



More Knowledge On The Go: A Survey of Mobile Device Usage in Pharmacy

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Background

- Rapid adoption of smartphones and tablets by healthcare professionals, associated rapid development of medical content/apps (1)
- Research on Canadian medical student and faculty use of mobile devices and resources conducted 2012 by Dale Storie, Jill Boruff and colleagues (2)

Research Questions

- What resources, if any, are pharmacy students and faculty using on their mobile devices when answering drug questions?
- What barriers prohibit pharmacy students and faculty from using their mobile devices to find information related to their studies and work?

Methods

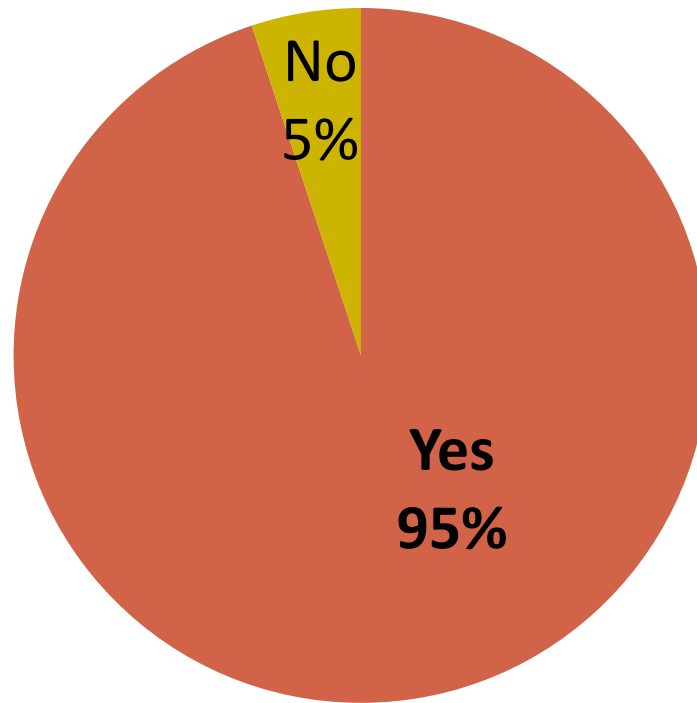
- Electronic distribution of survey (max. 20 questions), open for 2-3 week periods at each participating institution during February-April 2013
- Follow-up interviews with volunteers to be conducted May-June 2013.

Results

- 741 responses collected from 7 institutions (Dalhousie University, Memorial University, University of Alberta, Université de Montréal, University of Manitoba, University of Saskatchewan, University of Waterloo)
- Population size estimate: ~3350

