

Medical Students Experience of Labour Ward

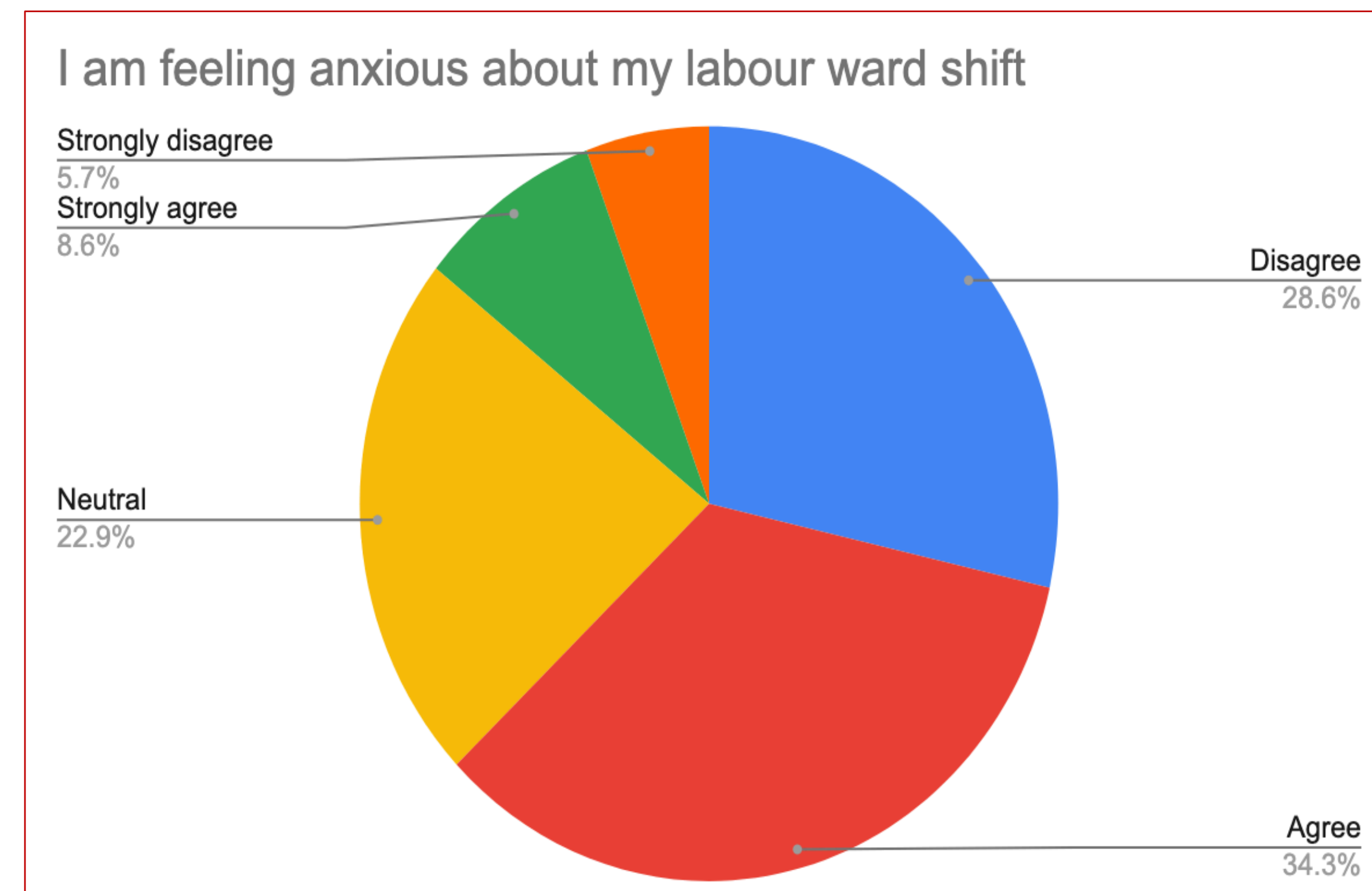
C, Vanderpump. H, Garbett. M, Griffin.

Background

- Medical students are **more likely to experience anxiety** when compared to the general population¹.
- Students' perceive a **reduced quality of learning** environment within Obstetrics and Gynaecology, when compared to other specialties².
- It is therefore vital to understand and evaluate medical students' experience of labour ward shifts.

