

BACKGROUND

The IU Correctional Medicine Student Outreach Project (IUCM) was founded on the idea that correctional health topics are an important component frequently missing from medical school curriculums. Our goal is to provide the opportunity to participate in medical care within correctional facilities, while also engaging in discussions about the institutions that have contributed to disproportionate incarceration of certain populations, will cultivate empathetic, socially-engaged, and passionate young physicians.

STUDENT GROUP ACTIONS

To create this student group, we researched student interest groups focused on correctional health at medical schools across the US, including Johns Hopkins and George Washington, and applied the work they are doing to our model (Gips et al., 2020) (Rosseau et al., 2022).

The organization has partnered with Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC), and upon completion of an affiliate agreement, students will have opportunities to gain clinical experience in correctional settings. We believe this will help students develop a cultural competency that will allow them to better care for these vulnerable populations in the future.

Since its creation, IUCM has also hosted numerous virtual educational lectures and journal clubs in collaboration with other student organizations and scholars in the field. Topics have included the history of the carceral state, gender, mental health, death sentencing, restorative justice, and panels discussions with formerly incarcerated persons.

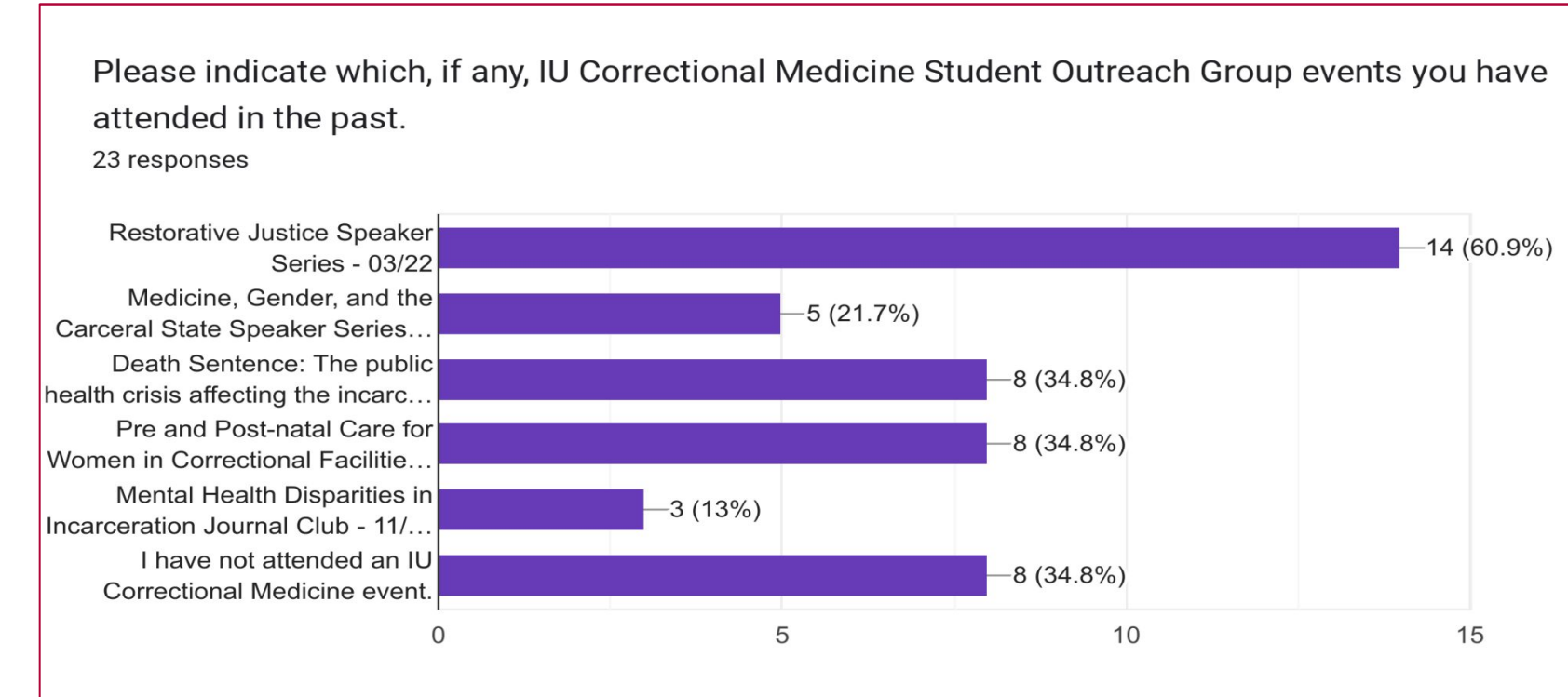
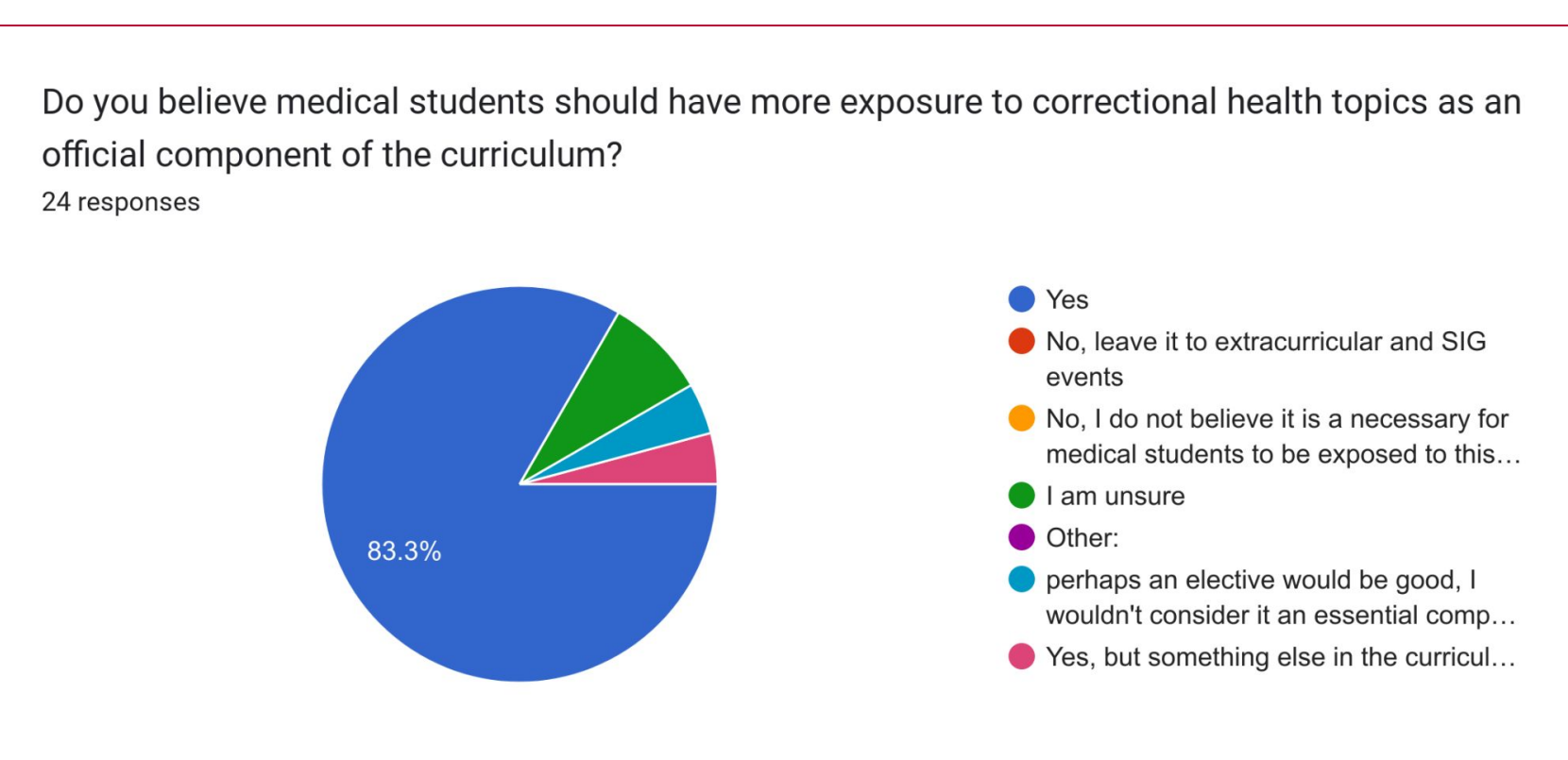
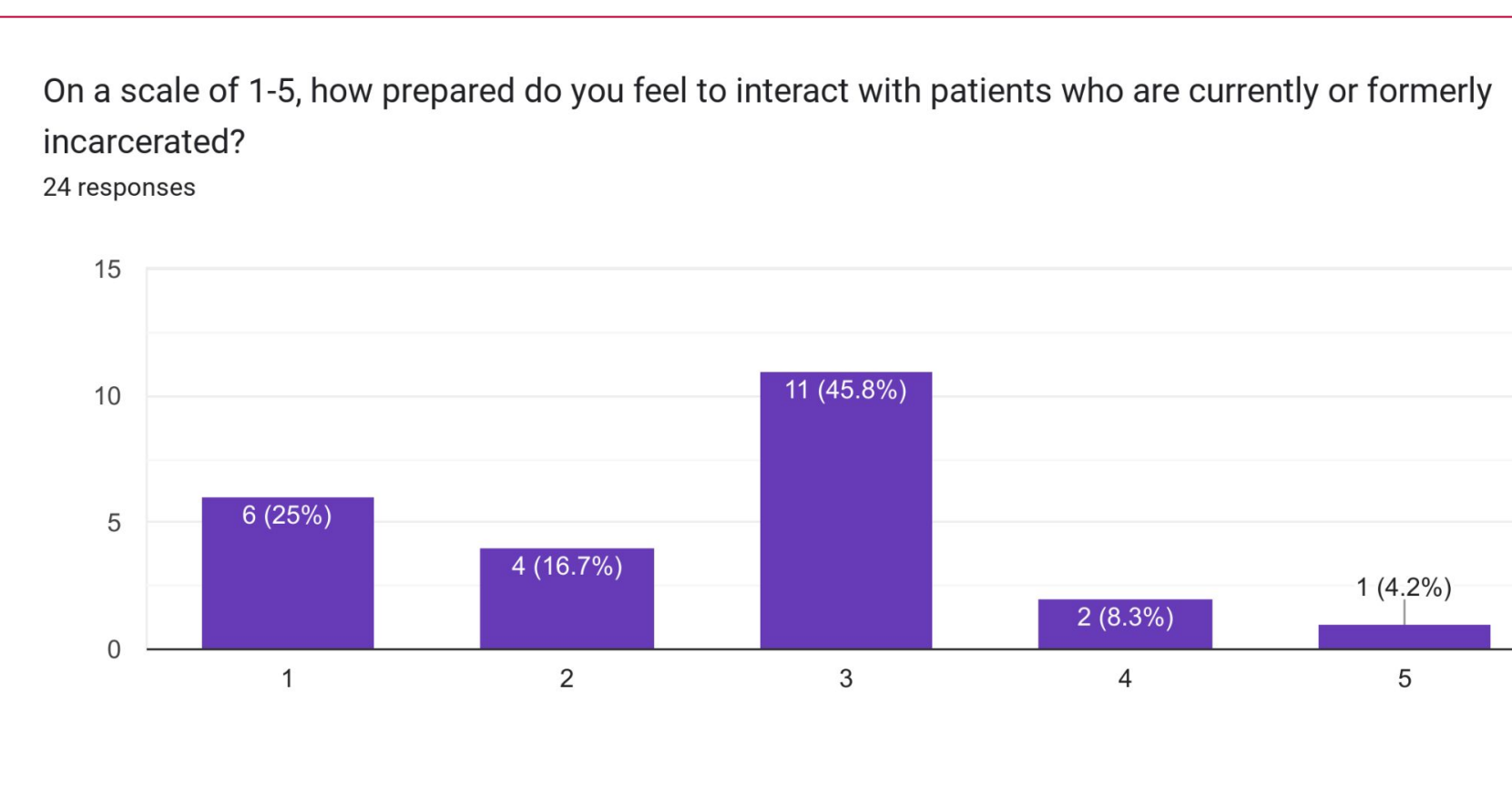
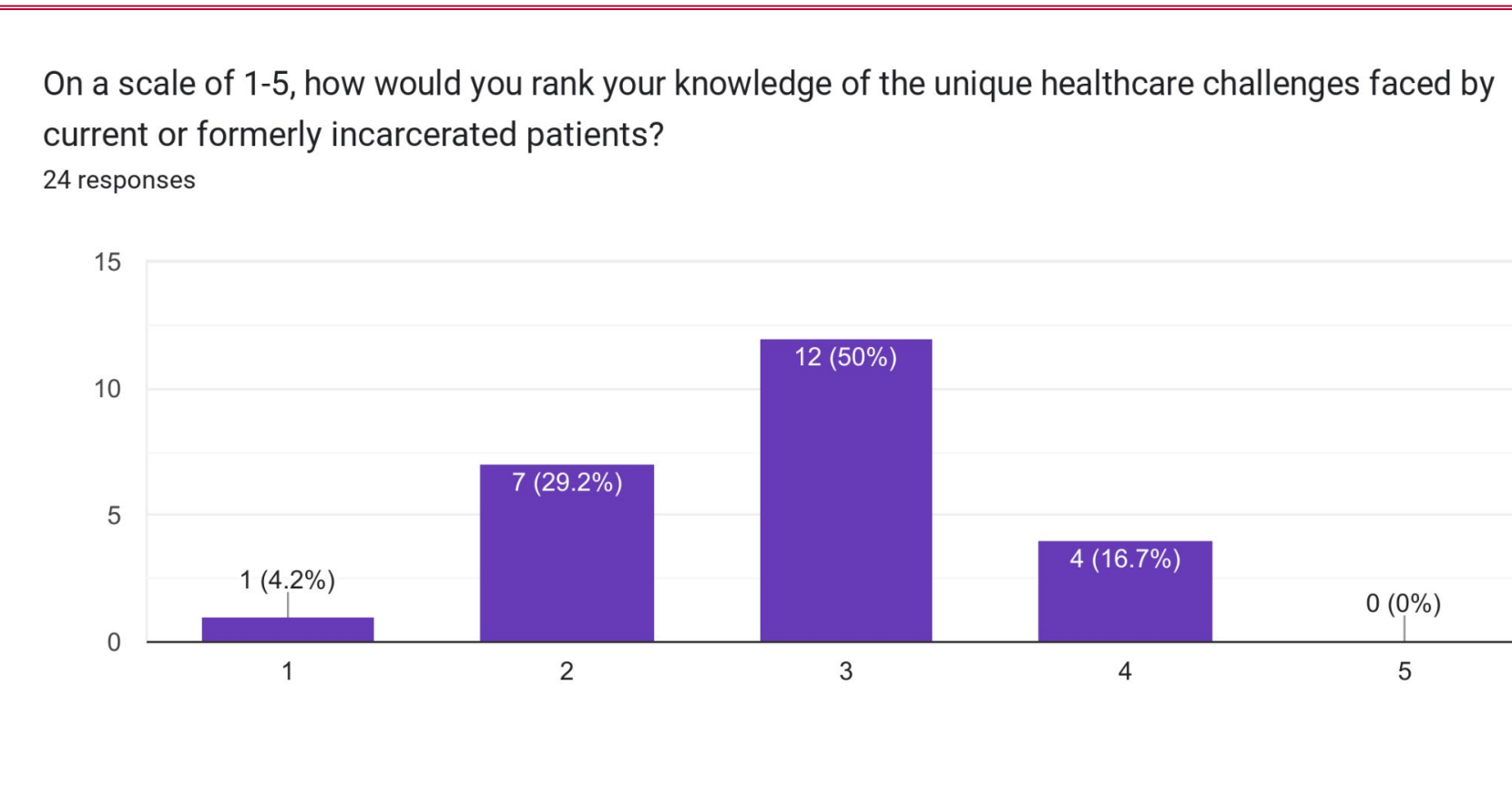
METHODS

