

Interactive Virtual Training to Boost Clozapine Use for Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia

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Background

Clozapine

- the most effective antipsychotic for treatment-refractory schizophrenia
- reduces psychiatric symptoms *and* mortality
- underused in USA, including in the Veterans Administration (VA)¹
- major barrier is mental health professionals' lack of confidence using clozapine²
- VA expanded ability to prescribe clozapine to physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical pharmacists

Clozapine Mini Residency developed to address this lack of confidence and increase knowledge among potential new clozapine prescribers at VA and health professional trainees

Methods



Virtual interactive training 3.5 hours

- Didactics
- Case-based discussions
- Role playing

Surveys to assess participants' confidence in relevant skills (pre/post t tests)

Partnering with others to decrease other barriers to clozapine prescribing at VA

Results and Conclusions

135 participants over 5 trainings

Trainees and all targeted professions participated

Confidence increased in all skills measured (all $p < 0.00001$)

Partnered with and developed other clozapine initiatives at VA to increase clozapine prescribing

Future Directions

Examine clozapine prescribing patterns after training

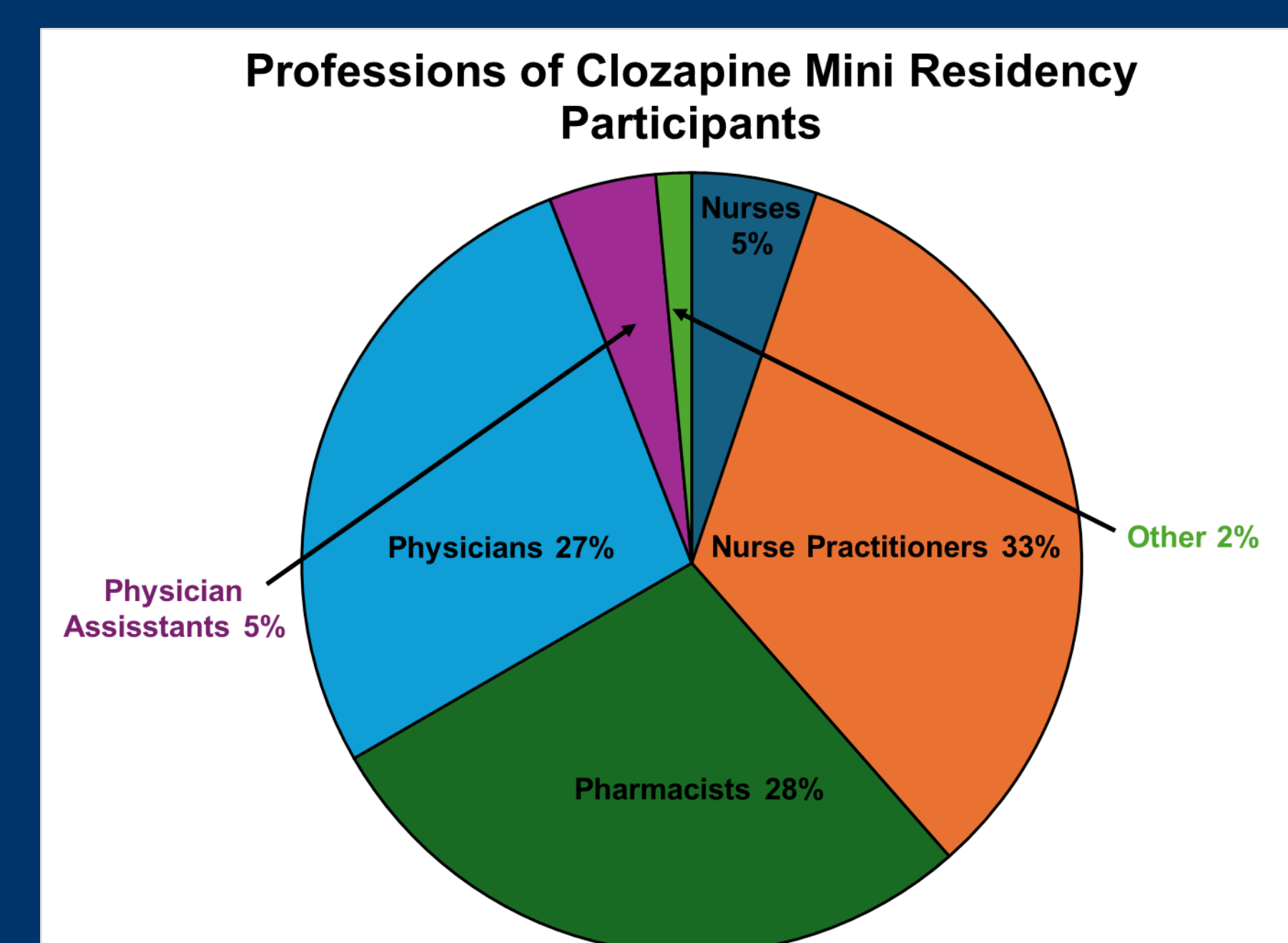
References

1. Moody BL, Eatmon CV. Perceived Barriers and Facilitators of Clozapine Use: A National Survey of Veterans Affairs Prescribers. *Fed Pract* Oct 2019;36(Suppl 6):S22-S27.
2. Bittner RA, Reif A, Qubad M. The ever-growing case for clozapine in the treatment of schizophrenia: an obligation for psychiatrists and psychiatry. *Curr Opin Psychiatry* Jul 1 2023;36(4):327-336.

