

Background

Antibiotic stewardship (AS) in long-term care (LTC) is critical to combat antimicrobial resistance. The CDC’s Core Elements for LTC explicitly call for involvement of antibiotic stewardship-trained consultant pharmacists.

To meet this need, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) program collaborated with the Nebraska Antimicrobial Stewardship Assessment and Promotion Program (ASAP) and the Nebraska Pharmacists Association (NPA) to create and conduct a one-year AS certification program for LTC consultant pharmacists via the University of Nebraska Medical Center Infectious Diseases Project ECHO platform.

We sought to measure the program’s impact on pharmacists’ confidence and engagement in stewardship activities at LTC facilities.

Methods

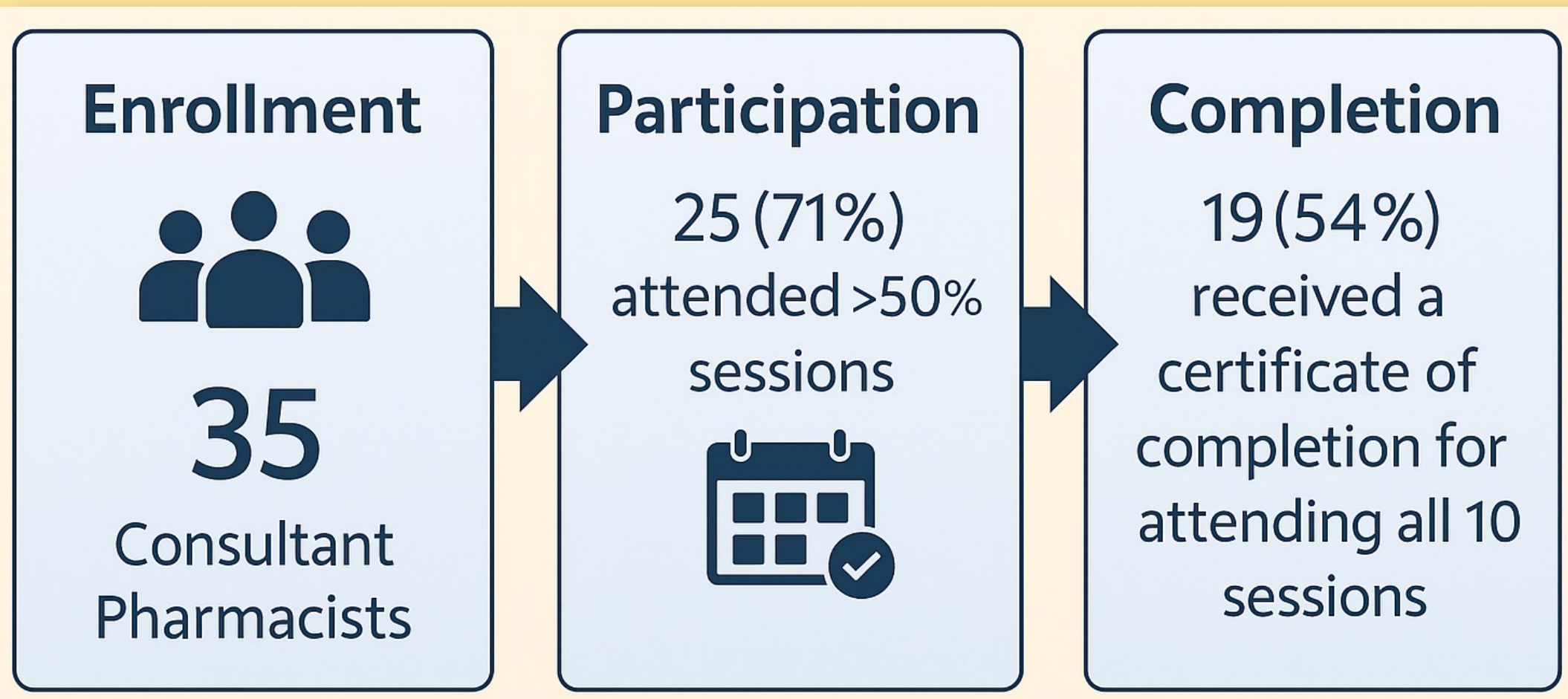
The NPA’s LTC network was leveraged to recruit and enroll consultant pharmacists.

