

### Introduction

- Point-of-care testing (POCT) is administered at or near patient care settings and provide alternative avenues for patients to obtain healthcare without a lab blood draw<sup>1</sup>
- POCT provides accessibility and convenience for patients<sup>2,3</sup>
- As access to healthcare has become increasingly limited; POCT within pharmacies fills healthcare gaps<sup>2</sup>
- Patients have found both comfort and trust in pharmacist administered POCT<sup>4</sup>
- Some parties have reservations on widespread POCT implementation due to its lack of standardization<sup>5</sup>; which may originate from how, if any, POCT is taught in Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) curricula
- No literature examining the extent to which: 1) Pharmacies provide POCT; or, 2) Student pharmacists receive training on POCT within PharmD curricula

### Objectives

- To identify the extent to which POCT is embedded in the curricula of PharmD programs in California.
- To examine the perceptions of PharmD program curriculum directors regarding inclusion of POCT in the curriculum.

### Methods

- An anonymous, web-based Qualtrics survey was sent via email to all California school of pharmacy curriculum directors (n = 12)
- Directors were emailed 2 reminders and called to help increase study responses
- The survey assessed the following:
  - Perception of the importance of pharmacy POCT,
  - Reasons for POCT inclusion or exclusion in curricula,
  - How and when POCT is taught in curricula, and
  - Considerations for adjusting POCT content due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)
- Data were cleaned, verified, and analyzed using STATA16.0 (College Station, TX)
- Data were summarized and presented as n and percentages for categorical variables, and median (25th, 75th percentile) for continuous variables
- Statistical comparisons were made using chi-square of Fisher's exact tests, and Wilcoxon rank sum tests or chi-square tests for trends, as appropriate
- Qualitative presentation for open-ended responses received

