

Demographic characteristics of high-performance pediatric sedation programs:
initial results from a survey of Society for Pediatric Sedation institutional members

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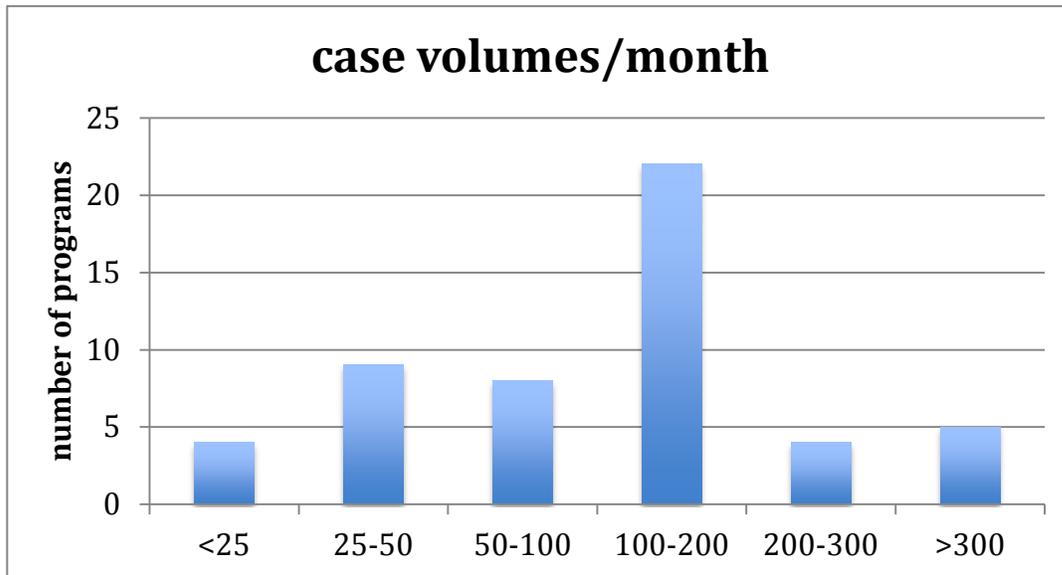
Introduction: One of the major goals of the Society for Pediatric Sedation (SPS) has been to lead the advancement of pediatric sedation by promoting safe, high quality care. The last demographic survey of pediatric sedation programs was performed in 2008 (1); since then, sedation services have matured to comprise many different environments of care and provider specialties as represented by SPS member institutions.

Methods: Each of the 53 SPS institutional members was invited to complete a descriptive questionnaire summarizing many aspects of their sedation service including demographics as well as a variety of quality metrics. A total of 52 member programs responded to the survey.

Results: SPS member institutions include 20 freestanding children's hospitals, 26 children's hospitals within larger medical centers, 5 regional referral hospitals, and one freestanding dental clinic. Sixteen programs utilize a centralized sedation unit, 14 programs are decentralized, and 20 programs operate as a combination of the two models, while two programs provide sedation in their pediatric emergency departments only. Of the surveyed programs, 26 have a pediatric critical care base, three are organized through pediatric emergency medicine, four through pediatric hospital medicine, three through radiology, one through general pediatrics, and 10 through pediatric anesthesiology; five programs are considered independent entities. Approximately 1/4 of the teams include advanced practice providers. Monthly case volumes are shown in table 1. Most services are available from 7 am through 5 pm Monday through Friday, while a number of programs offer scheduled and/or on call services on weekends. Although the majority of programs have no limitations to medications or billing practices, some are restricted from using deep sedation agents and/or nitrous oxide as well as from utilizing anesthesia billing codes for their services.

Discussion: The many varied demographic characteristics of SPS member institutions provide significant insight into the current multidisciplinary practice of pediatric sedation and offer numerous opportunities for collaboration and advancement of best practices.

Table 1. Monthly case volumes



References:

1. Scherrer PD, McClure E, Cravero JP. Pediatric sedation program and practice characteristics among Pediatric Sedation Research Consortium members. Poster presented at: Third International Multidisciplinary Conference on Pediatric Sedation: 2008 May 28-30; Savannah, GA.