



PROMOTING COMPETENCES FOR HEALTH TECHNICIANS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BRIEF INTERVENTION FOR ALCOHOL: EXPERIENCE OF TRAINING.

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BACKGROUND

- Brief Interventions (BIs) have been shown to be effective when applied by primary care health professionals (physicians, nurses, psychologists).
- In Chile, a BIs for alcohol program has been implemented, in which a significant percentage of BIs are performed by non-professionals. This is probably due to an international tendency to have non-professional trained human resources, given the current scarcity of professionals in primary care.
- Recently, a randomized clinical trial (RCT) demonstrated the effectiveness of these BIs performed by health technicians (non-professionals) in real conditions in primary care center.
- In the context of this research, one of the first needs to implement was to design a structured training that would allow the necessary skills to be given to health technicians to execute the IBs.
- This work describes the characteristics of the training utilized in this RCT.

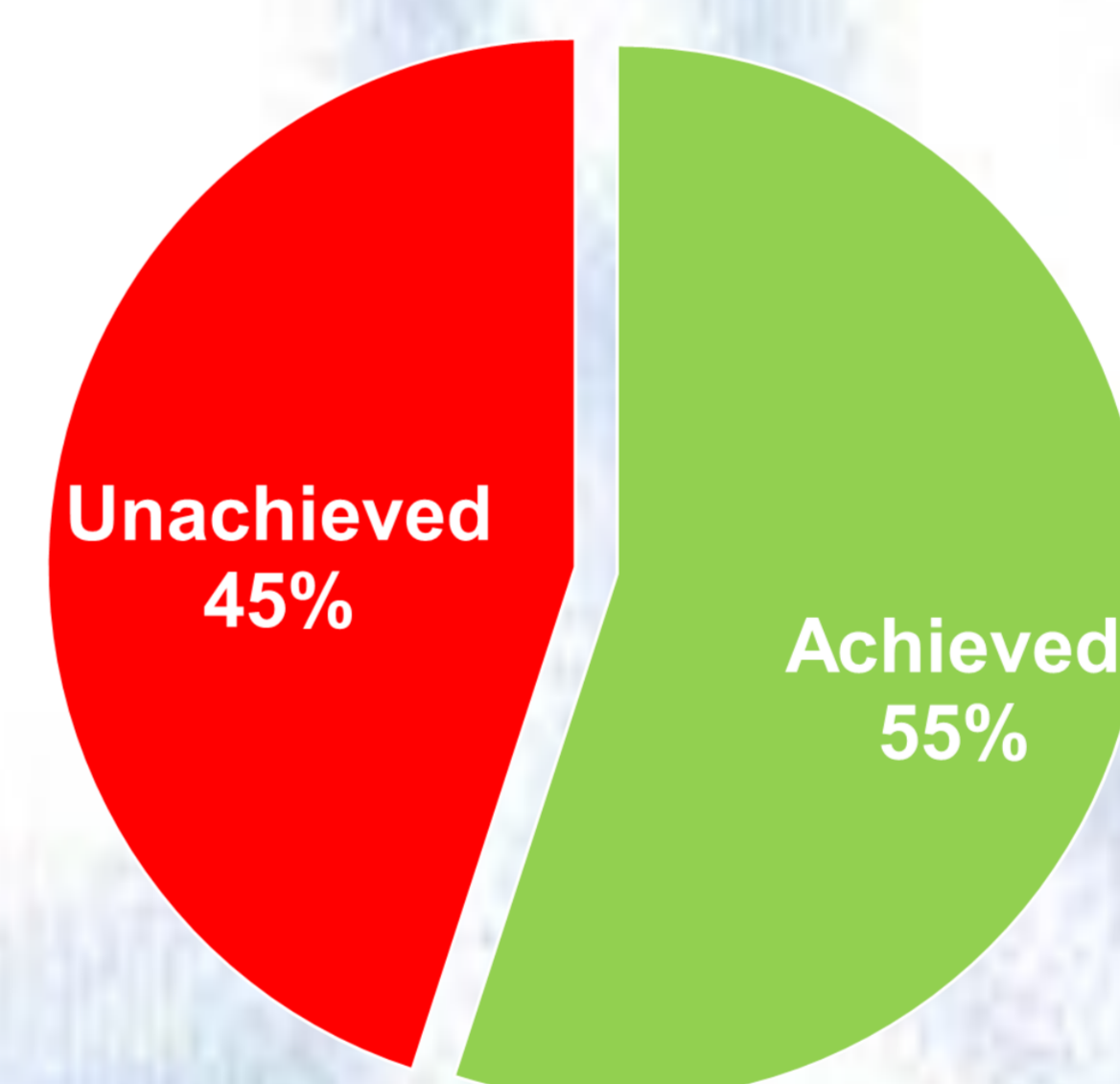
METHODS

- A review of the necessary competences needed to achieve BI was carried out.
- Additionally, a group of health technicians was observed in the field to assess the extent to which these competencies are adequately developed in other activities.
- Subsequently a training was designed based on the principles of participatory adult education, according to Jane Vella.
- The training will consist of two stages:
 1. Face-to-face training
 2. Evaluation
- The acquisition of competencies was evaluated by observing in a simulated patient session through a mirror, using a standardized rubric.
- Compliance of 70% was defined as sufficient for subsequent participation in the clinical trial

RESULTS

- The main competences identified were:
 1. Communication skills for the delivery of clear and direct messages
 2. Skills on the use of alcohol screening tools
 3. Ability to coordinate actions in an assertive and empathetic manner.
 4. Clarifying doubts and intervening under the FRAMES model
 5. Recognize the healthcare teamwork value to optimize the management of patients with alcohol consumption.
- Trainings were conducted in 5 primary care centers in Santiago de Chile and were structured in two theoretical-practical sessions of 4 hours each. The materials used for the training were a demonstration video, a digital presentation, and a guided exercise for the BI.
- Training included a role-playing activity where the health technician put into practice the five necessary skills detected to adequately perform a BI.
- The evaluation was individual with a simulated patient and with evaluation guideline known by the technician. A total of 58 health technicians were trained, and 32 achieved 70% or more compliance with the evaluation rubric.

Figure 1. Results of the evaluation of health technicians (%)



CONCLUSION

- With a structured training of 8 hours, 55% of the participants achieved proficiency with the model.
- The diffusion and implementation of the SBIRT strategy must consider a significant amount of resources for an adequate fidelity to the intervention model and ensure the quality of the BIs carried out

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