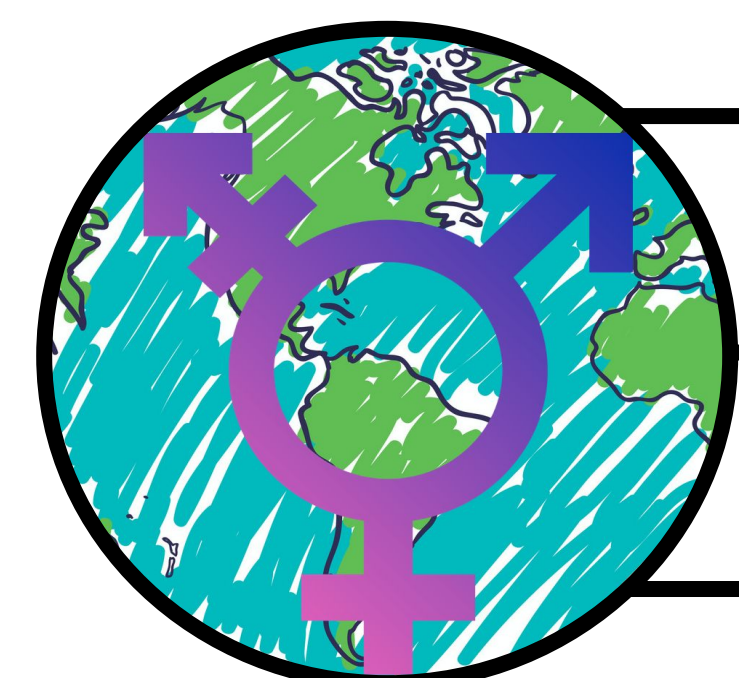


Gender-Affirmative Perioperative Care of the Transgender Patient: A Gap Analysis of Anesthesia Providers

Shaina Chapin BSN, CCRN, RRNA & Christopher Szala BSN, CCRN, RRNA

Introduction



Worldwide: 0.5% or 25 Million

United States: 0.6% or 1.4 Million

New Jersey: 0.44% or 30 Thousand

- With the above rise in individuals openly identifying as transgender comes the **heightened chance of encountering in surgical setting**
- **Anesthesia providers must be mindful of intricacies in each transgender patient's journey** relating to medical-surgical care
- From valid use of name & pronouns to considerations surrounding the perioperative environment, **anesthesia must be well-informed in order to provide safe, patient-centered care for this population**
- **Traditional anesthesia education generally lacks sufficient focus** on the unique anesthetic implications for the transgender patient
- Providers acknowledge the importance of transgender-specific training but only **less than half of them have received such training**
- **Inherent scarcity of education focusing on perioperative care of the transgender individual contributes to ongoing marginalization**

This Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) project intended to unveil any deficiencies in knowledge, skill, and comfort of anesthesia providers on the specific perioperative needs of patients identifying as transgender

