

ADHD Needs Assessment in Rural Central Illinois



Introduction

An estimated 3-5% of children suffer from ADHD. Although ADHD has become an ever-popular phenomenon appearing in both the lay media and medical literature, an accurate diagnosis of ADHD remains difficult and requires particular attention to early development and symptoms of distractibility, impulsivity, inattention, and emotional lability³. The DSM-IV carries specific conditions for the diagnosis of ADHD, but the subjective manner of detecting these criteria deems ADHD a very difficult diagnosis to make.

Introduction (cont.)

It is given that 1) a child suffering from ADHD who is left untreated or undertreated poses a problem to themselves and to the people with whom they interact, 2) ADHD is a frustrating and difficult diagnosis to make, and 3) no universal standard is currently in use for the detection and treatment of ADHD. This study aims to uncover current methods of diagnosing and treating ADHD among primary care providers; to assess the needs of primary care providers in better diagnosing and treating ADHD; and to propose (if desired by aforementioned primary care providers) a flow-sheet to aid in the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of children suffering from ADHD.

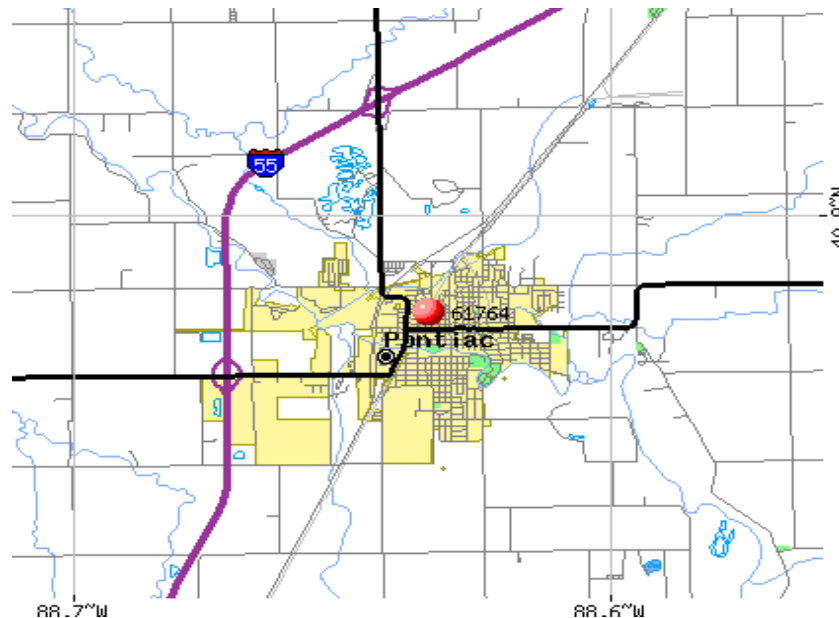
Methods



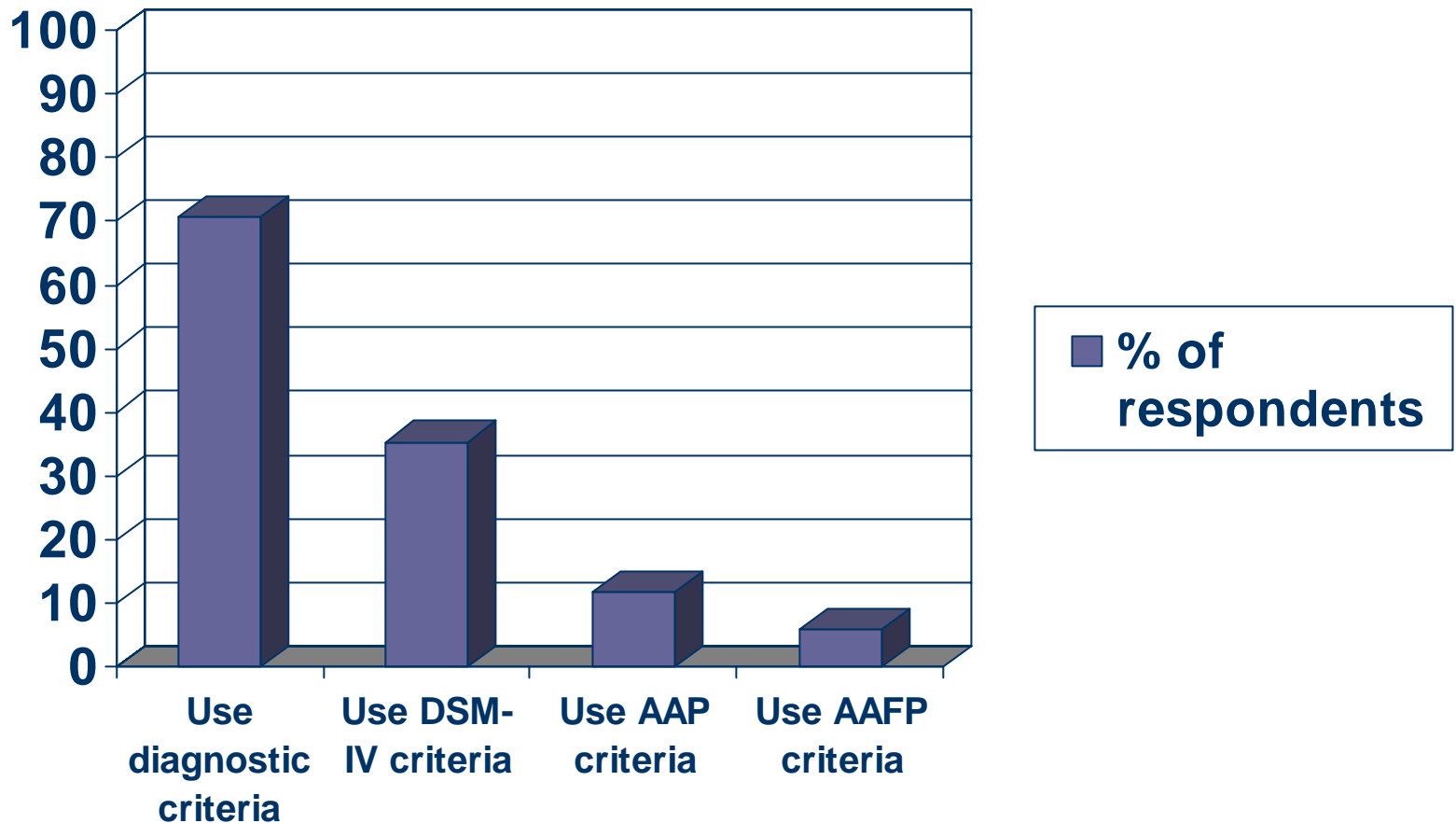
With the help of advisor Dr. Glasser, a survey questionnaire covering current methods of diagnosis and treatment of ADHD and covering current deficits in resources to optimize diagnosis and treatment of ADHD was sent to various primary care providers in Pontiac and surrounding communities. The results of the survey were collected, and the potential usefulness for a flow sheet to aid in the accurate and timely diagnosis and treatment of ADHD was evaluated.

