



Gender-Based Discrimination & Sexual Harassment within OBGYN Training

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BACKGROUND

Gender discrimination and sexual harassment (GDSH) is known to exist within medical education

- Gender discrimination (GD): unequal treatment that individuals experience based on gender¹
- Sexual harassment (SH): unwanted verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature²

Experiences during these formative training years can impact a range of areas³⁻⁵:



Mental health



Work place dynamic



Specialty choice/
Career progression



Quality of care

- Practicing female surgeons experiencing GD considered leaving the field⁶
- Women disproportionately face GDSH in most specialties; except OBGYN⁷
- Given that OBGYN has recently become a female dominant specialty, GDSH has been considered as a factor affecting specialty selection.
- Rationale:** Limited data about GDSH from the OBGYN specialty and Ireland



AIM

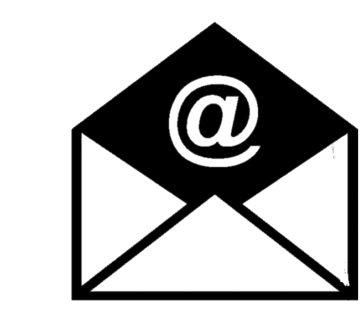
This study aimed to describe, among OBGYN medical students and trainee doctors:

- The perceptions and experiences of GDSH
- Its forms, sources, and reporting
- Its study/work and health-related consequences

METHODS



- Cross-sectional online survey via email
- Validated survey with questions⁸⁻¹² on:
 - Perceived GDSH & experienced forms
 - Sources of GDSH
 - Reporting
 - Consequences of GDSH



- Population
 - UCC medical students with 1+ OBGYN rotation (N = ~350)
 - All OBGYN trainee doctors registered with the RCPI (N = ~200)
- Approved by Clinical Research Ethics Committee & UCC School of Medicine

Pilot study:
(June 22'; N=7)
Data collection:
(Sept 22'-Jan 23')

References:
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RESULTS

Table 1: Demographics

	Medical Students (n=73)	Trainees (n=73)
Response rate	73/~350 (21%)	73/~200 (36%)
Average Age (yrs)	24	32
Gender		
Female	59%	81%
Male	41%	18%
Non-binary	0%	1%
Year or Scheme	4 th year (66%) 5 th year (34%)	BST* (32%) HST* (55%) Other (14%)

*BST (Basic Specialist Training); HST (Higher Specialist Training)

	Medical Students (n=73)	Trainees (n=73)
Ethnicity		
White Irish	62%	68%
Other white	21%	11%
Black	0%	7%
Asian	12%	11%
Other:	10%	3%

