

ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS THROUGH ACCREDITED INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Coastal Bend
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INTRODUCTION

The Texas A&M Coastal Bend Health Education Center (CBHEC), located in Corpus Christi, Texas, serves as a key resource for the Coastal Bend, providing health education for medical professionals and the greater community. Established in 1999 through Senate Bill 590, CBHEC is committed to improving the quality of health care in the Coastal Bend by advancing the knowledge and skills of health care professionals, students and the community through partnerships in education, research, and technology.

The Texas A&M Health Science Center CBHEC is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education and is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The center provides continuing education opportunities for health professionals throughout its 27-county service area.

BACKGROUND

In response to the national opioid crisis, the center held a multiday live educational activity in 2018 in Corpus Christi, Texas, to increase competence among physicians on the use of opioids to ensure a safer, more effective chronic pain treatment while reducing the risk of opioid use disorder, overdose and death.

Concurrently with this event, Texas A&M Health Science Center Opioid Task Force held its first meeting with professionals spanning the local health care system and community.

The attendee evaluation data produced an updated needs assessment which uncovered a shocking crisis present in Nueces County. The drug overdose mortality rate for Nueces County reported in the 2018 County Health Rankings was 18 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to the overall rate for Texas of 10 deaths per 100,000 population.

The learning continued in 2019 with another live educational activity designed to provide the interprofessional health care team with current evidence-based information on the community impact and importance of making coordinated and informed efforts to manage and treat chronic pain and to prevent overdose and deaths.

Naloxone administration training



METHODOLOGY

An interprofessional planning committee of physicians, pharmacists, nurse planners and social worker accreditors, who mirrored the target audience, identified the professional practice gaps and developed a curriculum that would utilize a team approach to address the opioid crisis on a local and regional level. An ongoing theme emerged of the journey through the opioid crisis, first asking “Where are we and how did we get here?” followed by “Where do we go from here? The Path Forward.” Faculty for the live educational activity

included local and regional experts in pain management, pharmacy practices, pediatrics, first responders as well as representatives from state and national regulatory agencies.

The educational activity concluded with interactive panel discussions. At the 2019 conference, the addition of an application based activity designed to address opioid overdose deaths provided Naloxone administration training to each attendee.