Results

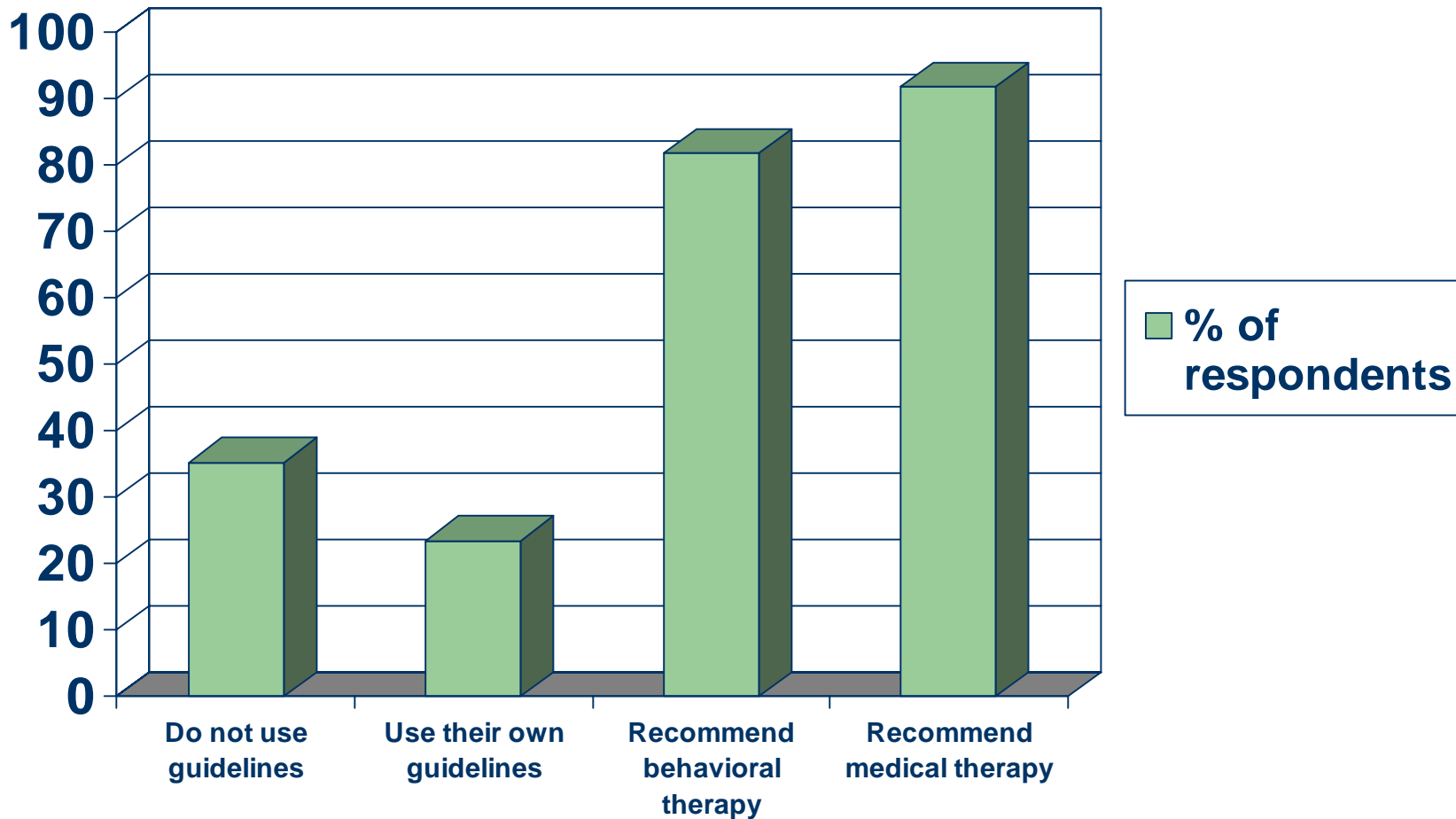
- Out of the **45** surveys that were sent to the rural primary care providers in the vicinity of Pontiac, IL, there were **17** respondents.



Results- Diagnosis



Results- Treatment



Conclusions

There seems to be a variable standard used to diagnose, treat and follow-up with ADHD patients in the Pontiac, IL vicinity. Furthermore, the majority of providers (88%) reported they thought a flow-sheet would be beneficial to help diagnose, treat and follow-up on their patients with ADHD. This is consistent with data revealing the difficulty that health care providers encounter in diagnosing and treating this disease. A future study may involve the distribution of an ADHD flow-sheet to Pontiac area health care providers with subsequent follow-up to determine the effectiveness of the flow-sheet to better standardize ADHD medical management.

References

1. <http://www.adhd.com>
2. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>
3. <http://www.aafp.org>
4. <http://www.pediatricneurology.com>