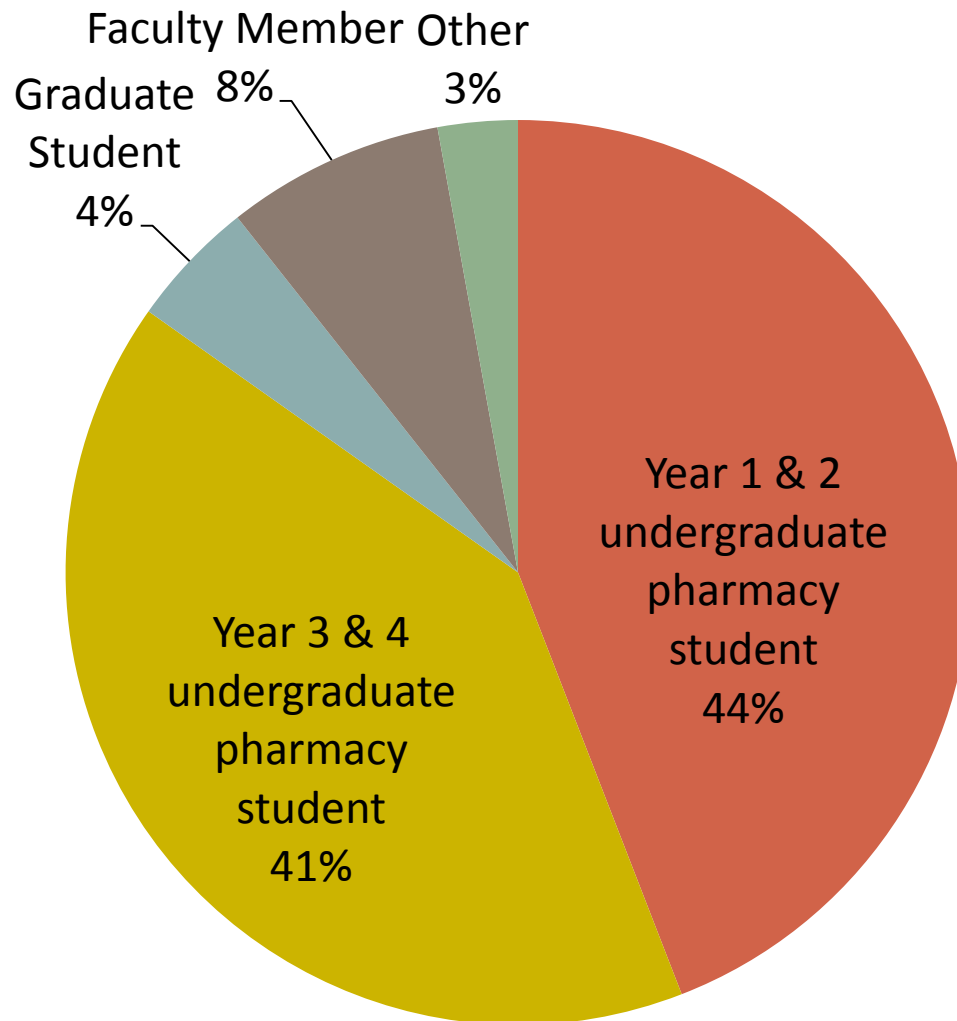
Response Rate = 22%

Do you have a mobile device?



