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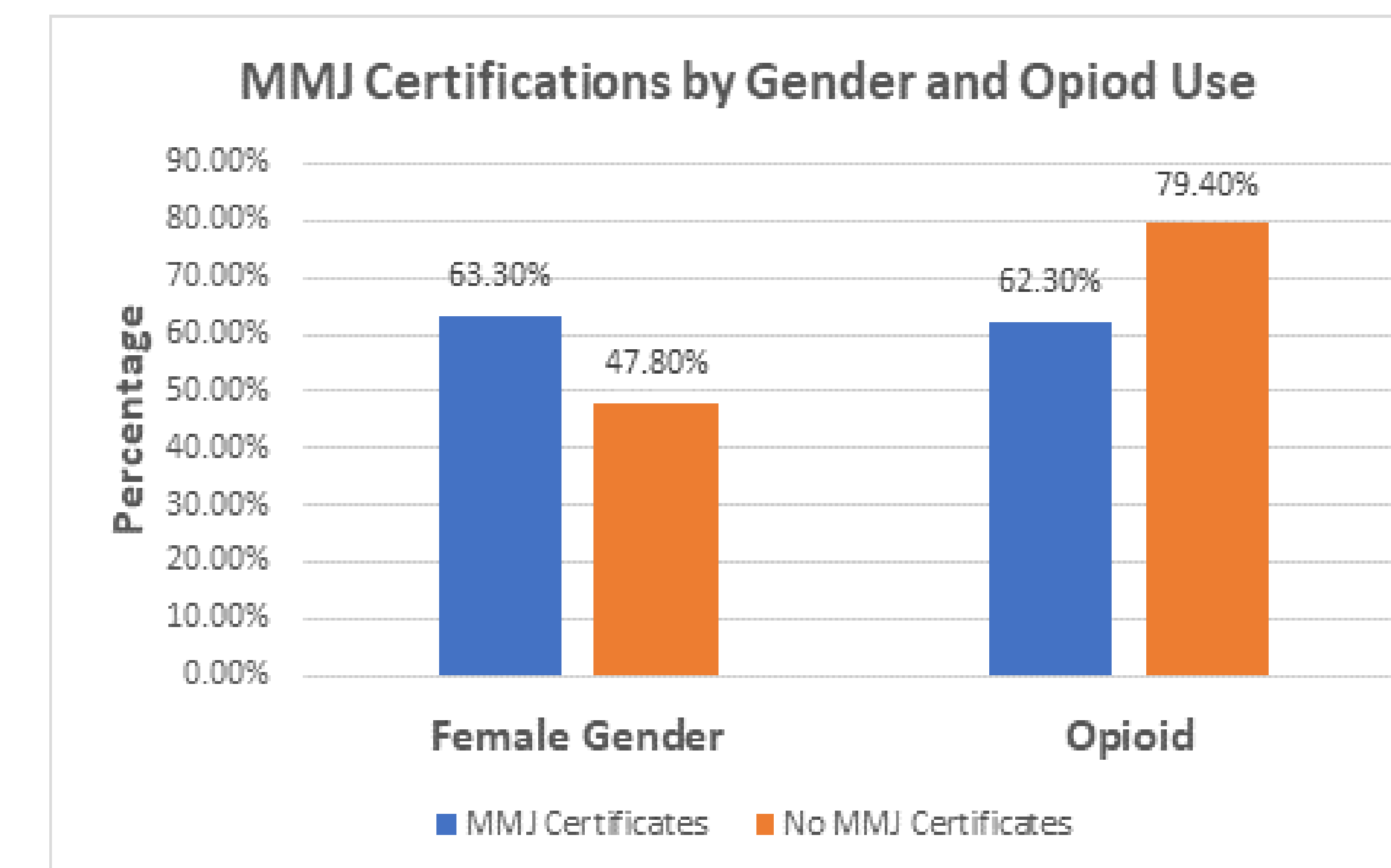
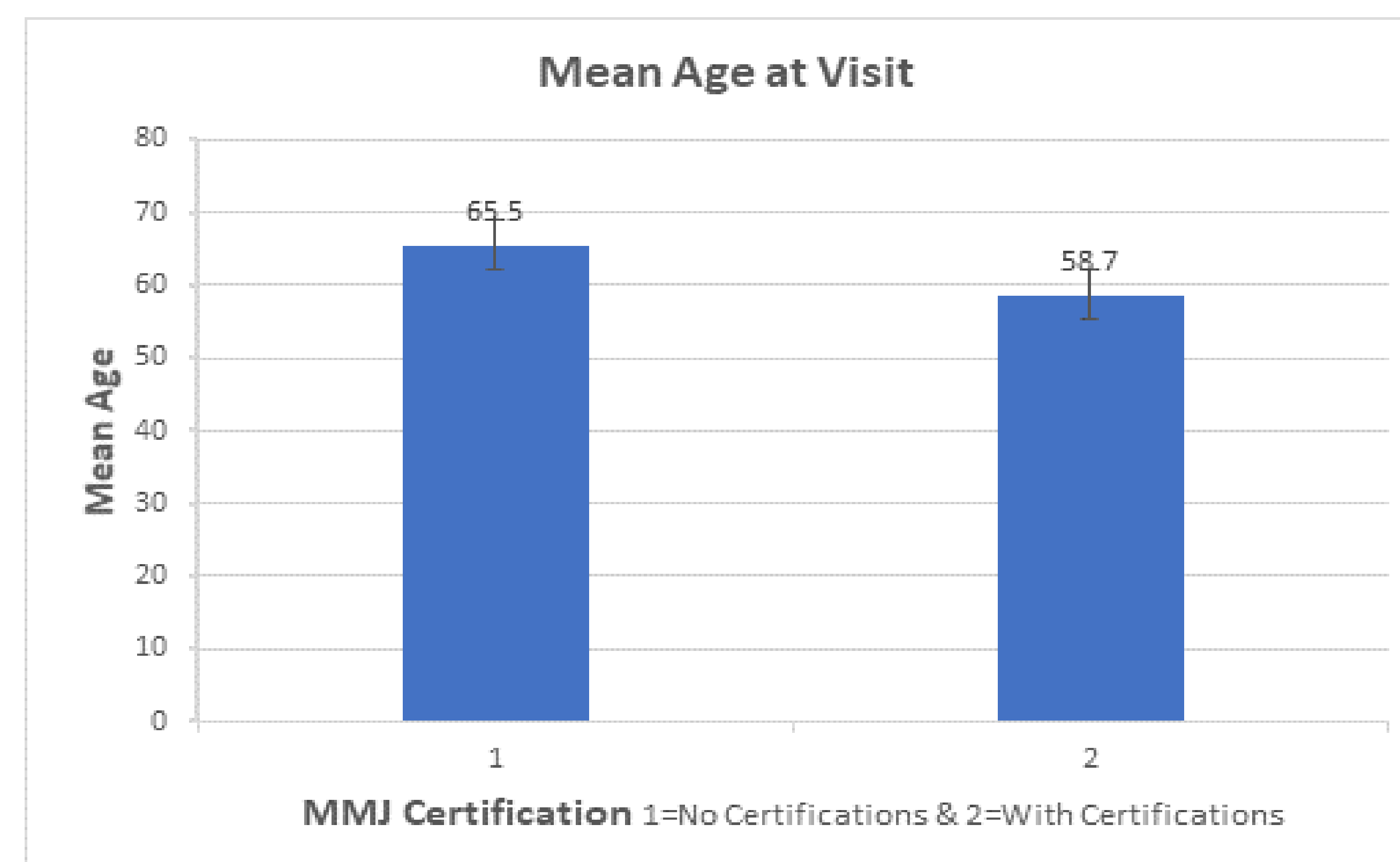
Introduction

