

Perceptions of Prescription Drug Use Among College Students

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Background

- In the U.S., young adults aged 18-25 had the highest rate of prescription drug misuse, 33%.¹
- The number of college students misusing prescription drugs has increased during the current COVID-19 Pandemic, as a coping method for stress, in addition to other reasons.²
- Aimed to examine the relationship between students' perception of prescription drug misuse and the higher prevalence we are seeing in this age group.

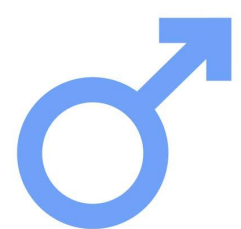




Objective

To determine the current perception of prescription drug misuse among college students and the perceived impacts on student's overall well-being.

Methods

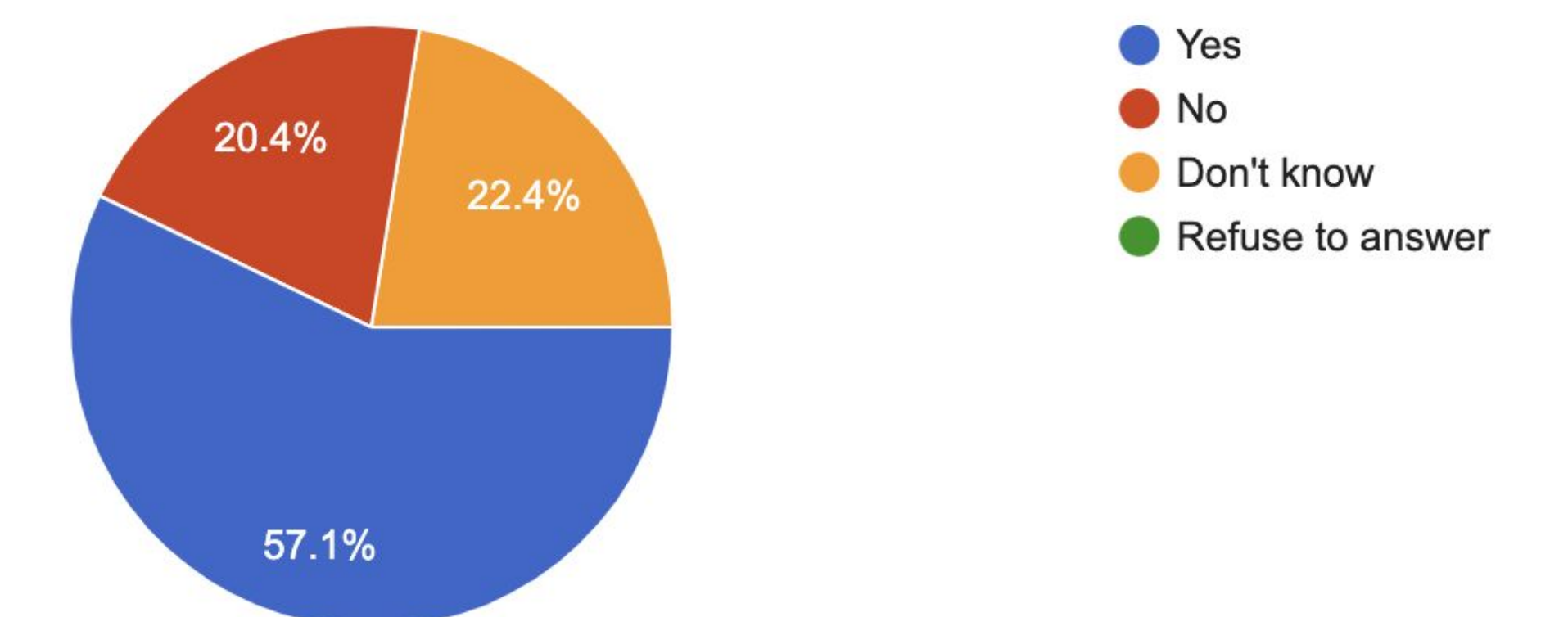
Cross-sectional study design: 98 students anonymously surveyed in April 2021 on their current perceptions of prescription drug misuse and how it affects different aspects of students' lives.

