



Knowledge and Perspectives on Opioids Use In Dentistry: A Student and Faculty Survey at a U.S. Dental School

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Introduction

- The prescription of opioids for the management of dental pain is a widespread occurrence, and opioids were for a time, presented as the most optimal postoperative analgesic.
- There is currently a plethora of published research on the addictive and deleterious effects opioids can have, such as abuse and overdoses which may subsequently result in mortality.
- While such research has exposed some of the risks associated with opioid use, opioids are still frequently prescribed for the management of dental pain.

Objectives

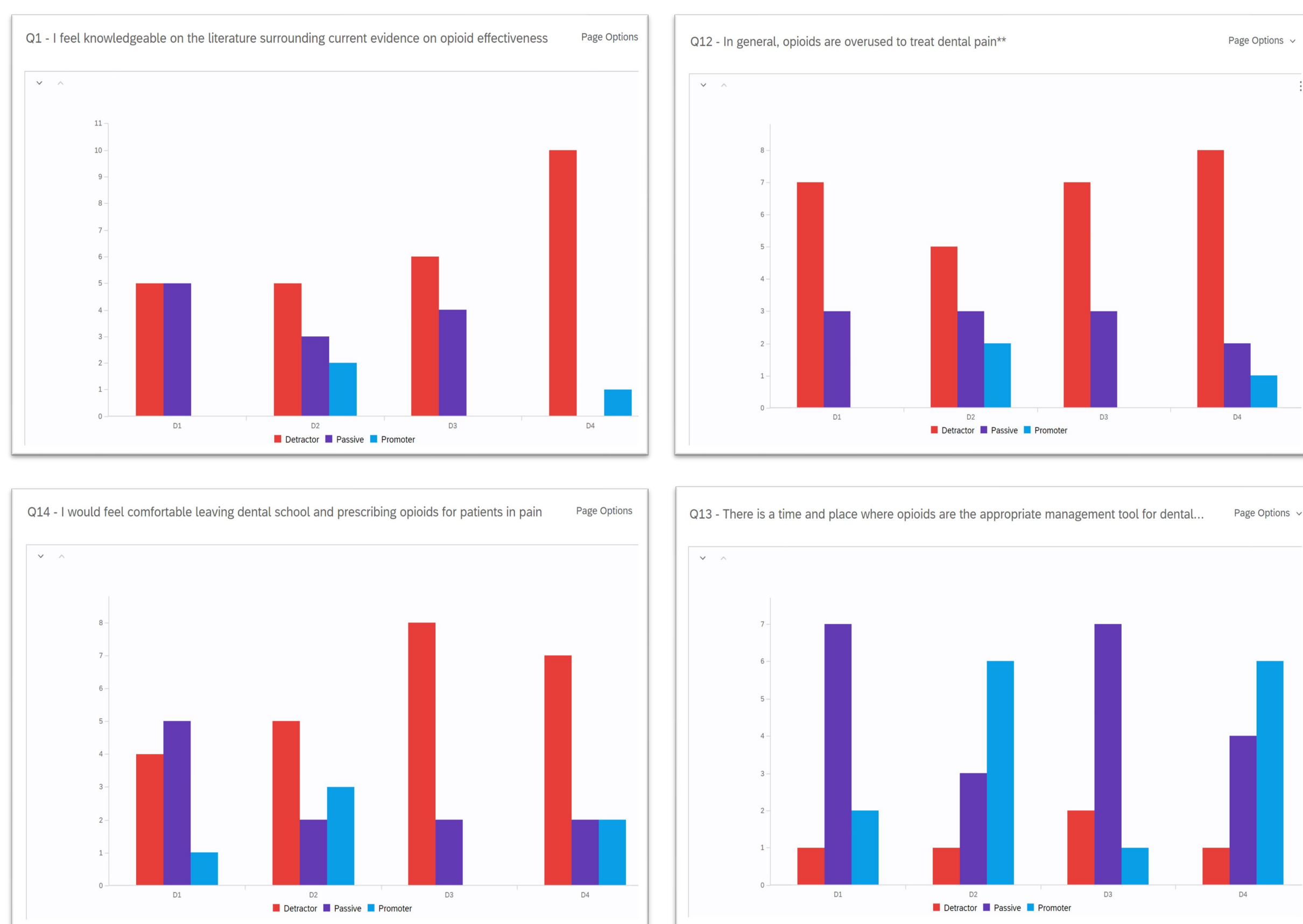
- Utilizing the Touro University College of Dental Medicine's (TU-CDM) diverse and abundant community, a questionnaire will be conducted among the student and faculty body to identify their knowledge of opioids, frequency in which they are prescribed, media influence on the practice, and their knowledge in the use of alternative medications.