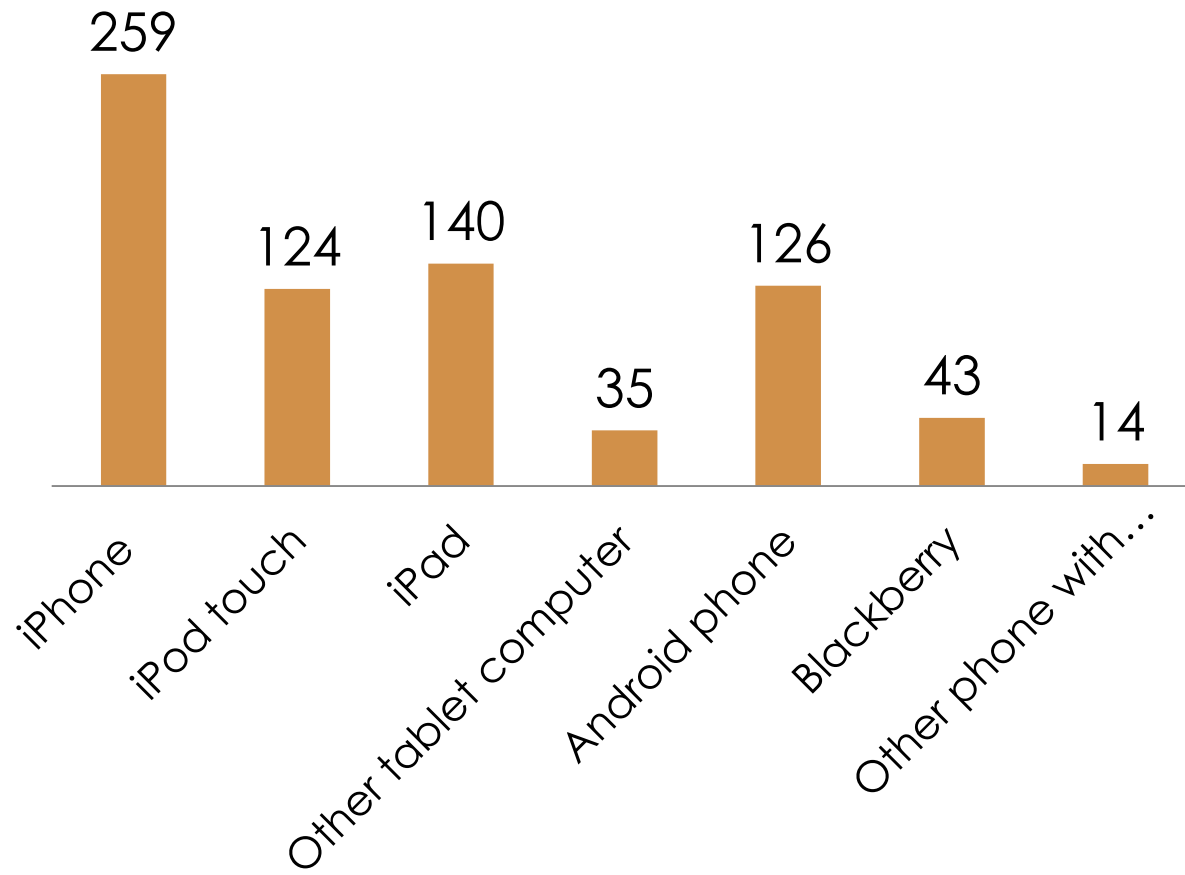
n=491

Demographic



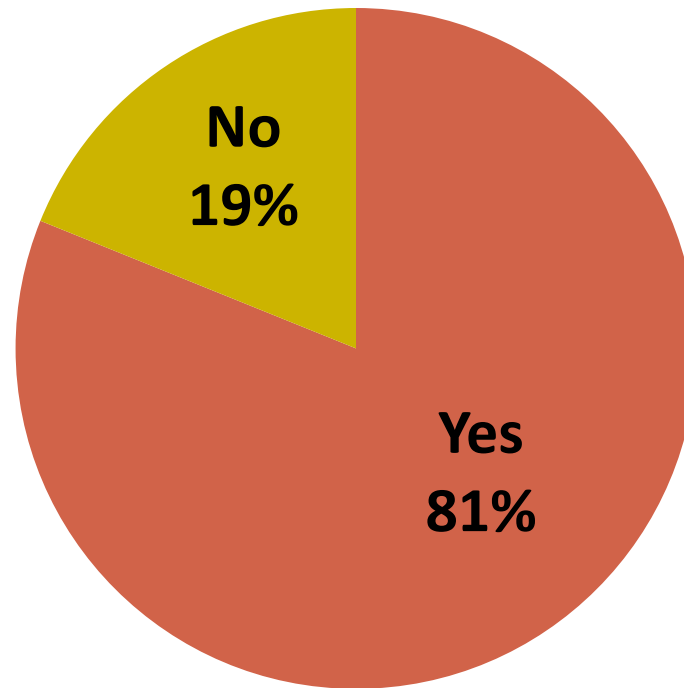
n=526

Device type



