



Levels of Compassion Satisfaction among Prescribers, Nurses, and Chaplains

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Background

Professional quality of life

- Feelings associated with work
- Both positive and negative aspects and includes:
 - Compassion Satisfaction (CS)
 - Compassion Fatigue

CS defined as pleasure one gains from doing work well

- Outcomes related to higher levels of CS:
 - Caregiver engagement
 - Productivity
 - Overall wellbeing

Stamm, B. (2009)



Background

- Nurses, providers, and chaplains work together to care for patients in hospitals
- Nurses and providers working reported high levels of burnout before and even worse during COVID-19
 - Short staffing with high acuity patients
 - High burden with PPE use
 - Rapidly changing protocols
 - Visitor restrictions
 - High volume of sick calls
 - Reliance on temporary staff coverage

(Franza et al., 2020; Luch et al., 2022; Ruiz-Fernandez et al., 2020; Sagherian et al., 2020)



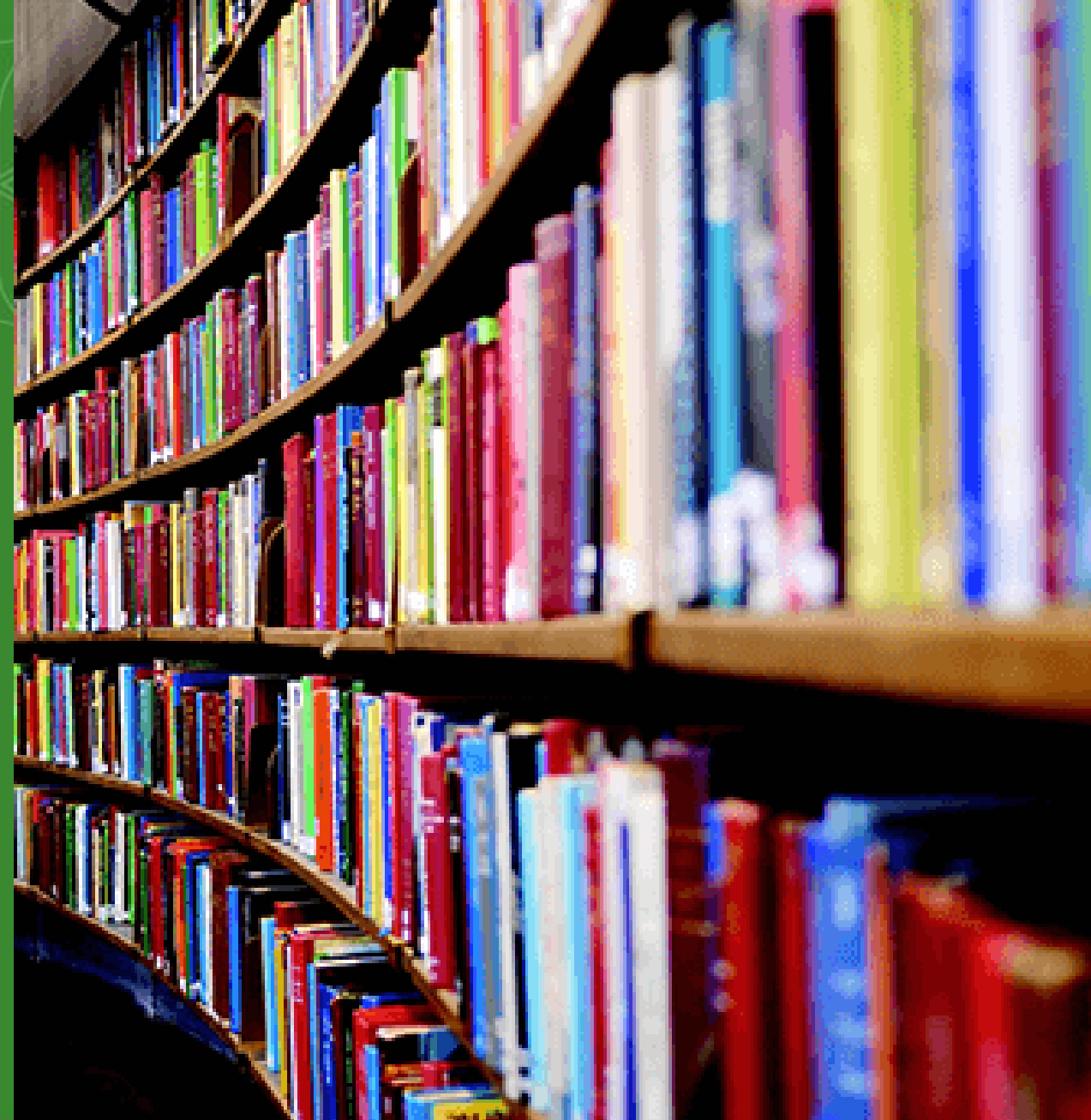
<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/partners/health/index.html>

