

# Psychotropic Drugs Dispensing Behavior at Benghazi city



2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year PharmD students

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# Introduction



- **Psychotropic drugs are among the most widely abused & misused drugs in Libya & worldwide.**
- **They should be strictly prescribed & dispensed, due to their potential of developing withdrawal symptoms in addition to abuse.**
- **The pharmacist has the major role in controlling psychotropic drugs' dispensing.**



# Main aim of this study

**To assess adherence of pharmacists in Benghazi city to regulations regarding dispensing of psychotropic drugs.**



# Protocol of The Study



1. Included 2 visits to each of 154 retail Pharmacies, that are located inside Benghazi city.
2. Students did a role play during 1<sup>st</sup> visit asking for “Xanax” with out prescription.
3. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit students filled in questionnaires with the help of Pharmacist.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> visit: ask the same pharmacist to fill the questionnaire

## 1<sup>st</sup> visit: ask for medication without prescription



Filling Form	
Pharmacy Name	اسم الصيدلية
Pharmacist's Gender	جنس الصيدلي
Date	تاريخ اليوم
Time	الساعة
Pharmacist's Response	رد فعل الصيدلي
The Pharmacist gave the drug immediately	قدم الصيدلي بإعطاء الدواء مباشرة
The Pharmacist asked for the reason of taking the drug before giving it.	قدم الصيدلي بالسؤال عن سبب أخذ الدواء
The Pharmacist asked for a prescription	قدم الصيدلي بالسؤال عن الوصفة الطبية
The drug was not available	الدواء لم يكن متوفرا
The Pharmacist refused to give the drug	رفض الصيدلي إعطاء الدواء
Others	أجوبة أخرى

code the behavior & related information

### 1 Psychotropic drug dispensing:

Questionnaire about knowledge, attitude and practice of pharmacists toward psychotropic drugs dispensing.

استبيان بخصوص صرف الأدوية العقلية لقياس مدى معرفة وممارسة الصيدلانيات لقرائين صرف العقاقير العقلية.

A. Demographic questions \* Required

1. "How long is your work experience?"

1. ما هي مدة خبرتك في العمل?

2. \*Gender

Male  
Female

2. الجنس  
ذكر  
أنثى

3. "How old are you?"

3. كم عمرك؟

4. "What is your degree in pharmacy?"

Bachelor  
Diploma  
Master  
PhD  
Others, please specify

4. ما هي شهادتك في مجال الصيدلة?  
بكالوريوس  
دبلوم  
ماجستير  
دكتوراه  
أخرى

B. Scenario-Based questions

س. الأسئلة المبنية على السيناريوهات

Q1. A 40 years old woman came to your pharmacy asking to have 0.25 mg Xanax "alprazolam", because she's suffering from anxiety for a long time and she's about to have a nervous breakdown. She also claims that she can't visit the psychiatrist. Would you dispense the drug for her?