Materials and Methods

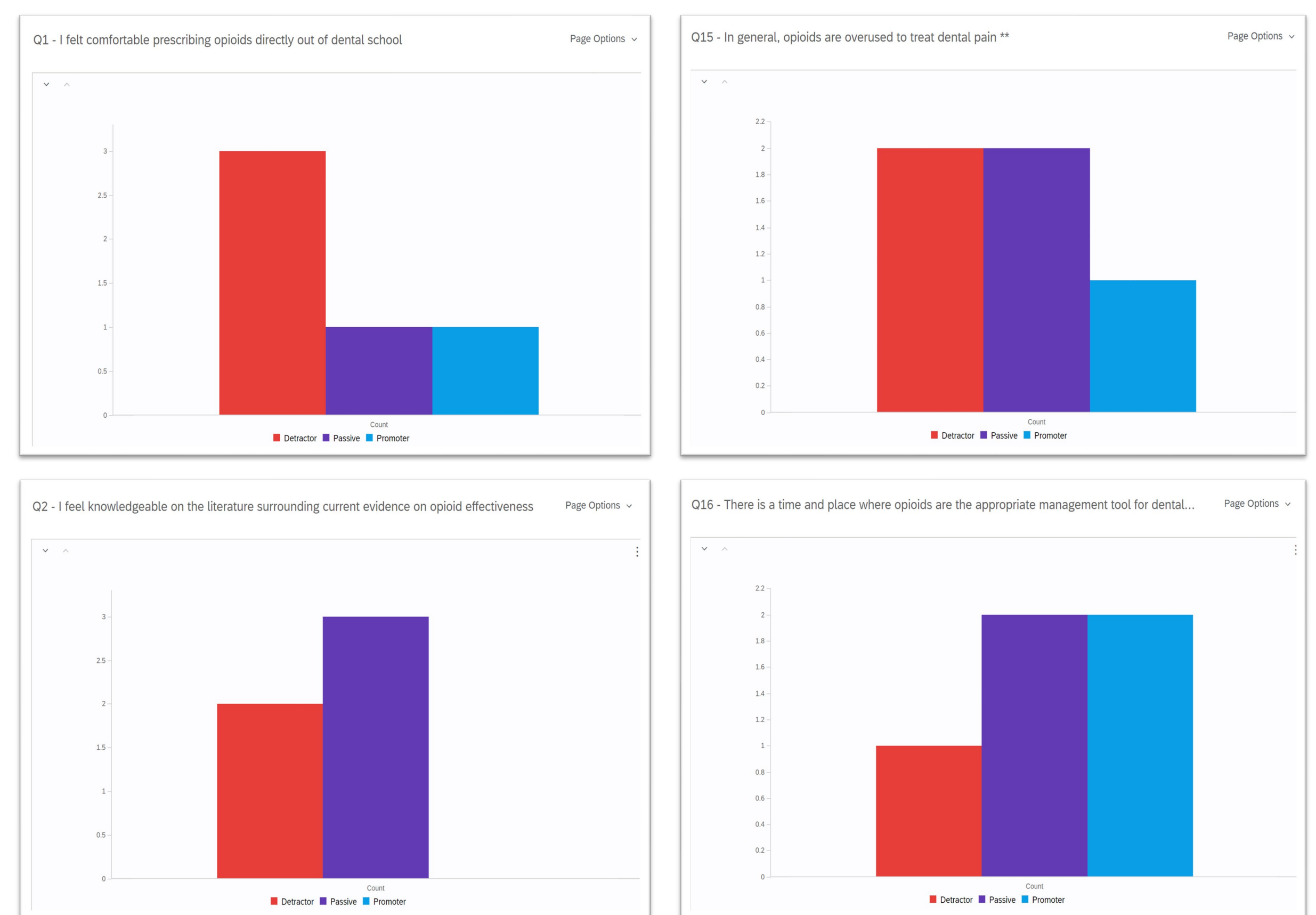
- Two separate surveys were administered to dental students and faculty at a U.S. dental school. The surveys included questions on a Likert-based scale (0-10 point scale), covering topics such as opioid prescribing practices, pain management, addiction risk, and alternatives to opioids. The surveys for the pilot study were distributed through an online platform (Qualtrics XM software) and collected over a two-week period. Net promoter scores (NPS) and frequency distributions analysis were calculated for each question to evaluate the level of agreement among respondents.

Results

Student Group



Faculty Group



CONCLUSION

- This pilot study highlights the need for increased education on opioid use in dentistry for dental students and faculty.
- Dental professionals have an important role in combating the opioid crisis and promoting safe and effective pain management practices.
- Further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of educational interventions on opioid prescribing practices in dentistry. In the future, we hope to expand this study to include at least 400 dental students, 100 faculty members and we will gauge the perspective of at least 500 patients.