

# Men's Pelvic Health: Exploration of Entry-Level DPT Curricular Content Based on a National Faculty Survey

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## Introduction

- The pelvis and its floor play an integral role in everyday quality of life for both women and men.
- Survey research on women's health content in Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs has helped develop curricular structure for entry-level therapists.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Characteristics of content presented on men's pelvic health (MPH) in DPT programs is unknown.
- 2019: The Section on Women's Health voted to change their name to the Academy of Pelvic Health to be all inclusive.

## Objective

- To examine current entry-level content on MPH in DPT programs, perceived barriers to content delivery, and to support future entry-level curricular development.

## Participants

- Program directors or faculty responsible for pelvic health content at CAPTE accredited DPT programs across the United States

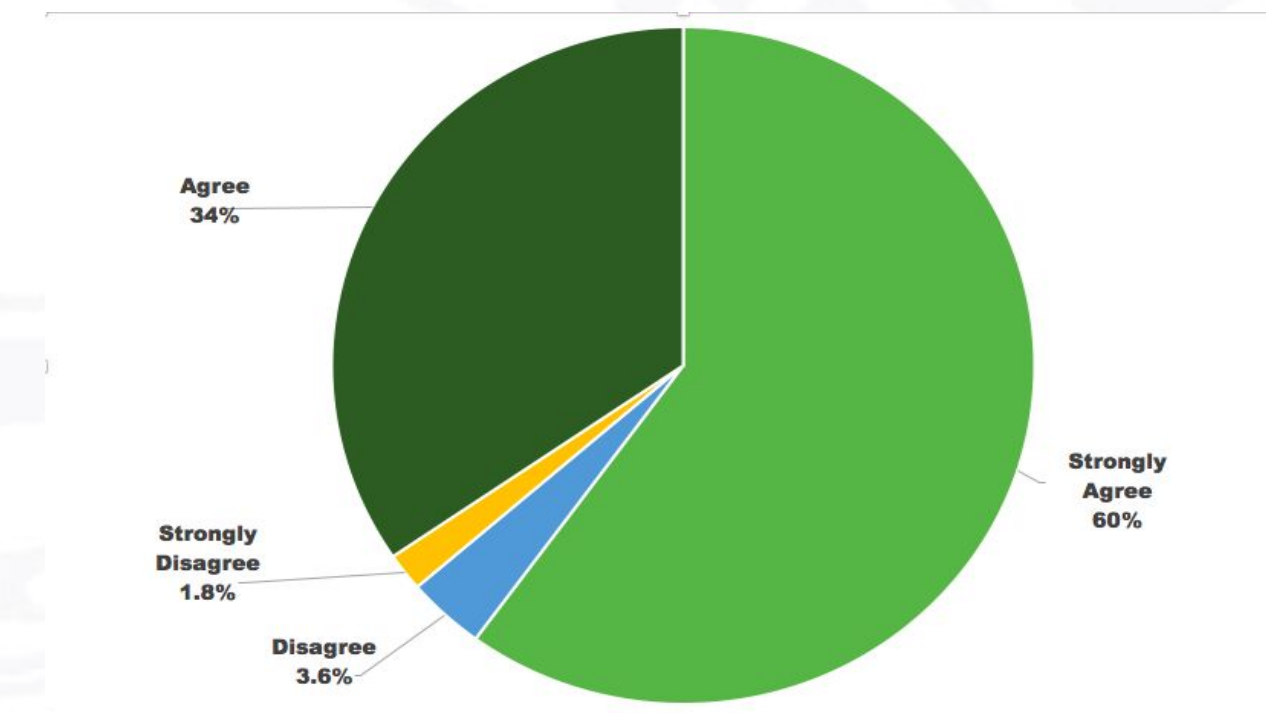
## Methods

- Online surveys sent to 239 DPT programs nationally
- Questions based on literature review and Boissonault's research<sup>1</sup> (likert scale, choose all, open-ended)
- Quantitative and qualitative data regarding MPH content collected:
  - Opinions
  - Hours taught
  - Topics covered
  - Barriers
  - Demographics