Background & Significance

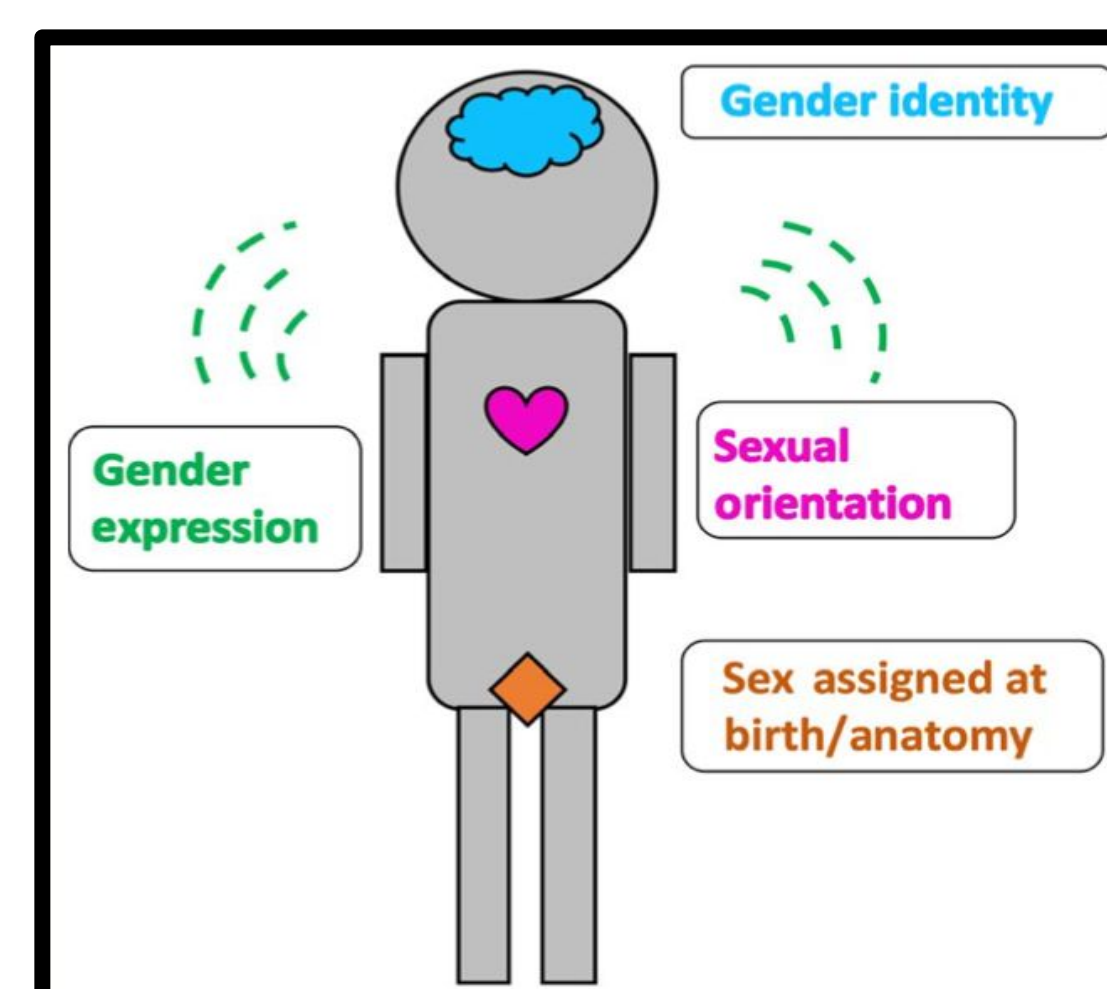
- **Transgender** - Umbrella term used to describe a wide spectrum of gender identities and gender expressions contrasting conventional binary-gender system of male/female
- Transgender individuals experience **alarmingly high occurrences of discrimination** - Physical & verbal harassment in everyday life & higher rates of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, substance abuse, HIV infection, suicide attempts, etc.

Healthcare Accessibility & Quality

- Quality of accessible healthcare can be sub-optimal; **Providers lack knowledge & cultural sensitivity** to care for transgender individuals
- **Fear of discrimination** when seeking health care by transgender individuals results in avoidance of health needs (poor general health)
- 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS): **31% of transgender individuals having at least one negative experience** seeing health care provider; 25% refusing medical treatment due to fear of discrimination

The Role of the Anesthesia Provider

- Failure to train existing anesthesia providers & educate incoming anesthesia residents allows barriers to persist
- In 2018, New Jersey created the first **Transgender Equality Task Force** - Recommended **requirement of medical professionals to have continuing education on transgender health issues**



Understanding the gaps that exist in the knowledge, skill, and comfort of anesthesia providers on the perioperative care of transgender patients & providing the necessary education will help curtail ongoing health disparities in the transgender community