Results

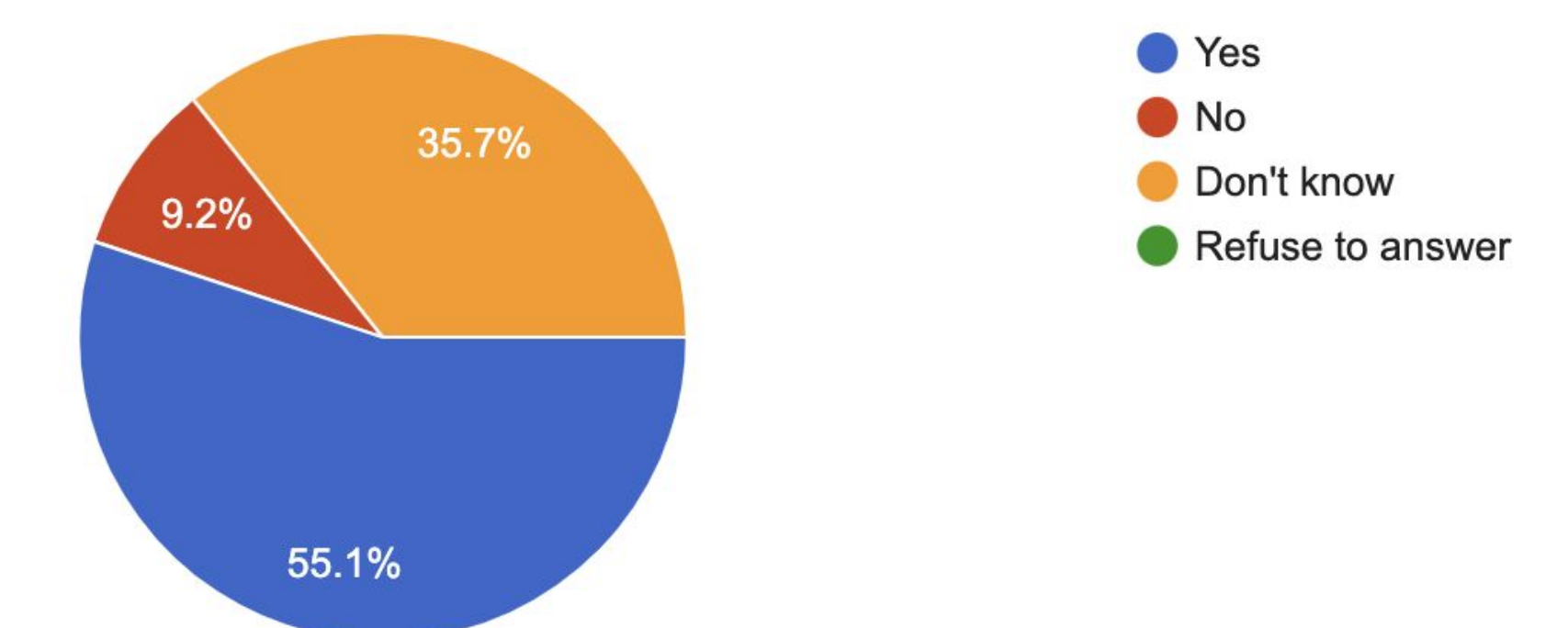
- 40%  58% 
-  42.9% (n=42) say it has a negative impact on academic performance, 37.8% (n=37) say it has a positive impact.
 -  56.1% (n=55) say it can have a negative impact on personal relationships, 12.2% (n=12) say it can have a positive impact and the rest don't know or don't think it has any impact.
 -  55.1% (n=54) say it has a negative impact on overall health, 25.5% (n=25) say it has positive impact.

Results

Do you believe that prescription drug use is common among college students?
98 responses



Do you believe that prescription drug use has increased among college students during the COVID-19 pandemic?
98 responses



Conclusions

- Although a moderate amount of students believe this has a positive impact on health, the majority claims the risks outweigh the benefits.
- Important to create awareness and educate college students on health risks, in order to change the current perception.