- Therapeutic cannabis is increasingly being used as states implement legislation permitting medical certifications.
- Few studies exist that describe demographics among patients using MMJ.
- We analyzed patient data to delineate differences among palliative patients who obtained MMJ certifications and those who did not.

Methods

- Data was collected from physician logs at an outpatient palliative care practice from 2/1/2018 to 1/1/2019.
- Patients receiving MMJ certifications were separated from the control group.
- Primary endpoints obtained were age, sex, qualifying Palliative Care diagnosis, and whether they received concurrent opioids.

Case Presentation



Results

- Among 363 patients, median age was 63 years old. Majority was female (53.7%) and Caucasian (89.3%).
- Most common qualifying diagnosis was cancer (90%).
- Only 38.3% had MMJ certifications.
- T-tests demonstrated mean age of MMJ patients were younger than those without (58.7 versus 65.5 years, $p < 0.001$).
- Chi-square tests were done to see the difference among sex and prescribed opioid use. MMJ patients were more likely to be female (63.3% versus 47.8%, $p = 0.004$), and less likely to have prescribed opioids (62.3% versus 79.4%, $p < 0.004$).

Conclusion

- Compared to the general palliative care population at a suburban practice, MMJ patients are on average younger, predominantly female, and less likely to have prescribed opioids.

Clinical Implications

- MMJ may be a useful tool in early engagement of palliative-appropriate patients.
- Further research is needed to explore whether early MMJ certification can delay or prevent opioid use.
- This has tremendous implications for policy change towards federal approval of MMJ to combat the ever-present opioid epidemic.