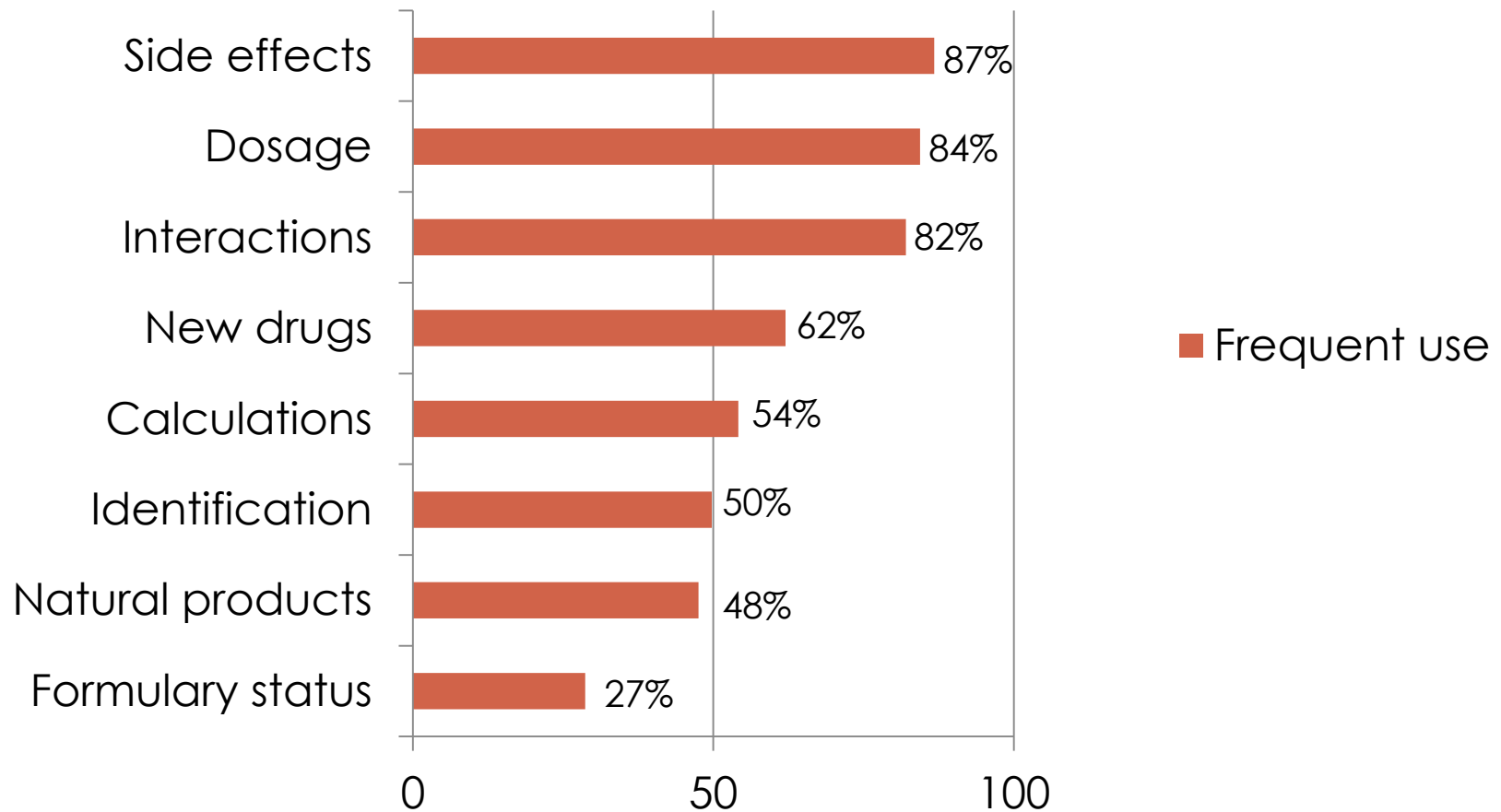
n=466

Do you use your mobile device(s) to find health or drug information?

