

Wei Ho^{1,2}, Yi-Hsuan Chen², Yen-Ting Wang²

¹Graduate Institute of clinical pharmacy, National Taiwan University, ²Taiwan Young Pharmacists' Group, Taipei, Taiwan

Background

Taiwan's health care system is covered by national health insurance (NHI). In 2016, 40 billion dollars were spent on patient with minor ailments and there is a considerable worry about the escalating cost of this care. Besides, the physician waiting time was also a concern. Therefore, to reduce the burden of both NHI and physicians, pharmacists have to have the ability to assess minor ailments. To improve this ability, a self-medication tool is needed.

Purpose

To assess the need of self-medication tool for improving practicing pharmacists' ability to assess minor ailments.

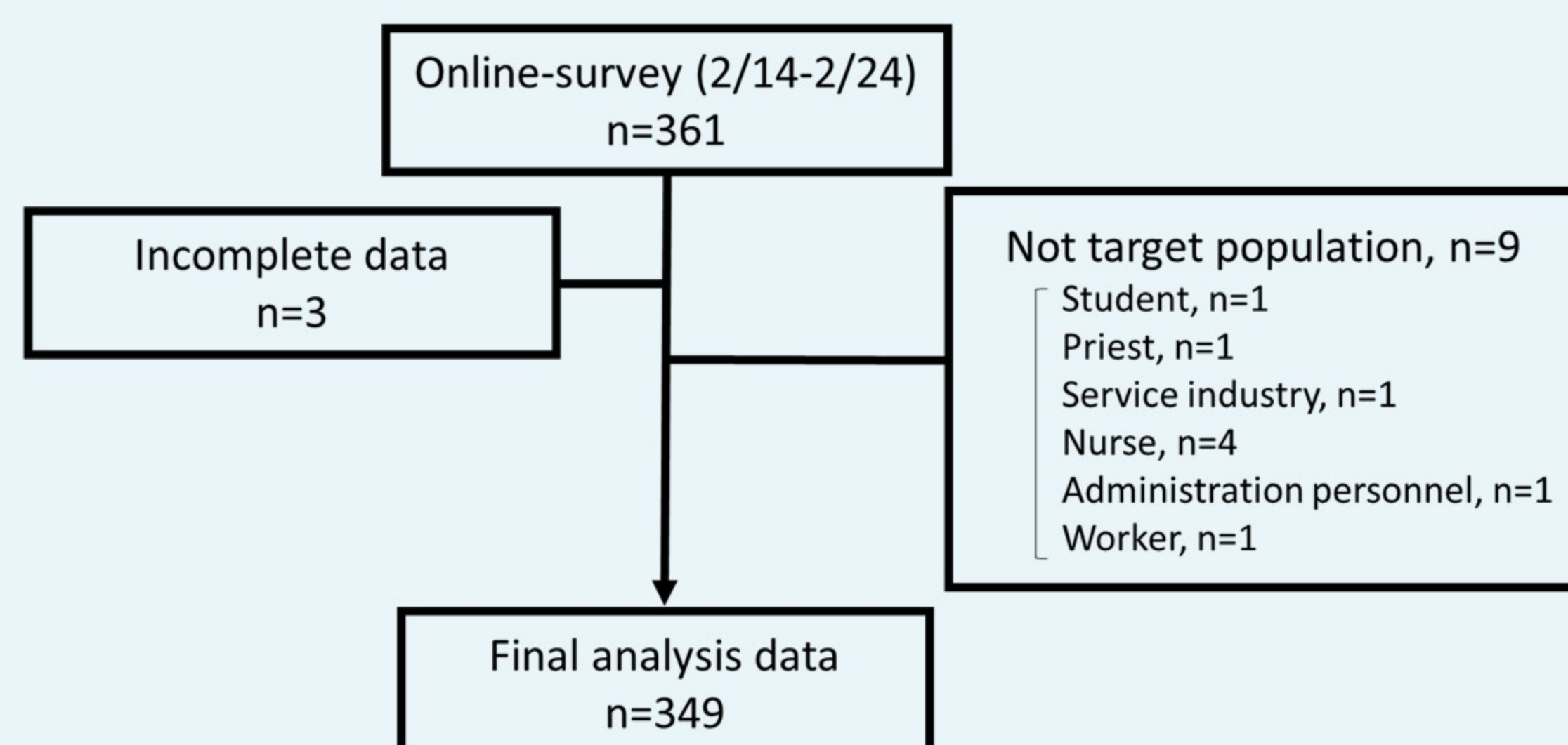
Methods

Using an online questionnaire targeting practicing pharmacists was posted on social media (Facebooks and PTT) from 2018-Feb-14 to 2018-Feb-24. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