Data Analysis



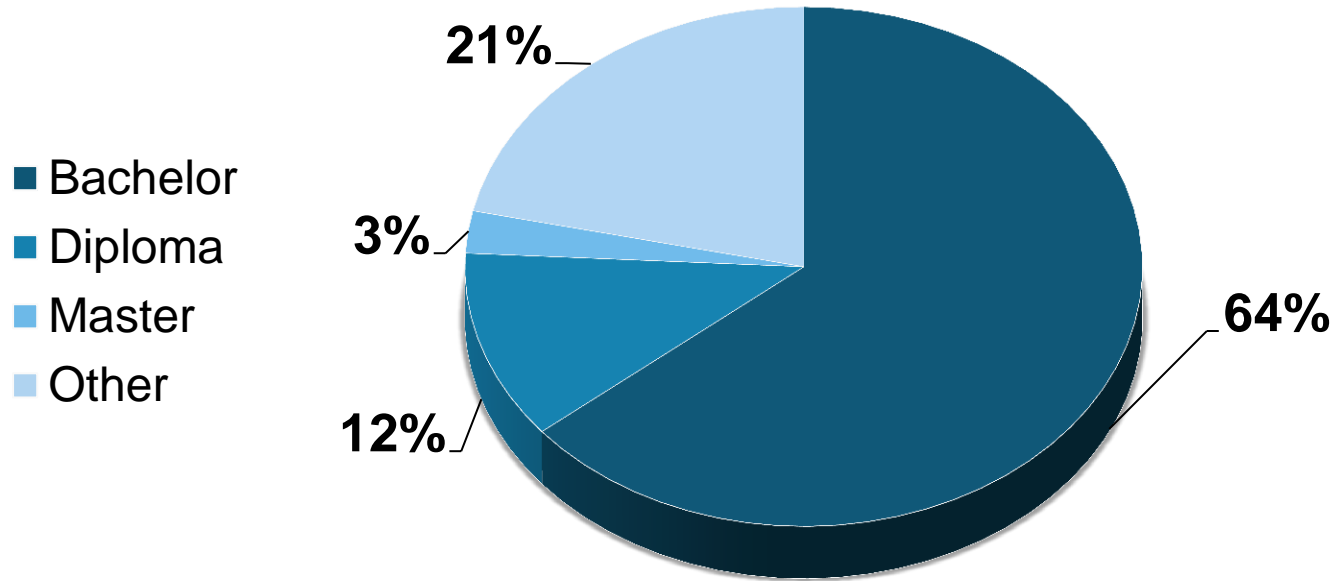
# Demographic Data



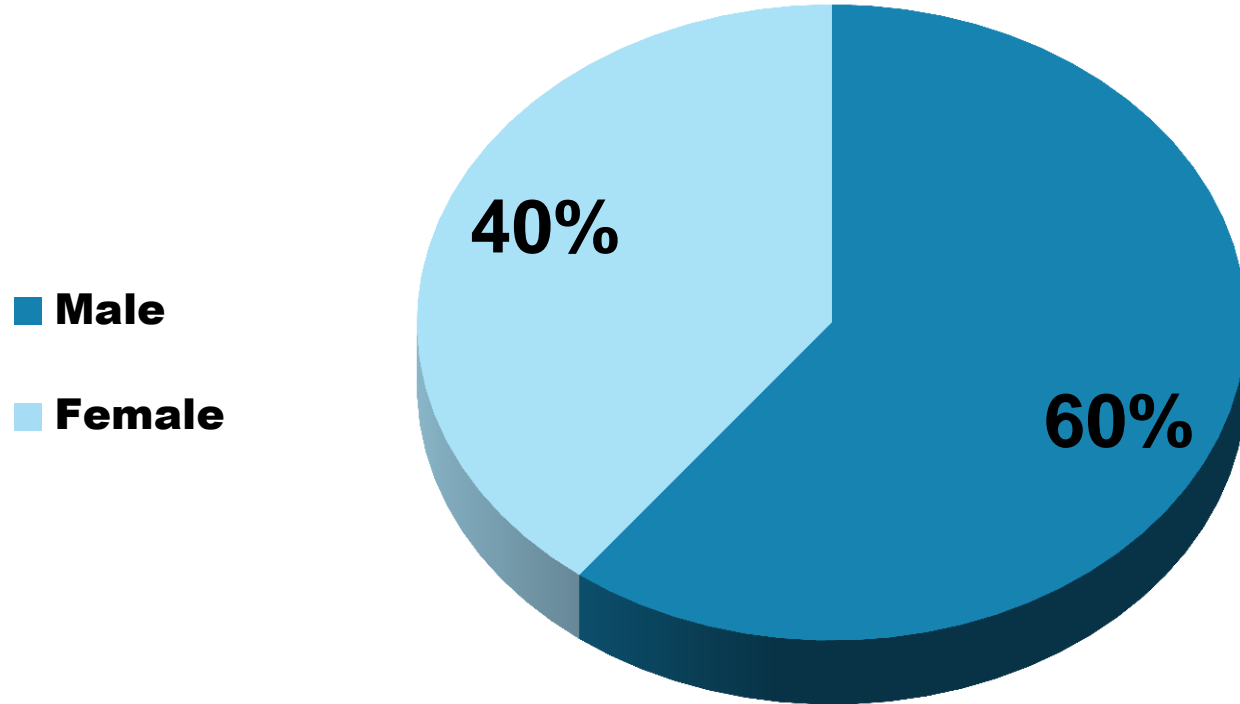
# Academic Degree



**64% had a bachelor degree in pharmacy and 36 % were