### Results

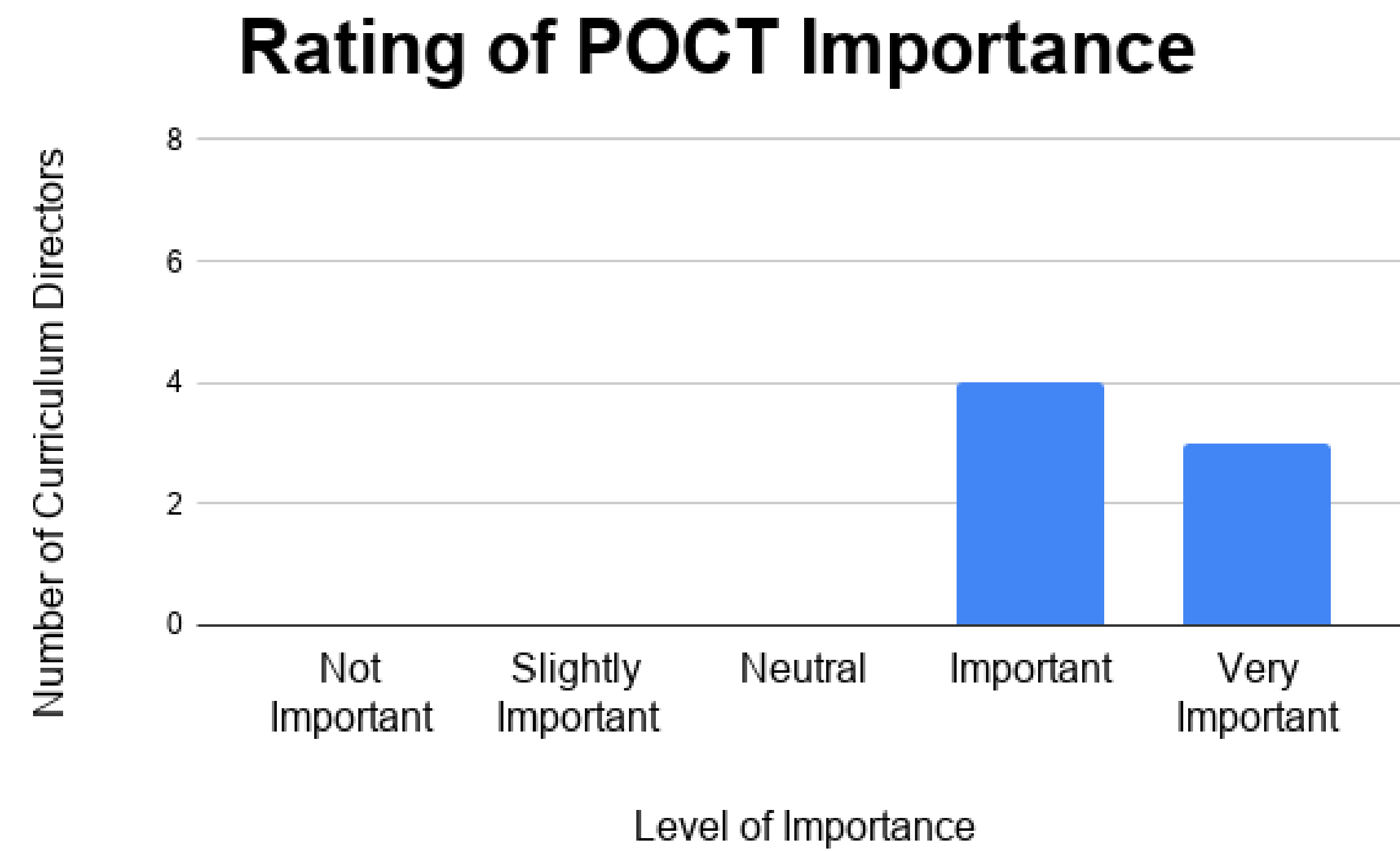


Figure 1: School of pharmacy curriculum directors' perceptions on POCT importance (n=7).