Objective 1: Describe the perceptions and experiences of GDSH

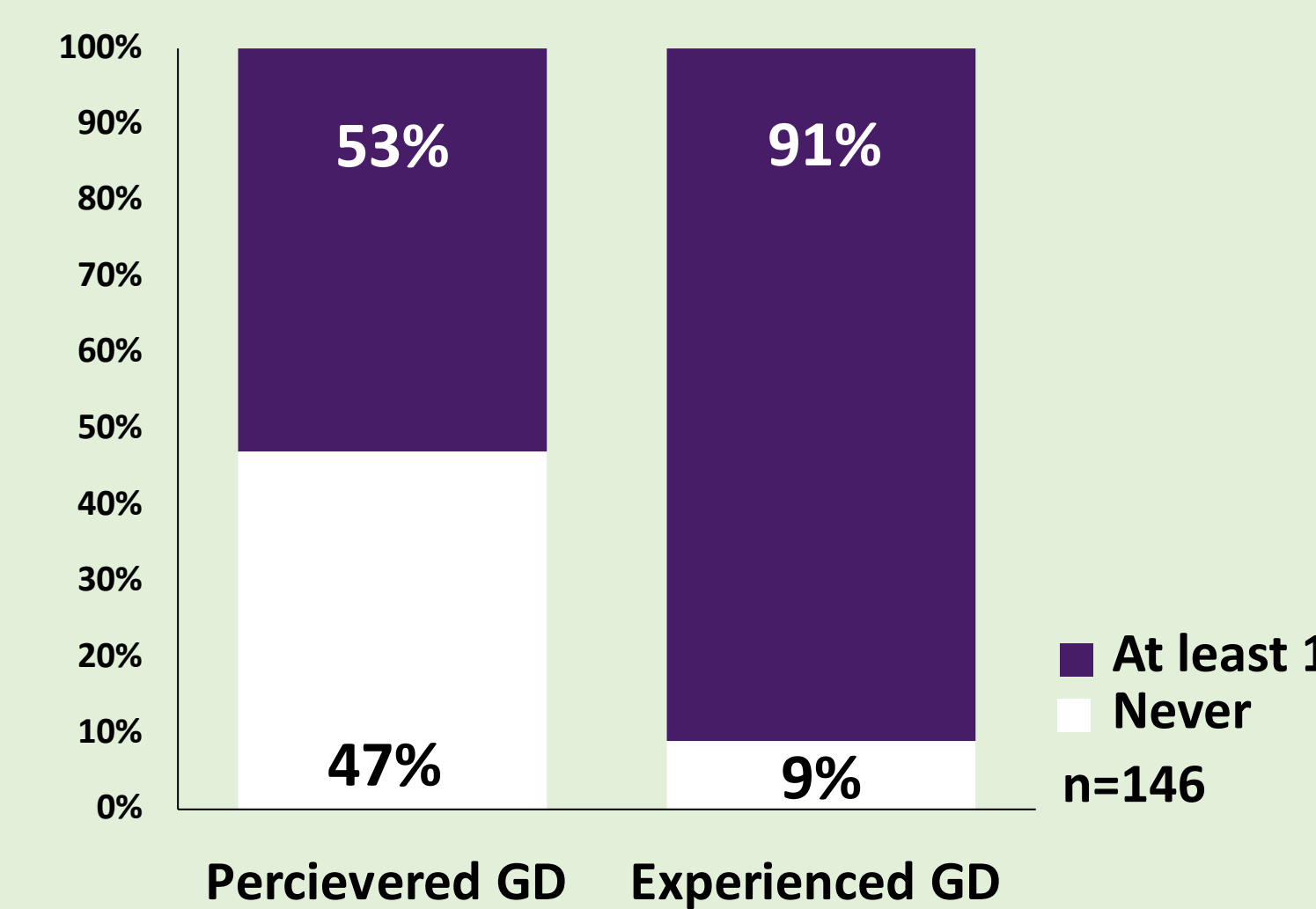


Fig 1: Perceived vs. experienced gender discrimination

- Though 53% perceived they had experienced GD, 91% had experienced at least one form of GD listed in the survey.

Table 2: Most commonly experienced forms of GDSH:

	Gender Discrimination	Sexual Harassment
Medical Students (n=73)	"Mistaken for a non-medical student" & "Asked to leave an exam room" (34%)	"Inappropriate sexual jokes", "Comments about my private life" and "Unwelcome touch" (7%)
Trainees (n=73)	"Mistaken for a non-trainee" (77%)	"Comments about my appearance" (63%).

