

# Patient Perceptions of Pharmacists' Involvement in Type 2 Diabetes Management

Aree Booker, Aleyah Niette, and Emily Rosenfeld- Pathway to Med School 2025

Smita Rawal, PhD, PharmD; Sharmon P. Osae, PharmD, BCACP; Henry N. Young, PhD, University of Georgia- Principal Investigator

## Background

- In Georgia, around 1 million people (12.4%) have diabetes, with 230,000 undiagnosed.
- Dougherty County reports a 16% diabetes rate—5% above the state average
- Pharmacists are often misunderstood as mere dispensers, despite training in chronic disease care
- Pharmacists could play a vital role in education, medication management, adherence, and care coordination for type 2 diabetes (T2D) care
- This study aims to examine: (1) Demographics and clinical traits of rural residents with T2D exposure (2) Perceptions of pharmacist engagement and competency in T2D care (3) Factors related with perceptions related to pharmacist involvement in T2D care

## Methodology

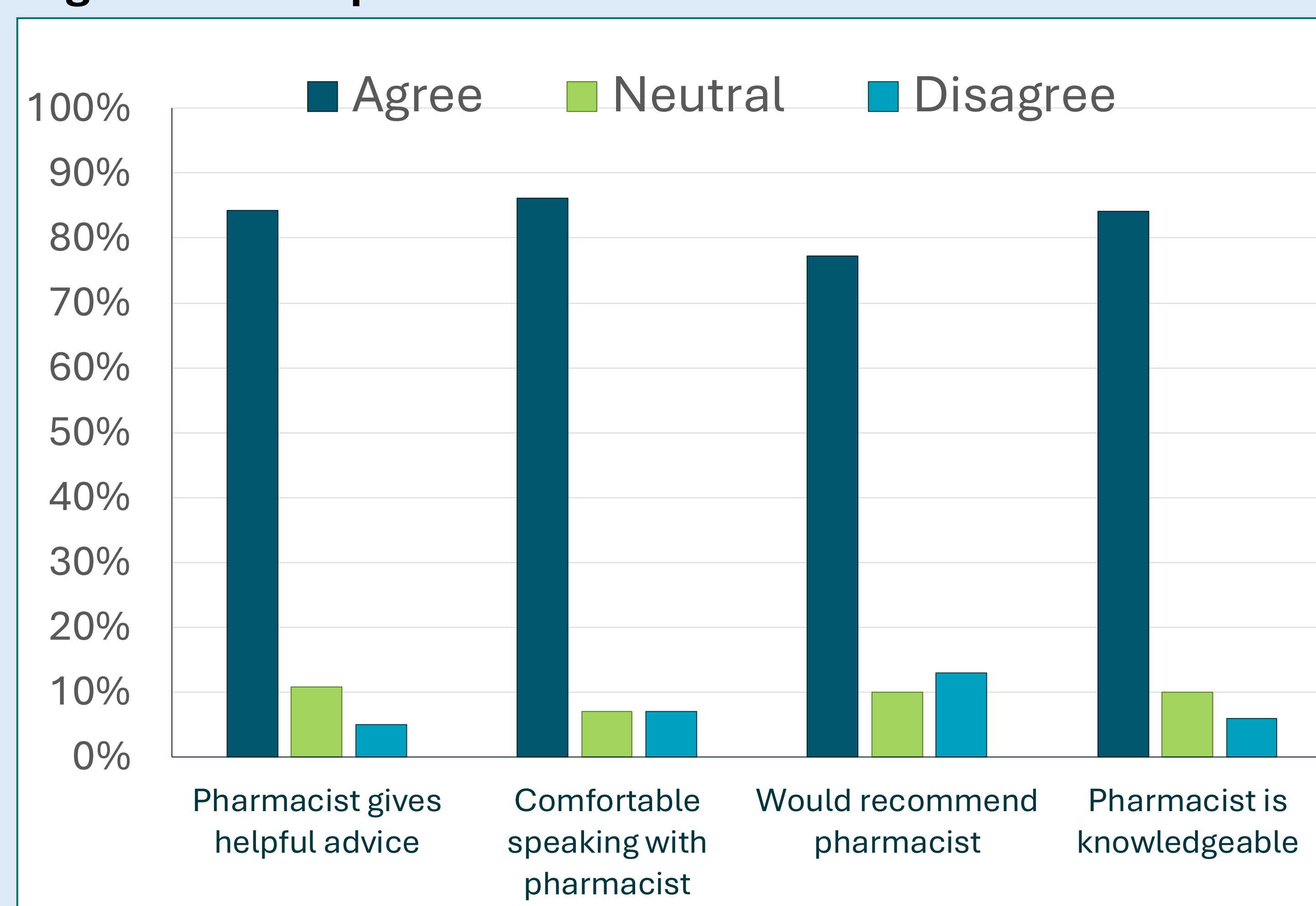
- Design:** Cross-sectional
- Inclusion criteria:** Adults  $\geq 18$  years of age from five federally qualified health centers (FQHC) clinics in Southwest GA
- Study Objectives:** Assessment of FQHC patients' demographics, T2D exposure, and perceptions of pharmacist interactions and competency related to T2D care
- Statistical Analysis:**
  - Descriptive statistics summarized participant characteristics and perceptions
  - Associations between demographic factors and perceptions of pharmacist engagement were analyzed using generalized linear models (GLM)