### Inclusion of POCT in Curricula

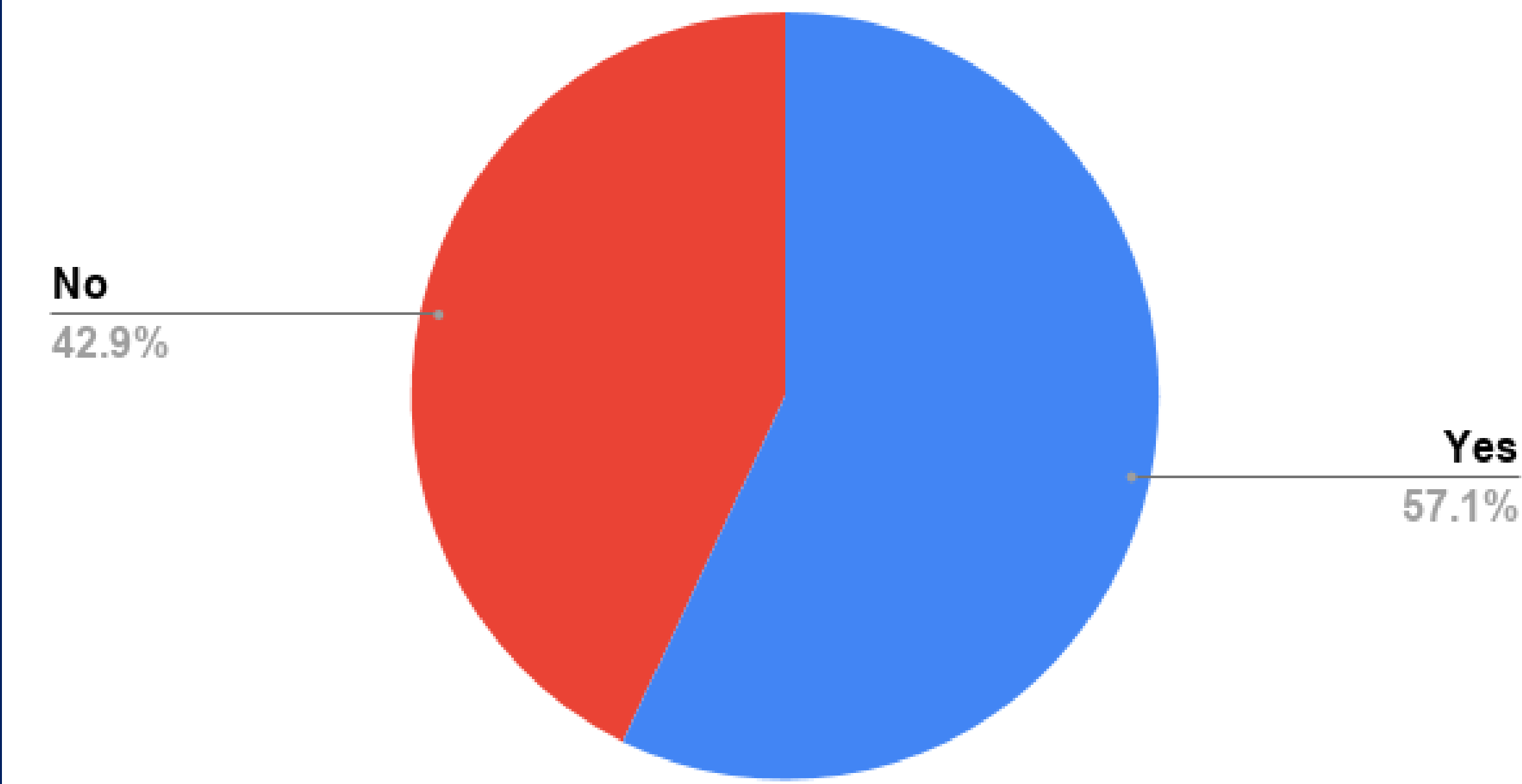


Figure 2: Schools of Pharmacy that include POCT training in their curriculum (n=7).

### Summary of Qualitative Responses

#### Successes in Implementing POCT Training

- Ability to immediately use skills and knowledge in community pharmacies, internships, introductory pharmacy experiences, and community outreach settings (n=3)

#### Challenges in Implementing POCT Training

- Logistical hurdles and cost (having and maintaining equipment and supplies, n=2)
- Ensuring all content is included (n=1)

#### Plans for Adjustments due to COVID-19

- Anticipate including COVID-19 with other POCT content (n=1)
- Student volunteers are delivering patient-administered kits to local community pharmacies (n=1)

