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May 2nd, 12:00 AM

Physician Comfort and Competence in Treating the LGBTQ Population

Deborah White D.O.

Emma White D.O.

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White, Deborah D.O. and White, Emma D.O., "Physician Comfort and Competence in Treating the LGBTQ Population" (2019). *Stratford Campus Research Day*. 54.

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Physician Comfort and Competence in Treating the LGBTQ Population

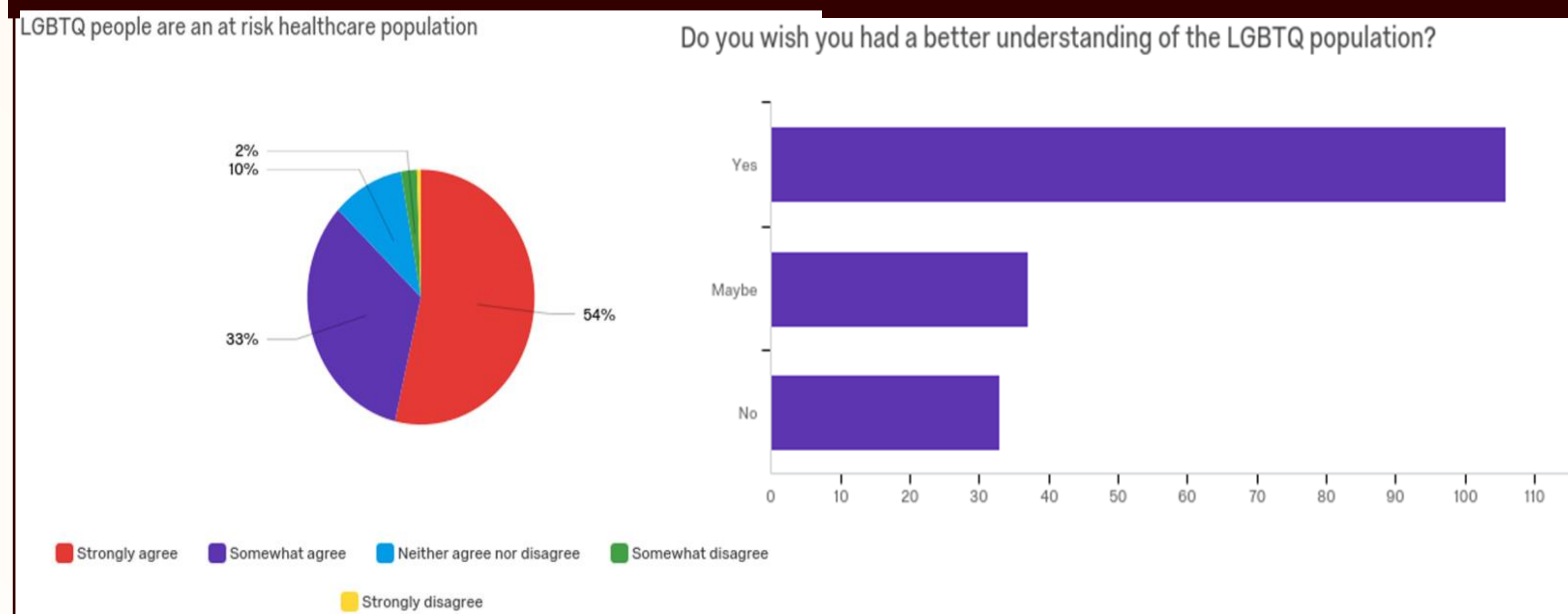


Principal Investigator: Deborah White, DO, MPH
 Study Coordinator: Emma White, DO
 Research Assistants: Shivani Patel, Joel Frank, Tara Beck

Abstract

Numerous studies have shown that the LGBTQ community is an evolving minority population with special healthcare considerations. Our study was based on the underlying hypothesis that OBGYN physicians feel as though they would benefit from more training, and in turn, provide improved healthcare to the LGBTQ population. To gain more information, we sent a survey to obstetrician/gynecologists asking questions about their own patient population, amount of training, and desire for further education regarding the LGBTQ community. We found that a majority of OBGYN physicians would use more information on the LGBTQ population if it were available to them. This information could be used in planning future continuing medical education topics to including more LGBTQ focused topics in conferences or specialized training courses.

