



A Palliative Care Needs Assessment of Private Duty Pediatric Nurses

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Statement of the Problem

Limited studies exist of private duty pediatric nurses' (PDPN) perceptions of palliative care (PC) in relation to the children and families they treat.

Background

- With the emergence of concurrent care for pediatric patients, community-based pediatric palliative care (CBPPC) is becoming an issue for PDPNs and their home care agencies.¹
- Preconceptions and/or misunderstandings of what pediatric PC is – and the improvement it can provide to their patients' quality of life (QOL) – may prevent PDPNs from fully participating in collaborative CBPPC efforts.²

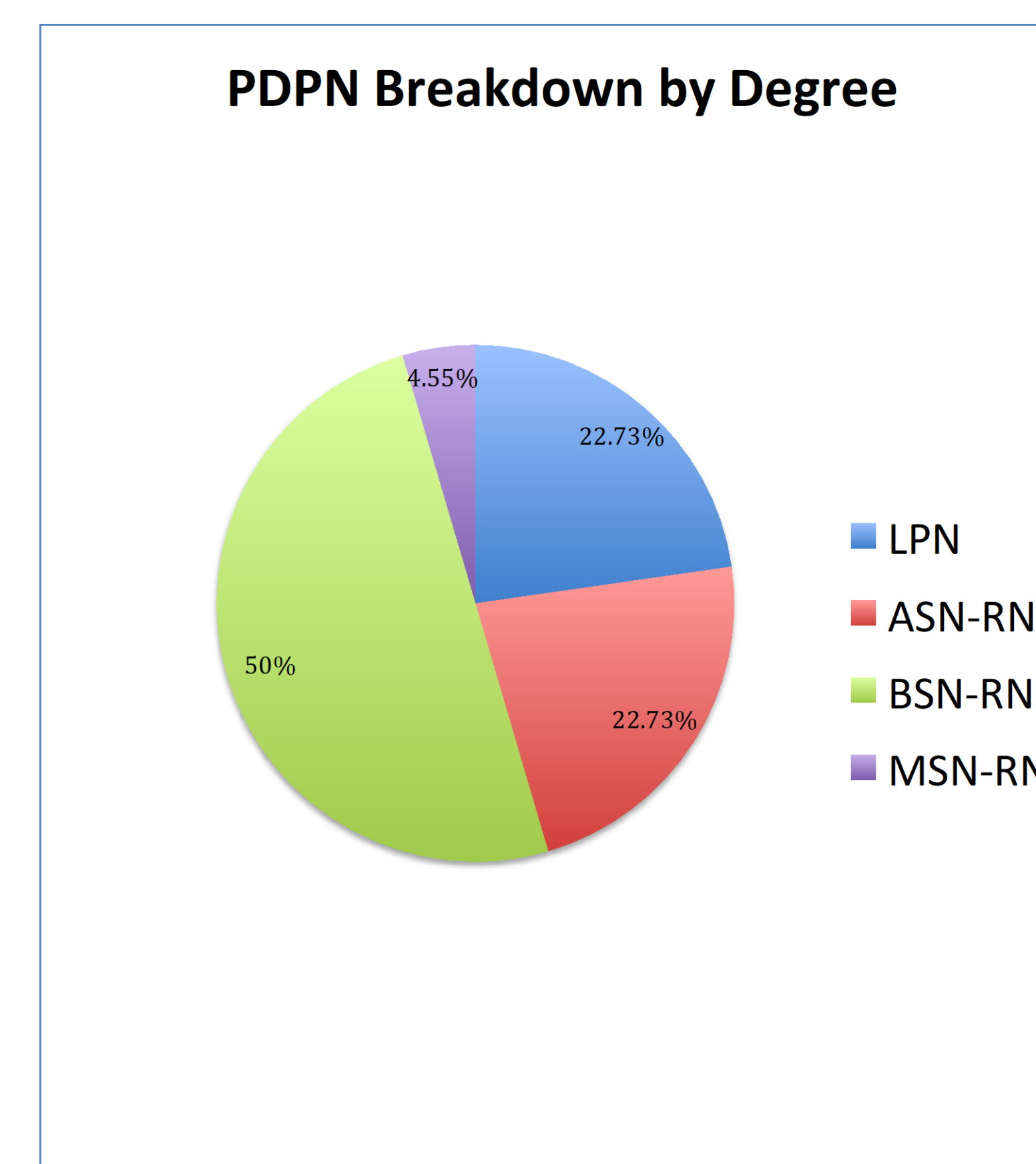
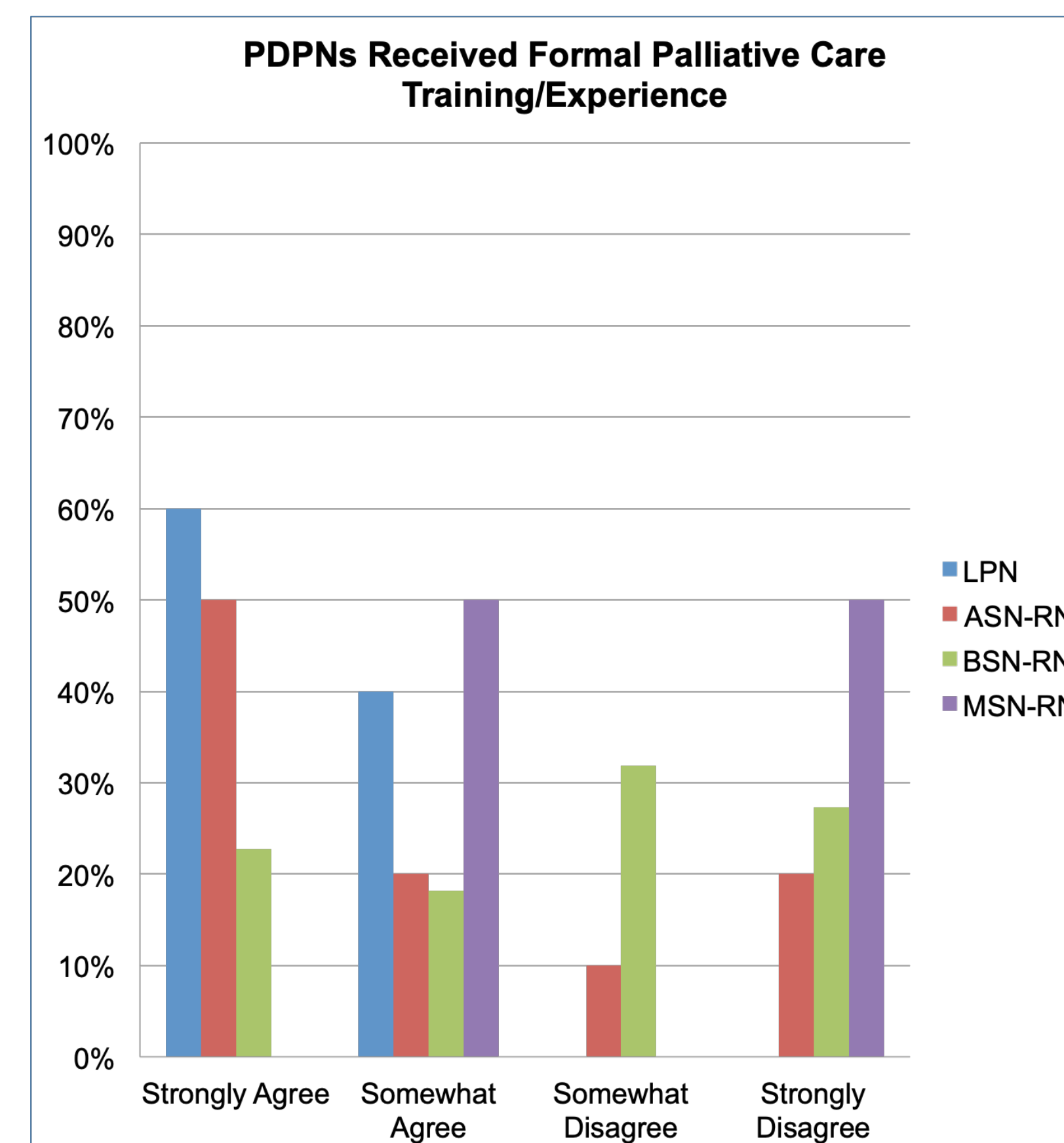
Purpose

To determine PDPNs' common preconceptions, misconceptions, and perceived needs for providing palliative care.