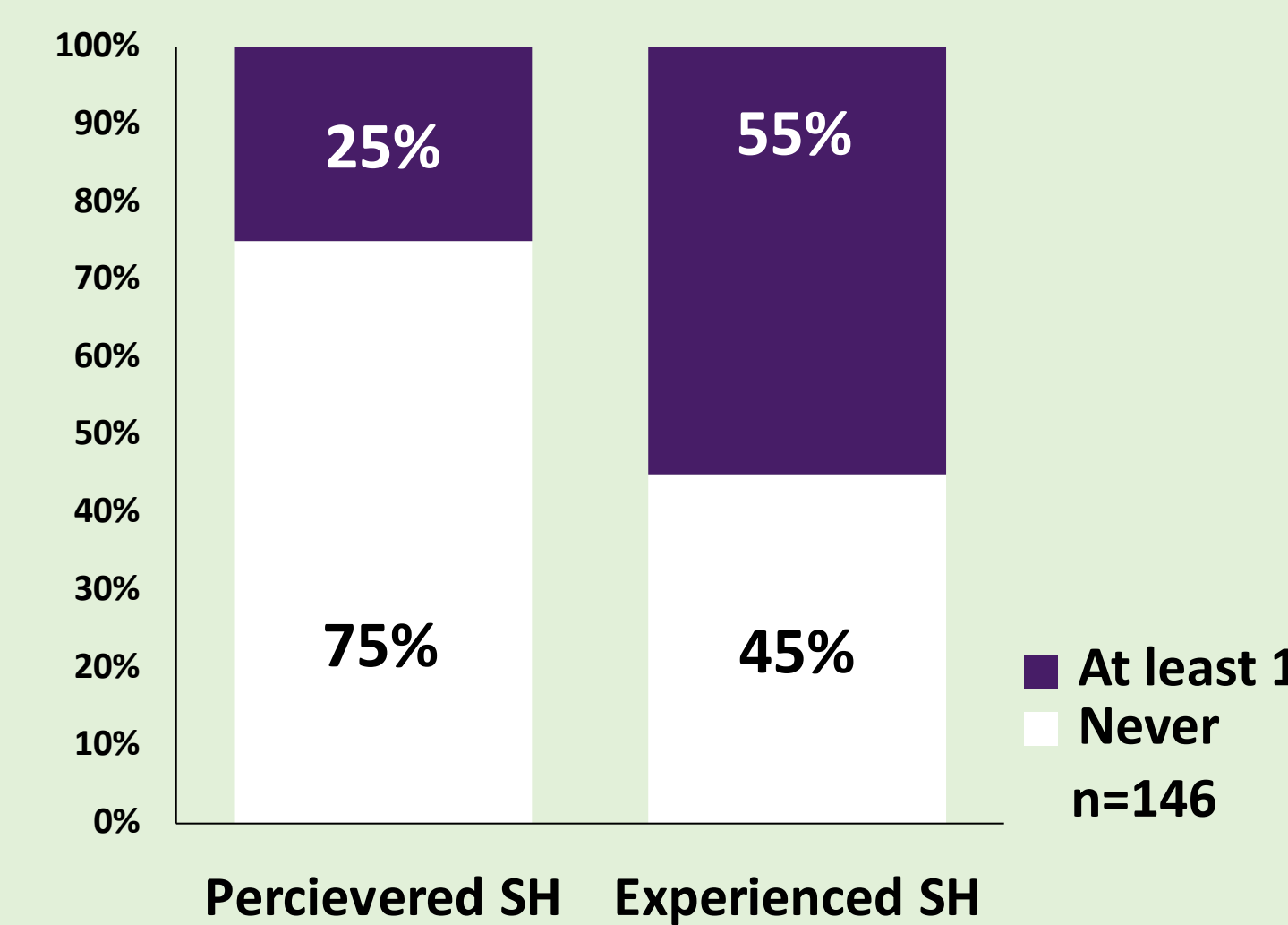


Fig 2: Perceived vs. experienced sexual harassment

- Though 25% perceived they had experienced SH, 55% had experienced at least one form of SH listed in the survey.

Objective 2: Describe the sources and reporting of GDSH

Forms of **reporting**:

- 58% Informal sharing
- 4% Formal reporting, with intension the listener document

Most common reasons for not formally reporting were:

- 54% "I thought nothing would be done"
- 49% "Fear of negative consequences"

Awareness:

- Majority (77%) were **unaware** of the process to report GDSH
- Majority (87%) were **not informed of this process** during studies/training

Most common
sources of GDSH:

- Patients (44%)
- Consultants (40%)
- Trainees (40%)