Background

Literature review yielded no results comparing levels of CS among chaplains, nurses, and providers within a healthcare setting

Minimal literature was identified on CS during a global pandemic

(Franza et al., 2020; Sagherian et al., 2020; Ruiz-Fernandez et al., 2020)



Background

A survey of chaplains found high levels of CS and low levels of burnout

(Hotchkiss & Lesher, 2018)

Chaplains often provide spiritual support for patients who are actively dying or for family members after patient death and those caring for them

(Kirchoff et al., 2021; Liberman et al., 2020; Taylor et al., 2015; Weiner, 2017; Williams et al., 2011)



Purpose

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to measure self-reported compassion satisfaction (CS) among healthcare providers after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Methods

Methods

Caregivers across seven states working in 30 hospitals completed surveys from February 2022 through April 2022.

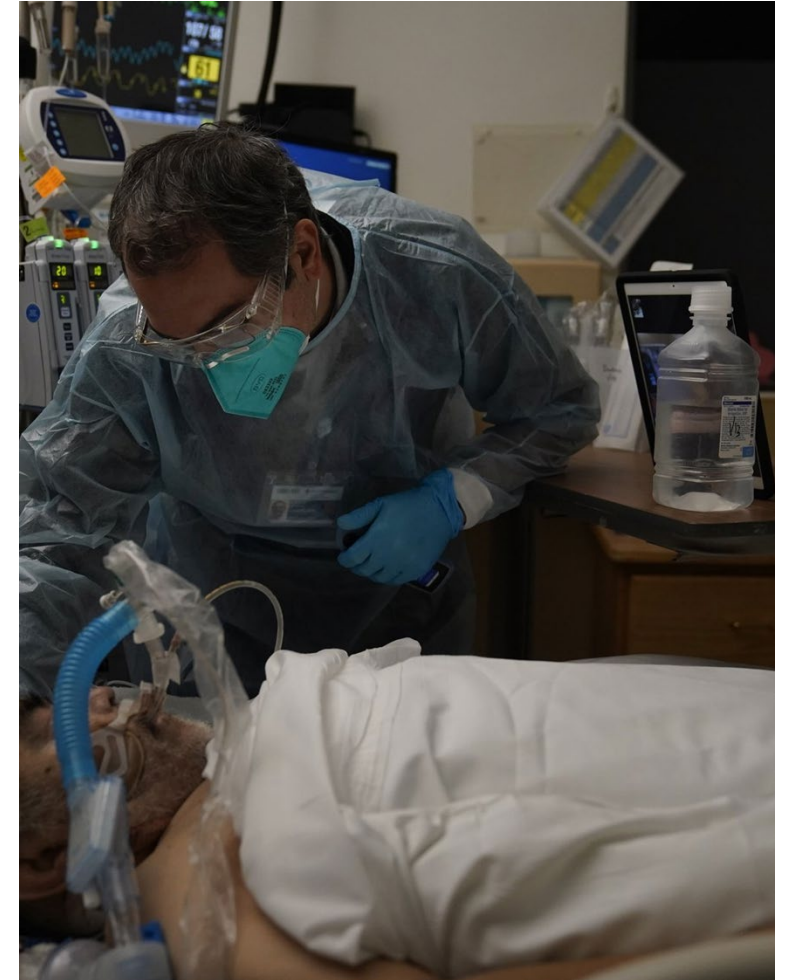
Survey items included:

- demographics
- role, years in role, specialty
- compassion satisfaction subscale of the Professional Quality of Life survey



Providence Saint Joseph Health

Comparisons were made between role types of prescribers, nursing staff, and chaplains.



