

Trends of Drug Misuse and Abuse within the Transgender Community

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Trends of Drug Misuse and Abuse within the Transgender Community

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- The Toxicology Investigator's Consortium (Toxic) database was created in 2010 by the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) to compile data recorded by medical toxicologists in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
- In January, 2017 the data field for transgender (and if transgender, male-to-female or female-to-male) was added to the Toxic form.
- Little is known regarding self-harm poisonings within the transgender population
- The aim of this study was to review toxicology consultations around poisonings in transgender patients, and provide descriptive data in trends among those within this demographic.

- The database query identified 113 transgender patients.
- Fifty-one (45.1%) of the 113 were between 13–18 years old and 60 (53.1%) were aged 19–65 years old. There was 1 patient who identified as being between 7–12 years old and 1 between 66–89 years old.
- The primary reason for the encounter for 97 of the patients was for intentional pharmaceutical ingestion, and of these encounters, 85 (87.6%) were classified as intentional pharmaceutical use intended for self-harm.
- Among the 51 patients aged 13–18, 46 (90.2%) identified attempt at self-harm with pharmaceutical as primary reason for encounter.
- Within the 60 patients aged 19–65, 37 (61.7%) identified primary reason for encounter as attempted self-harm with pharmaceutical.
- Excluding missing data, of the 113 patients, 41 (36.3%) were recorded as male-to-female, 68 (60.2%) female-to-male and 3 (2.7%) as gender-nonconforming.
- In the 41 male-to-female transgender patients, 28 (68.3%) identified the encounter was for intentional self-harm with a pharmaceutical agent.
- Of the 68 female-to-male transgender patients, 53 (77.9%) identified the primary reason for encounter as intent for self-harm with a pharmaceutical agent.

- Drug overdoses and outcomes in the transgender population represent a significant gap in the existing literature
- Current studies consistently indicate that this population is at an increased risk of suicide
- In our study (albeit small), 90.2% of transgender patients within the age group of 13–18 years old reported attempt at self-harm as the primary reason for encounter.
- Our study is consistent with prior research, which describes a difference in rates of suicidal behavior between female-to-male adolescents, male-to-female adolescents, and those who identify as not exclusively male or female; all three of these subgroups have higher suicide rates than male or female adolescents

Problem Statement

The aim of this study was to review medical encounters due to poisonings and provide descriptive data in trends among those within the transgender demographic.

- This study is a retrospective database review of patient cases submitted to the ACMT Toxic database between January 2017 and June 2019, who reporting toxicologist identified as transgender
- Patient cases were considered to have complete data if the sex variable was complete as "transgender."
- However, within the 113 cases that had this variable completed as "transgender," one was missing the "if transgender" variable specifying male-to-female, female-to-male, or gender nonconforming, resulting in 112 cases with this variable completed.