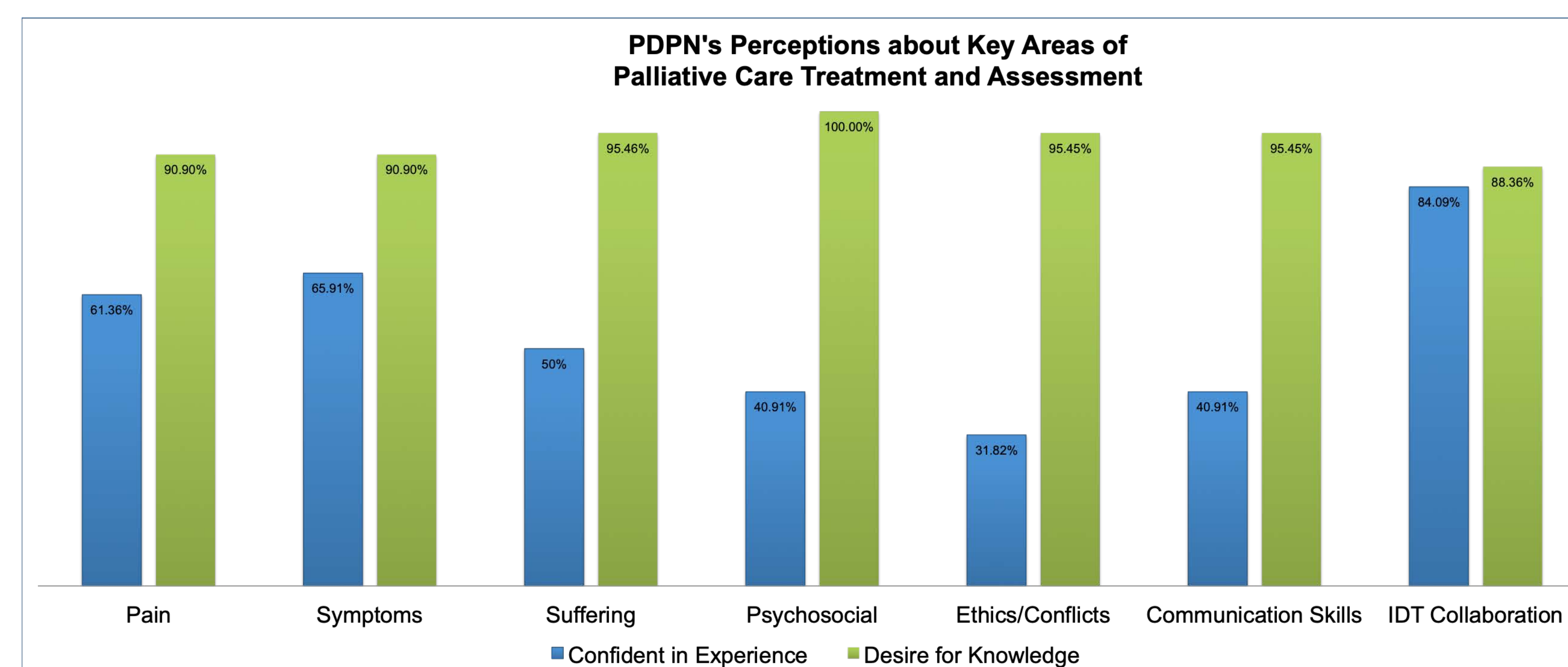
Methods/Measures

- Needs assessment survey (23 quantitative and qualitative questions) querying PDPNs at Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care, Denver, CO.
- April 2019: Explanation of project and link to participate in this confidential survey sent to 30 PDPNs. May 2019: Reminders emailed and 104 additional PDPNs invited to participate.
- Quantitative data analyzed using descriptive statistics; qualitative responses categorized into simple themes to identify common PC needs.

