

Tobacco-related knowledge, attitudes, and practices among infectious disease providers in Argentina

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Introduction

- Tobacco use has extended health complications for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).
- In Argentina, the prevalence of smoking among PLWHA has been estimated between 40-60%.
- There are evidence-based practices for the treatment of tobacco use and dependence, which increase the probabilities of successful quitting.
- Infectious disease (ID) providers are the primary contact to treatment for PLWHA and can positively impact their cessation rates.
- Little is known about the knowledge, attitudes, ability, and professional practices related to tobacco cessation among ID providers treating PLWHA in Argentina.
- This study aims to contribute to reduce this gap in knowledge.

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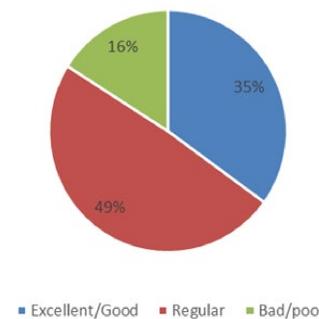
Results

- 138 providers completed the survey (20% response rate)
- Mean age was 47 (11₊ SD); 60.8% women
- 53.9% former smokers, 11.7% current smokers

Training and perceived ability

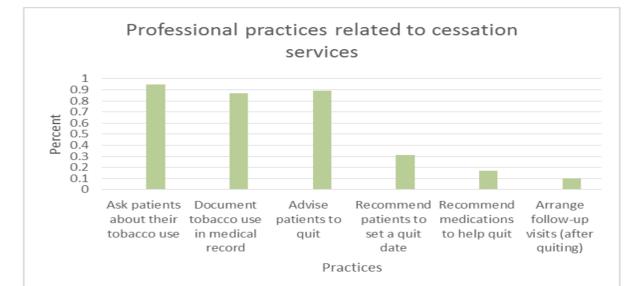
- ID providers received 3.3 cessation trainings on average (range 0-6)

Perceived ability to help patients quit



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Results (cont.)



- Number of trainings received was significantly related to the number of evidence-based cessation practices provided ($p < .01$).
- Providers' perceived ability to help their patients quit using tobacco products was significantly related to providing evidence-based cessation practices ($p < .01$).

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Methods

- Medical providers from the Argentinean Society of Infectious Diseases were invited to participate in a **one-time self-administered online survey** through SurveyMonkey™ platform.
- Survey consisted of 67 items and took about 10 minutes to complete.
- **Variables of interest** included: demographics, personal hx of tobacco use, knowledge about hazards of smoking, attitudes about cessation services, training received, perceived ability to help patients quit, & provision of cessation services
- Descriptive analyses and generalized linear models were conducted

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Results (cont.)

Items about knowledge and attitudes	Totally Agree/Agree (%)	Totally Disagree/Disagree (%)
If a patient has been using tobacco products for a long time, it is too late to try quitting because the harm is irreversible	2%	98%
Consuming tobacco products in small amounts (smoking 1-5 cpd) is harmless for one's health	3%	97%
Smoking cigarettes or using tobacco products occasionally is harmless for one's health	8%	92%
It is the medical doctor's responsibility to help patients quit	96%	4%
Patient's already have enough problems to add quitting ...	8%	92%
Medical advice has little effect on patient's behavior	22%	78%

Bold indicates responses in the expected direction

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Conclusions

- Knowledge about the hazards of tobacco use for PLWHA and holding positive attitudes toward the medical provider's role in assisting patients quit do not necessarily translate in the provision of evidence-based practices for tobacco cessation among ID providers in Argentina.
- Previous training and perceived ability in providing services seems to account for ID providers' engagement in tobacco cessation practices.
- Capacity building, which includes educational and skills building training, plus technical assistance are warranted to increase providers' capacity and self-confidence in helping PLWHA quit.

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