

# Physician Assistant Professional Issues: Optimal Team Practice in South Dakota

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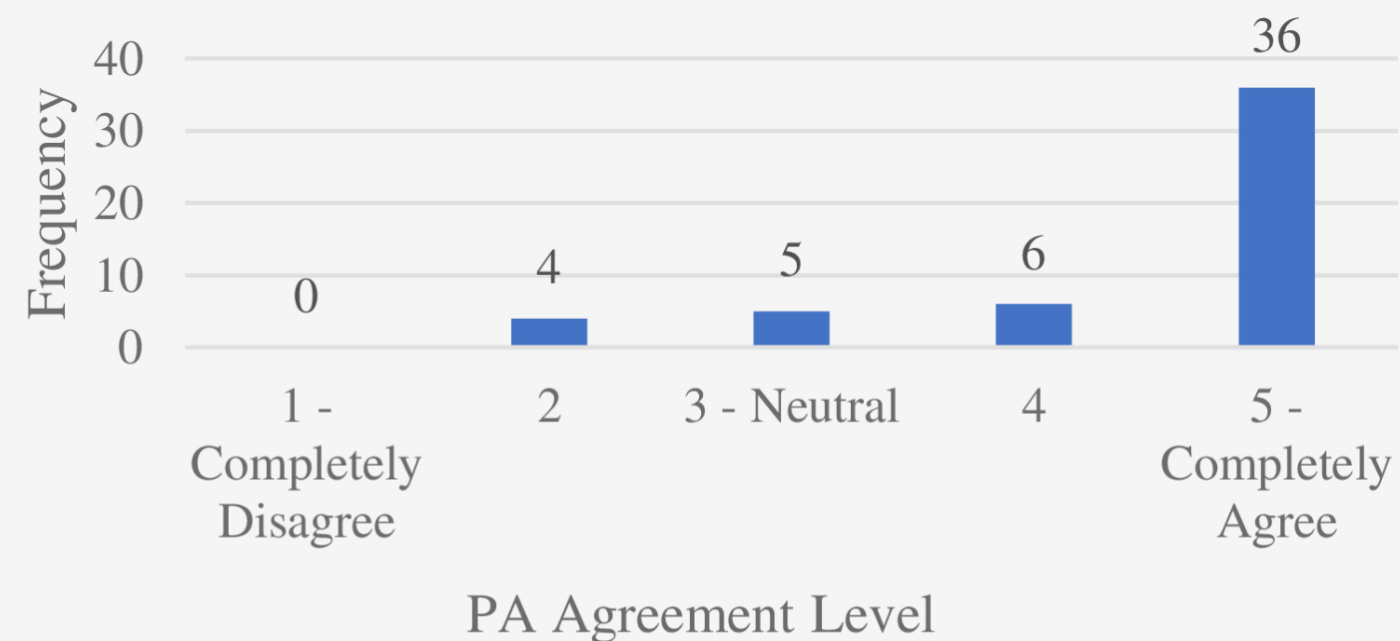
## Background

- Optimal team practice (OTP) is a policy meant to modernize physician assistant/associate (PA) practice laws
- OTP legislation in South Dakota (SD) includes 3 bills from 2021-2023<sup>1-3</sup>
- All 3 failed to pass through legislature<sup>1-3</sup>
- Prior research suggests PAs generally support OTP and related changes<sup>4</sup>
- Yet only 33% willing to advocate in SD<sup>4</sup>
- Full practice authority (FPA) is a similar policy specific to the nurse practitioner (NP) profession
- SD FPA legislation passed in 2017<sup>5</sup>

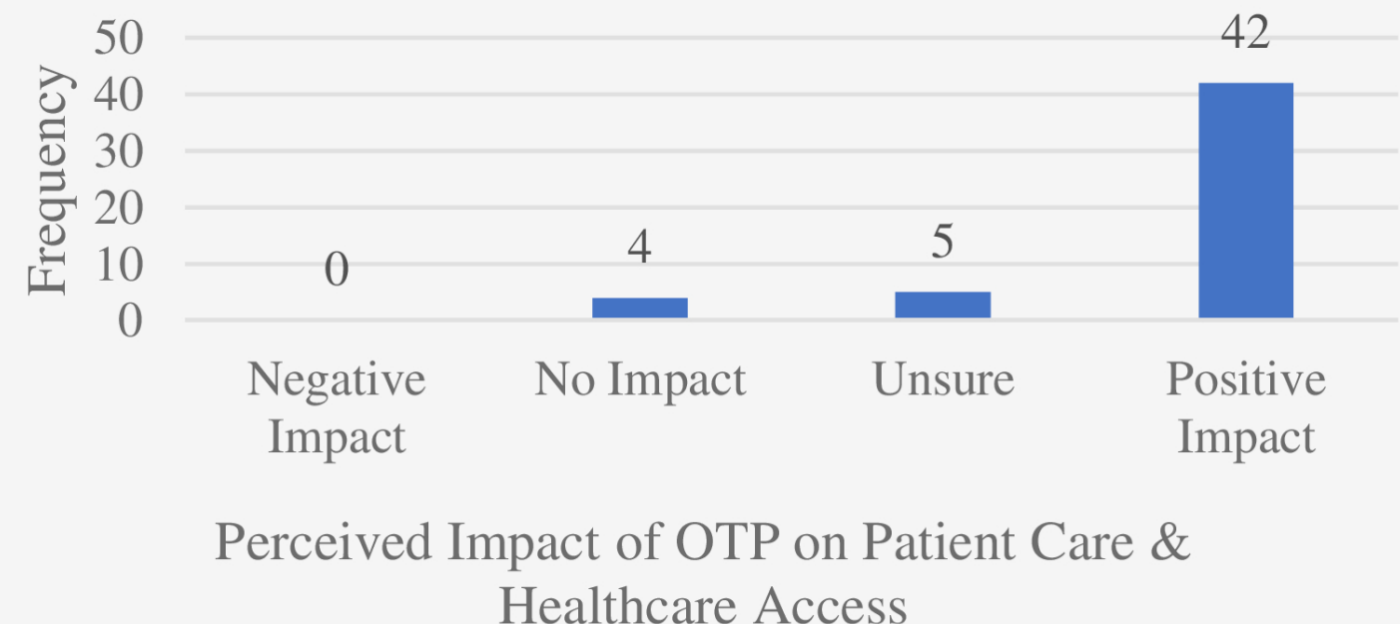
## Methods

- Qualtrics survey, 11 total questions
- IRB approval from the University of SD
- Distributed to SD PAs
- 54 total responses, 51 complete
- Data analyzed in Microsoft Excel
- Asked about understanding/agreement with OTP & related legislative changes

## Removal of Supervisory Agreement



## OTP Impact in SD



## Results

SD PA respondents:

- 96.1% familiar with SD OTP legislation
- 92.2% agreeable with PAs being responsible for the care they provide
- 82.4%:
  - Agreeable with removal of supervisory agreement
  - Believe OTP would positively impact patient care and healthcare access
- 29.4% advocated for SD OTP bills

## Further Research

- SD NPs and physicians:
  - Knowledge/perceptions of OTP
  - Has FPA impacted NP practice?
  - Do physicians oppose OTP/FPA?
- Impacts where OTP bills have passed

## References

1. South Dakota Legislature: Legislative Research Council. House Bill 1163. <https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bill/22290>. Accessed April 2, 2023.
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4. American Academy of Physician Associates Research Department. 2017 Full Practice Authority and Responsibility State-Level Survey Report. March 31, 2017. <https://www.aapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/fpar-report-state-final.pdf>. Accessed April 2, 2023.
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