Methods

Prescribers

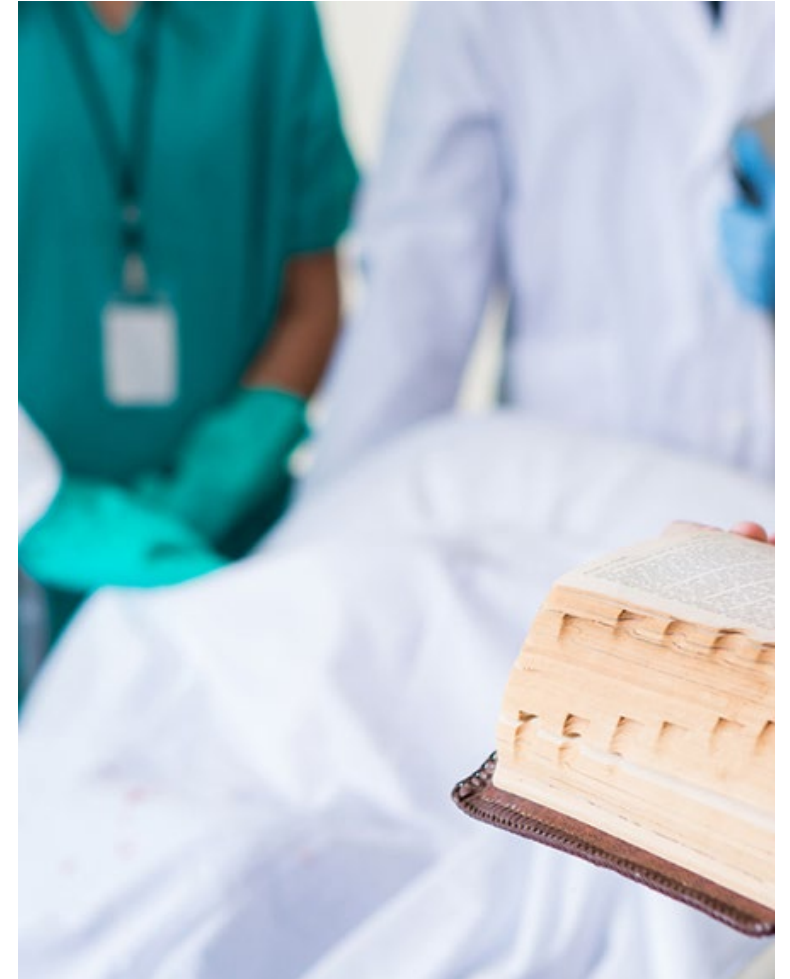
- caregivers with the scope to prescribe treatments to patients in an inpatient hospital setting
- Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants

Nursing staff

- Registered Nurses not serving in APRN roles
- Registered Nurses at any organizational level (educators, directors, etc.)

Hospital chaplains

- trained professionals who provide spiritual support to inpatients, family, and their support persons across the continuum of care



Methods

Prescribers

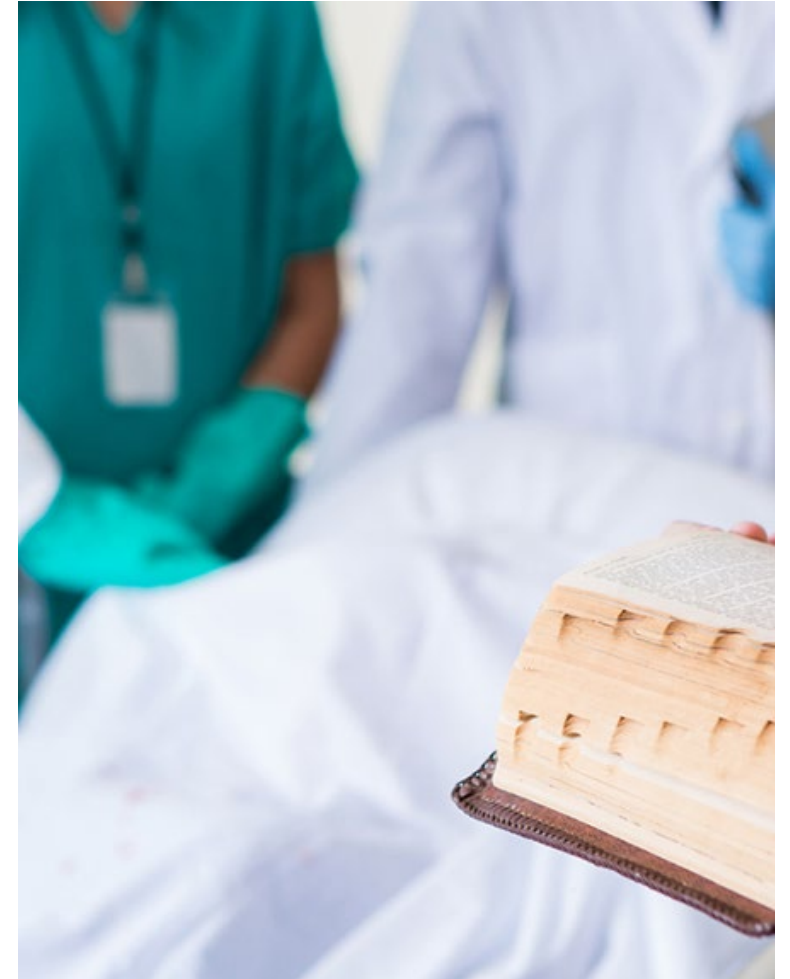
- caregivers with the scope to prescribe treatments to patients in an inpatient hospital setting
- Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants

