Emergency Provider’s Knowledge, and Attitudes Toward Palliative Care
Disclosure

No conflict of interest

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Background and Aim

• Approximately 50% of seriously ill and dying patients use the ED at least once in the last six months of their life

• Providers’ knowledge and attitude towards hospice and palliative care may be a barrier towards engaging qualifying patients in hospice and palliative care referral

• Aim: to assess the relationship between emergency providers’ characteristics and knowledge and attitude towards hospice and palliative care
Methods

**Study Design:**
- Cross-sectional analysis (N=3,131)
- Sample pooled across 35 Emergency Departments

**Primary Outcome Variable:**
- Knowledge and Attitude towards Hospice and Palliative Care
- Scored 10 to 50

**Secondary Outcome Variables:**
- Self-rated knowledge: Scored 3 to 15
- Views of Provider-Patient Communication: Scored 3 to 15
- Support for Hospice Practice and Philosophy: Scored 4 to 20

**Predictors:**
- Demographic characteristics: Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity
- Occupational characteristics: Provider type, Years of practice

**Regression Model**
- Hierarchical linear regression
- Emergency departments – random effects
- Provider characteristics – fixed predictors
Results: Race/Ethnicity

Legend

- Increased
- Decreased
- Not Significant

Knowledge and Attitude Score

Self-Rated Knowledge

Views on Provider-Patient Communication

Support for Hospice Practice and Philosophy

Male vs. Female

Hispanic vs. NH White

Other Races vs. NH White

NP and PA vs. Nurses

Physician vs. Nurses

2-5 years vs. <2 years

6-10 years vs. <2 years

11-15 years vs. <2 years

>15 years vs. <2 years

NH Black vs. NH White

NH Black vs. NH White

Hispanic vs. NH White

Other Races vs. NH White

NP and PA vs. Nurses

Physician vs. Nurses

2-5 years vs. <2 years

6-10 years vs. <2 years

11-15 years vs. <2 years

>15 years vs. <2 years

NH Black vs. NH White
Results: Years of Practice

Legend

Increased
Decreased
Not Significant

Knowledge and Attitude Score

Self-Rated Knowledge

Views on Provider-Patient Communication

Support for Hospice Practice and Philosophy

2-5 years vs. <2 years
6-10 years vs. <2 years
11-15 years vs. <2 years
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Male vs. Female
NH Black vs. NH White
Hispanic vs. NH White
Other Races vs. NH White
NP and PA vs. Nurses
Physician vs. Nurses
Conclusion

- Emergency medicine providers’ demographic and occupational characteristics were significantly associated with knowledge and attitude towards hospice and palliative care.

- Understanding these differences may inform provider-specific interventions.
THANK YOU