

Reproductive Health Symposium: A student-directed approach to interdisciplinary reproductive education

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INTRODUCTION

Reproductive and gender-based care, diversity, equity, and inclusion are important focus areas in the education of future health professionals.

Many students find that curricula are not yet comprehensive enough to fully prepare them for providing optimal, thorough, and inclusive patient care with a diverse patient population.

The annual student-led Reproductive Health Symposium aims to provide interdisciplinary training to address this educational gap.

OBJECTIVES

Enact meaningful change on conference attendees' ability to:

- Identify barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare
- Examine the intersections of reproductive healthcare with gender, race, and disability
- Identify and manage biases
- Address patients' reproductive healthcare needs

METHODS

The symposium included a hands-on workshop and a Zoom conference. The workshop incorporated sessions led by physicians and physical therapists. The conference consisted of a keynote speaker followed by breakout sessions led by a variety of healthcare professionals.

OUHSC and OU-Tulsa graduate and health sciences students were invited to attend via e-mail, social media, and flyers.

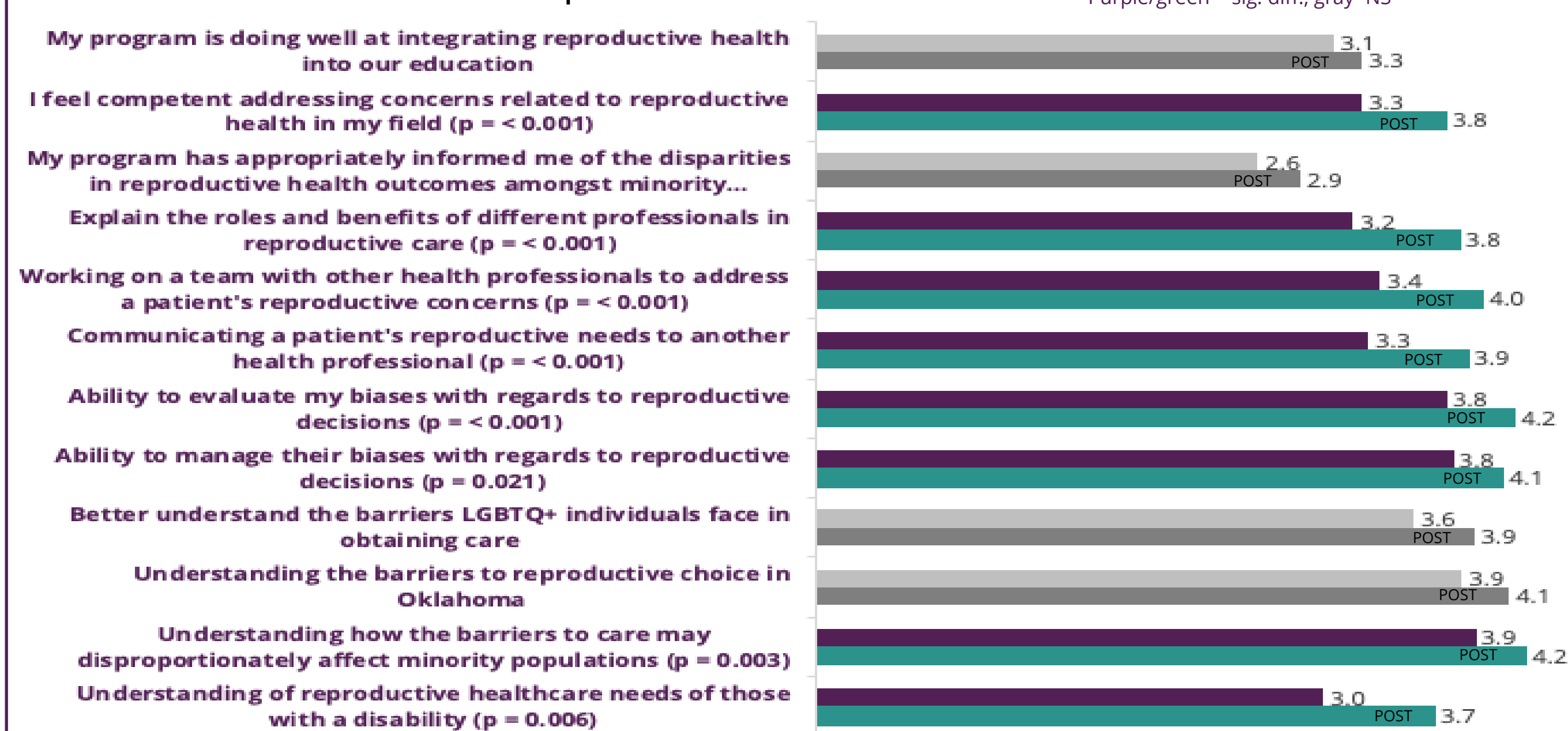
Pre- and post- event surveys utilizing Likert scales assessed changes in students' perceived knowledge about barriers to healthcare and preparedness to work on an interdisciplinary team to address patients' reproductive health needs.