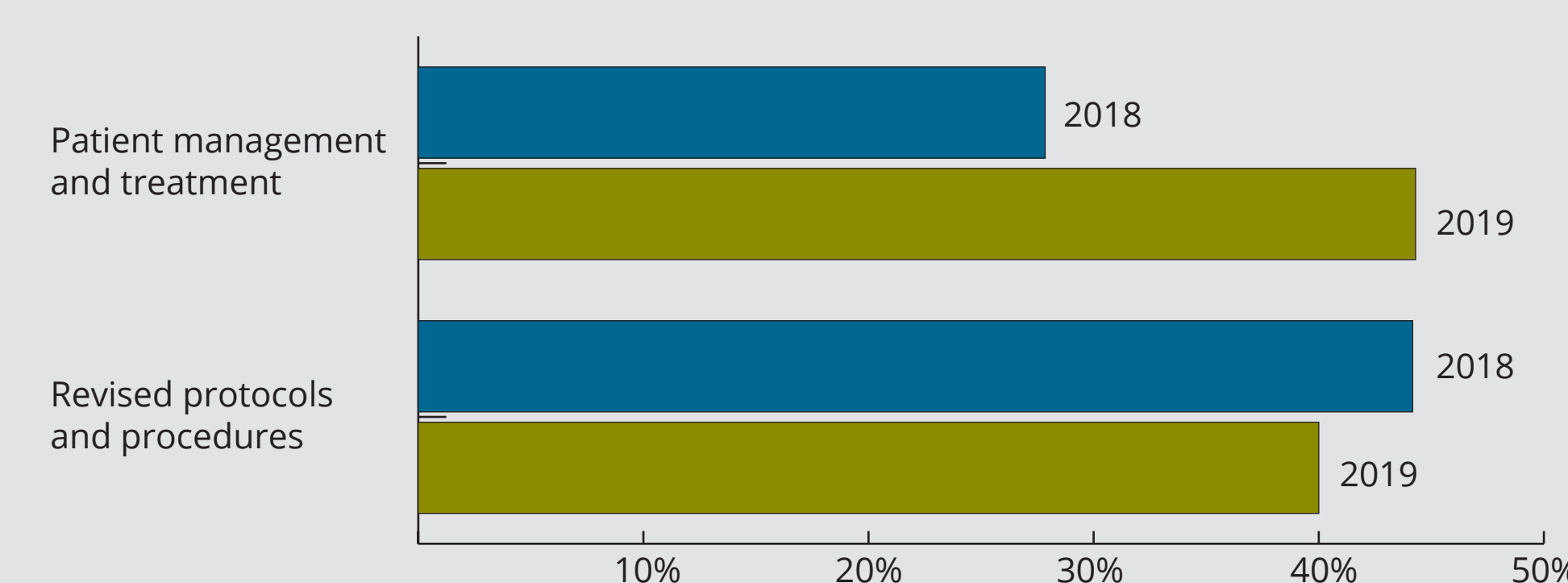
IMPACT AND RESULTS

Upon evaluation survey, more than 80 percent of the learners reported changes in their practice and/or performance as a result of participating in this educational activity. These changes include new or revised protocols, policies and procedures and changes in the management and treatment of patients by:

- More aggressive patient monitoring
- Developing and implementing pain management contracts
- Increasing urine drug screens for chronic pain patients
- Using more conservative treatment options
- Offering alternatives to opioids
- Prescribing more naloxone.

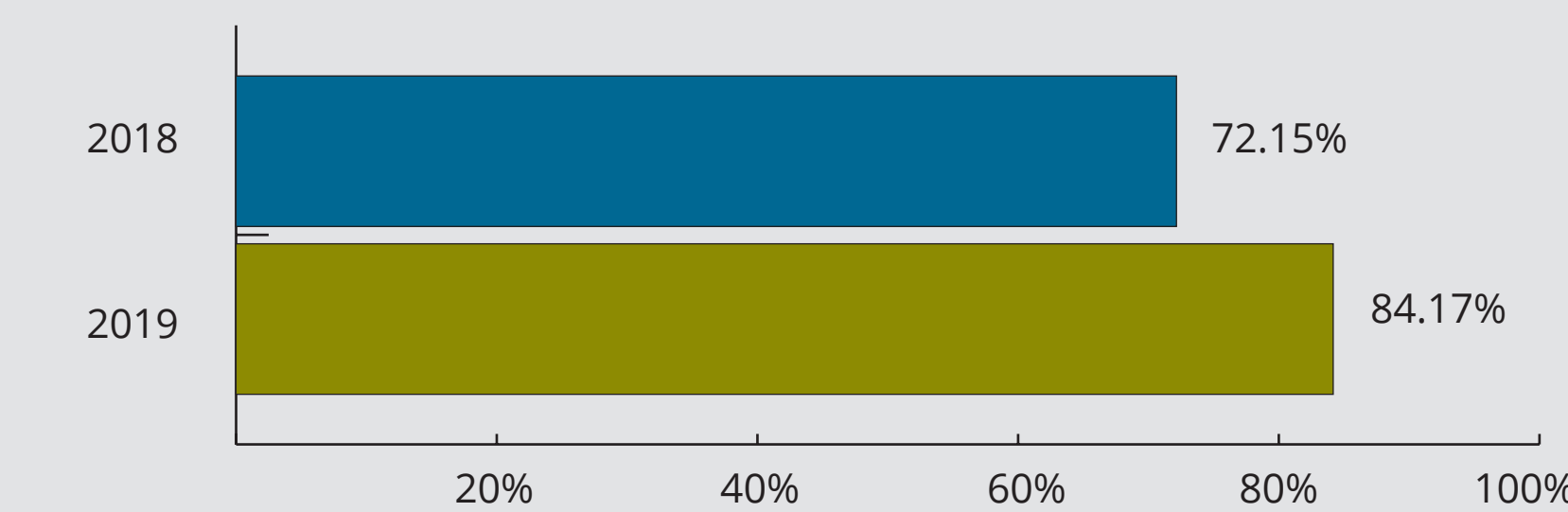
The most significant change reported on evaluation survey was in the management and treatment of patients, which increased from 27.85% in 2018 to 44.17% in 2019, with changes to protocols and procedures remaining at a consistent response rate. (Exhibit 1)

