**An Examination of Professional Quality of Life in Athletic Trainers**

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Context: Compassion Fatigue is prevalent in many health care professions; however, prevalence in athletic trainers has not been examined. Given the high rate of burnout and the excessive demand placed upon those employed in the athletic training profession, there is a need to examine the overall professional quality of life in order to identify compassion imbalances that may affect both patient care and personal well-being. Methods: A total of 293 clinically active National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) members (33.4% male, 66.6% female) completed a demographics questionnaire along with the Professional Quality of Life -21 (ProQOL-21) survey provided via Qualtrics online software. Descriptive statistics were used to determine the prevalence of the professional quality of life scales including compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue, and a Pearson’s Correlation was conducted to examine the relationship between these two factors. Results: More than half of the participants (51.2%, n = 150) experienced an average level of compassion fatigue, while another 38.2% (n = 112) of participants were categorized as experiencing high compassion fatigue. Conversely, the majority of participants (95.2%, n = 279) experienced high compassion satisfaction. The bivariate correlation analysis indicated a significant, negative relationship between compassion fatigue and satisfaction, r = -.182, n = 293, p = .002. Conclusions: Athletic trainers experience high satisfaction in their clinical compassion when providing care to patients; however, compassion fatigue is also prevalent in this profession. Additional research is warranted to further investigate this relationship in athletic training and examine both prevention and causes of compassion fatigue. Word Count: 250