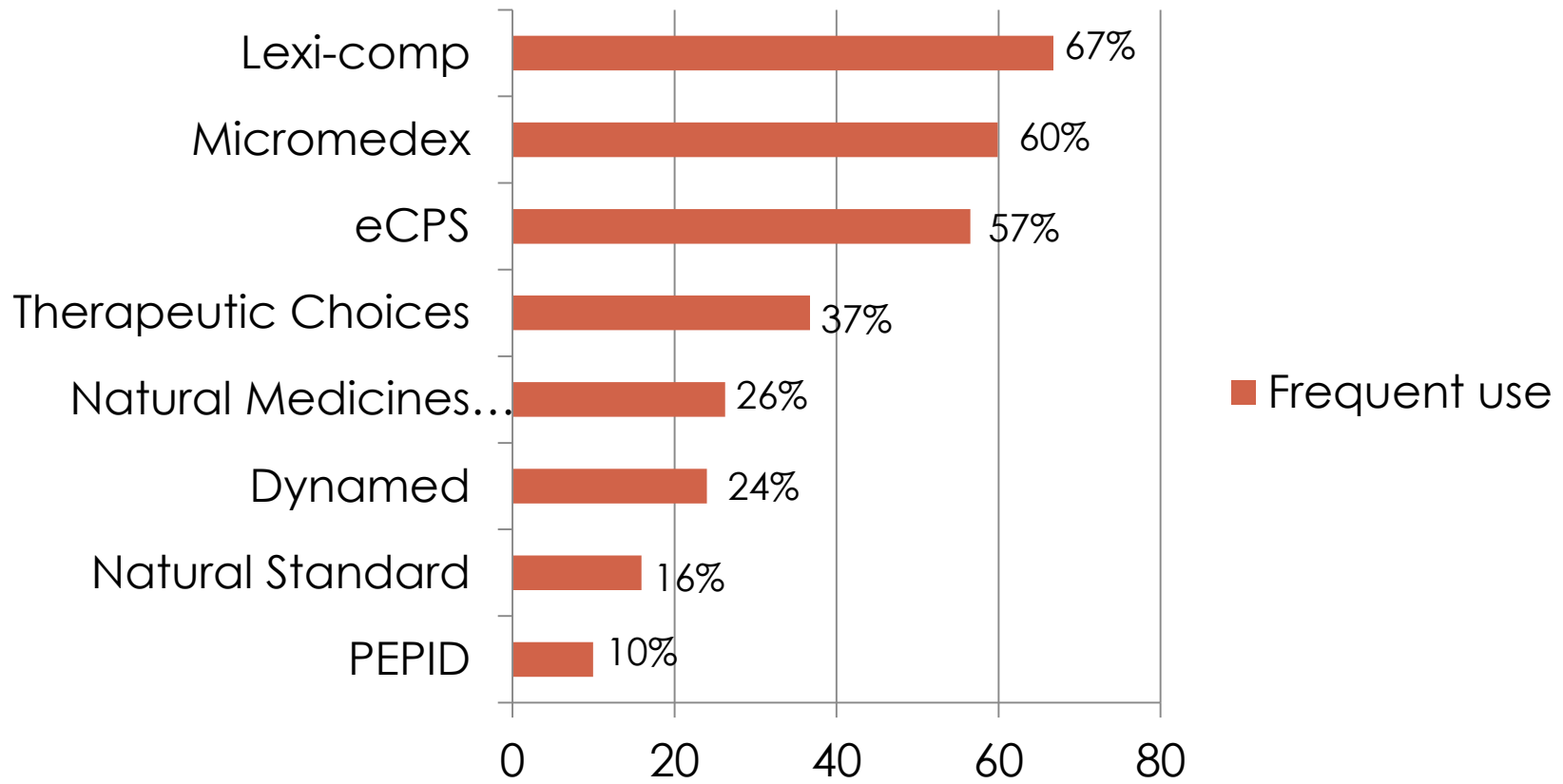


n=466

How frequently do you use your mobile device to find information on...?



How frequently do you use your mobile device to access these products?



Other DI resources

- Medscape (10 participants)
- Canadian Pharmacist's Letter (7 participants)
- Epocrates (3 participants)
- UpToDate (2 participants)

What do you **like** about using drug or health information resources on your mobile device?

- Mobile/portable nature
- Convenience
- Easy to use

“Ease of use”

“Easy to navigate”

“Easy and quick to access”

Clinical perks

- “**Can have it with you in the aisles counselling patients** – makes it very easy and helpful to answer questions.”
- “...it is **easy to show patients information** rather than showing them a textbook or turning around a computer monitor.”
- “Useful for OTC recommendations **when not in the dispensary where the computers are** if something needs to be checked.”
- “Fast and can use during patient interactions to **give almost-immediate answers.**”
- “You have all the information you need on one device that you **can access quickly in practice.**”



