

The Prevalence and Barriers to Reporting Substance Misuse Among Resident Registered Nurse Anesthetists

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

- Anesthesia providers, including Resident Registered Nurse Anesthetists (RRNAs), are at high risk for substance abuse due to easy access to controlled substances and high stress environments.
- The incidence of substance use disorder (SUD) in anesthesia providers ranges from 10%-20%.
- Early identification is crucial for patient and provider safety.

PURPOSE

- To investigate the prevalence of substance misuse among RRNAs and to identify barriers to reporting suspected substance misuse.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess RRNA knowledge regarding SUDs and reporting.
- Examine existing barriers to reporting impaired provider colleagues.
- Develop educational resources to promote awareness and improve reporting.

IMPACT STATEMENT

- Findings from this study emphasize the need for increased education, policy improvement, and the establishment of confidential reporting system to ensure patient and provider safety.

METHODOLOGY

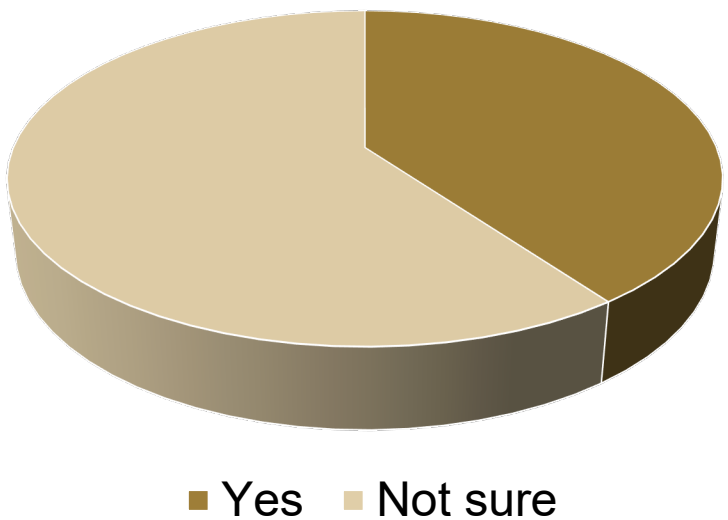
PICO QUESTION

- “In nurse anesthesia residents, does assessing the knowledge gap increase identification of barriers to reporting substance abuse?”

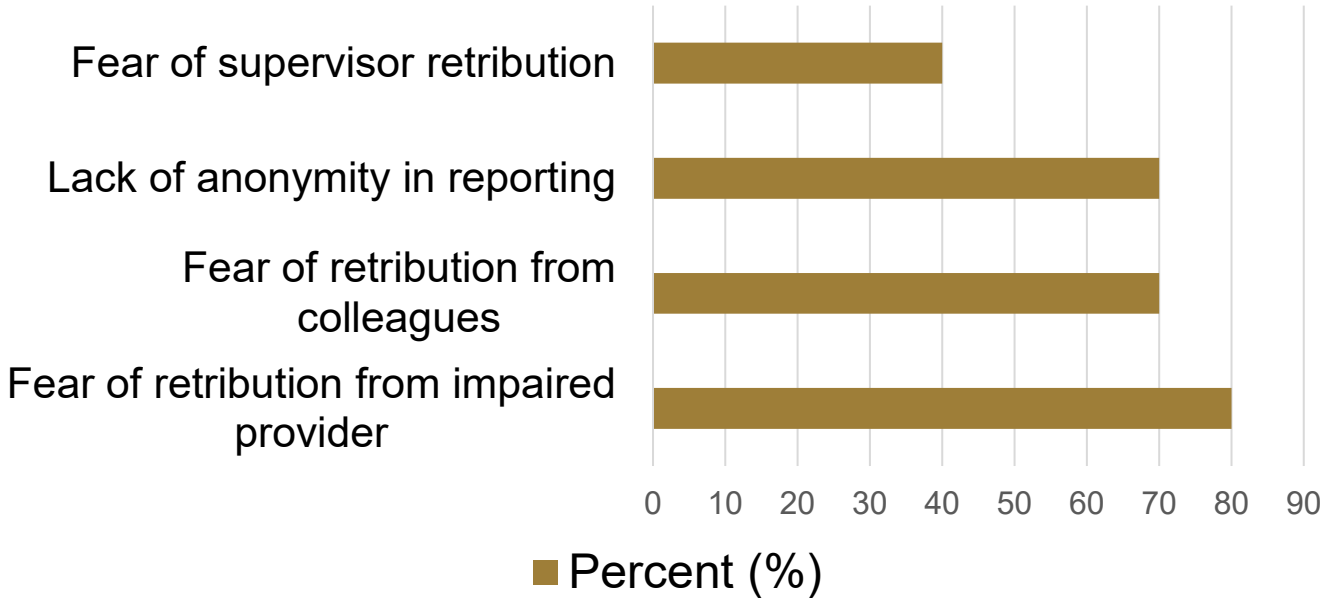
STUDY DESIGN & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A two-part, 30-question survey was distributed to RRNAs in six North Carolina nurse anesthesia programs.
- Data was collected anonymously via RedCap.
- Statistical analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics to identify trends.
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval contained; Participation was voluntary, and data was anonymously collected.

IS THE STATE A MANDATORY REPORTING STATE?



BARRIERS TO REPORTING IMPAIRED PROVIDERS



DEMOGRAPHICS

- Participants: 83 RRNAs (35% response rate)
- 90% had 3-10 years of nurse experience prior to entering CRNA school.

KEY FINDINGS

- 70% of participants claimed they could identify impaired practice, yet 83.3% of those who suspected substance misuse did not report it.
- 66% were unaware of mandatory reporting laws in North Carolina.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Educational Initiatives	Policy Enhancements	Support Systems
Implement substance abuse training in nurse anesthesia programs	Develop confidential, non-punitive reporting systems	Encourage peer support programs to promote early intervention
Increase awareness of reporting processes and state laws	Standardize institutional policies for handling SUD cases	Establish wellness and stress management programs for RRNAs

SUMMARY

CONCLUSION

- This project identified knowledge gaps and barriers to reporting impaired colleagues among RRNAs.
- Addressing these issues requires policy improvements, increased education, and enhanced support systems.
- Future research should focus on larger sample sizes and collecting unbiased data by to monitor reporting of substance abuse incidents.

FUTURE STEPS

- An infographic on reducing substance use in RRNAs and reporting impaired providers was distributed to program directors and NCANA.
- Advocacy for policy changes to ensure safe anesthesia practice environments.

REFERENCES