IUCM's Mission: Exposure to correctional healthcare, while concurrently engaging with the social, economic, and political injustices that disproportionately affect this vulnerable population.

Gauging student exposure to these topics: 12-question Google Form survey, distributed to IUSM students via listserv, groupme, and following a recent IUCM event

- Asked medical students to rate, on a scale of 1-5, their level of knowledge or exposure on various topics related to correctional healthcare
- Asked about any experiences they've had caring for incarcerated individuals
- Asked students which IUCM events they have attended, and gave them a chance to provide feedback or discuss the impact of the experience
- Asked if students believe that correctional healthcare should be an official component of the IU School of Medicine curriculum

SURVEY RESULTS



Student Quotes:

"We had a pregnant woman at Eskenazi who was incarcerated. I felt like our team treated her the same as our other patients. We had another woman who we treated during my IM rotation at Eskenazi who had stage IV lung cancer who was applying for compassionate release. I didn't know that was a thing until I talked to her about it! ... I think there should be a mandatory panel (maybe of formerly incarcerated folks) before anyone rotates at Eskenazi because there are a ton of incarcerated individuals who are treated there."

"I went into each [IUCM event] sort of expecting to be familiar with the presentations, but both times I found that there is just an ocean of more information to learn given the many layers to these issues."

"I have learned so much about the direct experiences individuals have had while they were incarcerated, including both positive and negative impacts that healthcare providers have made on their lives. I feel like hearing their perspectives, and hearing from other scholars in the field, gives me good examples of what I can do as a provider to better advocate for patients who experience incarceration."

SUMMARY

- **83.3%** believe that medical students should have more exposure to correctional health topics as part of the curriculum.
- **50%** rated their knowledge of the unique healthcare challenges faced by incarcerated individuals as a 3 out of 5
- **45.8%** rated their preparedness to interact with this population a 3 out of 5
- A number of students recommended **incorporating correctional health topics into FCP1, Transitions 2, an elective, or clerkship didactics**, like Internal Medicine

CONCLUSIONS

As physicians who will practice medicine in the country with the highest incarceration rate in the world, having a fundamental understanding of topics related to correctional health and the adverse health experiences while incarcerated is imperative. Developing competency on the justice system as well as the emotional, mental, and physical impact incarceration has on patients, will stimulate interest in engaging with these concepts through research, volunteer work, and educational events.

Moving forward, we hope to expand the project to include other healthcare professional programs, and involve other facilities statewide. Additionally, we are currently working with IUSM administration to create material for the FCP course related to these topics. We will continue to gather data on the impact of this project using post-event surveys, as well as reflections following shadowing opportunities.

REFERENCES

1. Gips J, Spiegel A, Norton A, Gandhi P, Hardenbergh D, Gatti J, et al. Health care in the age of mass incarceration: A selective course for medical students in their preclinical years [Internet]. MedEdPORTAL : the journal of teaching and learning resources. Association of American Medical Colleges; 2020 [cited 2022Apr19]. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7666831/>
2. Rosseau NA, Marwah H, Kendig NE. The Importance of Criminal Justice Health Education for Today's Medical Students and Strategies for Integration Into Medical School Curricula [Internet]. Journal of Correctional Health Care. 2022 [cited 2022Apr19]. Available from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34788551/>