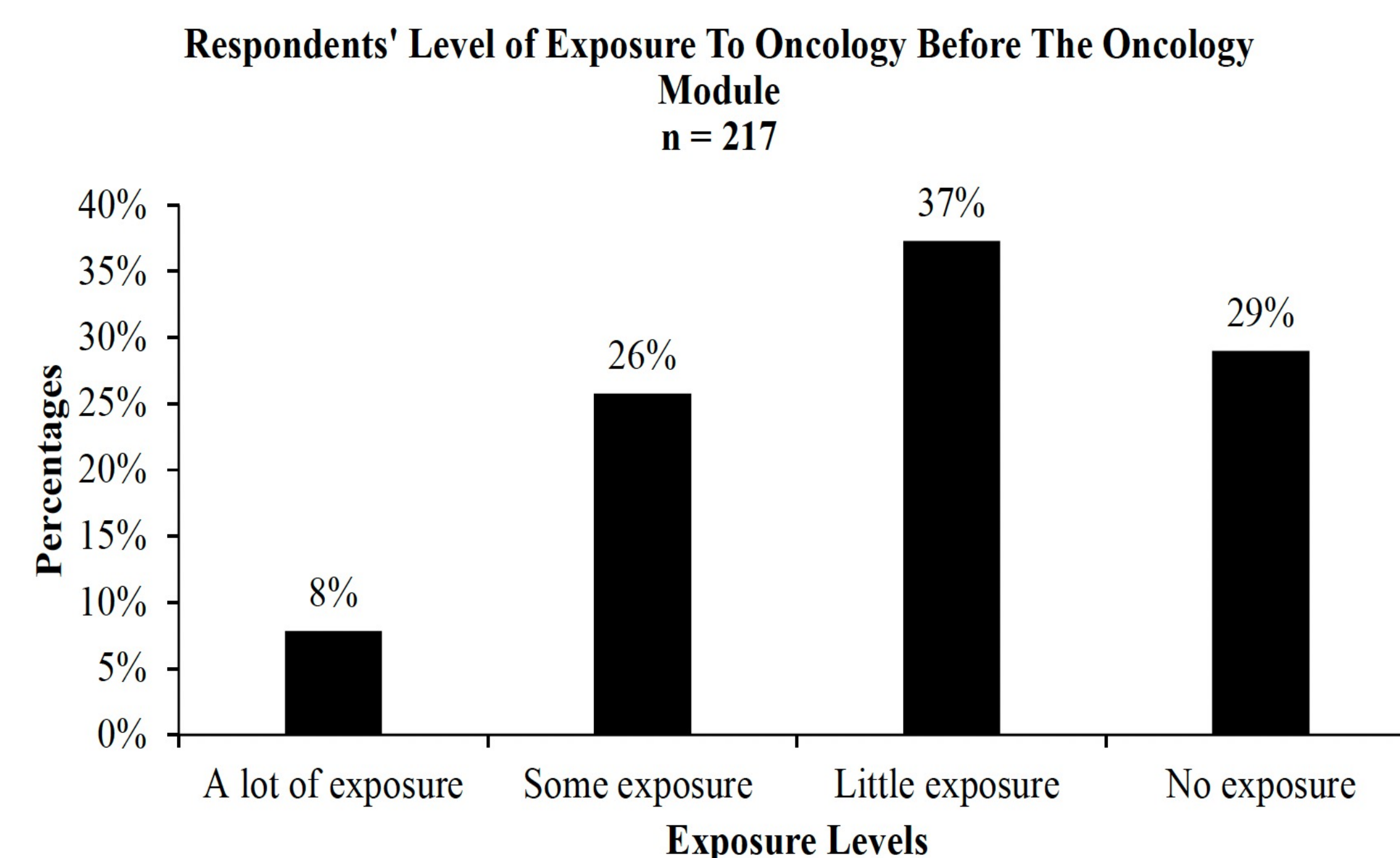
Source: Data collected for NCODA by Monica Jankovic, Community Link Project, Syracuse University, April 2022.

