

Clinician Knowledge and Practice Regarding Alcohol Counseling in a VA Health System Following an Educational Intervention



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BACKGROUND, PURPOSE & AIMS

- ❖ Alcohol misuse contributes to significant physical, medical and mental disability among veterans.
 - ❖ USPSTF recommendation
- Project Purpose:** To identify factors contributing to consistent low rates of follow-up alcohol counseling.
- Project Aims:**
- ❖ Increase clinician knowledge
 - ❖ Improve clinician practice
 - ❖ Increase follow-up alcohol counseling rates.
 - ❖ Identify barriers to practice

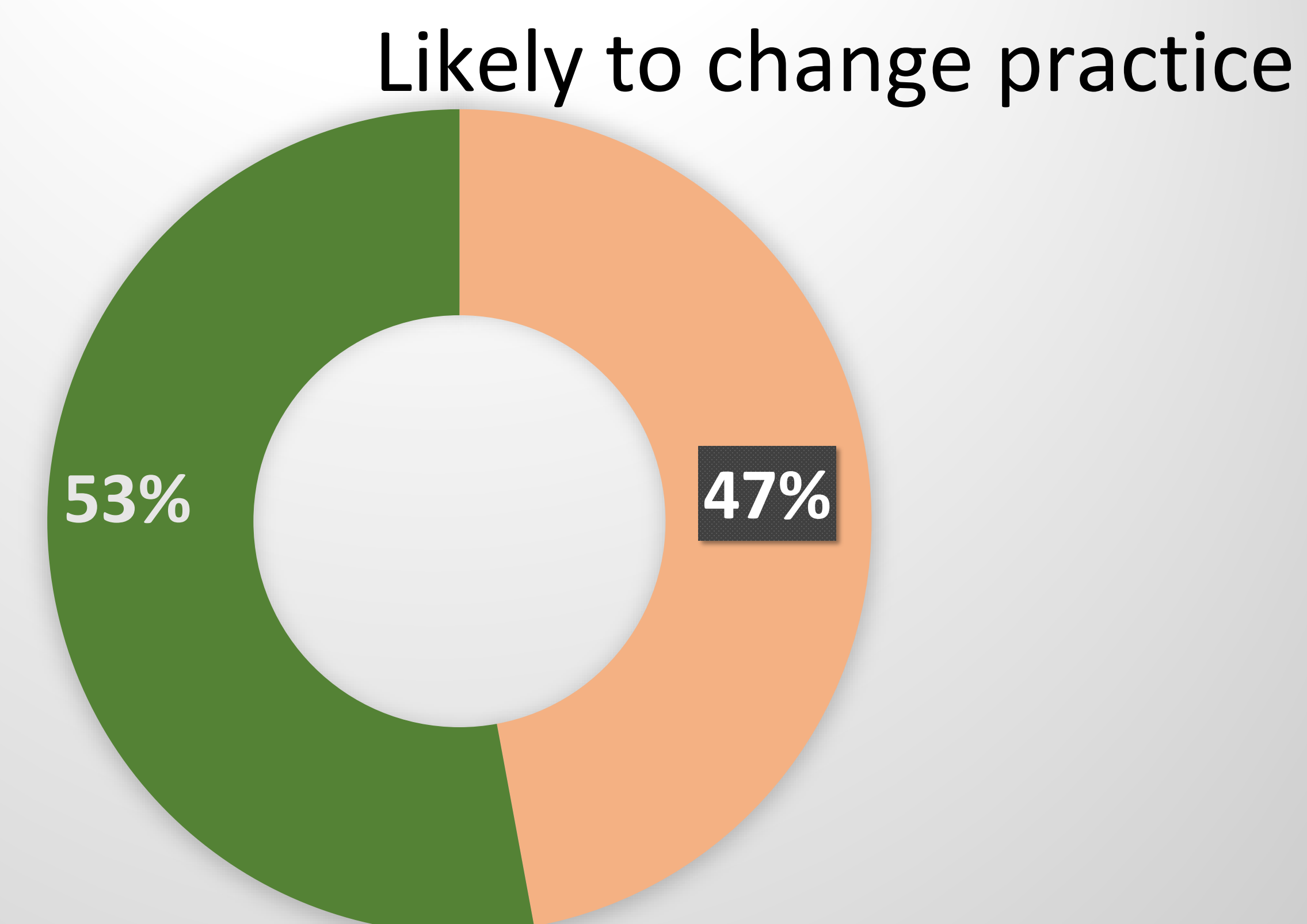
METHODS

Design: One-group pretest-posttest
Setting: VA outpatient healthcare system in the Pacific Northwest.
Sample: Convenience sample of eligible clinicians
Intervention: On-demand virtual educational presentation.
Analysis: Descriptive statistics; Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test.

Results AIM 1: Clinician Knowledge

Pre-Intervention survey (n = 38) Post-Intervention (n = 17)			
Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test	Pre-intervention	Post-Intervention	Significance
Knowledge VA guidelines	<i>M</i> 6.10 <i>Md.</i> 6.00	<i>M</i> 8.40 <i>Md.</i> 8.00	<i>n</i> = 10 <i>p</i> = .011
Knowledge Clinical reminder	<i>M</i> 5.67 <i>Md.</i> 5.00	<i>M</i> 9.22 <i>Md.</i> 9.00	<i>n</i> = 9 <i>p</i> = .021

RESULTS AIM 2: Clinician Practice



■ Not Likely ■ Somewhat Unlikely ■ Somewhat Likely ■ Very Likely

Results AIM 3: Alcohol Counseling Rates

October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	January 2023
85.74%	38.23%	100%	74.80%

Results AIM 4: Barriers to Alcohol Counseling

Clinician Reported Barriers

- Time *n* = 14
- Knowledge deficit *n* = 6
- Veterans' unwillingness *n* = 5
- Staffing issues. *n* = 3

CONCLUSION

- Given the deleterious effects of alcohol misuse, every effort should be made to engage veterans in alcohol counseling when indicated.
- Project facilitated a better understanding of factors contributing to continued low rates of follow-up alcohol counseling.
- Recurrent training is needed and easily supported within the clinic.

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References available by email request to:
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