

An Interprofessional Approach to Pain Education in Schools of Nursing, Medicine, and Pharmacy

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BACKGROUND

- Approximately 50 million people in the US suffer from persistent pain
- Annual economic cost associated with pain is over \$500 billion
- Over the past 15 years, the number of opioid prescriptions has been rising steadily and the rate of opioid related deaths has tripled
- Proper pain management leads to better patient outcomes, and patient safety
- There is a lack of agreement on the quantity or scope of pain education topics to be covered within and among healthcare disciplines
- The Institute of Medicine has identified effective pain management as an interprofessional responsibility of the healthcare team and essential to patient-centered care

OBJECTIVE

- Explore current practices in pain education within U.S. nursing, medical, and pharmacy schools
- Assess educational gaps in pain management education
- Provide recommendations to improve pain management education

METHODS

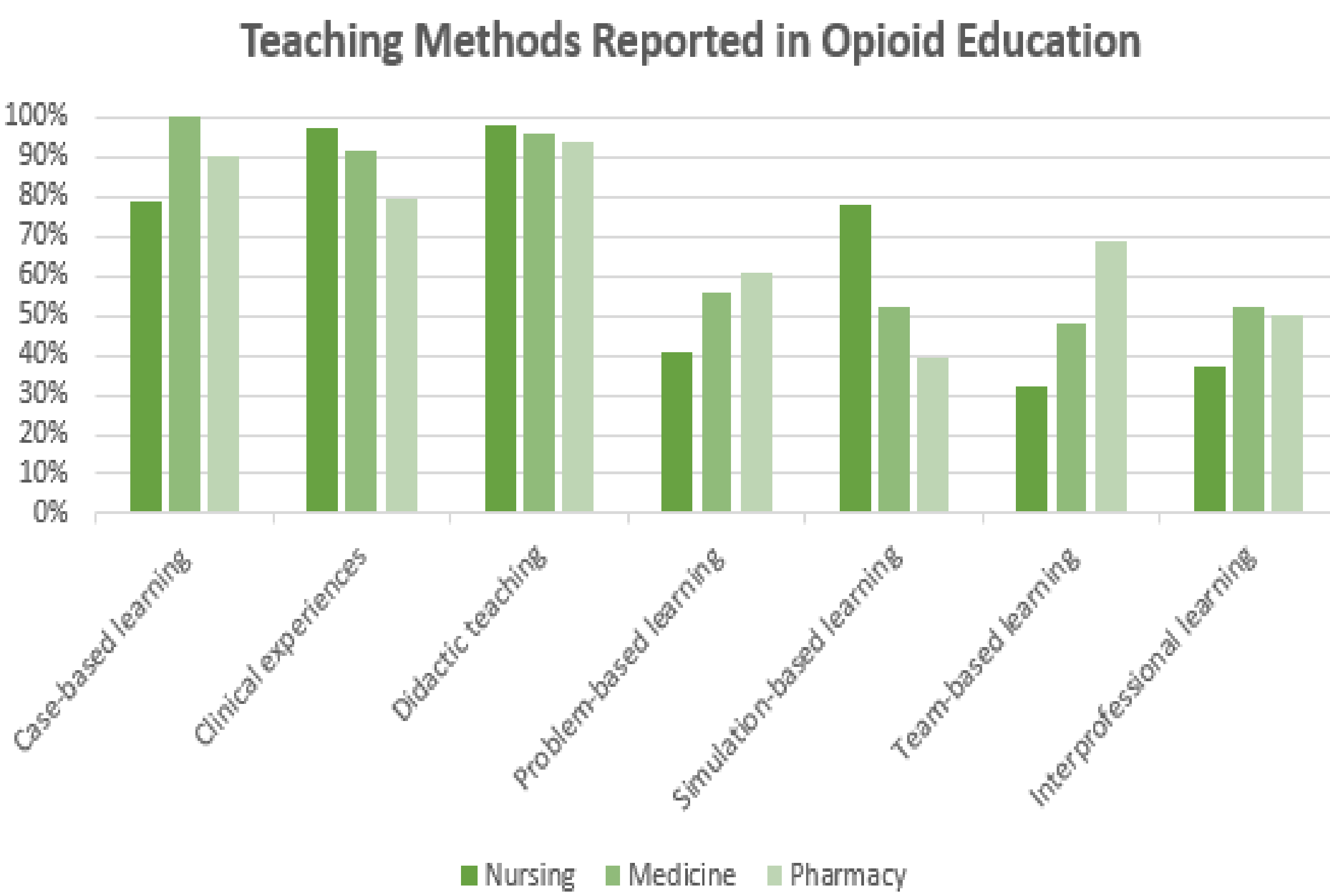
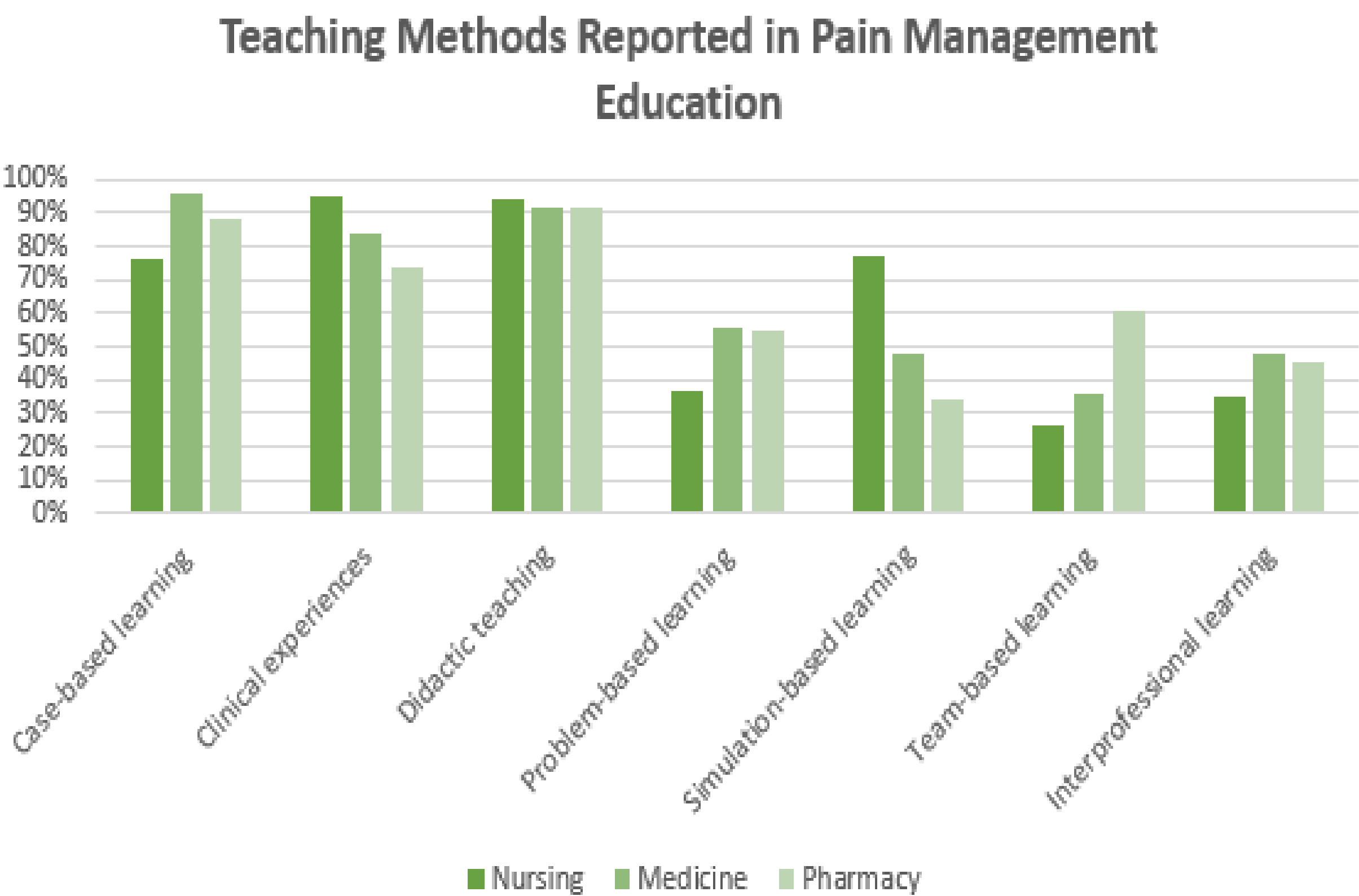
- Descriptive cross-sectional study
- U.S. prelicensure programs in nursing, medicine, and pharmacy
- Two-part questionnaire administered to evaluate the depth and breadth of pain education
 - Part I focused on pain education
 - Part II focused on opioid education
 - 25 questions were adapted from a list of learning objectives used by Mezei and colleagues (2011) to assess pain curricula
 - Survey sent electronically
- Descriptive and inferential statistics used to characterize sample and identify differences by program type
 - Select preliminary findings are presented

