

Chiropractor

Chiropractors commonly encounter patients who present for spine [pain](#) with parallel [substance](#) use. There is currently no widespread training within the chiropractic profession to prepare chiropractors to recognize and address substance use in clinical practice. The purpose of this study was to examine chiropractors' confidence, self-perceptions, and interest in education associated with identifying and addressing patient substance use.

Methods: A 10-item survey was developed by the authors. The survey addressed chiropractors' assessment of their training, experiences, and educational interest/needs regarding identifying and addressing patient substance use. The survey instrument was uploaded to Qualtrics and was electronically distributed to chiropractic clinicians at active and accredited English-speaking Doctor of Chiropractic degree programs (DCPs) in the United States.

Results: A total of 175 individual survey responses were returned from a total of 276 eligible participants (63.4% response rate) from 16 out of 18 active and accredited English-speaking DCPs (88.8% of DCPs) in the United States. Nearly half of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed (n = 77, 44.0%) that they were confident in their ability to identify patients who misuse prescription medication. The majority of respondents (n = 122, 69.7%) indicated that they did not have an established referral relationship with local clinical providers who provide treatment for individuals who use drugs or misuse alcohol or prescription medications. Most respondents strongly agreed or agreed (n = 157, 89.7%) that they would benefit from participating in a continuing education course on topics related to patients who use drugs or misuse alcohol or prescription medications.

Conclusions: Chiropractors indicated a need for training to help them identify and address patient substance use. There is a demand among chiropractors to develop [Clinical pathways](#) for chiropractic referrals and collaboration with health care professionals who provide treatment for individuals who use drugs or misuse alcohol or prescription medications ¹⁾.

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Gliedt JA, Reynolds M, Moonaz S, Long CR, Russell R, Schneider MJ. Identifying and addressing patient substance use: a survey of chiropractic clinicians. *Chiropr Man Therap*. 2023 Jul 3;31(1):18. doi: 10.1186/s12998-023-00490-4. PMID: 37400861.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:59**