holders of other degrees**

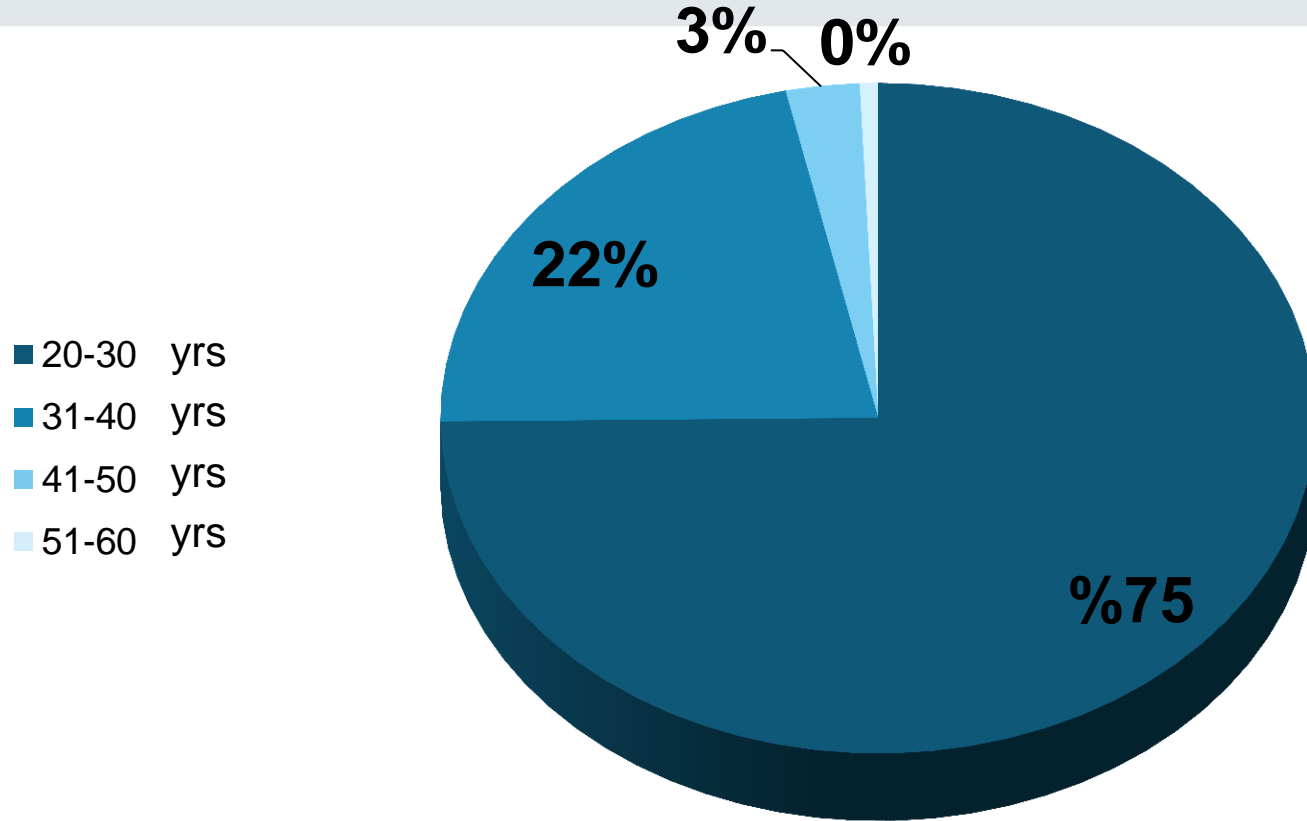


# Gender

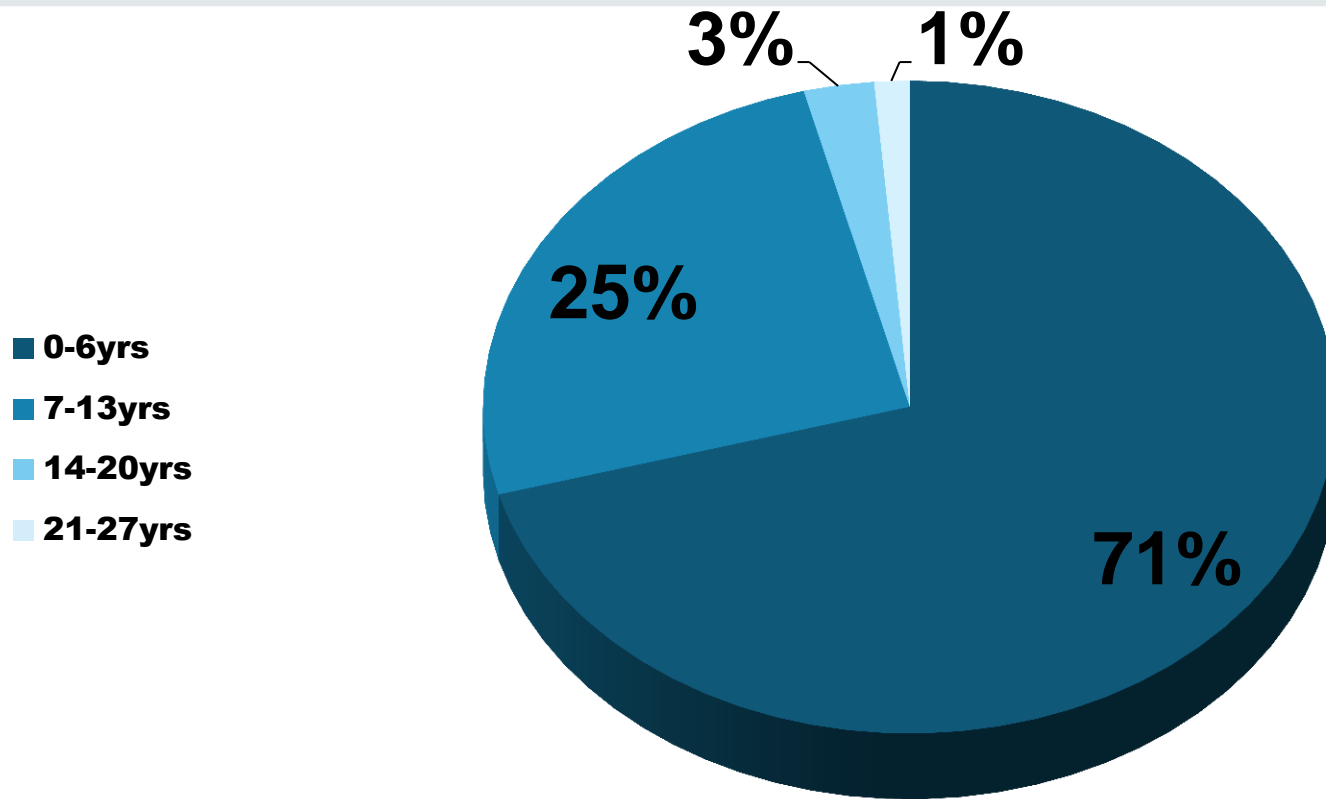




# Age



# Experience

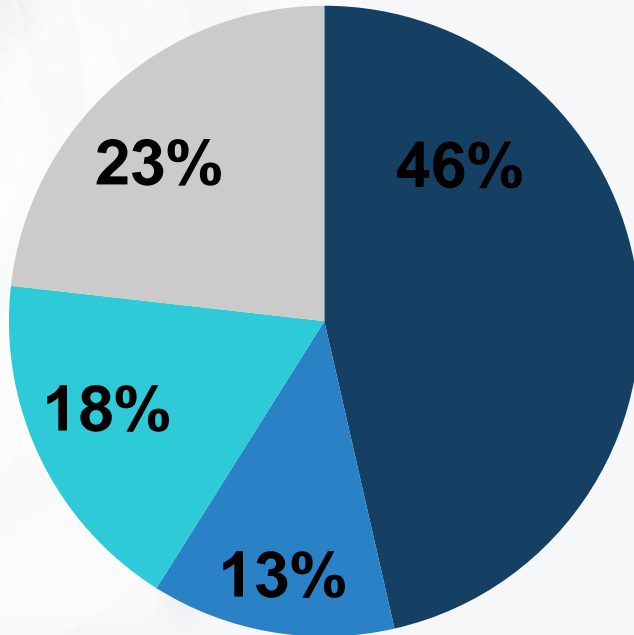