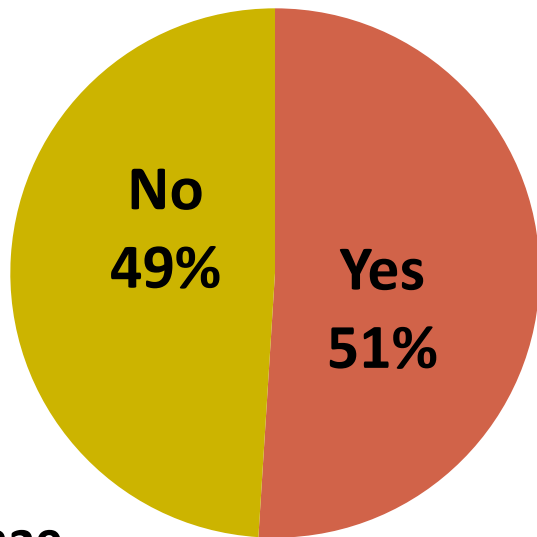
What do you **dislike** about using drug or health information resources on your mobile device?

- Cost
- Wireless connectivity
- Small screen & font

Professionalism

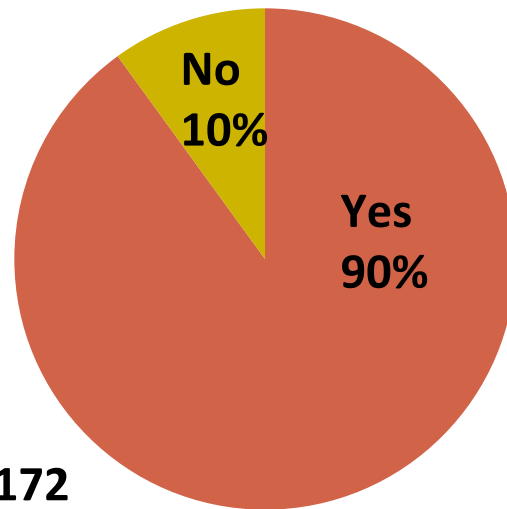
- “Sometimes I feel like professors **don't like us using** our mobile devices.”
- “The fact that I’m on the device while talking to a patient **doesn't look professional.**”
- “**Frowned upon** by most chain pharmacies.”
- “Difficult to read some online resources if using the browser as opposed to a specifically-designed app. **Don't want to appear unprofessional** if anyone is unsure why I am using my phone in a meeting, etc.”
- “Don't want it to look like I am **playing or texting** on my phone”

Are you **aware** that your library provides access to health information resources for your mobile device?



n=339

If **yes**, have you **used** any of those information resources?



n=172

Which ones?

○ Top 10

Lexicomp (88)	Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database (6)
Micromedex (44)	UptoDate (6)
eCPS (28)	STAT!Ref(6)
Dynamed (18)	RXFiles (5)
PubMed (7)	PEPID (5)

Reasons why they have not used the Library resources

- “Time. We (faculty and students) will only get going on this if we have an in-class tutorial in which we bring our devices and get the software, log-ins, accounts, and preferences set up in real time as a group. Having individuals do it on their own initiative is a recipe for low uptake.”

Reasons why they have not used the Library resources

- Unaware of what resources the Library offers
- Would like to see lists of apps that are available
- Help with installation, preferably a hands-on workshop

Discussion

- There is a need to identify free and subscription apps relevant to Pharmacy
- There is a need to keep this list up to date and very “findable”
- There is a need to provide hands-on sessions assisting students with installation
- Wireless access in hospitals and clinics remains a barrier to use

Next Steps

- Further data analysis
- Conduct follow-up interviews
- Explore opportunities to work collaboratively to create lists, guides, and tutorials

Acknowledgements

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References

1. Franko OI, Tirrell TF. Smartphone App Use Among Medical Providers in ACGME Training Programs. J Med Syst [Internet]. 2011 Nov 4 [cited 2013 May 16]; Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22052129>
2. Boruff J, Storie D, et al. Knowledge on the go: a survey of mobile device usage in medicine. CHLA/ABSC Conference, Hamilton, ON. June 11-15, 2012.

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