

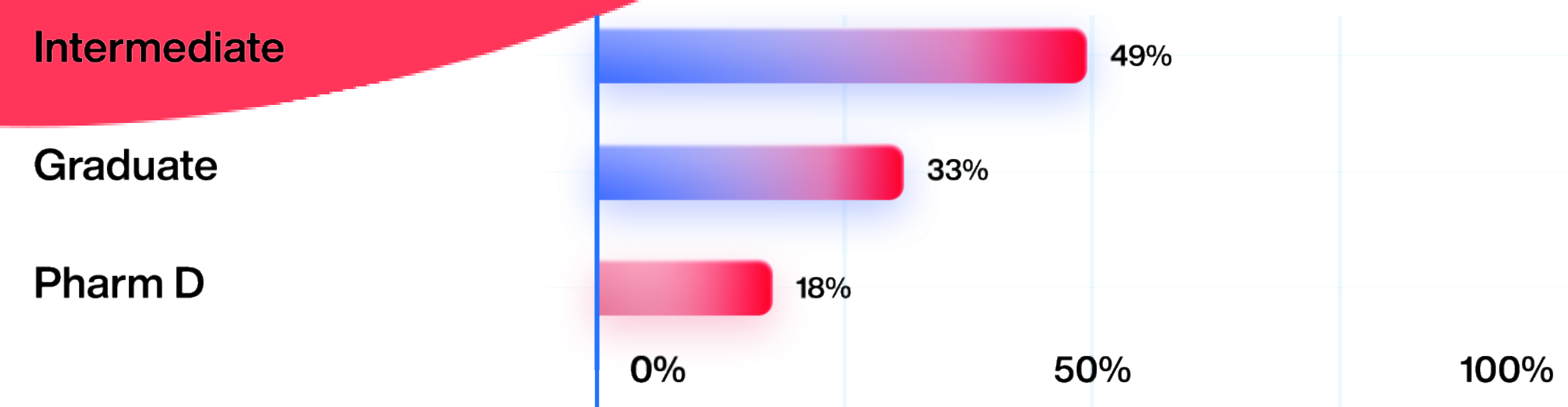


Prescription Errors due to Improper Handwriting

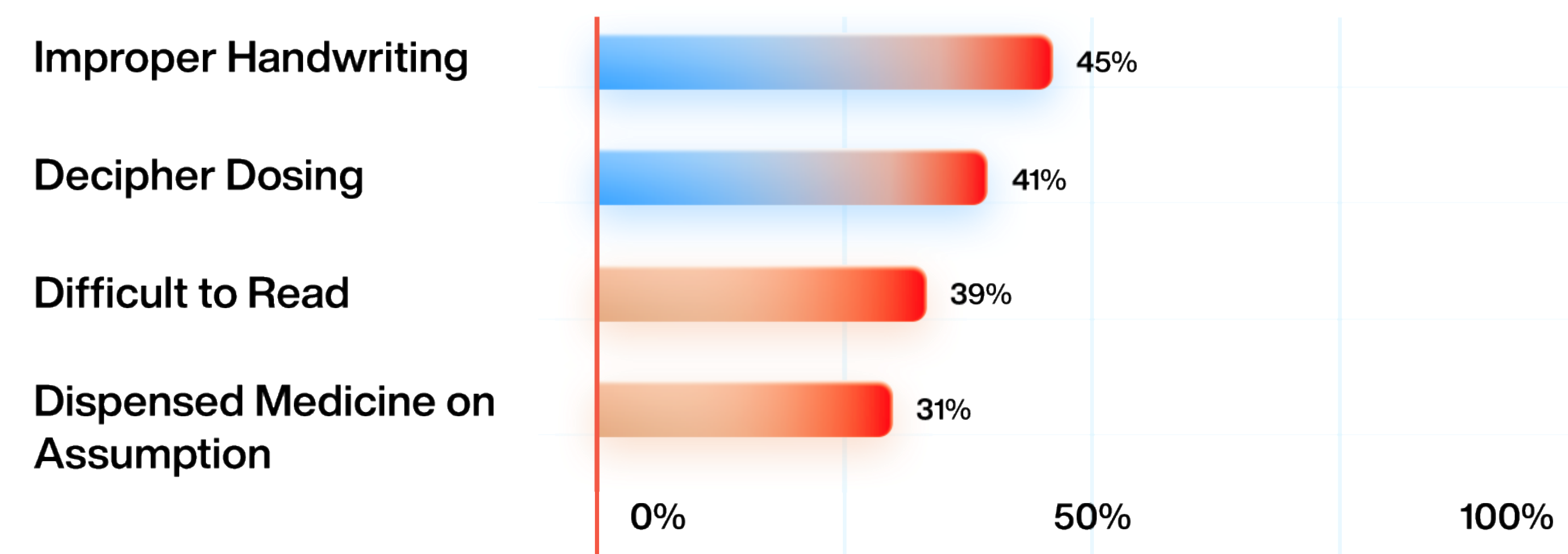
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ACADEMIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN PHARMACIES



DATA OF MEDICATION ERRORS

3 | METHODOLOGY

It is a survey based study carried from different pharmacies/ Medical stores of Karachi. The total number N = 150 individuals working in these medical stores were questioned. The answers were recorded as open and close ended criteria. All results were analyzed in SPSS 21.

6 | REFERENCES

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1 | BACKGROUND

Clear Readability is very essential for proper understanding of prescription. Prescription errors can also occur due to improper handwriting.

4 | RESULTS

We found that 49% of inter pass, 33% graduate population are handling with prescription and only 18% of Pharm D population are working in the pharmacies. 45% of workers observe improper handwriting in 20-25 prescriptions/ day. 41% found it difficult to decipher dosing directions in the prescription, whereas 39% found it difficult to read the drug strength/ quantity mentioned. 42% managed to read the improper handwriting where as 31% dispensed the medicine based on assumption. 61% workers agreed that improper writing is one of the main reasons of dispensing and prescription error.

7 | KEYWORDS

Prescription Error, Improper Handwriting, Pharmacies.

8 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dr. Sana Sarfaraz
 Assistant Professor
 University of Karachi, Pakistan

2 | OBJECTIVE

The current study was conducted to check impact of Physicians improper handwriting in causing prescription and dispensing errors in different pharmacies/ Medical stores.

5 | CONCLUSION

This study revealed a high incidence of documentation errors in the traditional handwritten prescription process. The readability of the handwritten prescriptions was generally bad. Presence of Pharmacist in Medical stores / Pharmacies would reduce these errors to great extent because pharmacist has complete knowledge of drug, besides this pharmacist can contact the physician and confirm the drug prescribed. Replacing the traditional handwritten documentation process with information technology could potentially improve the safety in the medication process too.

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