Post-event surveys were incentivized with a small donation to local non-profit organizations.

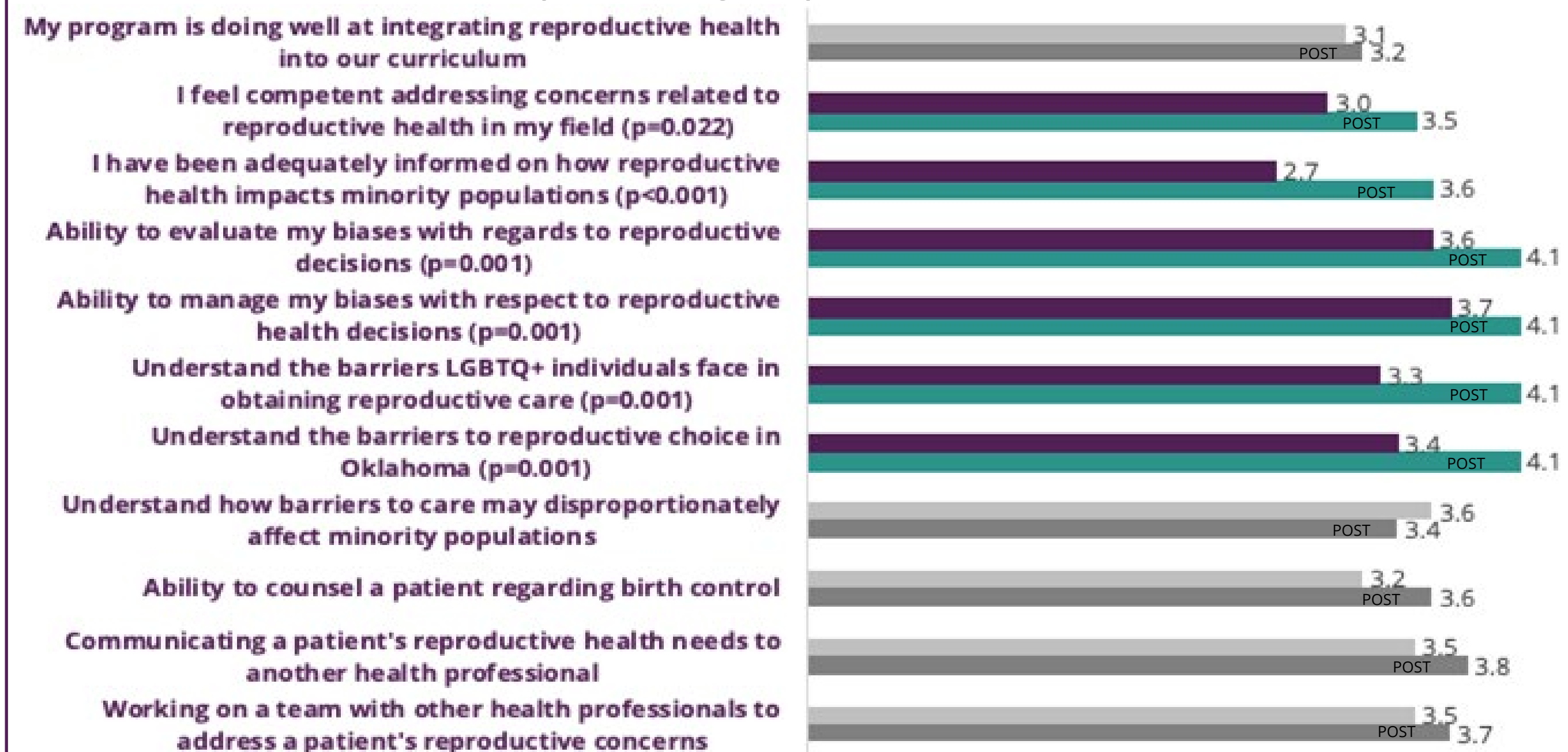
ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

PRE- AND POST- COMPARISON

2022 Data: Pre- (n=121) and post- (n=67) conference survey data analyzed using paired *t*-test with $\alpha=0.05$



2021 Data: Pre- (n=163) and post- (n=31) conference survey data analyzed using an independent groups *t*-test with $\alpha=0.05$



DISCUSSION

The Reproductive Health Symposium represents both an effective and pragmatic method to educate learners about reproductive healthcare for diverse patient populations

Attendees reported increased knowledge and preparedness to:

- Evaluate and manage biases
- Work on an interdisciplinary team
- Address patient concerns

Similar student-led conferences could be implemented at other graduate and medical institutions to provide trainees with the knowledge and skills to better provide patient-centered reproductive healthcare

Future directions for the 2023 conference include:

- Continued interdisciplinary collaboration
- More focused discussions on barriers to reproductive choice and LGBTQ+ care in Oklahoma
- More interactive discussions with students

REFERENCES

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