Continuing Pharmacy Education credits were provided for each session and pharmacists attending all 10 monthly interactive sessions offered during August 2023–July 2024 earned a certificate of completion (COC).

A baseline survey collected data on participant prior AS training, confidence, and years of experience.

A post-course survey assessed stewardship confidence changes. A one-year follow-up survey was sent to COC earners.

Results



Curriculum

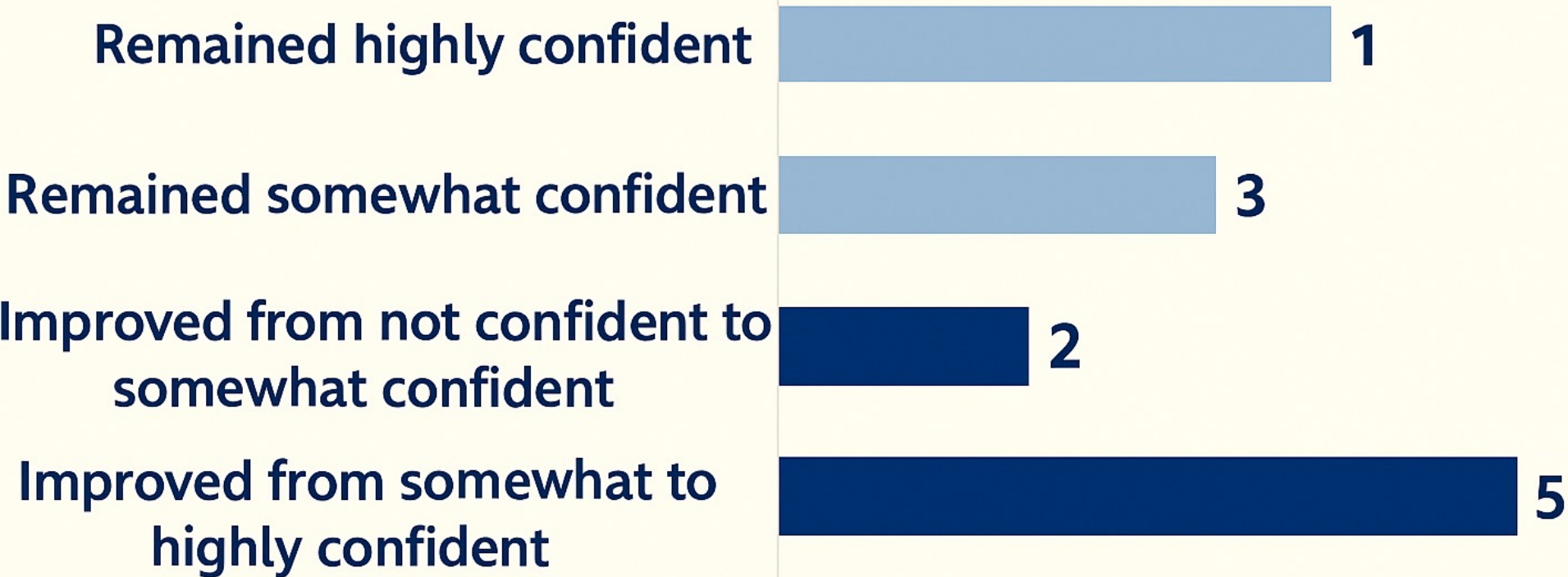
- Introduction to the **Core Elements** of Antibiotic Stewardship
- **Appropriateness of Antibiotics** for Infection in Long-Term Care
- Antimicrobial Stewardship **Program Implementation**
- **Using Data** to Drive an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
- **Microbiology** 101 for the Consultant Pharmacist
- **Optimizing Antibiotic Therapy**: Managing Adverse Events, Drug Interactions, and Renal Dose Adjustments
- Becoming an Effective Antimicrobial Stewardship **Educator**
- **Communication Strategies** for Antimicrobial Stewards
- Putting Antimicrobial Stewardship **Data Into Action**
- **Navigating Barriers** in Antimicrobial Stewardship



