

Non-Prescriber Participation and Outcomes in a Randomized Controlled Trial of an Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Tele-mentoring Program to Increase Clozapine Utilization



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Background

- Schizophrenia is a leading cause of disability worldwide.
- Collaboration between providers promotes optimal recovery.
- While services provided differ between non-prescribers and prescribers, the two groups share the same goal: improved outcomes.
- Clozapine is the most effective antipsychotic medication for treatment-resistant schizophrenia and is the only medication approved by the FDA to treat suicidality, yet clozapine is prescribed in < 5% of individuals with schizophrenia nationally.
- Many non-prescribers have general knowledge about medications used to treat schizophrenia but the degree of familiarity with clozapine rests upon their access to specialty training.
- The aim of the CHAMPION ECHO study was to increase knowledge and competence in using clozapine in an effort to increase its rate of prescription.
- Though non-prescribers may not affect prescribing rates directly, they do collaborate with prescribers about treatment.
- With specialty training, non-prescribers could be valuable advocates for increased utilization of clozapine.

Methods

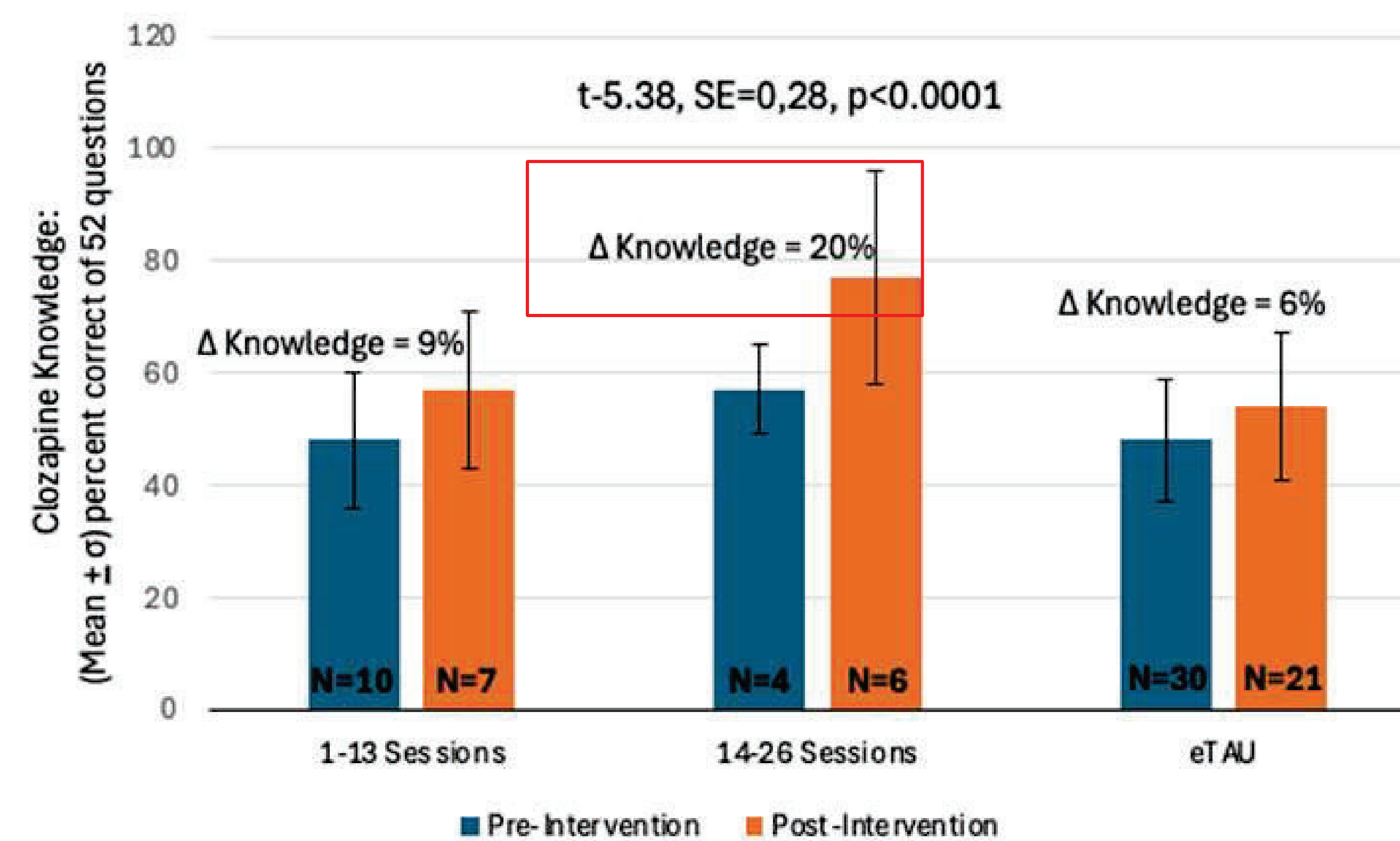
- In a randomized controlled design, we tested the effectiveness of a 12-month intervention for improving prescriber outcomes with clozapine. Here we present results for the participating non-prescribers.
- Clozapine CHAMPION-ECHO (Center for Help and Assistance for Maryland Prescribers- Improving Outcomes Network) using ECHO, consisted of 26 biweekly tele-mentoring sessions with didactic sessions and case presentations. 1.25 hours with 32.5 CEU and CME credits,
- This was compared to an enhanced treatment as usual (eTAU) group with all sites receiving FDA-cleared ANC point of care (POC) monitoring devices and a Statewide CHAMPION consultation line to all study sites but no education.
- Non-prescriber knowledge and satisfaction are reported. Knowledge was based on 52 multiple choice questions.