### POCT Training Implementation

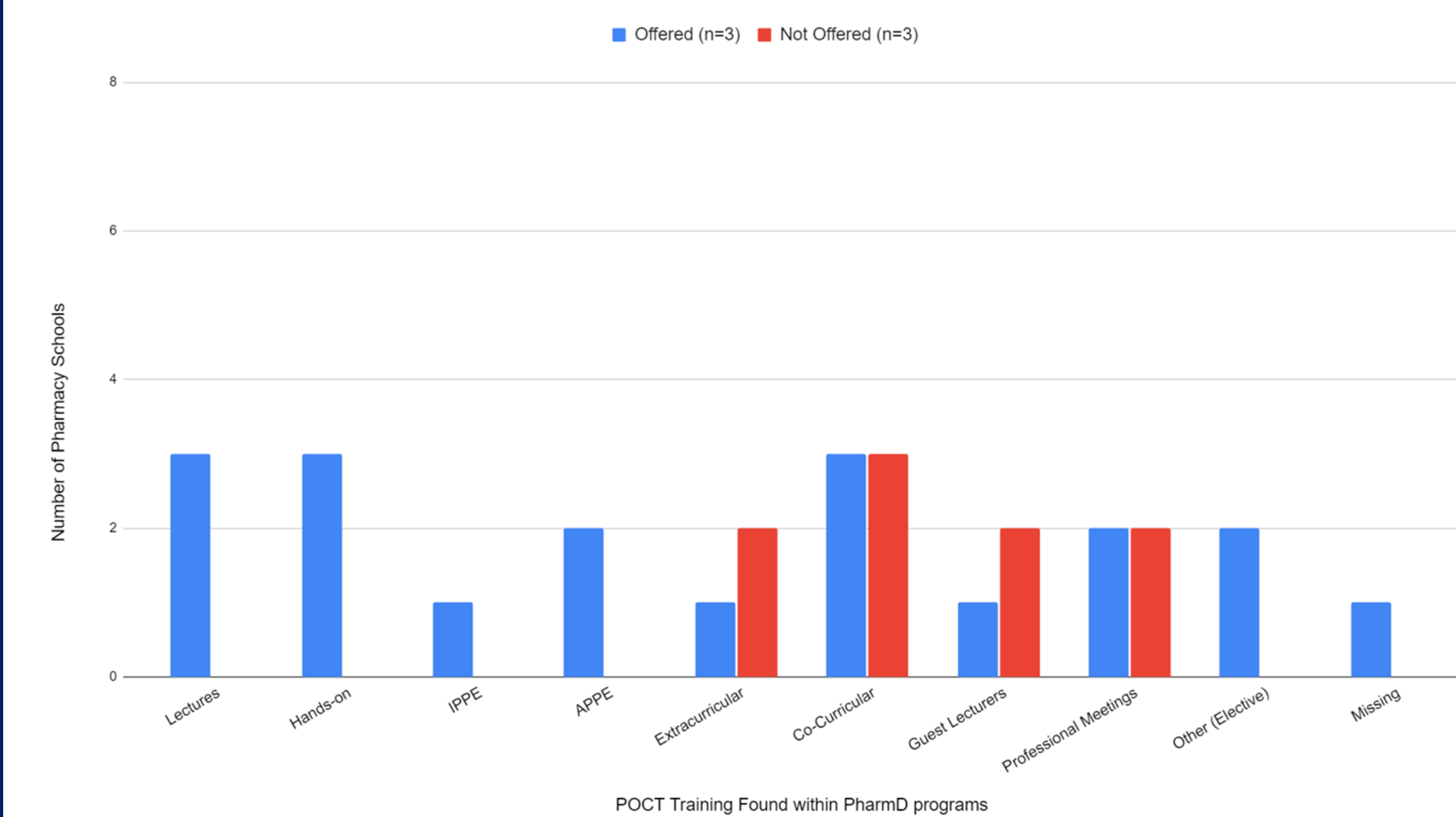


Figure 3: Types of pharmacy training where student pharmacists are exposed to POCT.

### POCT Training

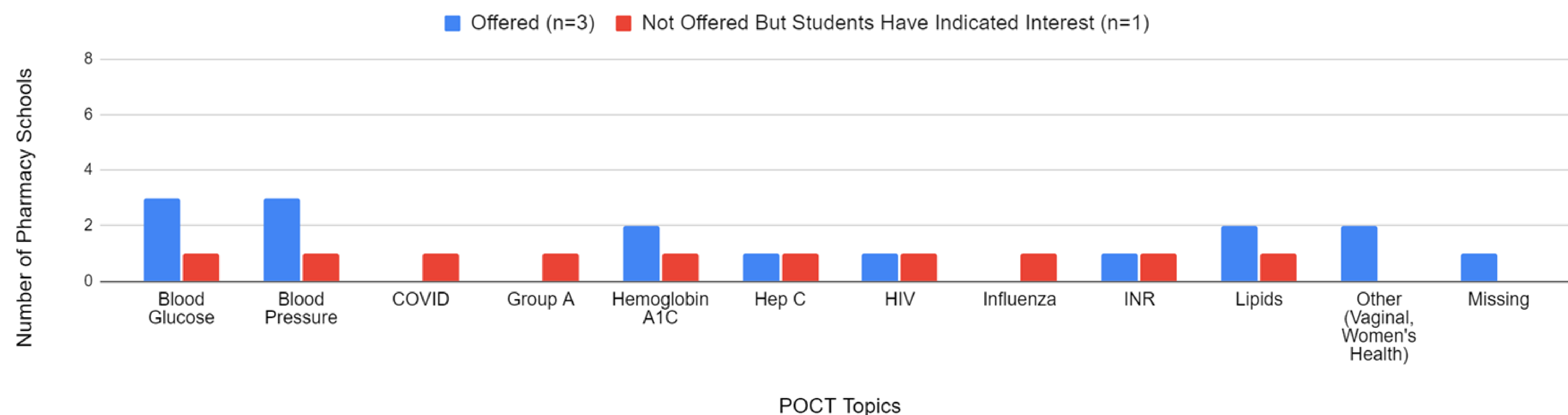


Figure 4: Types of POCT trainings offered or desired.

### Discussion

#### Primary Findings:

- 4 of the 7 pharmacy schools that responded offer POCT training
- Curriculum directors of pharmacy schools that include POCT training perceived POCT to be "very important" in the field of pharmacy compared to those that do not include POCT training who believe POCT was "important" in the field of pharmacy
- Most common POCT trainings offered:
  - Blood glucose (100%)
  - Blood pressure (100%)

#### Strengths:

- Short survey length reduced survey burnout

#### Limitations:

- Small sample size (n=7) and low response rate (58%) despite multiple attempts
- Results only generalizable to California schools of pharmacy who responded

### Conclusion

- POCT is perceived to be important in the field of pharmacy by all curriculum directors
- Pharmacy schools incorporate POCT training through a wide variety of methods
- Future research should assess POCT offered in California community pharmacies and associations to POCT training in schools of pharmacy

### References

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