

# Enhancing Medical Education on Substance Use Disorders: Outcomes from Workshops in Addiction Medicine

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## INTRODUCTION

- Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) represent a significant public health challenge and disproportionately affect marginalized communities<sup>1</sup>
- Medical curricula often lack comprehensive training on addiction medicine<sup>2</sup>, leading to persistent stigma and inadequate care
- We aimed to address these gaps by organizing an interactive symposium to improve knowledge and attitudes toward patients with SUDs

## OBJECTIVES

- Assess knowledge and attitudes towards SUDs
- Expand understanding of non-moralism and treatment optimism
- Increase knowledge of SUD treatment and the role of the interprofessional team
- Increase interest in addiction medicine

## METHODS

- **Workshop:** The Workshops in Addiction Medicine (WAM) symposium was held on January 17, 2024, at the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine in North Haven, CT.

Keynote  
address

Motivational  
interviewing  
session

Recovery and  
community  
addiction  
treatment panel

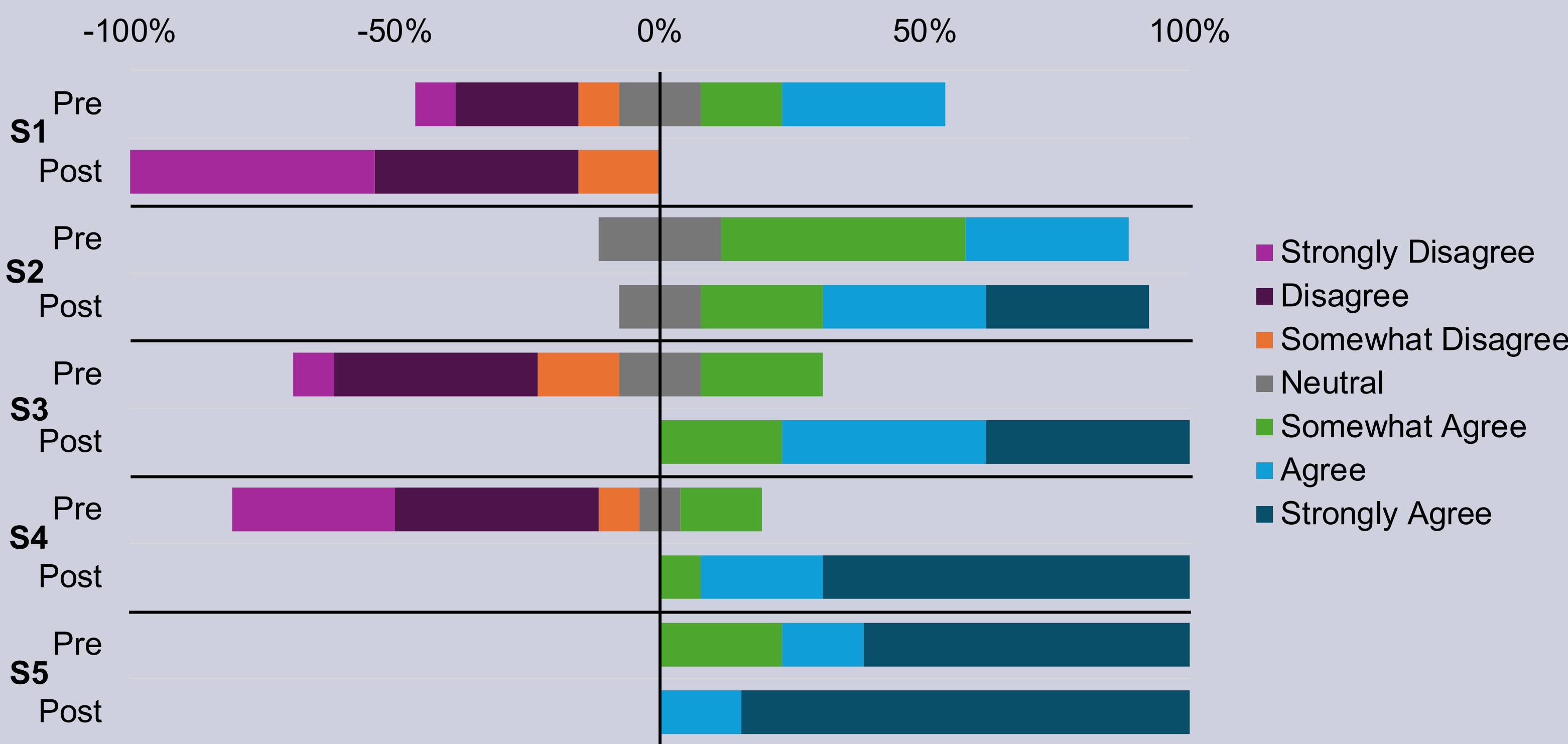
Ethics  
discussion

Narcan training

- **Survey design:** Surveys based on the Brief Substance Abuse Attitude Survey (BSAAS)<sup>3</sup>, were administered pre- and post-symposium. The BSAAS uses a Likert-type response format ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree).
- **Data analysis:** Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were conducted to compare paired pre- and post-symposium responses for each survey item.

## RESULTS

Figure 1: Pre- and Post-Symposium Survey Responses (n=13)



	Pre-Symposium (n=13)	Post-Symposium (n=13)	p-value
S1. Lifelong abstinence is a necessary goal in the treatment of SUDs.	4	1.7	<0.001
S2. Group therapy is very important in the treatment of alcoholism or SUD.	5.1	5.8	0.006
S3. I am comfortable identifying an opioid overdose.	3.1	6.2	<0.001
S4. I am comfortable and competent using naloxone.	2.4	6.6	<0.001
S5. How willing are you to treat patients with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)? [Not at all willing, Very willing]	6.4	6.8	0.027

- Thirty-five participants completed the pre-symposium survey. Most participants were first-year medical students at the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine.
- **At baseline** participants of the symposium generally had positive attitudes towards patients with SUDs but reported lack of competence in identifying overdoses and administering Narcan
- Thirteen participants completed both the pre- and post-symposium surveys
- **There were significant increases in knowledge of SUDs and confidence identifying overdoses and administering Narcan (Figure 1)**

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- The WAM symposium successfully enhanced participants' knowledge of SUDs. Participants also gained practical skills which have the potential to positively impact the local community.
- One limitation of the current study is the low response rate (37%) to both the pre- and post-symposium surveys.
- This initiative underscores the importance of integrating comprehensive addiction medicine education into medical training programs to dismantle stigma and improve patient outcomes.
- Findings from this study informed a class-wide Narcan training for the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine for the class of 2028 during M1 orientation.

## REFERENCES

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