Results

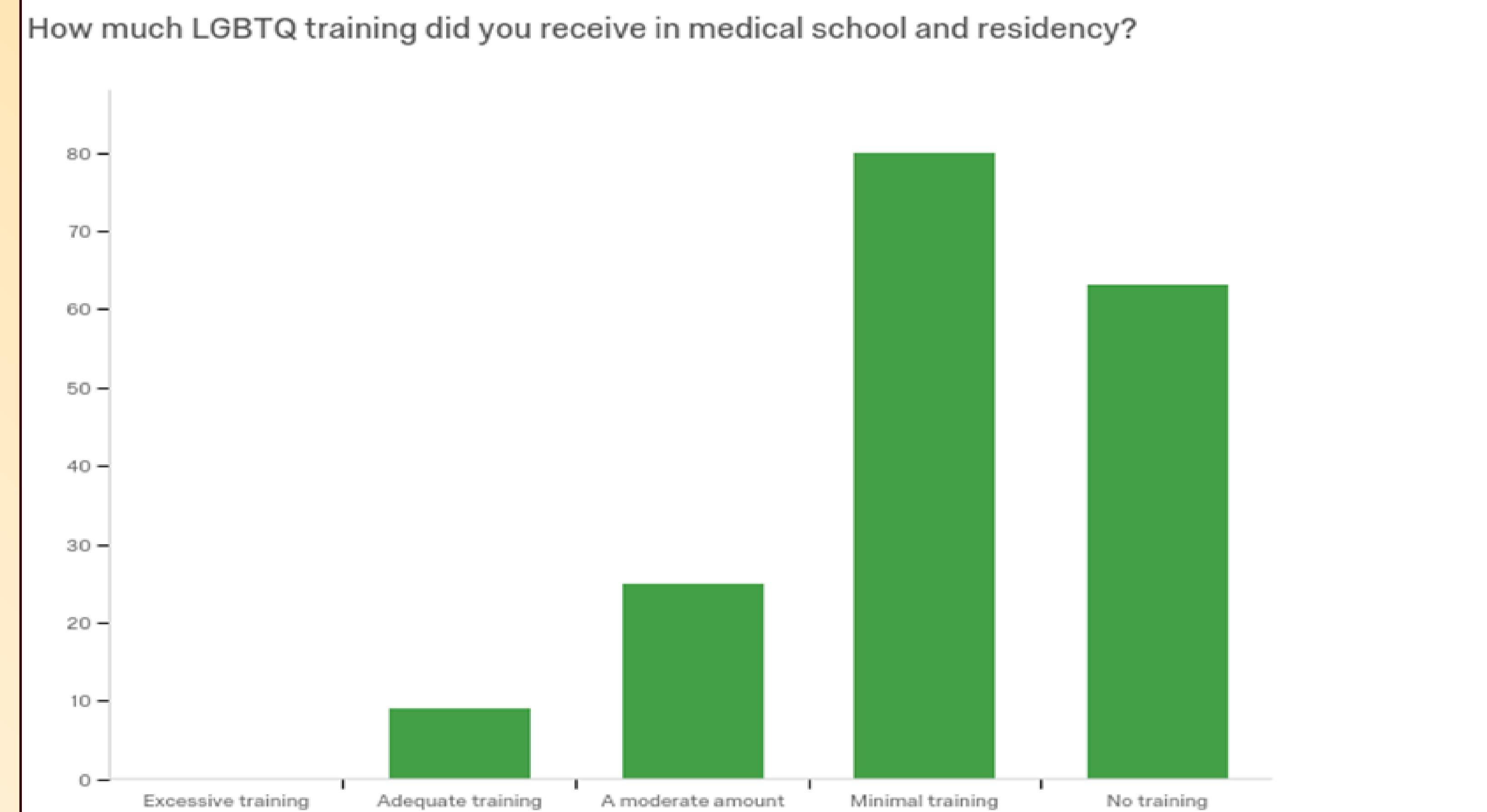


Background

Previous studies have demonstrated that the LGBTQ Community is historically

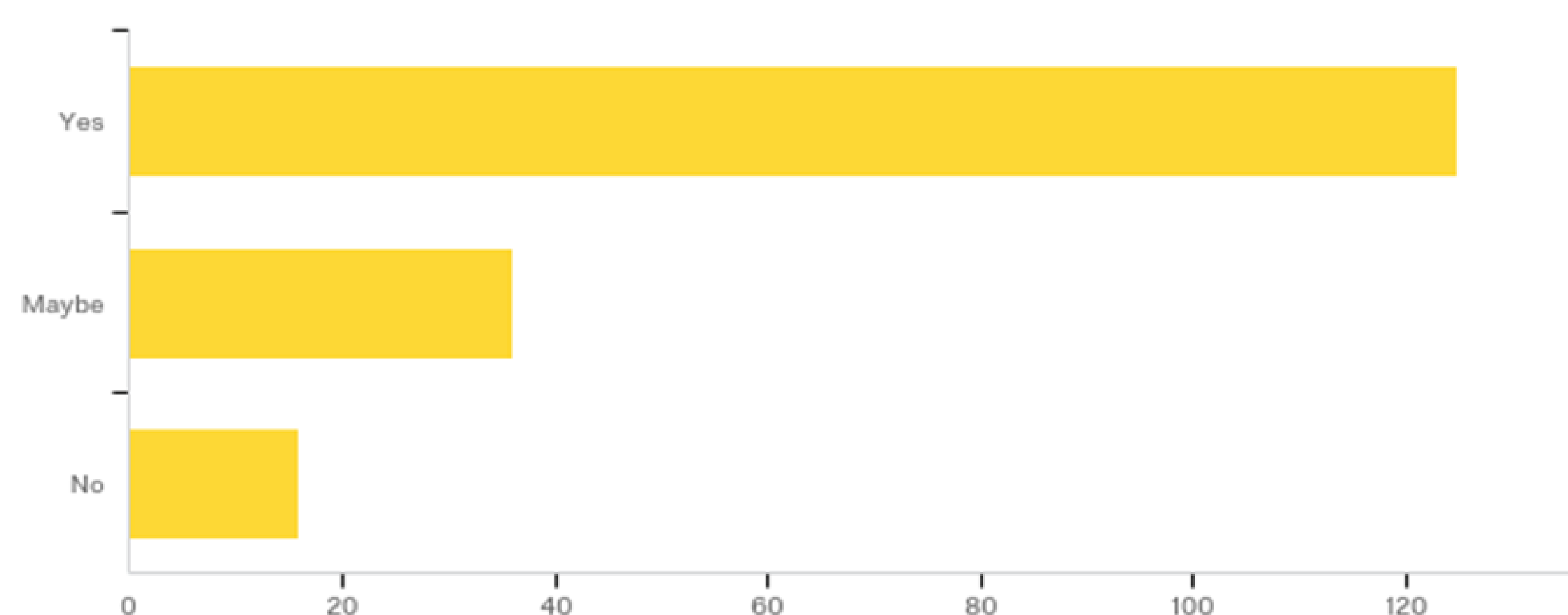
- an at-risk population
- Experienced health care disparities, including lower rates of cervical cancer screening among lesbians
- More likely to engage in health-risk behaviors than other students
- the majority of physicians did not believe that they had all the skills they needed to address issues of sexual orientation with adolescents

Conclusion



The United States has become increasingly more positive and safer environment for people who identify as LGBTQ. There are still many hurdles and obstacles to the equality of this minority population, including regards to healthcare. This survey shows that OBGYN physicians have a recognition of the LGBTQ population as at risk and withstanding systemic bias. The results of this survey display a need for more education in medical schools, residency training, and continuing medical education for OBGYN physicians regarding the LGBTQ patient population. More objective studies on the medical education of OBGYN physicians would be helpful in determining the changes to curriculum that could most benefit the LGBTQ population.