Figure 2:



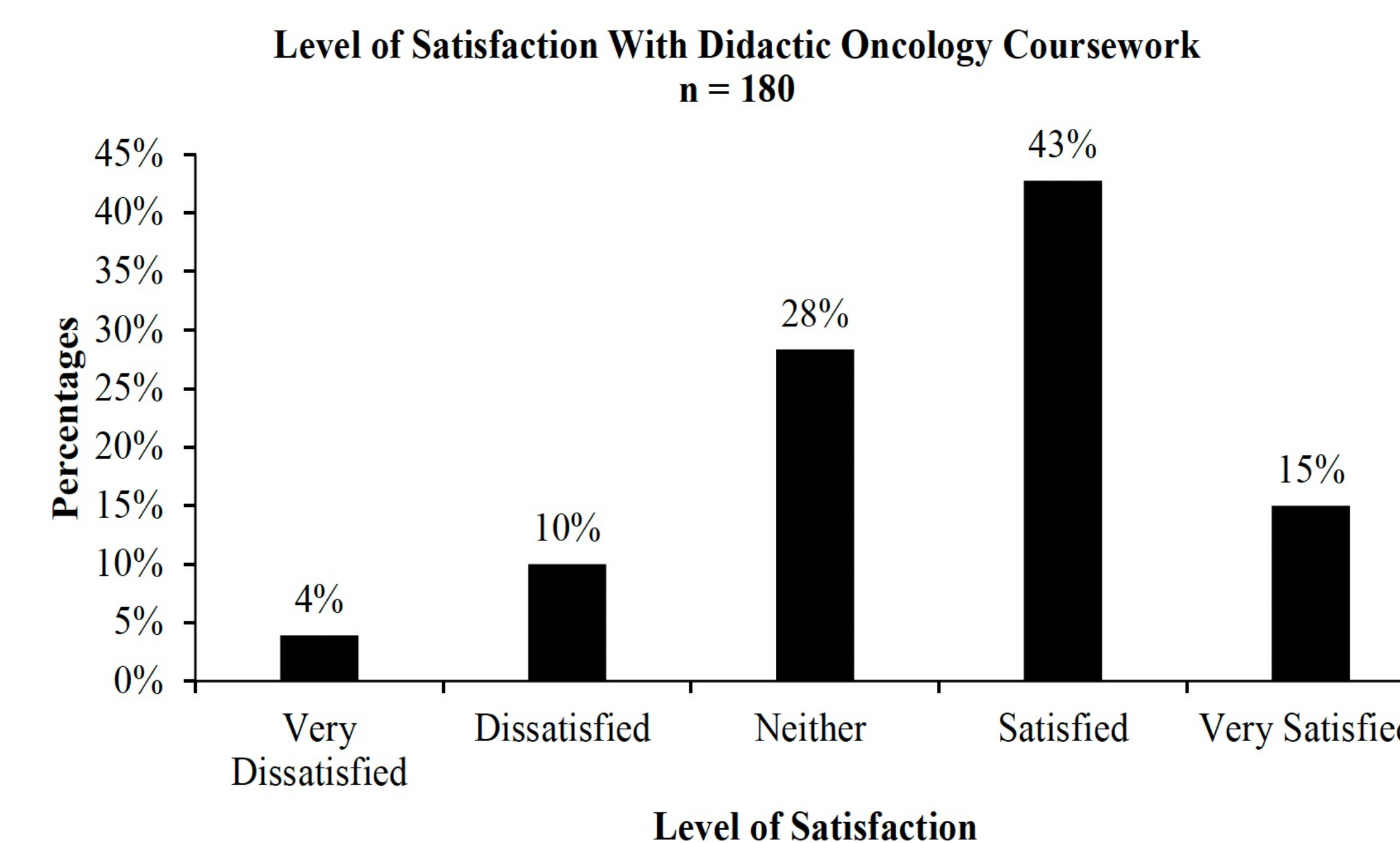
Source: Data collected for NCODA by Monica Jankovic, Community Link Project, Syracuse University, April 2022.

5. 66% of respondents reported that they have received "little" to "no" exposure to oncology before the oncology module.



Source: Data collected for NCODA by Monica Jankovic, Community Link Project, Syracuse University, April 2022.

10. 58% of respondents reported that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the didactic oncology coursework that their program provides.



Source: Data collected for NCODA by Monica Jankovic, Community Link Project, Syracuse University, April 2022.

Conclusion

- The survey that we conducted shows that students are lacking oncology education in their didactic coursework but with the implementation of an oncology educational organizations like NCODA allowed for students to have a more robust oncology education compared to not having an oncology educational organization.
- These results further emphasizes the need for institutions to incorporate oncology education in their curriculum in order to make students prepared to be vital leaders in oncology interprofessional teams.

References

- 1. Trovato, James A., et al. "Student Confidence with Oncology Pharmacy Competencies." *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, vol. 11, no. 11, 2019, pp. 1172–1177.
- 2. Ledbetter, E., Lau, S., Enterline, A., Sibbitt, B., & Chen, A. M. (2019). A simulation activity to assess student pharmacists' knowledge and perceptions of oncology pharmacy. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 84(5)

Acknowledgements

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