



www.op.nysed.gov

Substance Abuse Amongst Professionals

- Around 10% to 15% of the Health Care population has experienced drug/alcohol addiction/abuse (SAMHSA 2013).
- 1 in 10 to 1 in 5 RNs may suffer from substance dependence or abuse issues (Starr, 2015).
- Research suggests that prevalence of nurses with substance use problems is similar to that seen in the general population (Monroe, 2009).

Professional Assistance Program (PAP)

Mission

- To Protect the Public and Support the Professional in Recovery
- Voluntary and Confidential
- PAP is available to members of 51 of the 54 professions licensed by New York State Department of Education
 - excluding Physicians, Physician Assistants (PA) and Specialist Assistants (SA) as they have their own program with DOH, attorneys also have a similar program with the Unified Court System

How PAP Works

- Participate in acceptable substance abuse treatment
- Monitored for a minimum of two years after their license has been reinstated
 - Discharge is dependent on participant's progress and is at the discretion of the Committee for Professional Assistance
- Monitoring of participants in the PAP includes treatment reports, work-site reports, and random observed drug screens at specified frequencies

Committee for Professional Assistance

- Members appointed by the BOR
- 3- member panels
- State Board Member sits ex-officio
- Decisions by 2/3rds vote

PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

TO THE PARTICIPANT

- Expert Advice
- Referrals
- Structured recovery plan
- Immunity from 2 charges of misconduct
- Confidential
- Voluntary
- Involves surrendering professional license

TO THE STATE

- Immediate license surrender-which protects the public
- Thorough treatment plan
- Rigorous monitoring
- Strict practice conditions
- Return a trained professional to practice

IMMUNITY GRANTED BY PAP

Participants who are admitted into the PAP are granted immunity from two charges of professional misconduct as specified in the Education Law Section 6509(3) and (4) while enrolled in the PAP and if they successfully complete the program

Two PAP Tracks

PRISM

- Name for traditional PAP Track
- Requires immediate surrender of license
- For all licensed professions except Physicians, PA's and SA's
- The majority of clients are admitted into this track

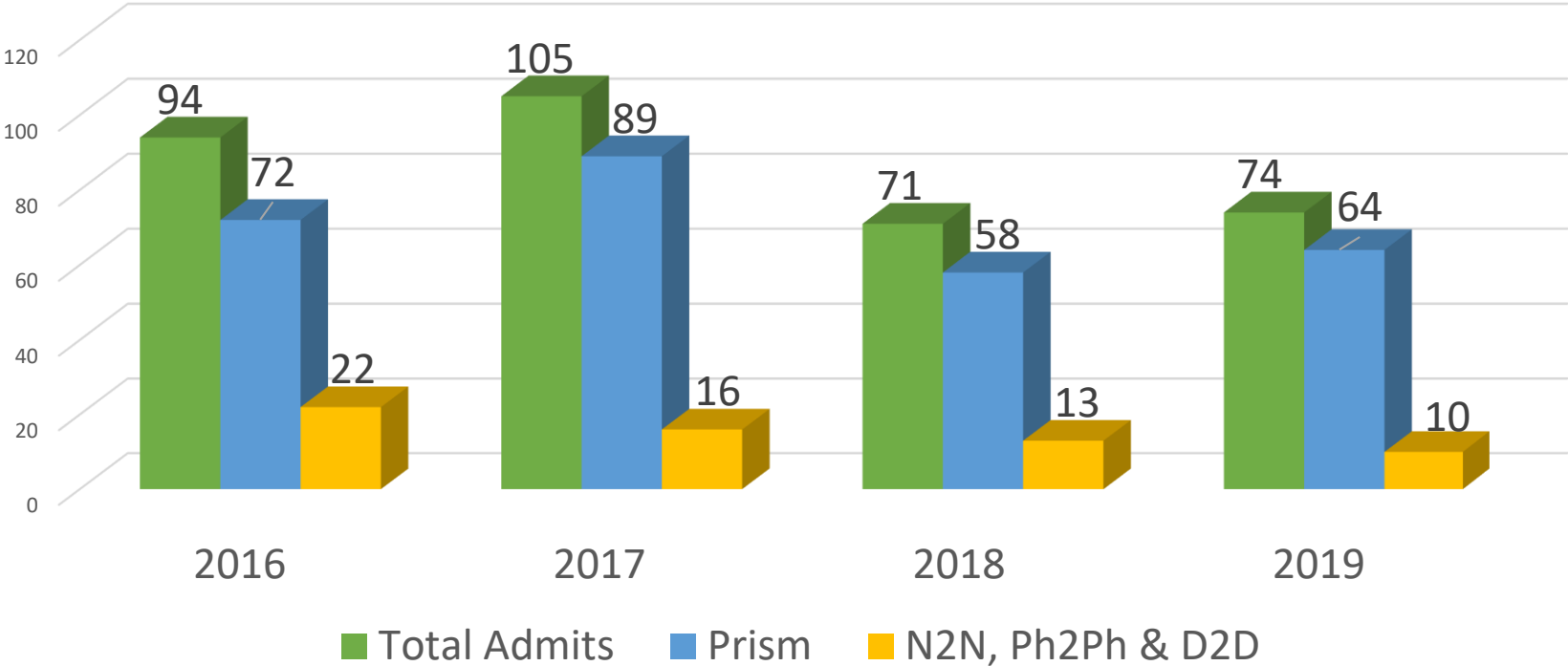
Nurse to Nurse (N2N)