Exhibit 1. Intended changes in practice due to educational intervention



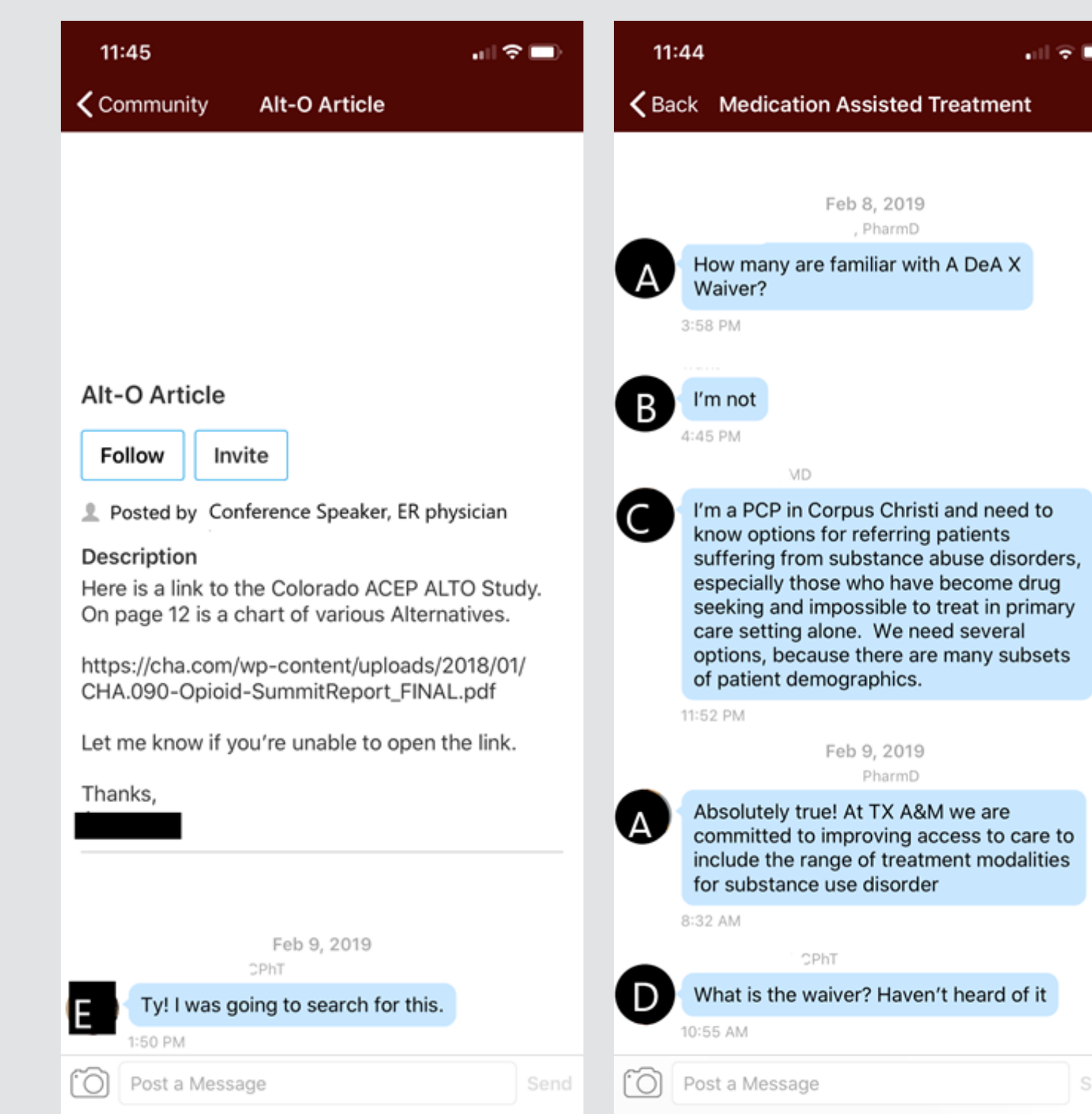
The changes in competency reported by attendees on evaluation survey showed an increase from 72.15% in 2018 to 84.17% in 2019. (Exhibit 2)

Exhibit 2. Change in competence due to educational intervention



The use of a conference app enabled attendees and faculty to participate and interact more actively, and build connections. This new addition to the overall educational activity experience provided real time up-to-date event information, personalized agenda, live polls, messages and photos, readily accessible on mobile devices. The Community Board proved to be a valuable resource for the exchange of information and resources as shown below. (Exhibit 3)