## Results

**Table 1. Participant Demographics**

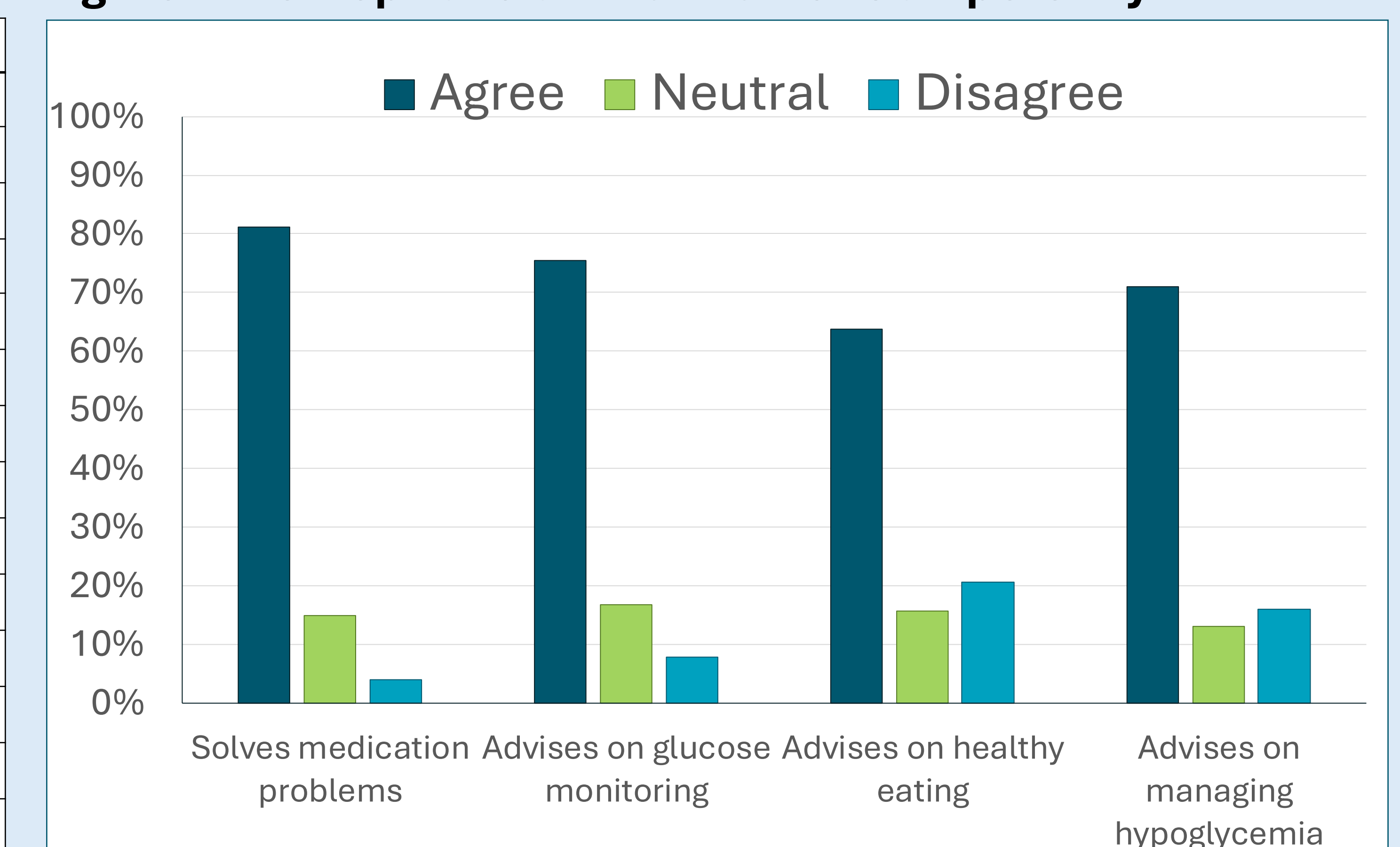
Characteristic	Category	n	%
<b>Age</b>		76 ( $\bar{x}$ )	
<b>Sex</b>	Female	83	76.1%
	Male	25	22.9%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	African American	90	83%
	White	11	10.2%
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married	40	37.0%
	Divorced/Widowed	35	32.4%
	Single	33	30.6%
<b>Education</b>	High school or less	53	49.1%
	Associate	18	16.7%
	Some college	20	18.5%
<b>Insurance Status</b>	Medicaid/Medicare	72	66.7%
	Private	29	26.8%
<b>Employment Status</b>	Employed	33	30.6%
	Retired	35	32.4%
<b>Annual Income</b>	<\$25,000	34	31.8%
	\$25,000–\$49,000	22	20.6%
	\$50,000+	25	22.8%

**Figure 1. Perceptions of Pharmacist Role/Interactions**



- 37.8% of participants reported having T2D
- 25.7% of participants reported a family member having T2D
- 59.4% of participants reported a family history of T2D

**Figure 2. Perceptions of Pharmacist Competency**



**Table 2. GLM model showing factors associated with community members perceptions of pharmacists' engagement in T2D care**

Variable	Coefficient (B)	95% CI	p-value
<b>65 or more age group</b>	1.34	[-2.56, 5.24]	0.492
<b>African American Race</b>	2.03	[0.08, 3.98]	<b>0.042</b>
<b>Female</b>	-0.51	[-2.14, 1.11]	0.529
<b>Income (\$75-99,000)</b>	3.00	[0.09, 5.91]	<b>0.043</b>
<b>Taking diabetes meds</b>	-0.03	[-1.79, 1.74]	0.977

## Conclusion/Future Direction

- Most rural patients had positive perceptions about pharmacists' involvement in T2D care
- There is room for improvement regarding patients' perceptions of pharmacist led dietary and hypoglycemia management
- Future efforts should enhance pharmacist-patient interactions in rural areas
- Future directions should investigate patient access to primary care physicians, with the help of pharmacists providing additional support where primary care access is limited