- No interruption of practice if no threat to the public and does not require surrender of license
- Must have a significant amount of time in recovery
- These clients not appropriate for the traditional track
- For RN, LPN, NP
- For any drug problem-not just addiction

Also available for Dentist2Dentist (D2D) and Pharmacist2Pharmacist (Ph2Ph)

Total Admits by Year

2015-2018 PAP Statistics



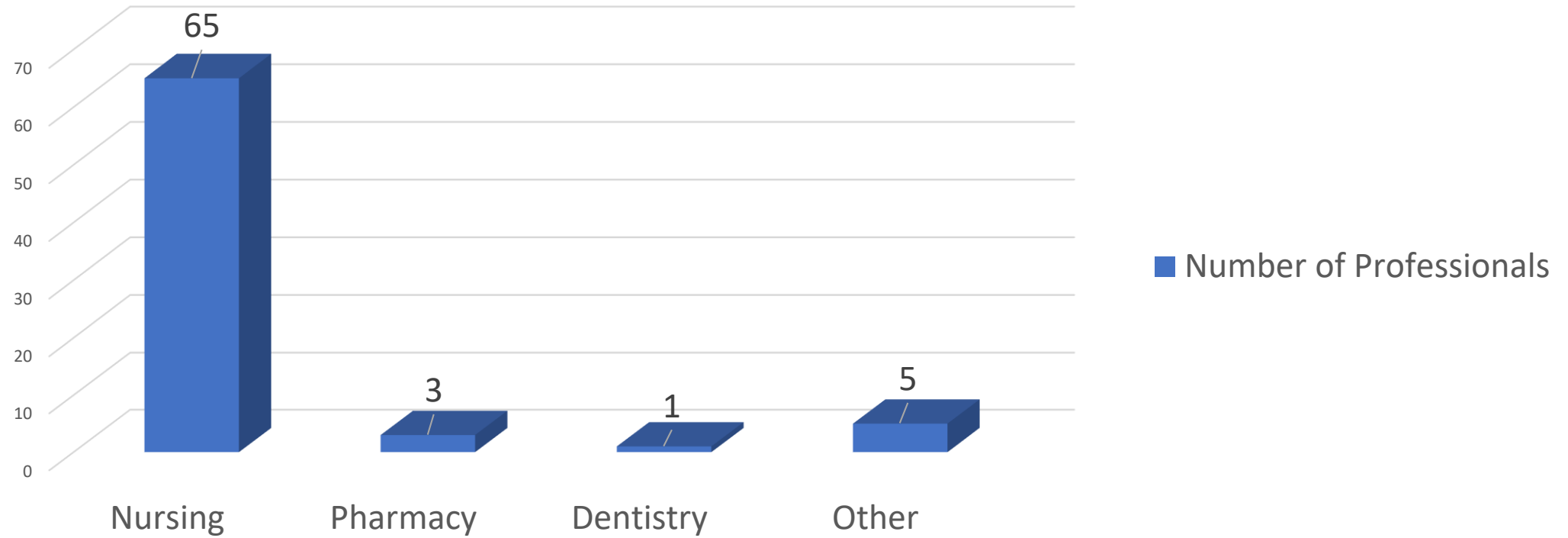
Outreach

Outreach includes:

- Conventions/conferences
- Health care providers
- Education providers
- Professional Boards

Professional Admissions in PAP

2019- Professional Admissions in the PAP



Statewide Peer Assistance for Nurses (SPAN)

- Non-profit agency offering advocacy to nurses (LPN, RN and NP) with substance abuse.
- PAP and SPAN collaborate together to help the participant successfully complete the PAP program.
- SPAN offers support groups to participants in order to discuss issues and gather advice.
- SPAN helps the participant develop their recovery plan.

Physicians, Physician Assistants and Specialist Assistants

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT (OPMC)

- Department of Health
- Investigates complaints about physicians, physician assistants and specialist assistants and monitors practitioners who are subject to Orders of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct.

COMMITTEE FOR PHYSICIAN HEALTH

- Medical Society of the State of New York
- Confidential, clinically based, non-disciplinary, advocacy program funded by physician licensure fees, for physicians, physician assistants and specialist assistants with substance abuse, psychiatric and cognitive disorders.

Where are We Heading?

- Increase the number of professionals who take advantage of the PAP with increased outreach efforts.
 - Conventions/conferences
 - Professional Boards
 - Education providers
- Update and streamline client data with an outside medical management/case management system.
 - Currently working on RFP's for new system
 - Help reduce time and human error
 - Help improve keeping track of statistics and evaluating the monitoring program

PAP Video



Thank you!

- ***Contact Information***

- Jennifer Granato- Associate in Nursing Education Addictions
- pap@nysed.gov
- 518-485-9380