

Together Everyone Achieves More (T.E.A.M.): An Investigation of Recreational Sports Teams' Coaches' Knowledge of Best Practices for Working with Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Purpose Statement

The purpose of this study was to investigate community recreation sports teams' coaches' knowledge regarding working with adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). More specifically, this study planned to investigate these coaches' familiarity with ASD, any formal and informal training received for working with these adolescents, and their perceptions of best practices when coaching athletes with ASD.

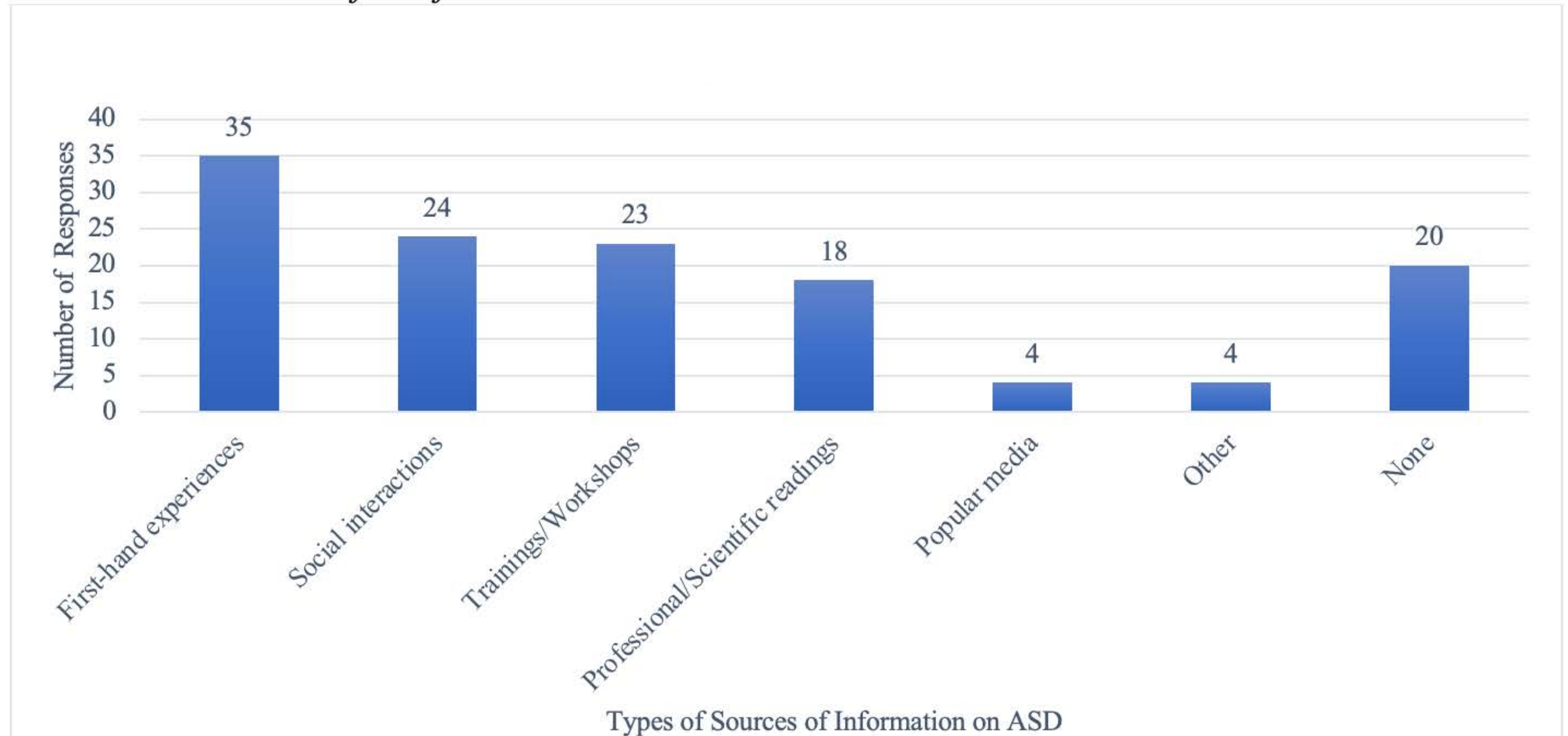
Major Conclusions

- ❖ There was no significant difference regarding the hours of education on ASD and the overall confidence of participants' coaching skills and knowledge of strategies regarding this population
 - ❖ Over half of the coaches reported "First-hand experiences" and/or "Trainings/Workshops or Professional/Scientific readings" as their primary sources of information regarding ASD
- ❖ Over three-quarters of the coaches reported that they were not aware of any players on their team(s) that had been diagnosed with ASD

Method

- ❖ Survey developed with questions that addressed coaches' familiarity regarding ASD in a team sport setting
- ❖ One electronic survey was distributed via several local community recreational programs in Ohio (Medina, Hamilton, & Wayne County) to volunteer coaches

Sources Coaches Used for Information on ASD



Implication of Research Findings

- ❖ This study has the potential to help recreational sports team coaches understand the gaps in their training and knowledge regarding coaching adolescents with ASD



Photo approved for distribution.

Coaches' Familiarity Regarding the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Status of Their Athletes

	Yes	No	n
Aware of any adolescents on your team(s) that have been diagnosed with ASD	22.5% (n=16)	77.5% (n=55)	71
"Suspect" any adolescents on your team(s) have ASD	45.7% (n=32)	54.3% (n=38)	70