Demographic Information

	Non-Prescribers (N=82)
Age years (n, %)	
<39-49	56 (68.4%)
50-60+	26 (31.6%)
Male (n, %)	15 (18.3%)
African American (n, %)	22 (26.8)
Degree	
RN/LPN	31 (37.8%)
MSW	27 (32.9%)
Other	24 (29.3%)

Clozapine Knowledge (ECHO vs eTAU)

Percent of Knowledge Questions Answered Correctly Pre- and Post-Intervention by Number of ECHO Sessions Attended

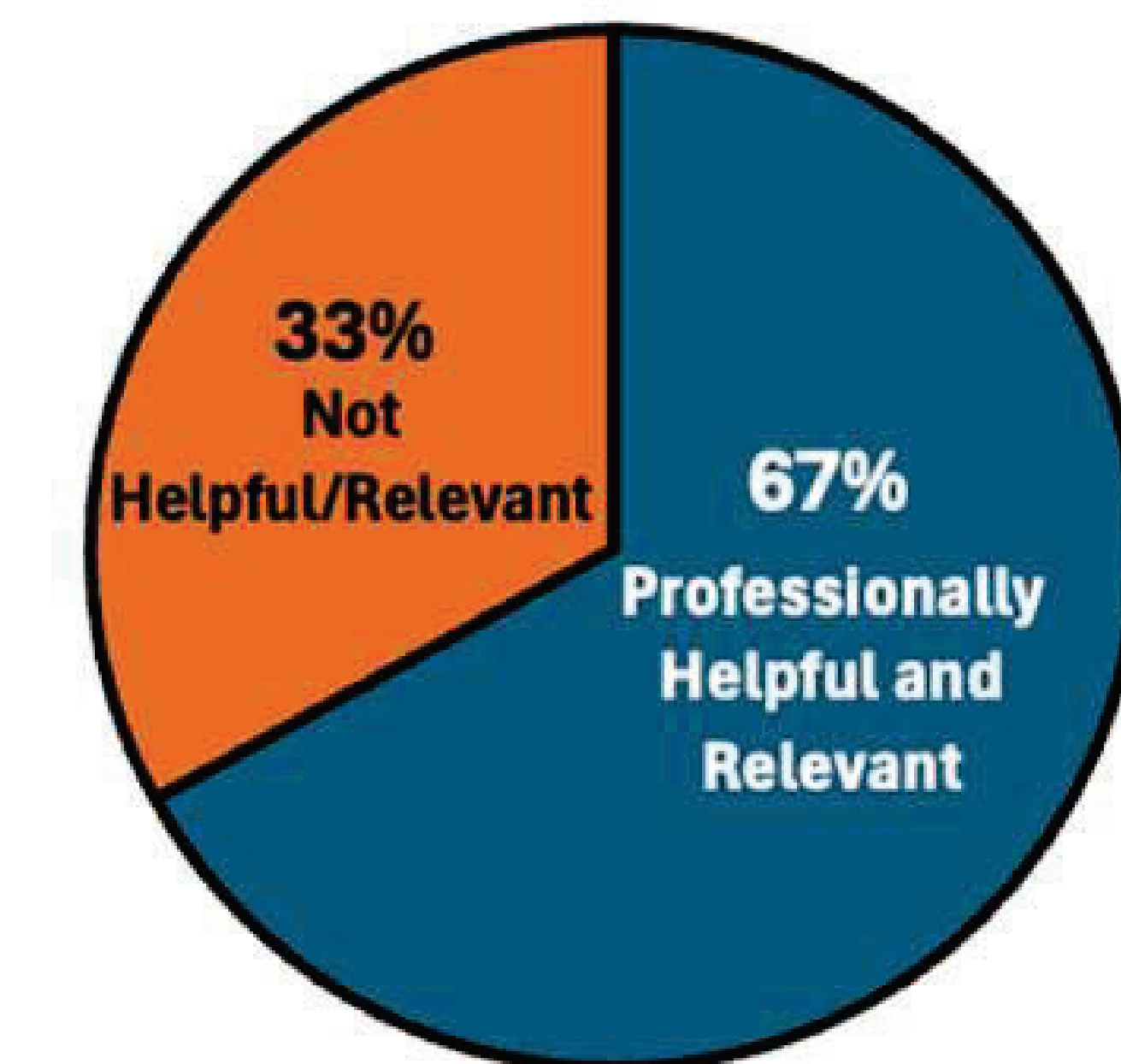


ECHO Attendance

- **16/41 (39%) ECHO Non-prescribers attended ≥1 session**
- **Averaged 10.2 sessions at 70 minutes per session**

CHAMPION ECHO Reported Benefits

Reported Relevancy and Helpfulness of ECHO Program by Nonprescribers (N=18)



Conclusion

- Non-prescribing team members such as social workers, therapists, nurses and psychologists are motivated to learn about clozapine.
- Those engaged in an educational program for at least 14 sessions increase their knowledge of clozapine by 20% on average.
- The majority of non-prescriber team members find an educational program professionally helpful and relevant
- Social workers, therapists, nurses and psychologists are key team members talking with patients and their families about symptoms, functional impairments, suicidality, and medication adherence—making their collaboration with prescribers valuable.
- Inclusion of non-prescribers in specialty education about clozapine is perhaps a viable strategy to help increase clozapine utilization and promote improved clinical outcomes in people with schizophrenia.