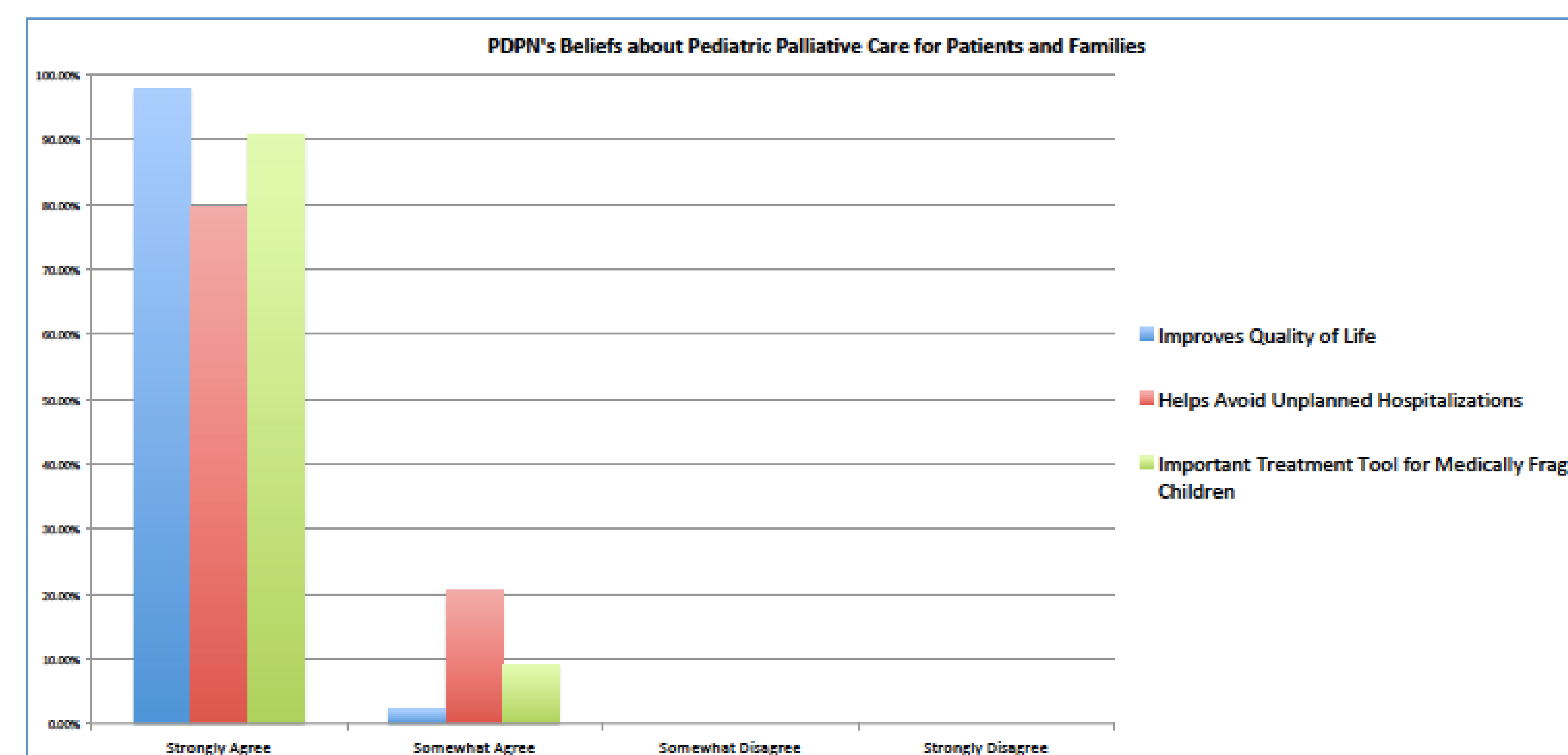
Findings/Results



- 44 PDPNs participated in the needs assessment (38% response rate). The optional qualitative question was answered by 30% of respondents.
- PDPNs strongly agree (98%) that PC can improve QOL for patients and families.
- 80% of PDPNs believe PC can reduce unplanned hospitalizations.
- Gaps in PDPN's PC training/experience range from 16% (working with interdisciplinary teams) to 68% (ethical issues/conflicts).
- PDPNs' desire to learn more about key PC areas range from 89% (IDTs) to 100% (psychosocial resources).



- Identified Themes from PDPN Written Comments**
- PC is Important in Pediatric Home Healthcare
 - Desire for PC Training
 - Desire to Expand Knowledge Base
 - PC Can Help Families Deal with Pain / Disease Issues
 - Compassion Fatigue / Moral Distress / Burnout Concerns
 - Need for Resources
 - Include Goals of Care with Plan of Care
 - Professionalism
 - Online Training



Conclusion

While limited to one organization, this survey indicates that PDPN PC education (potentially online training) is both needed and desired, especially for improving access to psychosocial resources, ethical issues/conflicts, and palliative communication skills.

Acknowledgements/References

1 Miller EG, Laragione G, Kang TI, Feudtner C. Concurrent care for the medically complex child: lessons of implementation. *J Palliat Med.* 2012;15(11):1281-1283. doi:10.1089/jpm.2011.0346

2 Boyden JY, Curley MAQ, Deatrck JA, Ersek M. Factors associated with the use of U.S. community-based palliative care for children with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses and their families: An integrative review. *J Pain Symptom Manage.* 2018;55(1):117-131. doi:10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2017.04.017

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