## Results of the 1<sup>st</sup> visit

# “real” response of pharmacist, when asked for Xanax without prescription

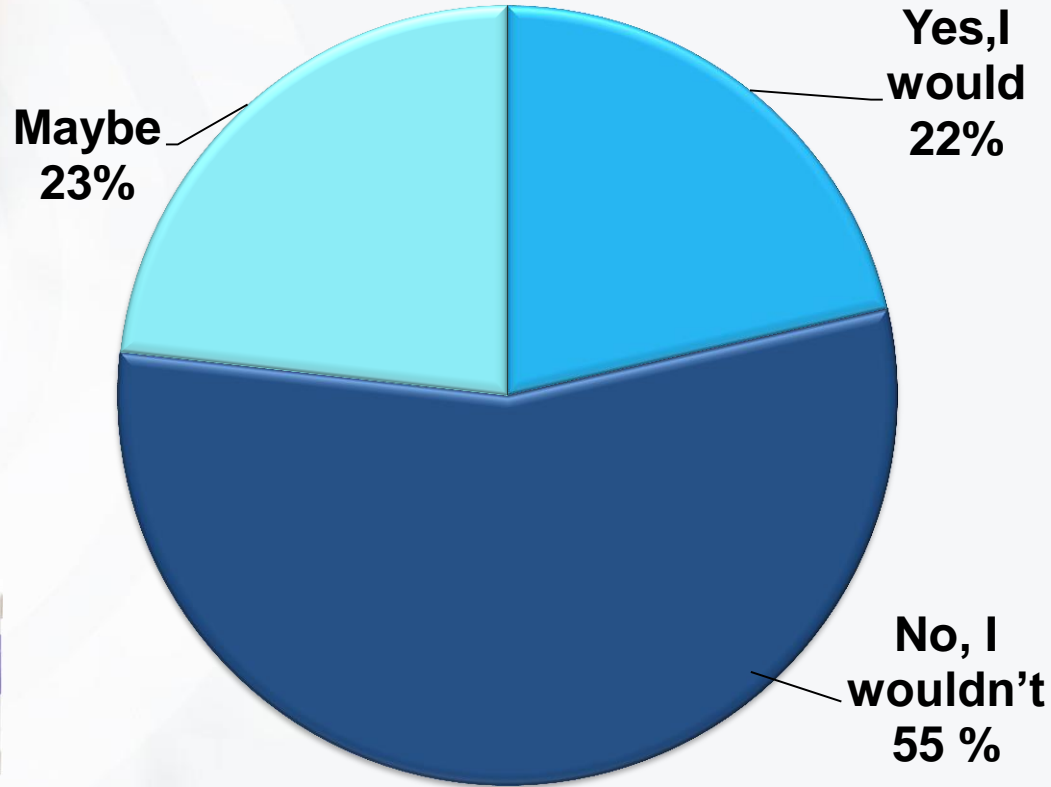
- Immediately
- Asked for prescription