Would you use more information on LGBTQ healthcare if it were available to you?

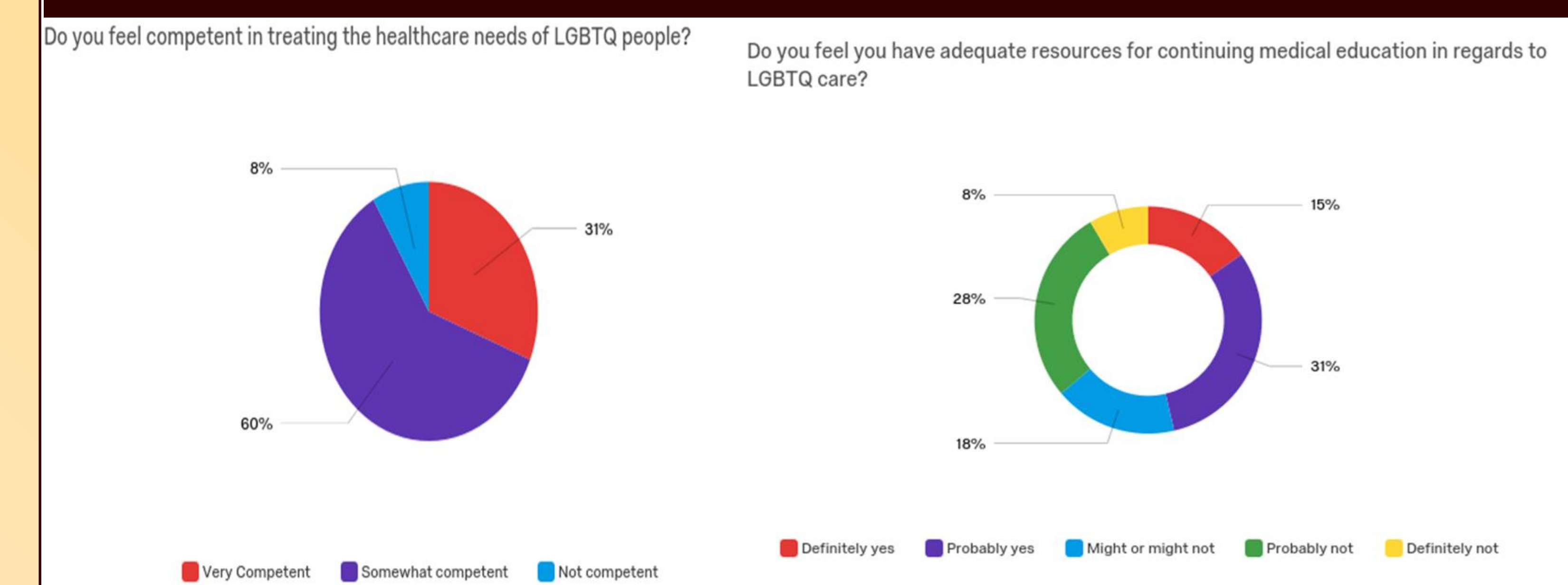


Methods

A survey of obstetrician/gynecologists was chosen to gather firsthand information directly from the healthcare provider.

- 10 questions in the survey
- Distributed through email using Qualtrics statistical software..
- Sent to 2,000 OBGYN physicians, whose emails were randomly selected from the ACOG member directory.
- 178 Surveys were completed and returned

Results



References

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