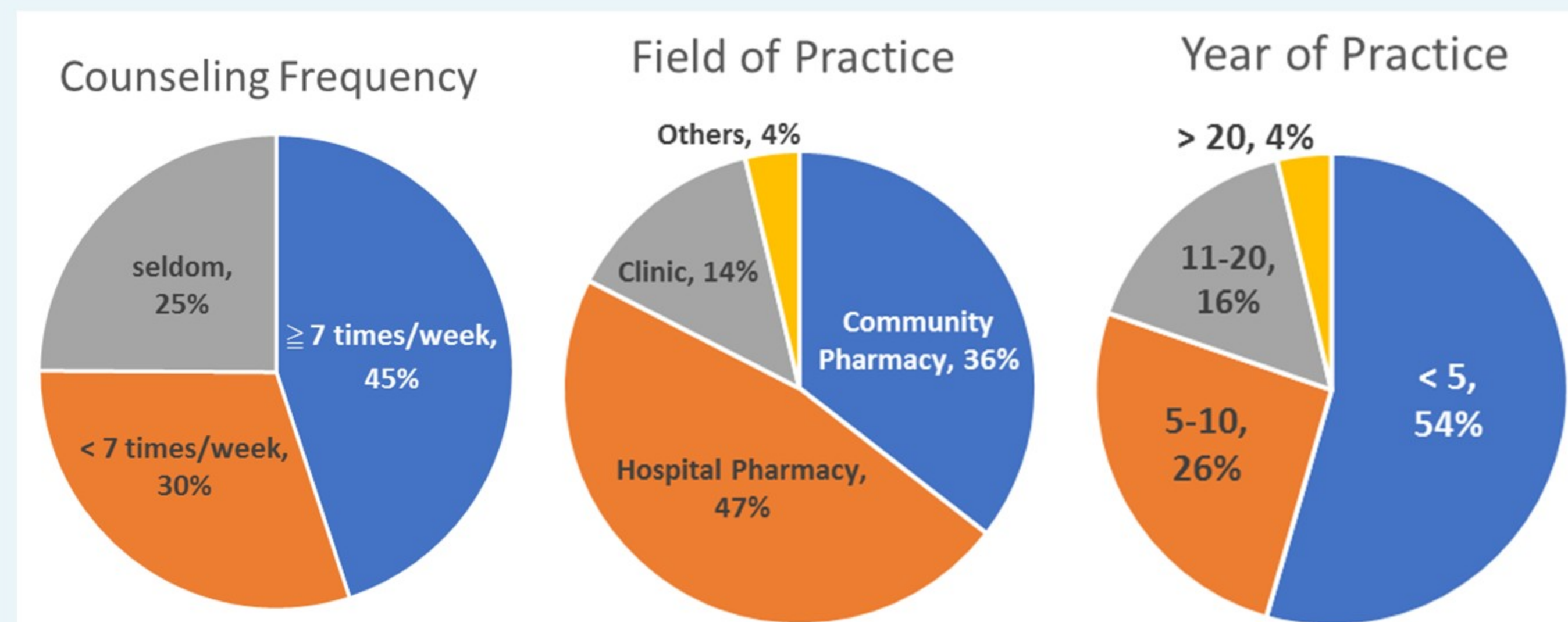
Results

Excluding 3 responders with incomplete data filling and 9 that were not our target population, a total of 349 respondents' data were analyzed.