- Medication not available
- Refused to give





## Results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit

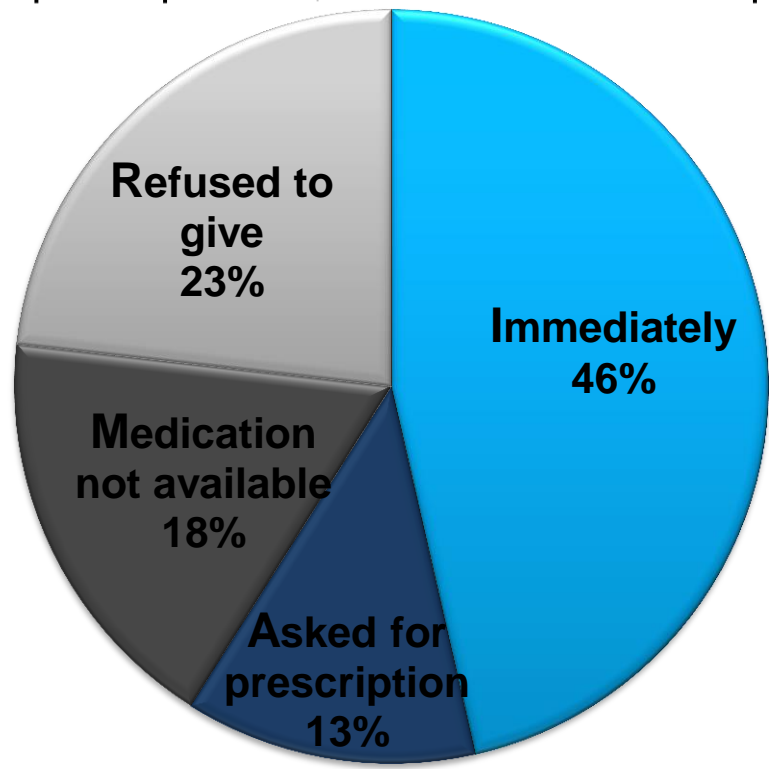
- Would you dispense “Xanax” without prescription ?