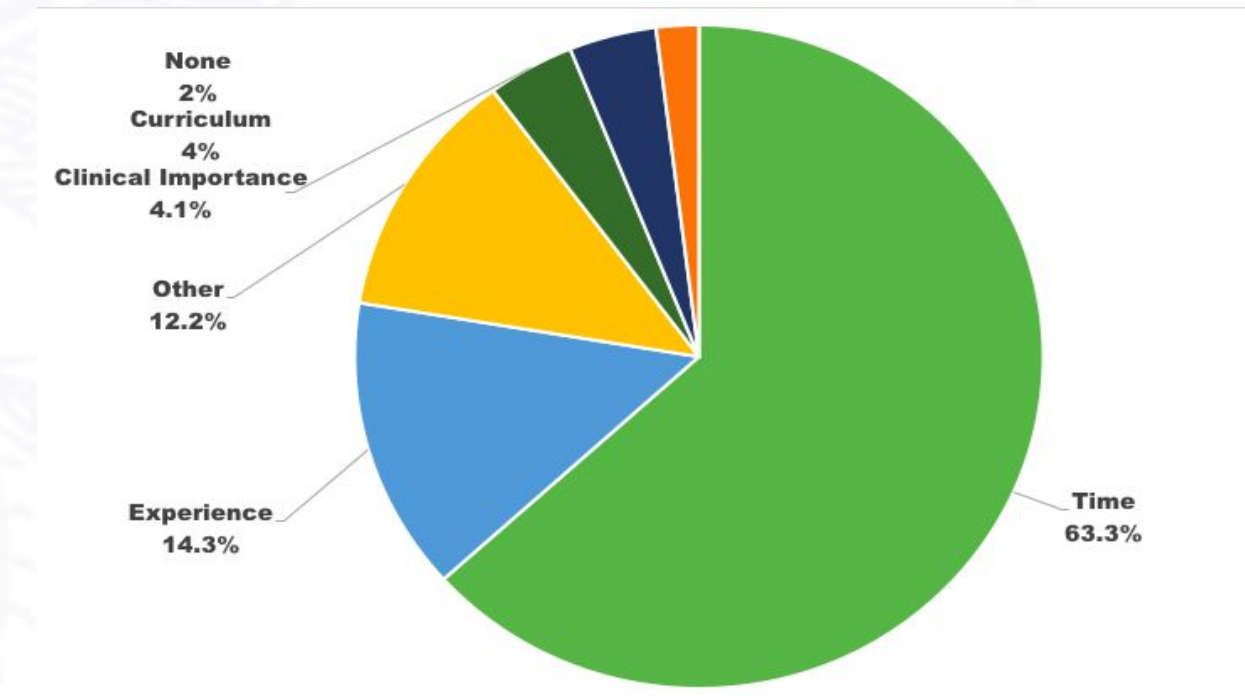
## Results

- Response rate: 23% (55 programs)
- 60.0% strongly agree that MPH should be taught in entry-level DPT programs.
- 23.6% reported spending less than 1 hour teaching men's pelvic health content.
- 63.3% reported "time" as the largest barrier.
- Qualitative themes: men's pelvic health curriculum, barriers, plans for inclusion of men's pelvic health content
- Sub-themes: lack of time in DPT curricula, faculty knowledge to instruct, viewed as a specialty PT, lack of curricular guidelines