Exhibit 3. Interaction between conference attendees via app



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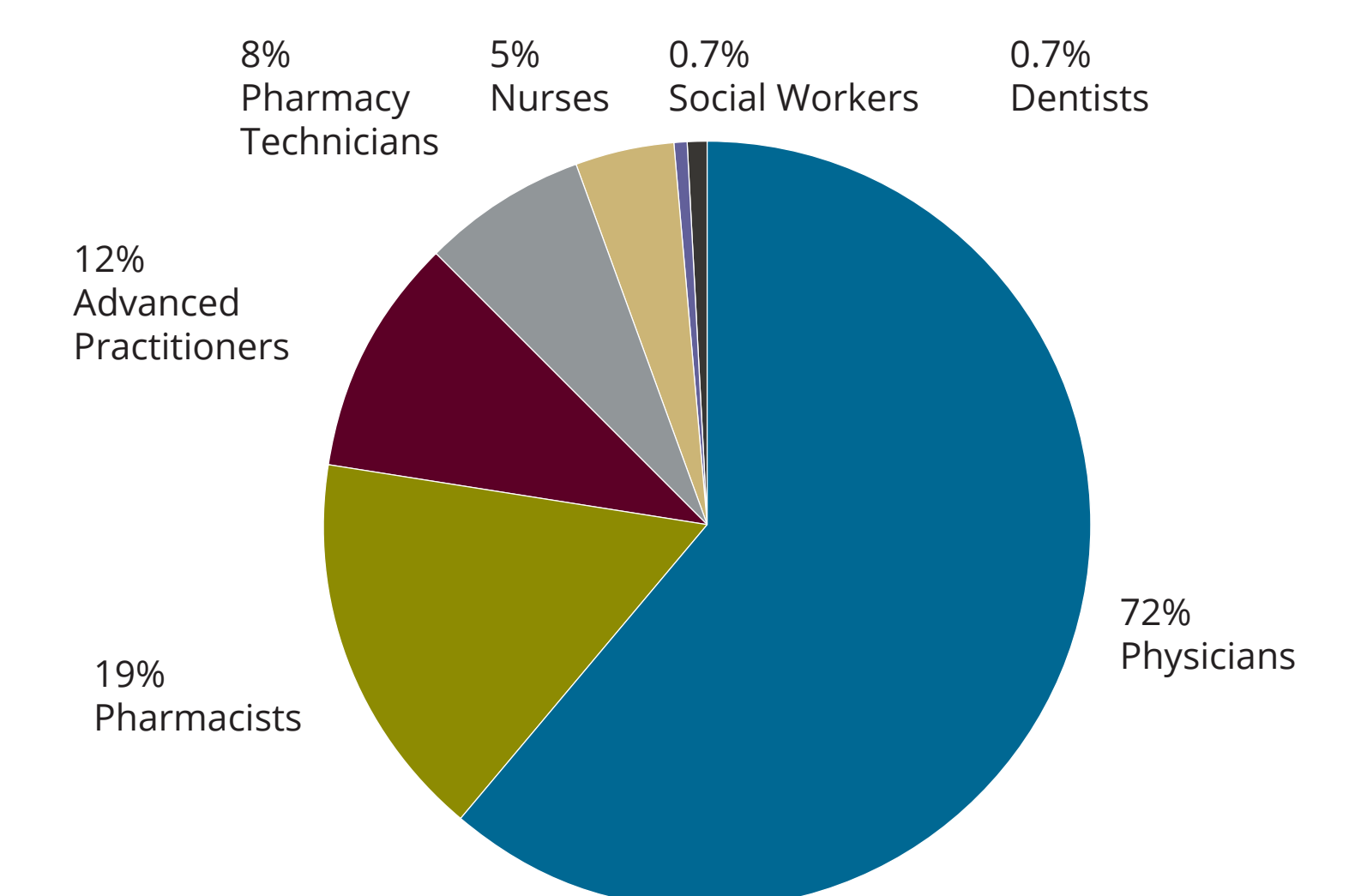
DISCUSSION

Planning is underway for the 2020 live educational activity that continues the journey to address the opioid crisis through interprofessional continuing education with a focus on new national guidelines and alternative treatment options, including psychological and behavioral strategies.