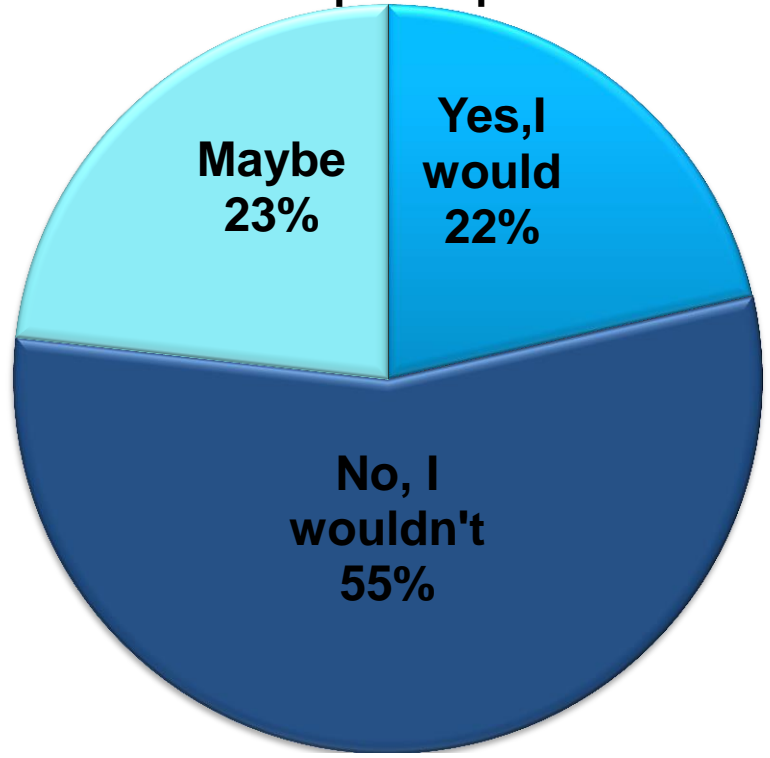
# A comparison between the percentage of real response and the questionnaire results.