Methodology

- **Study Design:** Quasi-Experimental with Gap Analysis Survey
- **Aims & Objectives:** Evaluate the current knowledge, skill and comfort of anesthesia providers caring for transgender individuals
 - Collection of gap analysis surveys, statistical analysis of accumulated data to evaluate current educational deficits, compose anesthesia-related education & disseminate education
- **Participants:** Physician Anesthesiologists & Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- **Sample:** Large private anesthesia group contracted to work in 597-bed academic hospital in northern New Jersey (N= 100; n = 37)
- **Setting:** Online gap analysis via Qualtrics software survey tool followed by tailored educational presentation disseminated in-person on December 15th, 2021
- **Study Instruments:** Gap Analysis Survey - *Trans* Health Education Evaluation Scale (THEES)* adapted from Congdon et al. (2021)
- **Data Collection:** October 18th, 2021 to November 15th, 2021

Gender-Affirmative Perioperative Care of the Transgender Patient: A Gap Analysis of Anesthesia Providers	
* Completion of the following survey by the participant implies consent for involvement in the study. *	
Please select the most appropriate choice that best describes you:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Physician Anesthesiologist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	
Years of practice:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 years	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 years	
<input type="checkbox"/> >10 years	
Preferred method of education:	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person Presentation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Online Recorded Lecture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Printed Infographic/Handout	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Survey questions adapted from The Trans* Health Education Evaluation Scale (THEES) (Congdon et al., 2021).	

Results

Demographic Data

- **37 total responses** to the gap analysis survey
 - CRNAs: n = 37; Physician Anesthesiologists: n = 0
- 67% of respondents had 0-5 years of experience; 22% had 5-10 years, & 11% had > 10 years of experience