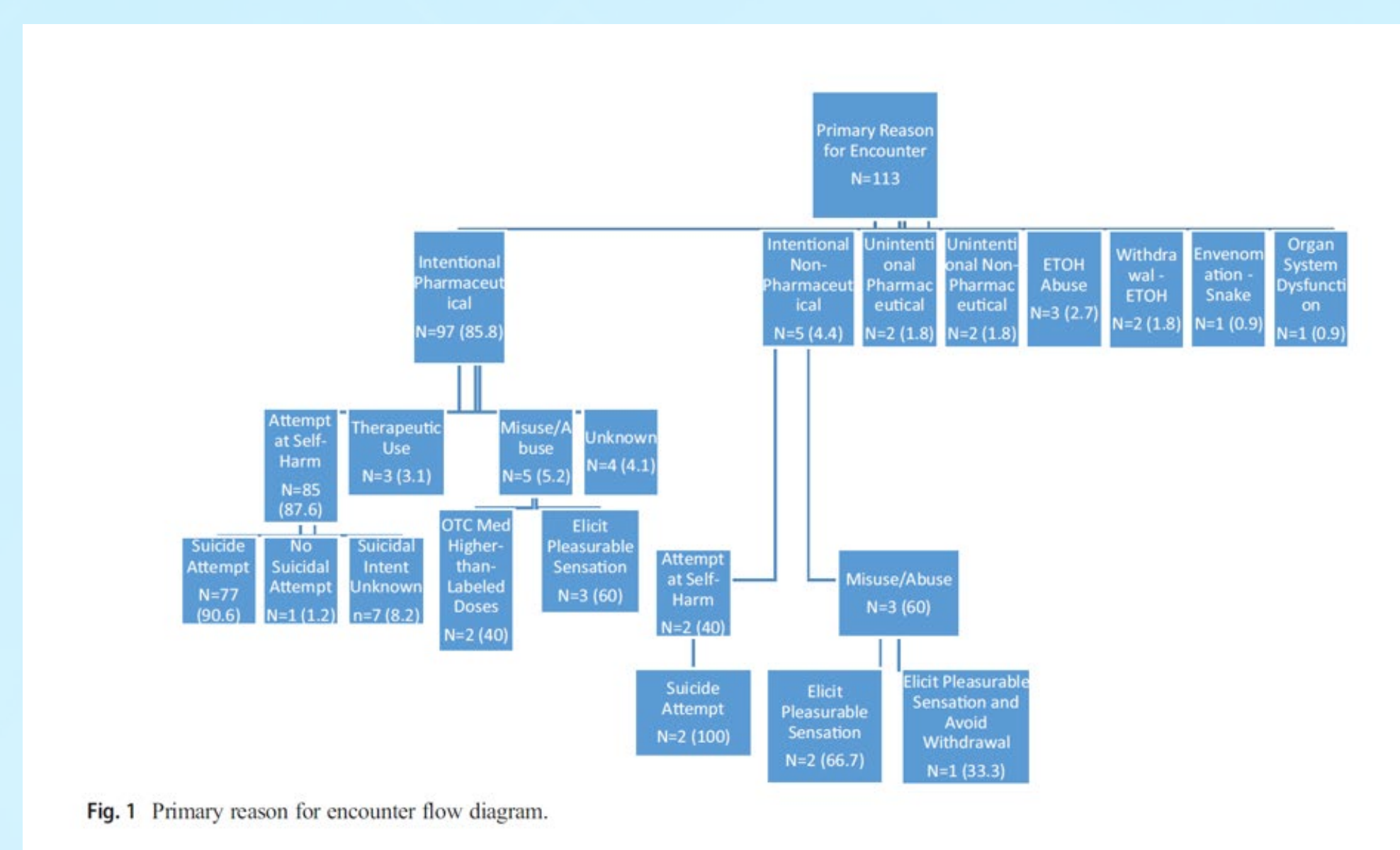
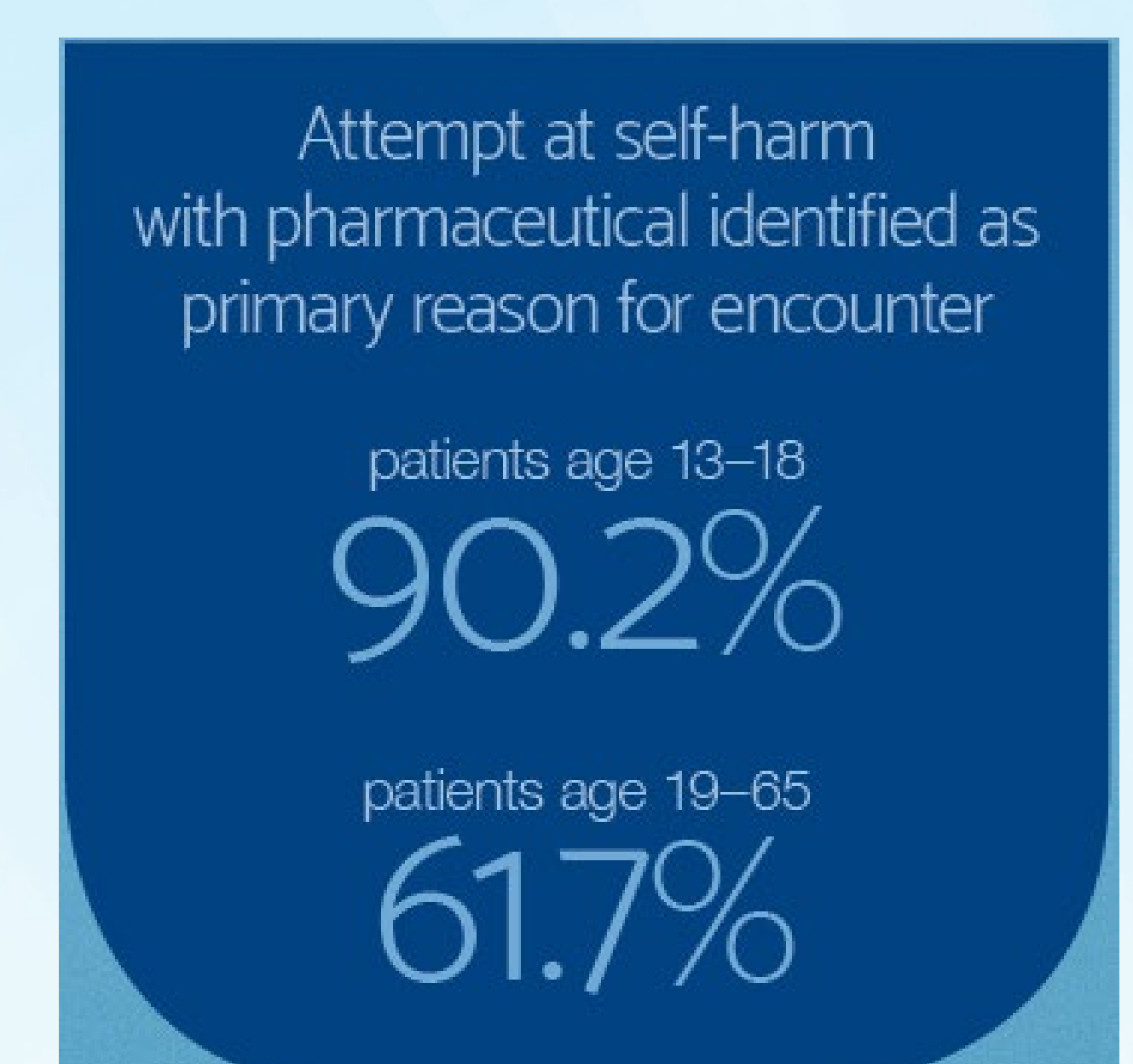


Fig. 1 Primary reason for encounter flow diagram.

- Most toxicological consults in this cohort of transgender patients were for intentional pharmaceutical use intended for self-harm.
- In this small sample there were some age and transition differences in prevalence.
- Data describing sex and gender-specific differences in types of exposures/ingestions, as well as outcomes, may inform poisoning prevention practices as well as sex and gender-based management of patients.



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