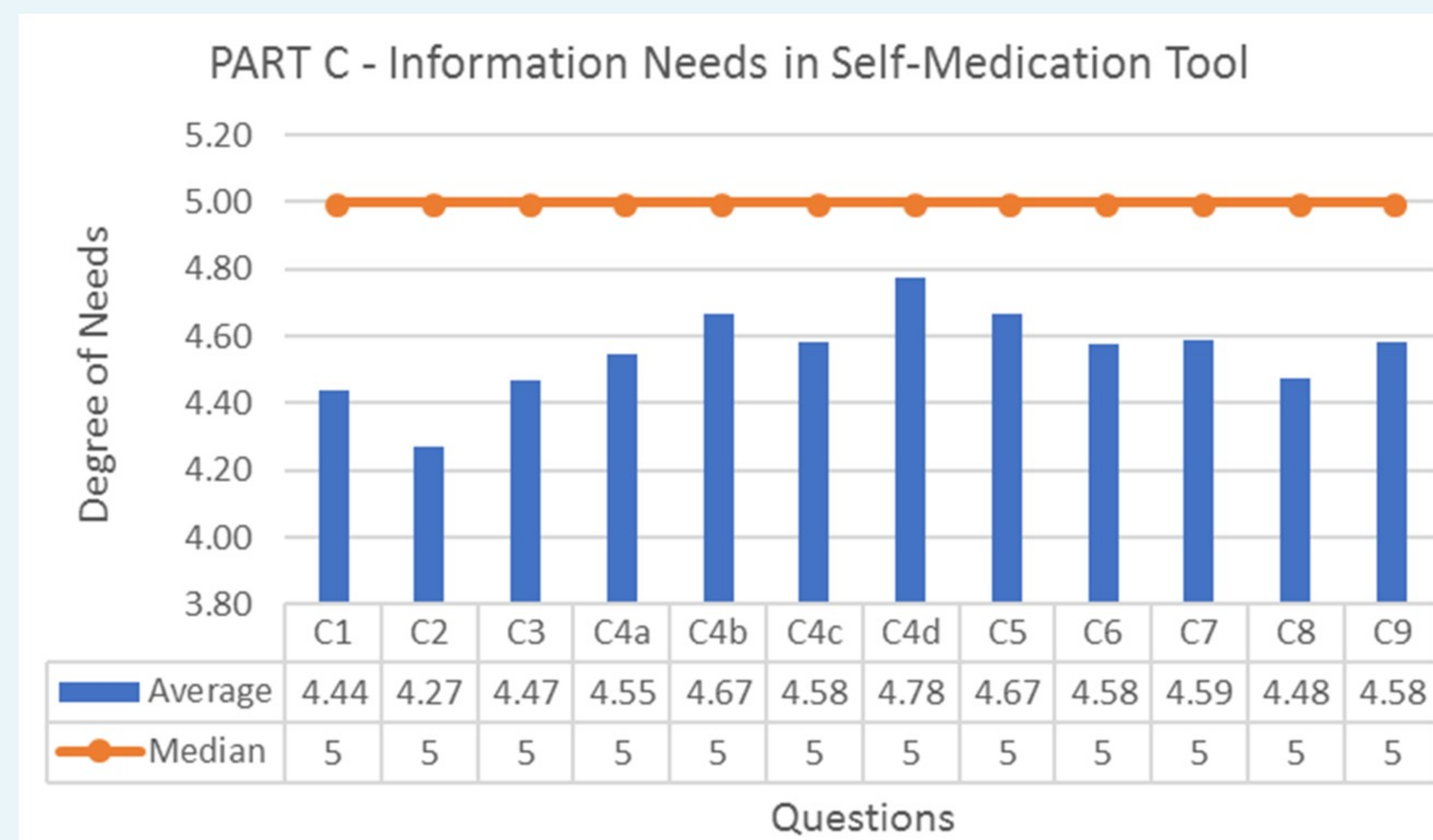
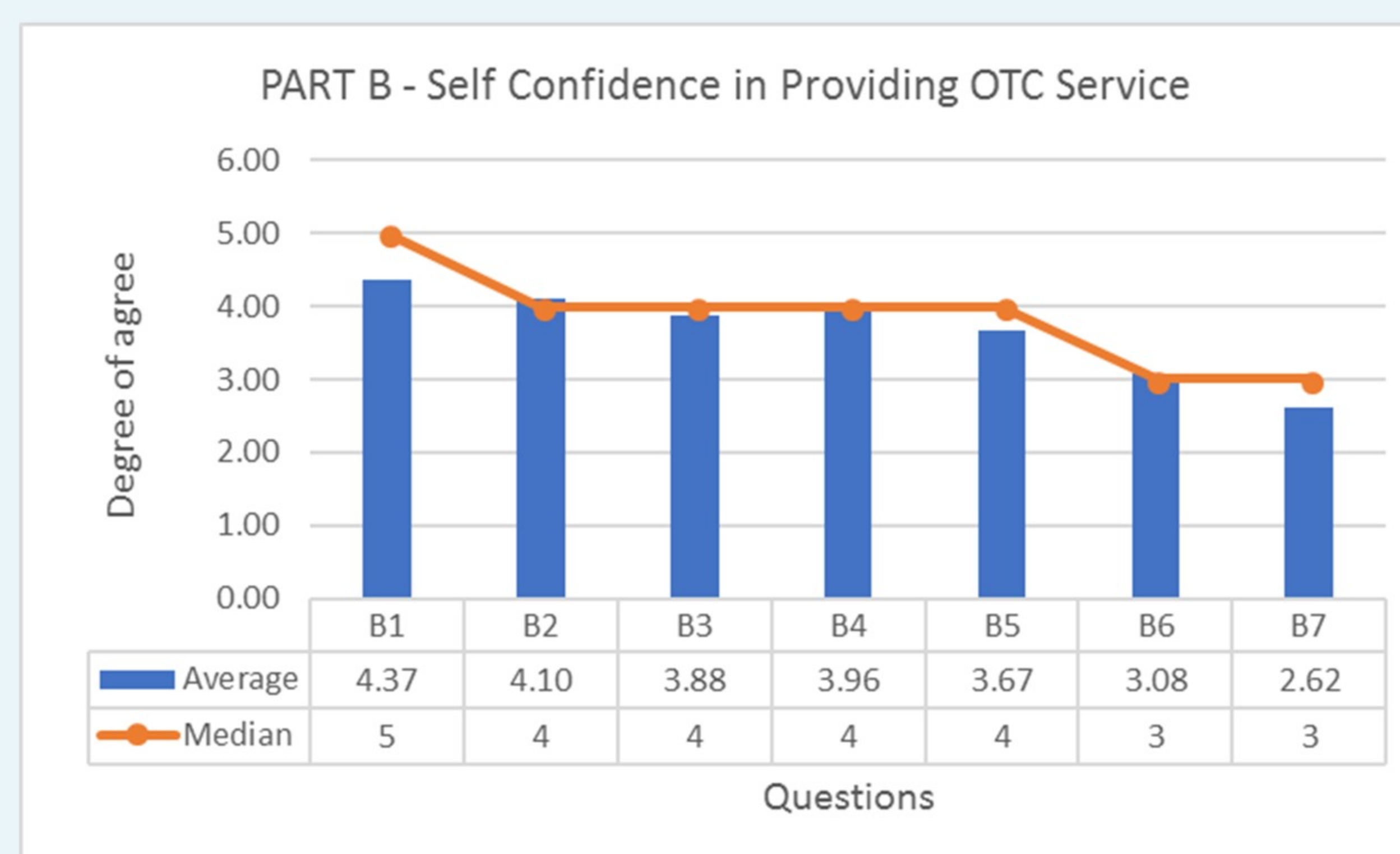
Responses Received



Among the 349 respondents, 83% work in hospital and community setting. Over 50% of them had less than 5 years working experience; however, 45% of them had patient consultations more than 7 times a week.



More than 80% of practicing pharmacists deemed disease epidemiology, etiology, refer timing, pharmacologic treatment, drug interaction, side effects, comparison between products, follow up, and patient education as important information that needs to be in self-medication tools. Besides, 76.22% of the respondents want the tools to be an app.



Conclusion

Disease profile, refer timing, pharmacologic treatment, medication profile, products comparison, follow up, and patient education are needed to include in self-medication tools. App is the most desirable way of this tool.