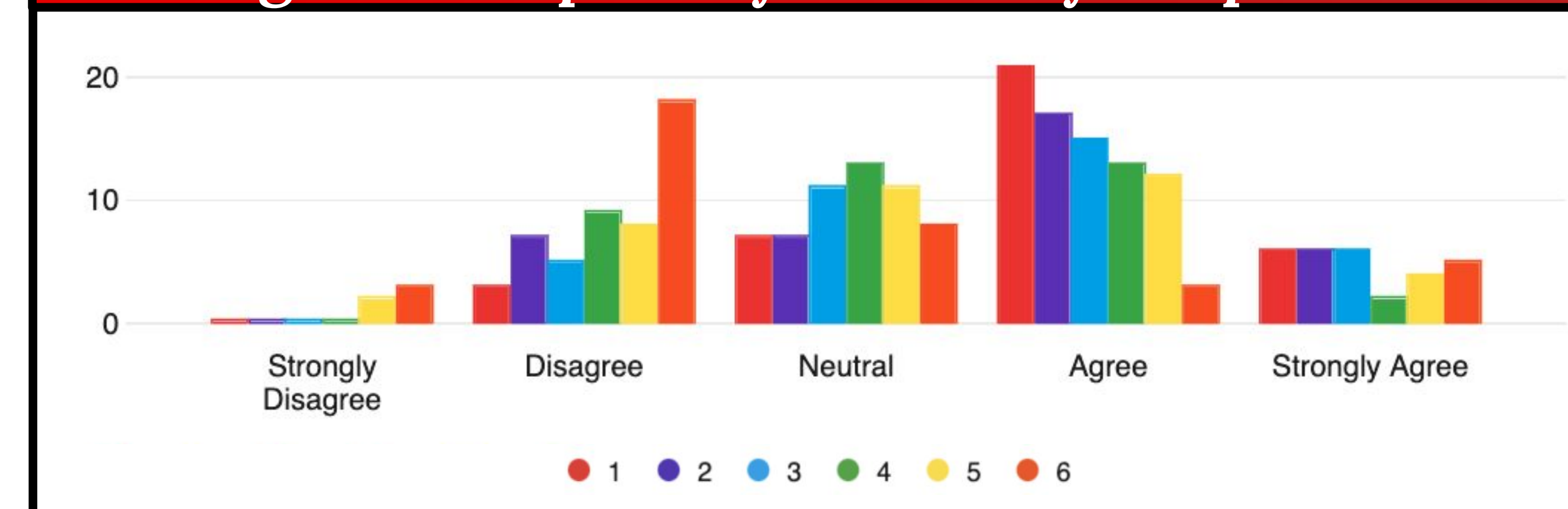
Preferred Method of Education

- **48% of respondents chose an In-Person Presentation**
- 32% chose a Printed Infographic/Handout

Adapted THEES, Likert Scale Survey Results

- **47% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed** to Question 6 (Figure 1)
 - Mode: 2 (Compared to Modes of 3 & 4 on other Questions)
- **Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient:** Positive correlation amongst participants with low responses on Q6 also had low responses on Q3, Q4, & Q5 (p < 0.005)

Figure 1: Gap Analysis Survey Responses



Discussion

- Combined description and inferential statistics **exposed deficiencies in knowledge, skill, and comfort** specifically regarding the following:
 - **Knowledge of current resources and literature**
 - **Ability to utilize proper and sensitive terminology**
 - **Familiarity with transgender-specific perioperative considerations**
 - **Feeling adequately trained to provide perioperative care to transgender individuals**
- These results provided sufficient rationale for the subsequent educational in-service, tailored to include the above topics
- **A total of 16 anesthesia providers attended the educational in-service** on December 15th, 2021 - Combined in-person informal presentation with printed infographic/handout containing QR code to all current resources and literature utilized in project
- By educating anesthesia professionals on this esoteric information, the hope is that they will incorporate the specific health care needs of this population into everyday practice, promoting an inclusive & safe environment for all transgender individuals

Limitations

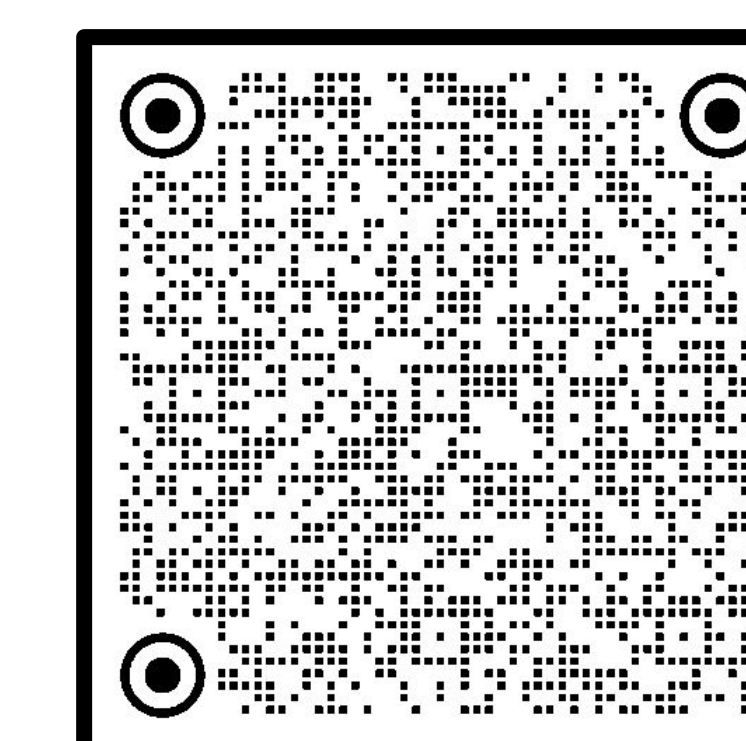
- No Physician Anesthesiologist Responses - Study sample not a true representation of intended population of anesthesia providers

Recommendations

- Future studies could focus on knowledge-based survey questions, especially with this group of anesthesia providers where they perform gender-affirming surgeries often



References



Contact Information

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