Methods

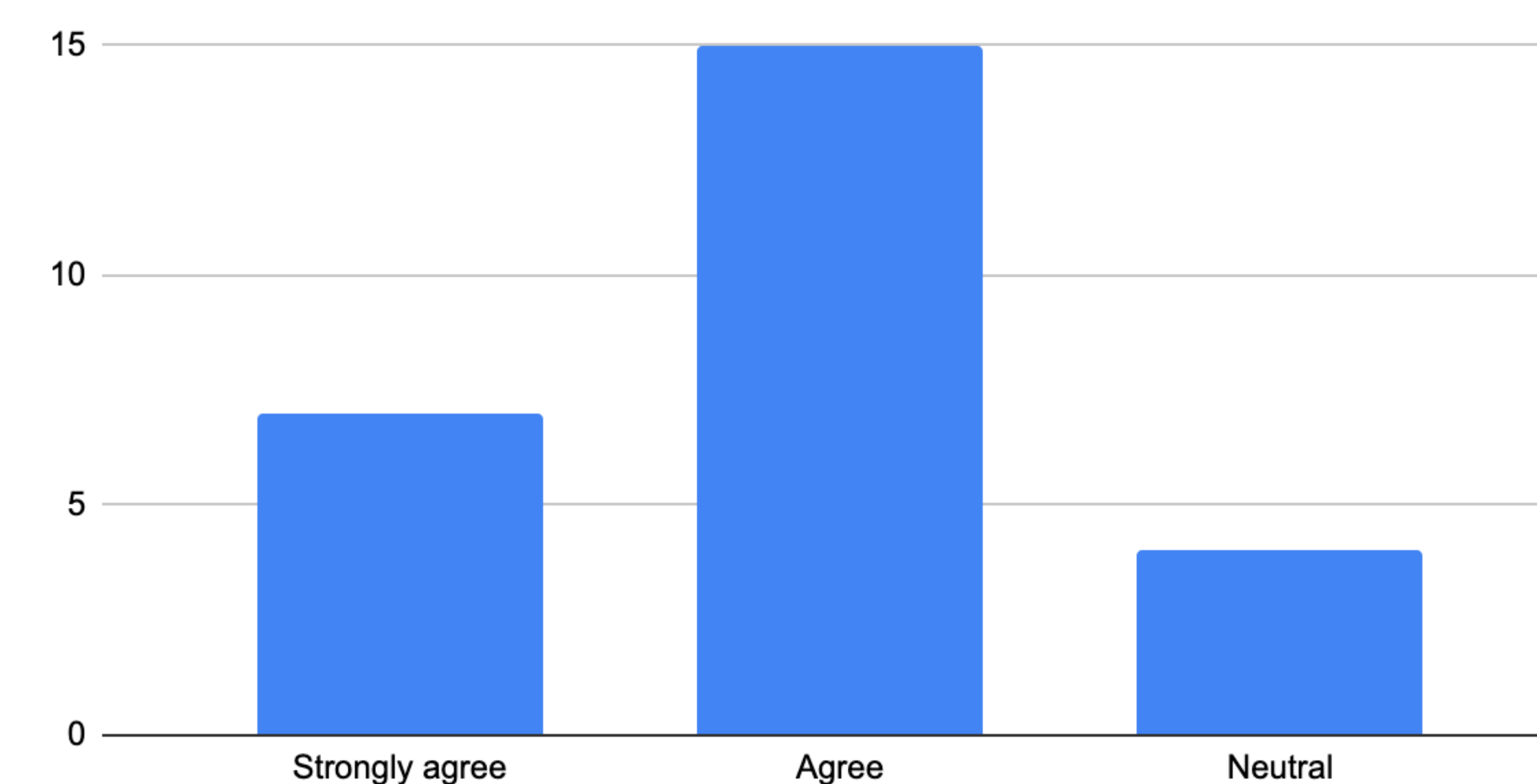
- Observational cohort study
- Anonymised, standardised online questionnaire.
- Fourth- year medical students** at the University of Bristol
- Invitation to participate in questionnaire at beginning and end of six- week clerkship.
- Data collection will occur between August 2021 and June 2022.



Results

- 35 participants accepted the invitation to participate in the study
- 97% of students reported they were 'looking forward' to their labour ward shift
- Whilst 8.6% of students strongly agreed that they felt anxious prior to the shift, significantly more (15.6%) strongly agreed they had felt anxious during the shift
- Only 31% of students expected to feel part of the clinical team prior to their shift, yet when surveyed retrospectively, 73% agreed or strongly agreed that they had felt part of the team
- 92.6% of students found labour ward a useful learning experience and no students felt patients had responded negatively to their presence

Patients responded positively to my presence on labour ward



Conclusions & Future Work

- Anxiety amongst medical students is an important issue and must be addressed in order to safeguard the wellbeing of tomorrow's Doctors
- Extension of this work to other medical schools in different regions will allow us to explore if our findings are representative on a national level
- Identifying the cause of student anxiety is important and will allow implementation of future strategies to help combat the problem
- We propose that given so few students expected to feel part of the team prior to their shift, interventions such as a **medical student noticeboard** in labour ward to introduce staff to incoming students could be implemented prior to repeating this survey

Reference

1. Quek, Tam, Tran et al. The Global Prevalence of Anxiety Among Medical Students: A Meta-Analysis. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2019;16(15):2735. doi:10.3390/ijerph16152735

2. Roberts R, Cleland J, Strand P, Johnston P. Medical students' views of clinical environments. *Clin Teach*. 2017;15(4):325-330. doi:10.1111/tct.12691