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Community Health Centers Primary Care Physicians' Asthma Management Perception: A Qualitative Study Regarding Uninsured Patients

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS' ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PERCEPTION: A QUALITATIVE STUDY REGARDING UNINSURED PATIENTS

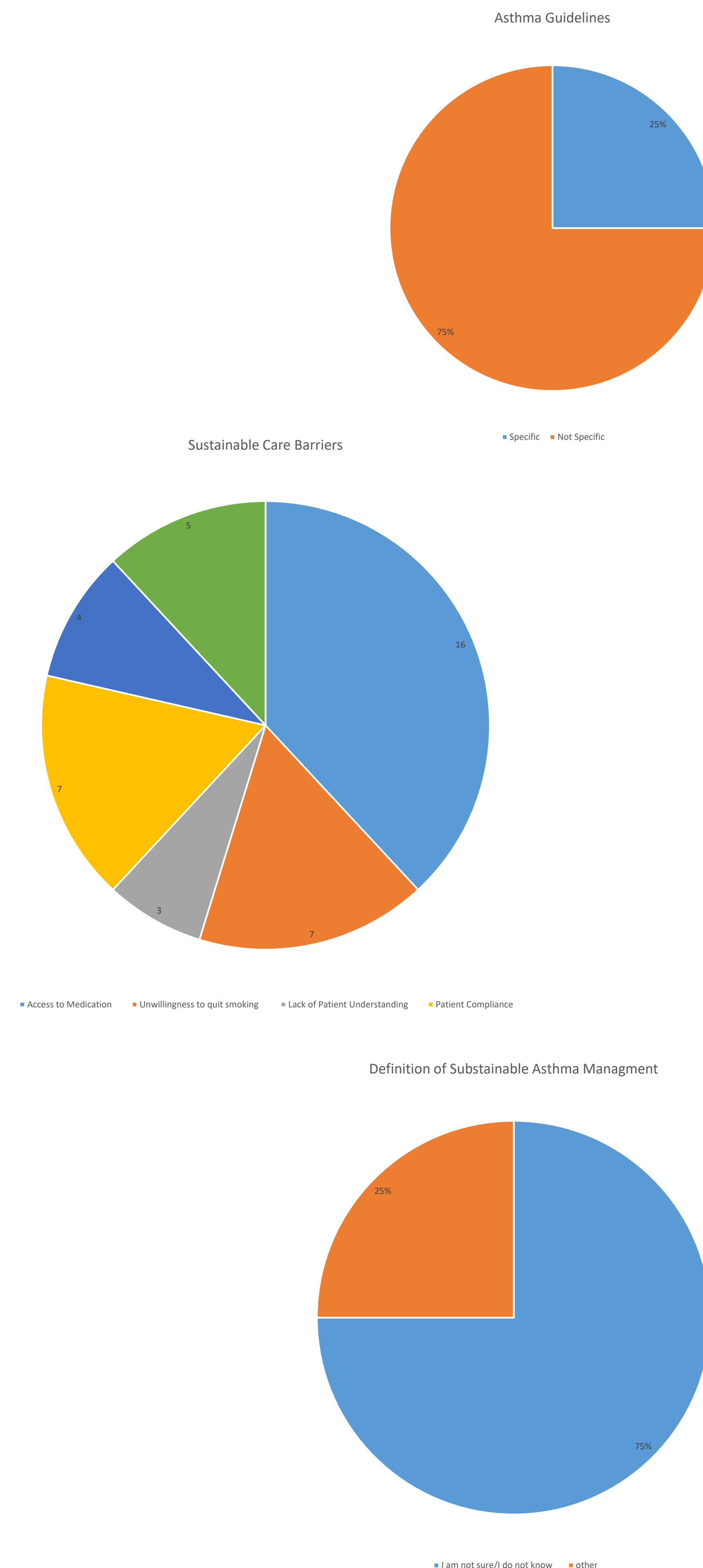


Mary Bynum, RN, MA, DHA

Background

- Asthma is a worldwide epidemic
- 160 people in Ohio each year die from asthma-related symptoms (Ohio Department of Health, n.d.),
- There are more than 1.5 million people living in Ohio with an asthma diagnosis (Ohio Department of Health, n.d.).
- In 2011, the population in Franklin County, Ohio, was 1,165,789, of which 208,676 individuals (17.9%) did not have insurance and 144,557 individuals (12.4%) suffered from asthma (City Data, 2011; Columbus Public Health, 2012).
- In 2009, a lack of ongoing primary care physician services resulted in 70,000 annual emergency room visits from Ohio citizens in which asthma was the primary diagnosis.

Results



Method & Design

- The application of a qualitative methodology allowed for a case study design and a robust theoretical connection between issues, interventions, and health outcomes (Baker, 2011).
- Qualitative research methodologies were suitable for medical research because of the ability to improve the understanding of physicians' and patients' behavior in natural environments (Al-Busaidi, 2008; Onwuegbuzie, Leech, & Collins, 2010; Shuval, Harker, & Roudsari, 2011).
- The use of a case study design for this study was suitable because the study involved a method to explain CHC physicians' experiences regarding the process of providing asthma services (Crowe et al., 2011).

Purpose

To explore the perceptions of primary care physicians from CHCs in Franklin County, Ohio, regarding factors that contribute to their inability to consistently provide sustainable asthma management services to their uninsured patient population.

Problem

- **The general problem:** There are primary care physicians in Ohio that have been unable to control asthma among their uninsured patient population (Ohio Department of Health, n.d.; Yawn, 2011).
- **The specific problem:** Primary care physicians under the community health center umbrella in Franklin County, Ohio, have not consistently been able to provide sustainable asthma management services to their uninsured asthma patients (Ohio Department of Health, n.d.; Halterman, Montes, & Shone, 2008; Newcomb, 2006; Yawn, 2011).

Conclusion

- The limitations outlined in this study supported the need for additional research beyond local communities in Franklin County, Ohio
- Additional studies that take into account patients' behavior may be necessary to assess the problem fully and implement strategies designed to improve asthma outcomes for the uninsured.

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