RESULTS

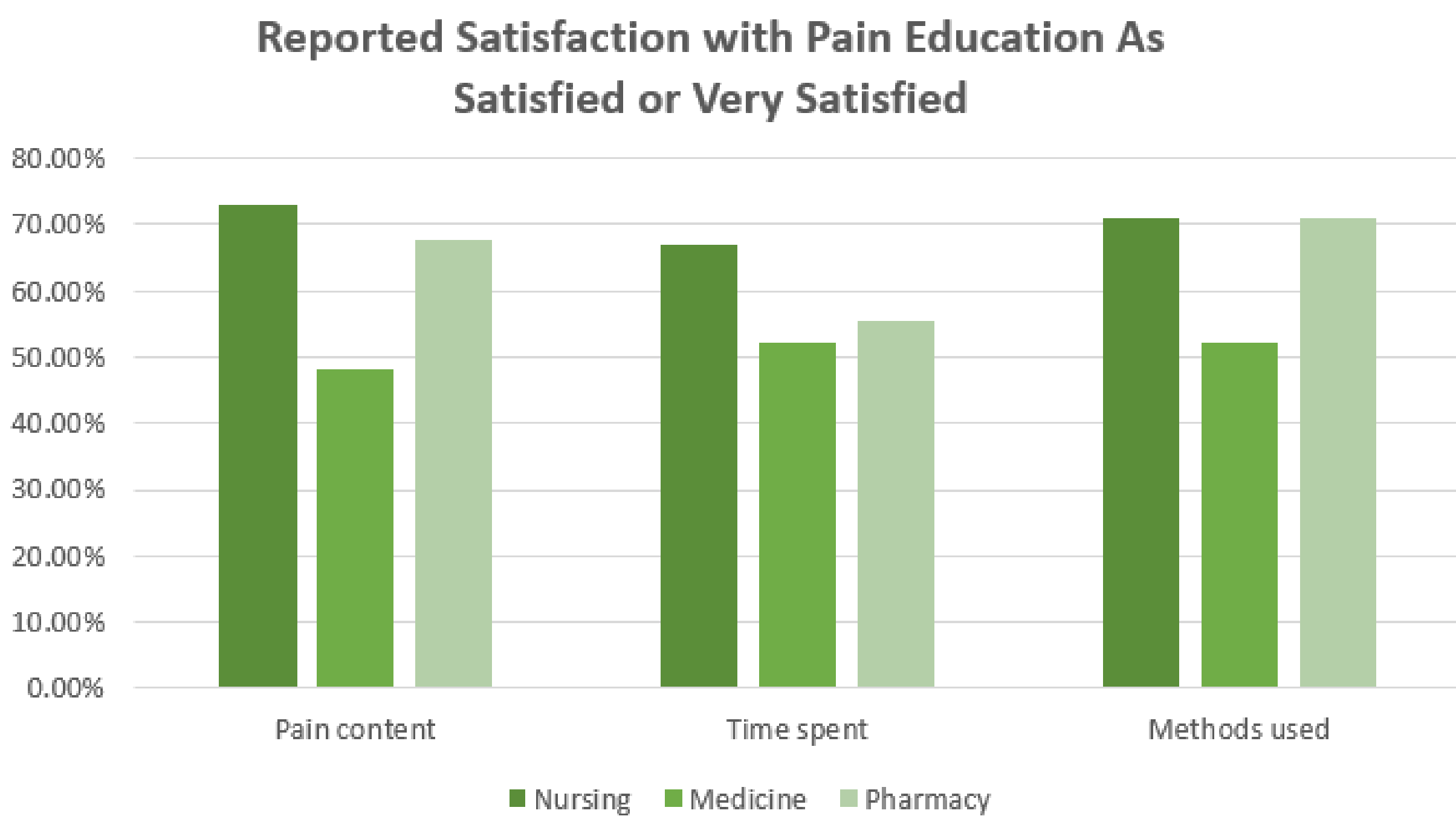
Demographic Characteristics of Sample (N = 218)

	Total	Nursing	Medicine	Pharmacy
No. of Participants	218	109 (50%)	25 (11.5%)	84 (38.5%)
Public Institution	103 (47.5%)	56 (52.3%)	10 (40%)	36 (43.4%)
Urban Location	139 (63.8%)	61 (57%)	20 (80%)	57 (67.9%)
≤ 150 Graduates per year	136 (62.8%)	51 (77.2%)	19 (76%)	65 (79.3%)

RESULTS



- Schools of nursing reported use of simulation-based learning significantly ($p < .01$) more often than pharmacy and medical schools when teaching pain management and opioid education
- Schools of pharmacy reported use of case-based, team-based, and problem-based learning significantly ($p < .05$) more often than nursing schools



CONCLUSION

- Study provides a benchmark for the current state of the coverage of pain management topics among U.S. nursing, medicine, and pharmacy programs
- While interprofessional learning was one of the lowest reported teaching methods across disciplines, nursing schools reported the lowest use of this method
- Across healthcare professions, there is a need for increased interprofessional education to equip graduates to provide patient-centered care

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