“real” response of pharmacist, when asked for Xanax without prescription



Would you dispense “ xanax “ without prescription

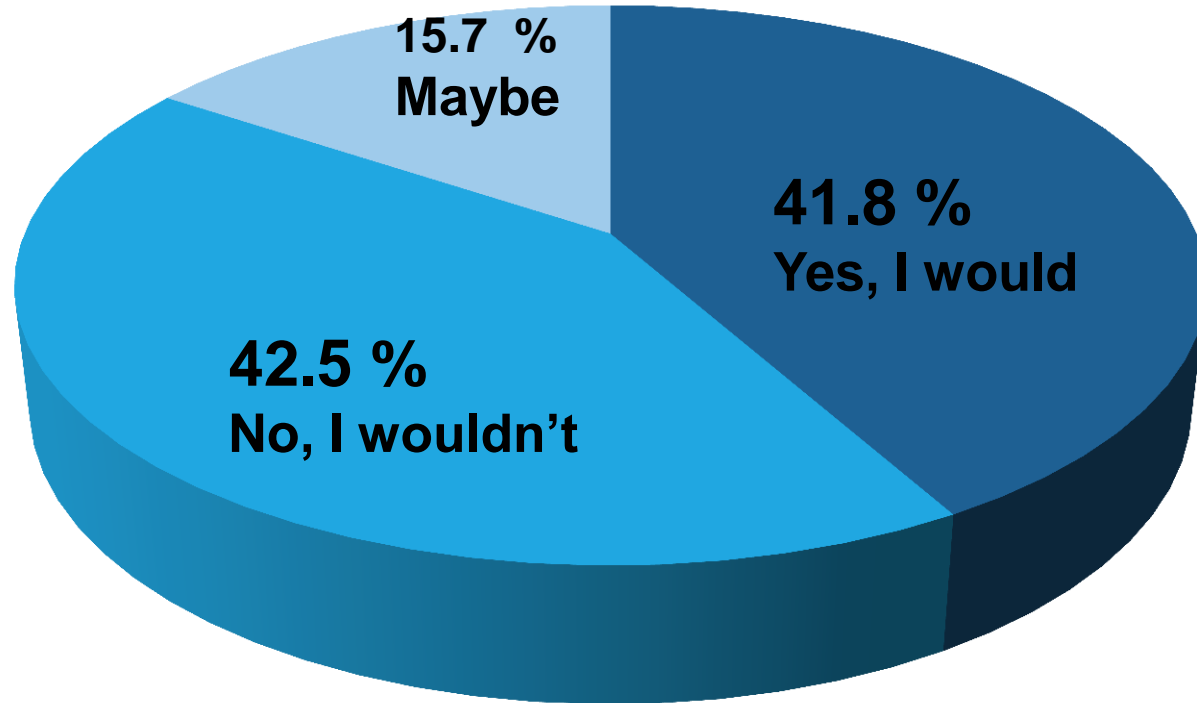




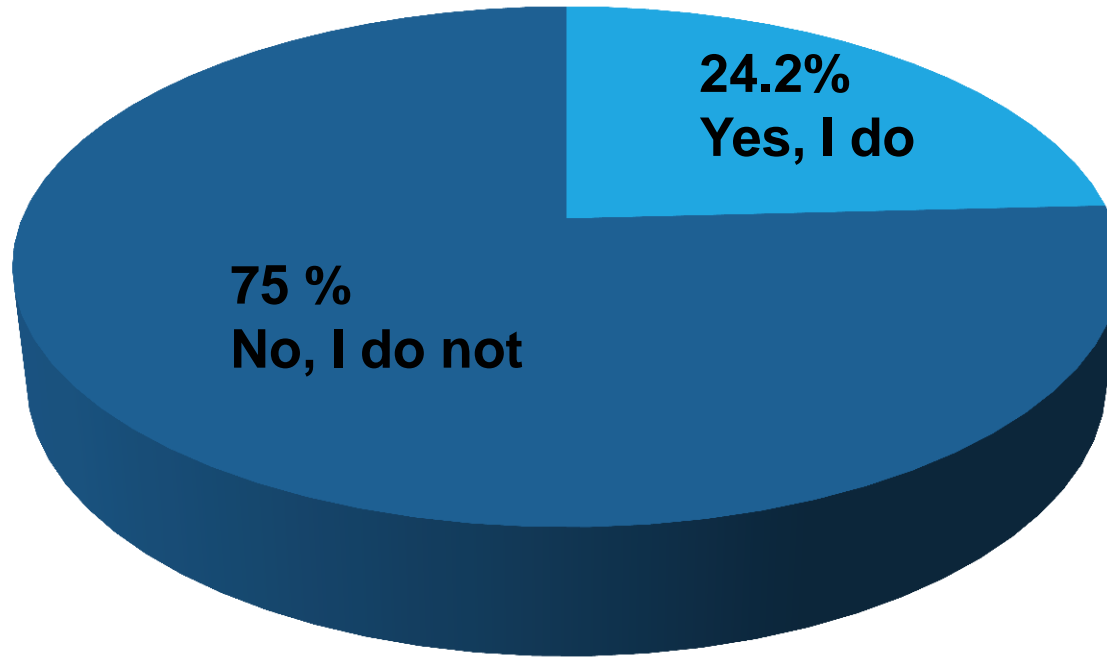
# Important questions



# Would you re-fill or dispense an old psychotropic drug prescription ?



# Do you have a record for the prescribed/ dispensed psychotropic drugs ?





# Discussion



**Dispensing a psychotropic medication without a prescription seems to be a “normal” practice in retail pharmacies in Benghazi.**





# Summary



- Majority of the Pharmacists dispense Psychotropic medications immediately without any hesitation.
- While, when asked in the questionnaire, the majority said that they would not dispense psychotropic drugs without a prescription.





# Recommendation



**Regulations should be reviewed and structured educational campaigns are a must to both pharmacists and the public about the administration of such medications.**



# Acknowledgments



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**Dr. Salma Bukhatwa**



**Ms. Elzahra Buzeriba**

**For their efforts and support for us**