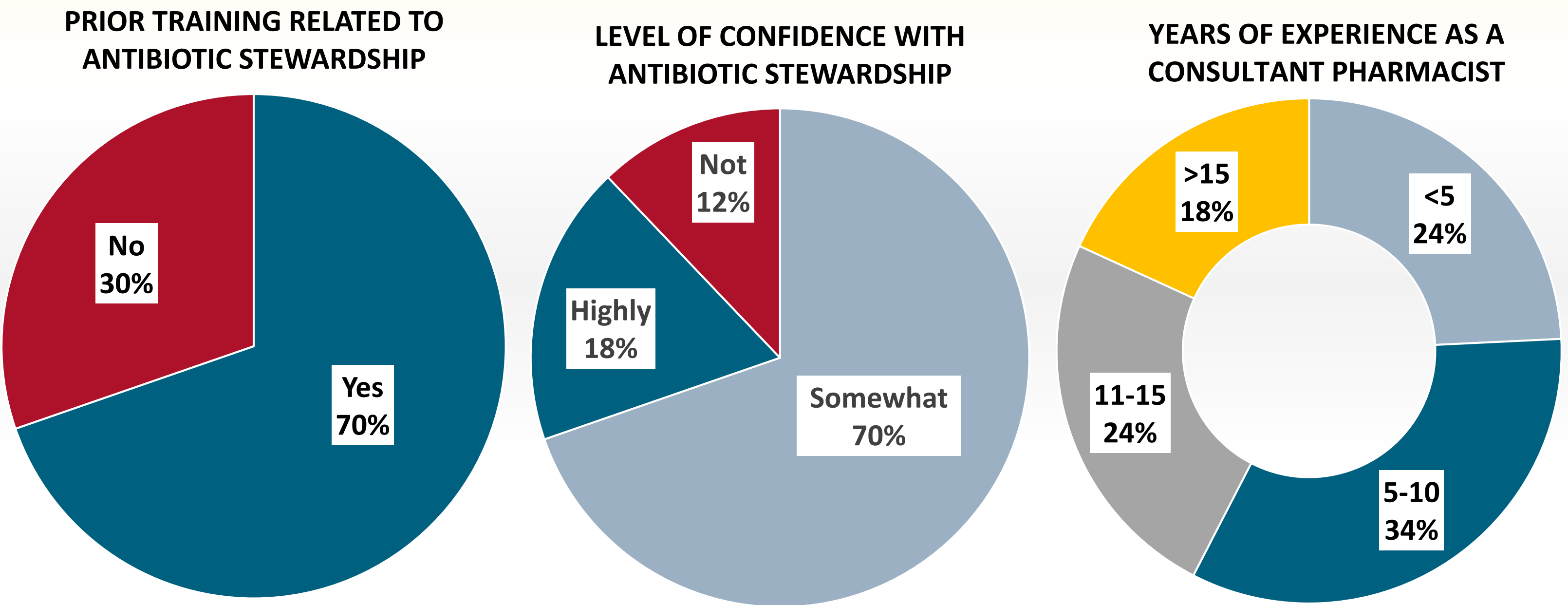
Post-Course
Survey (n=11)

Eleven of nineteen COC earners completed the post-course survey.
None self-rated as “not confident” in AS.

Change in Level of Confidence
After the Training Program



Baseline Survey (n=33)



One Year Post-Course Survey (n=6)

One-year post course completion, 6/19 (32%) of COC earners responded to the survey.

All six reported active participation in stewardship activities (most commonly monthly) and providing AS education (at least once) to LTC facilities.

Conclusions

A year-long AS certification program using the Project ECHO platform was feasible and well attended by consultant pharmacists. Participants demonstrated improved confidence in AS after completing the course.

This scalable approach can build AS capacity in LTC by empowering pharmacists to lead AS programs.

The Nebraska ASAP program will be adding the consultant pharmacist training to their online Learning Management System.



Acknowledgements

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