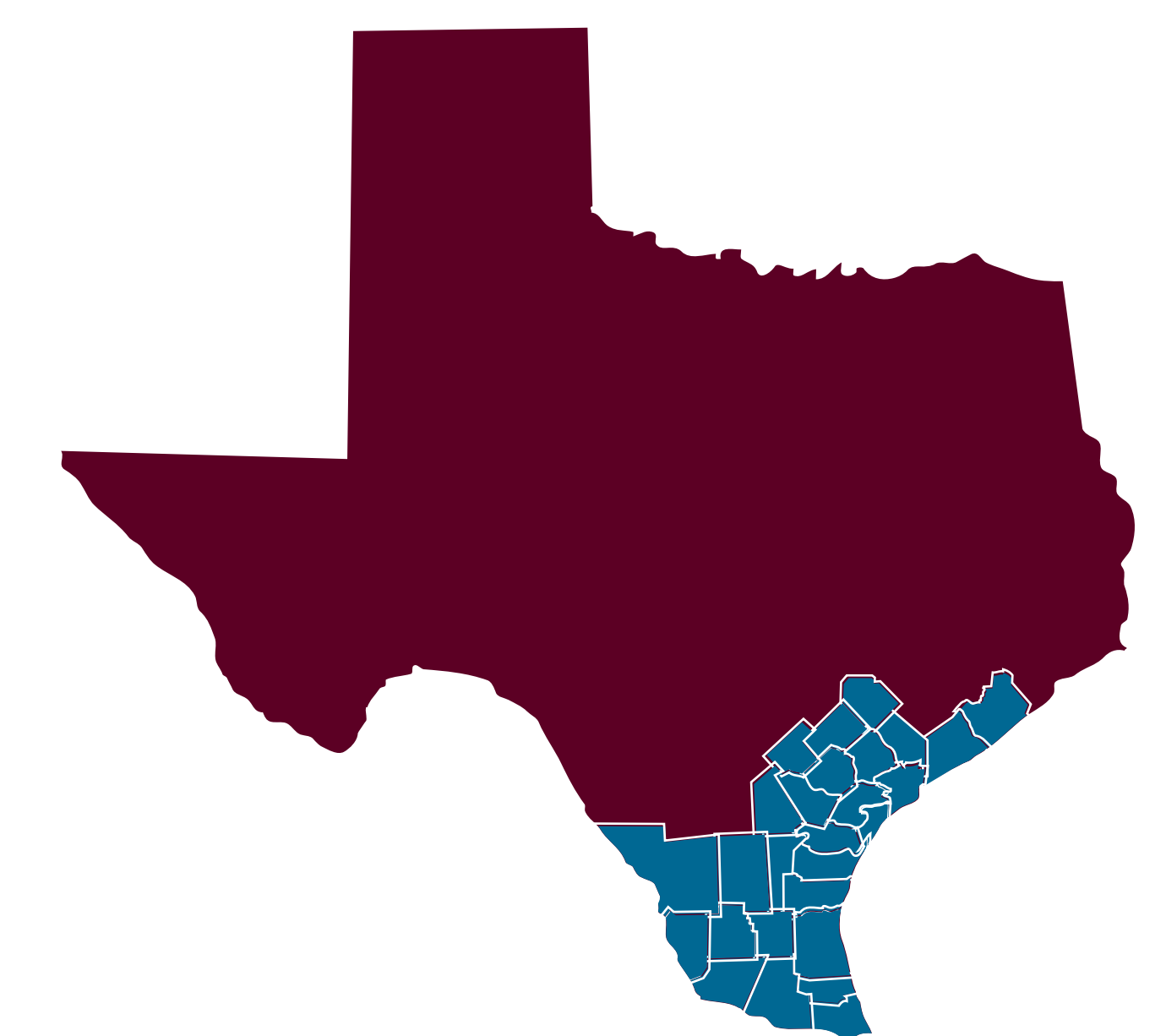
A local task force has recently been established by the Nueces County Judge that will address the local opioid crisis in three areas: education, prevention, and intervention. Subcommittees have been established with community leaders from law enforcement, healthcare, education and governmental sectors.

Texas A&M CBHEC will be represented in the healthcare and community education sectors.

Interprofessional Attendance



27-county service area



REFERENCES

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