Nurse

- any caregiver with an active Registered Nurse license not currently licensed as an advanced practice nurse
- Includes direct patient care nurses, leaders, educators, and other non-patient facing nurse roles

Hospital chaplains

- trained professionals who provide spiritual support to inpatients, family, and their support persons across the continuum of care



Methods

Compassion Satisfaction subscale scores:

- ranged from 10-50
- higher numbers represented more CS

Descriptive statistics were obtained for the sample.

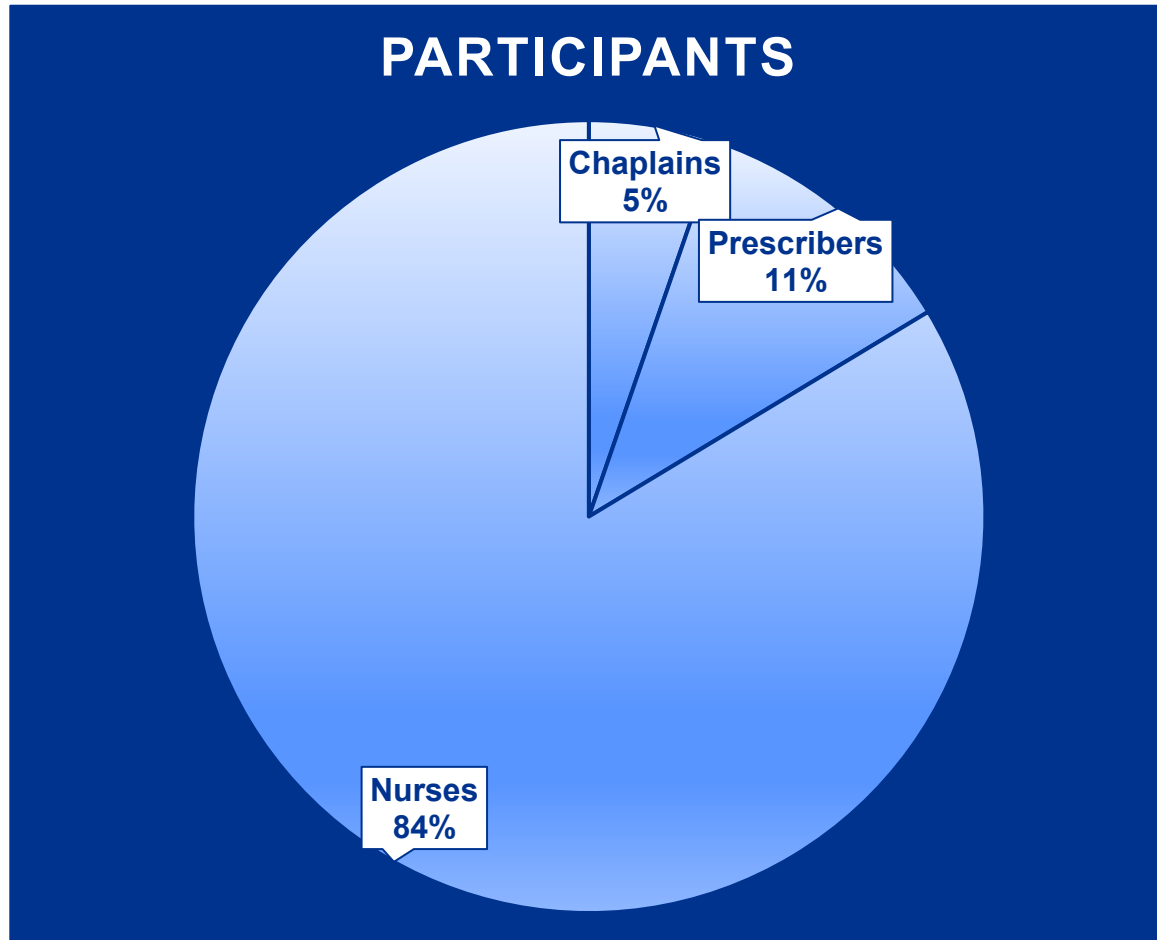
One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to mean stress level differences by frequency of interactions since the pandemic.