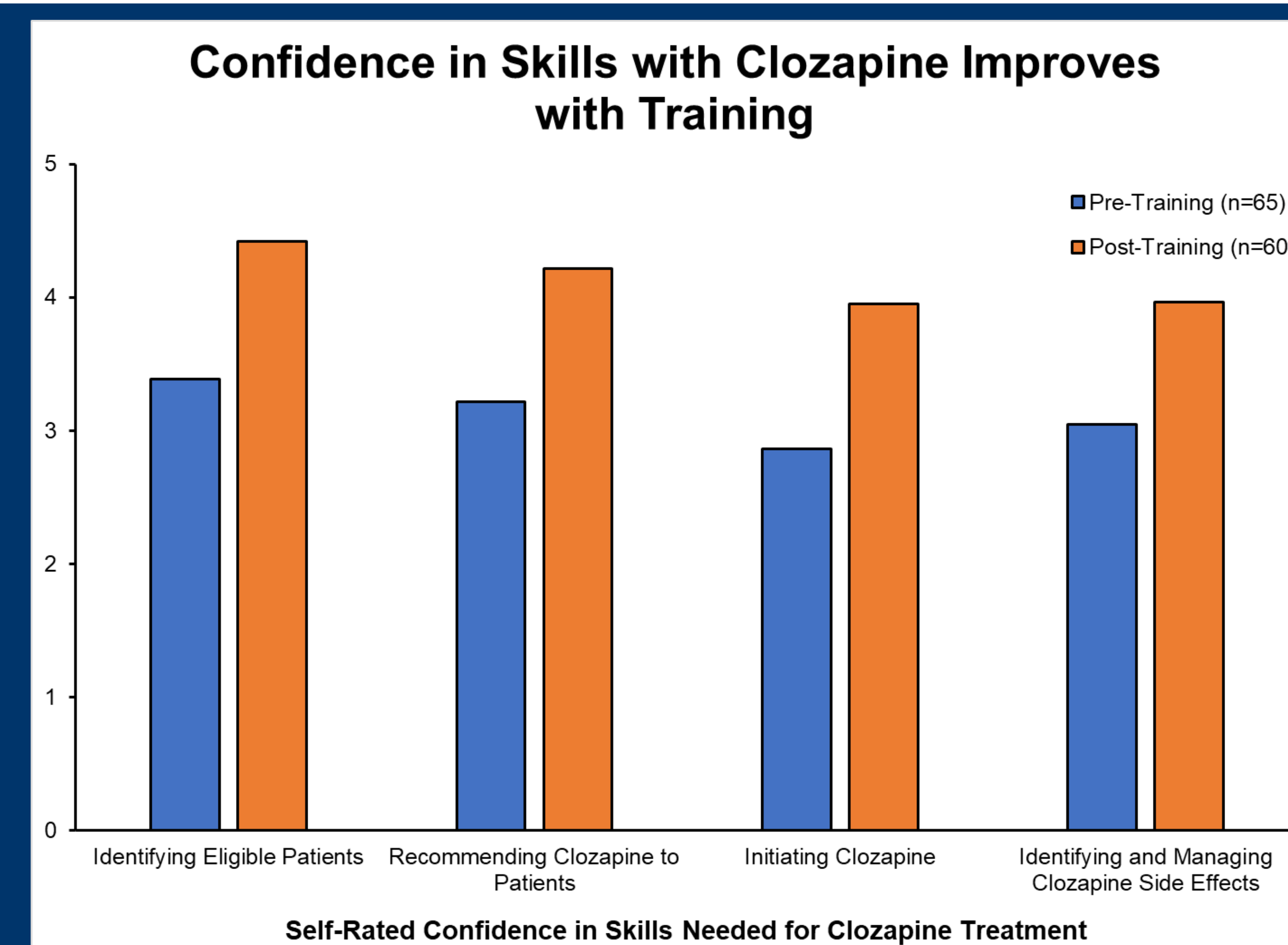
Acknowledgements

Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Rural Health. Visit www.ruralhealth.va.gov to learn more.

Diverse Professions of Participants



Knowledge Improved with Training



Adjacent Initiatives and Partner Programs

Initial Education



On Going Support