## Level of Agreement



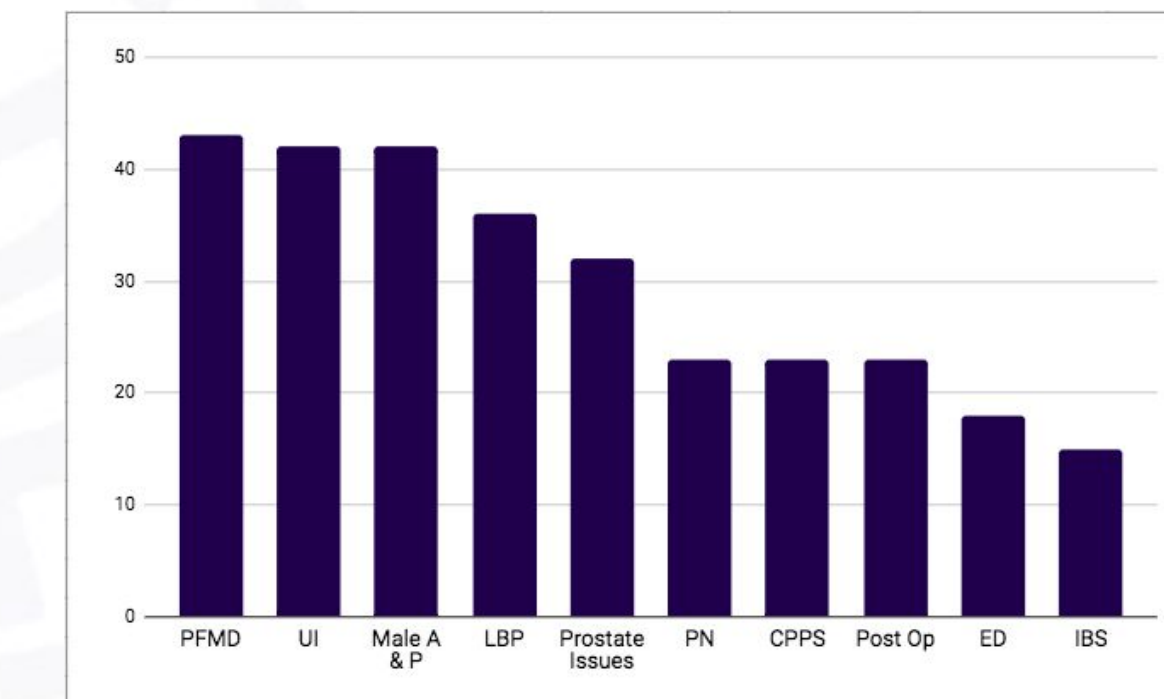
## Barriers to Teaching MPH



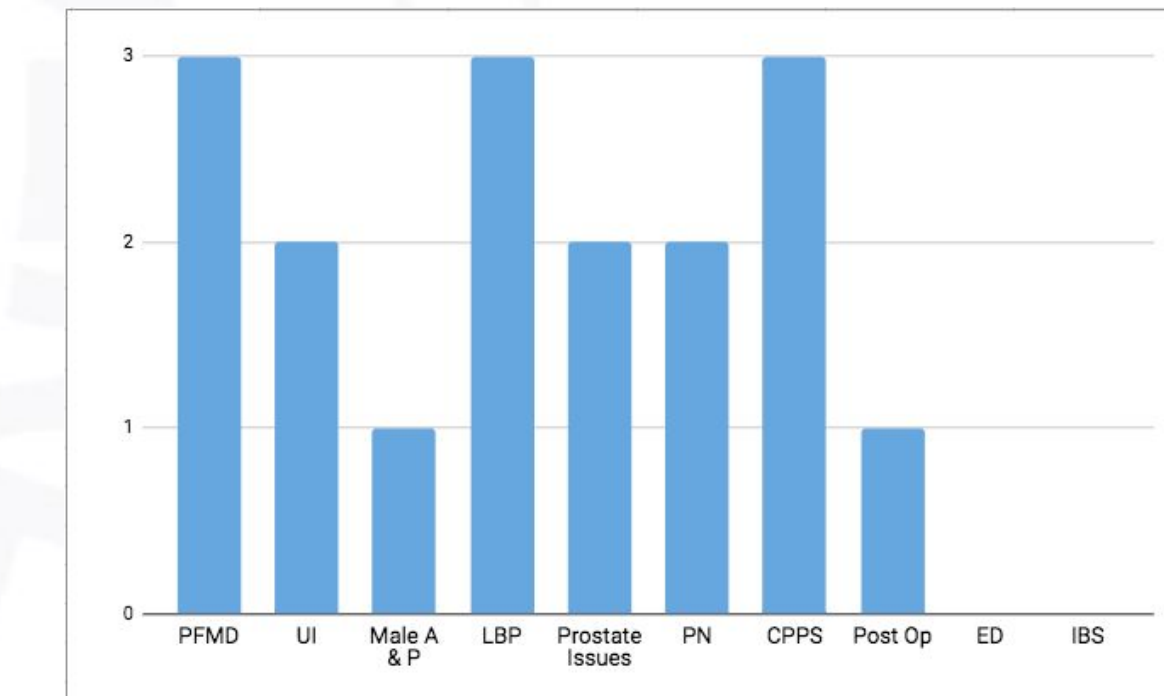
## Conclusion

- Basic MPH perceived as entry-level by participants and should be included in DPT curriculum.
- Lumbo-pelvic musculoskeletal dysfunction is a key component to evidence based practice.
- Male pelvis is an integral part of musculoskeletal dysfunction and perceived as important for entry-level identification and referral.
- MPH content delivery is inconsistent across programs.
- Barriers identified include: time constraints, experienced faculty, clinical importance.

## Topics Currently Being Taught



## Topics Seen as Valuable



## Clinical Relevance

- Male pelvic musculoskeletal dysfunction treatment is an entry-level skill.
- MPH curricular content can improve clinical awareness of pelvic health options for male patients, leading to higher quality recognition and referral.
- Improvement of care provided by entry-level physical therapists.

## References

1. J, S. Boissonault. A Faculty Survey On Entry-Level Women's Health Physical Therapy Curricular Content. University of Wisconsin-Madison. ProQuest Information and Learning Company. 2003.
2. Figuers C, Alcon K, Anderson K, et al. Section on Women's Health, APTA. Guidelines for Women's Health Content in Professional Physical Therapist Education: 2014 Update.