*All analyses were conducted in Excel, with $p \leq .05$ considered statistically significant.



Results

Results



1,021 caregivers met eligibility and had data included in analysis

- $n = 54$ represent chaplains
- $n = 113$ licensed prescribers
- $n = 854$ Registered Nurses

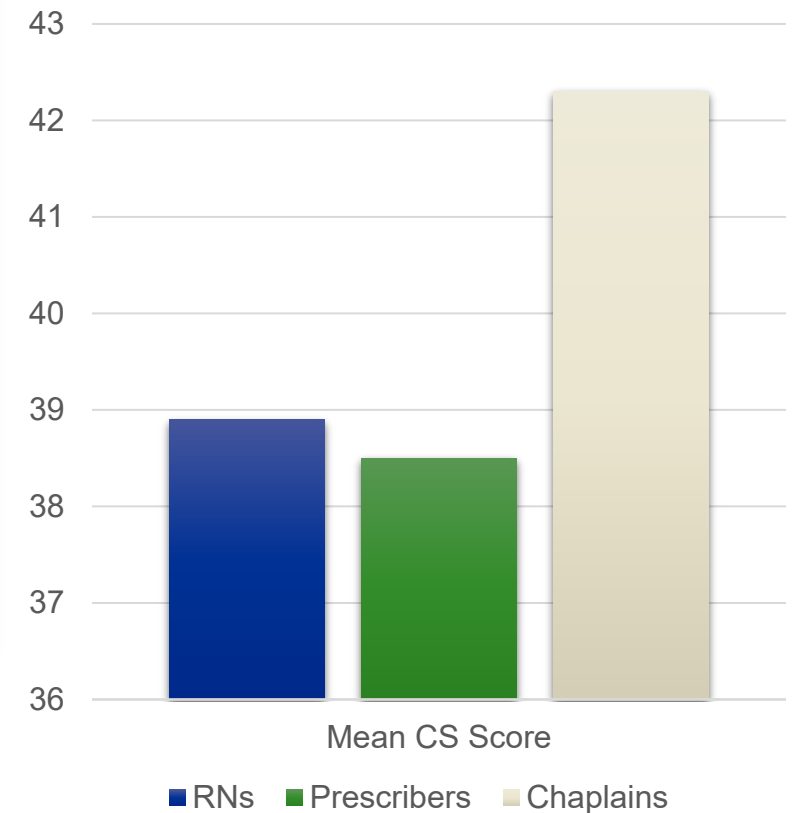


Results



Nurses and prescribers reported significantly lower mean CS scores ($m=38.9$, $m=38.5$, respectively) compared to chaplains ($m=42.3$, $F_{2, 1018}=6.8$, $p=0.001$)

Compassion Satisfaction by Discipline



Discussion

Summary of Findings

Chaplains report higher CS than nurses and providers

- Similar to prior evidence, in this study
 - chaplains reported high levels of CS (m=40.0 in a national survey) (Hotchkiss & Leshner, 2018)
 - nurses and providers reported moderate levels
- Levels of CS were in the moderate range in nurses pre-COVID (m=33.12) (Xie et al., 2021) and post-COVID for nurses and physicians (m=38.12) (Lluch et al., 2022)

Possible explanation

- Higher levels of self-care and spirituality are related to CS
- Chaplains receive specialized training on spiritual and self-care practices to cope with grief and loss
- Nurses and prescribers may not receive the same level of specialized training to process grief and loss experienced throughout their career

Clinical Considerations

Numbers of nurses and prescribers versus chaplains

- 1,021 total caregivers
 - 854 RN's vs 54 chaplains
- Findings should be interpreted with caution as groups were not weighted



- Depersonalization may be a consideration
 - Treating the medical diagnosis versus the human
- Managing clinical expectations and patient outcomes
- Competency through specialized training
- Spiritual and self-care practices may play a role

Clinical Implications

Implications for now and the future

Hire more chaplains as a support for caregivers



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Explore ways to incorporate spiritual awareness into nursing and prescriber clinical practice



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Continue research to generalize findings and correlations





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Thank you

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