Objective 3: Describe the study/work & health-related consequences of GDSH

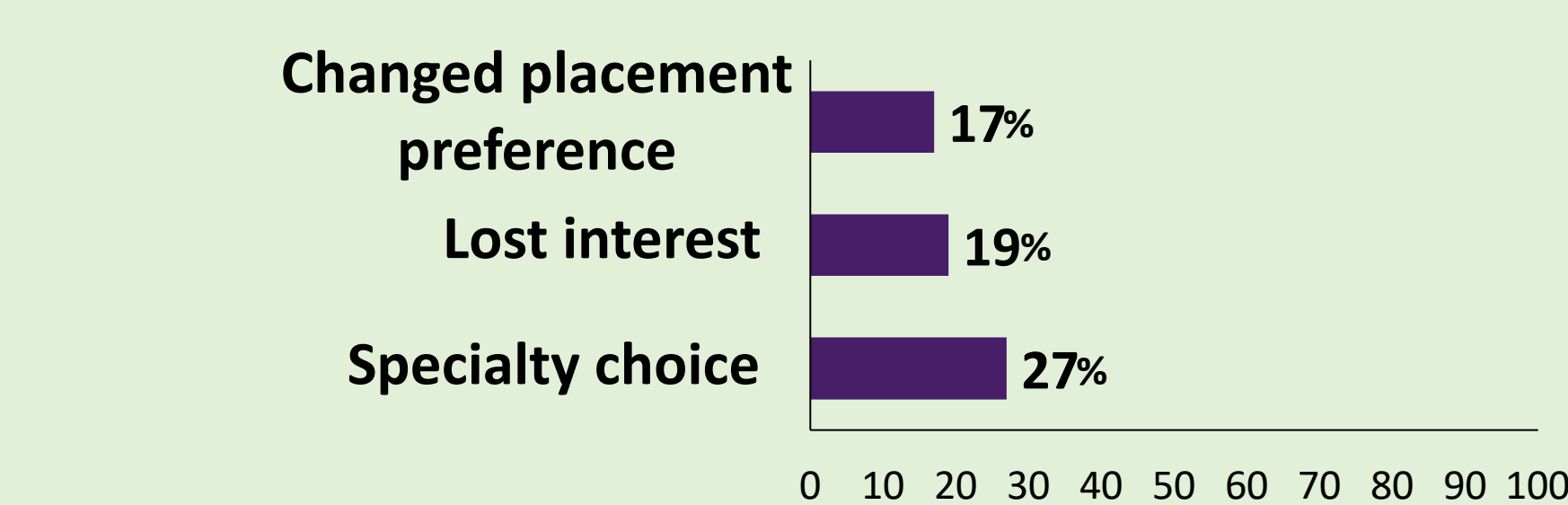


Fig 3: Studies/work consequences - Med Students
(n=59; missing n=14)

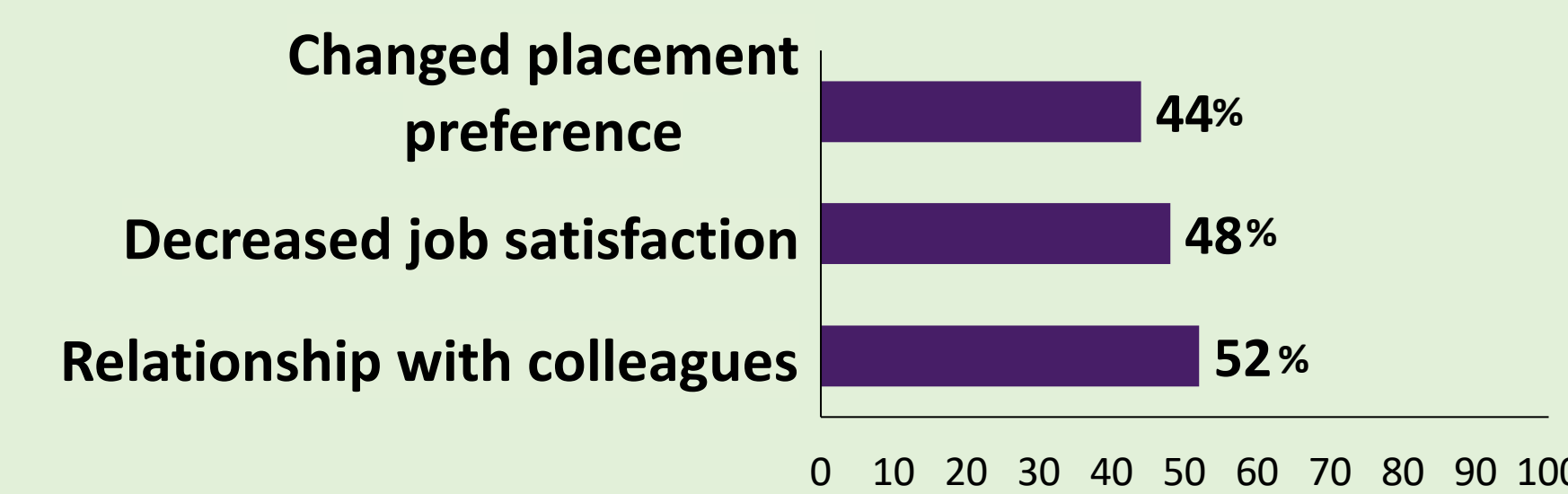


Fig 4: Studies/work consequences - Trainees
(n=62; missing n=11)

- At least 1 study/work consequence of GDSH was experienced by 36% of medical students (21/59) and 71% of trainees (44/62); most commonly affecting **specialty choice** and **professional relationships**, respectively.

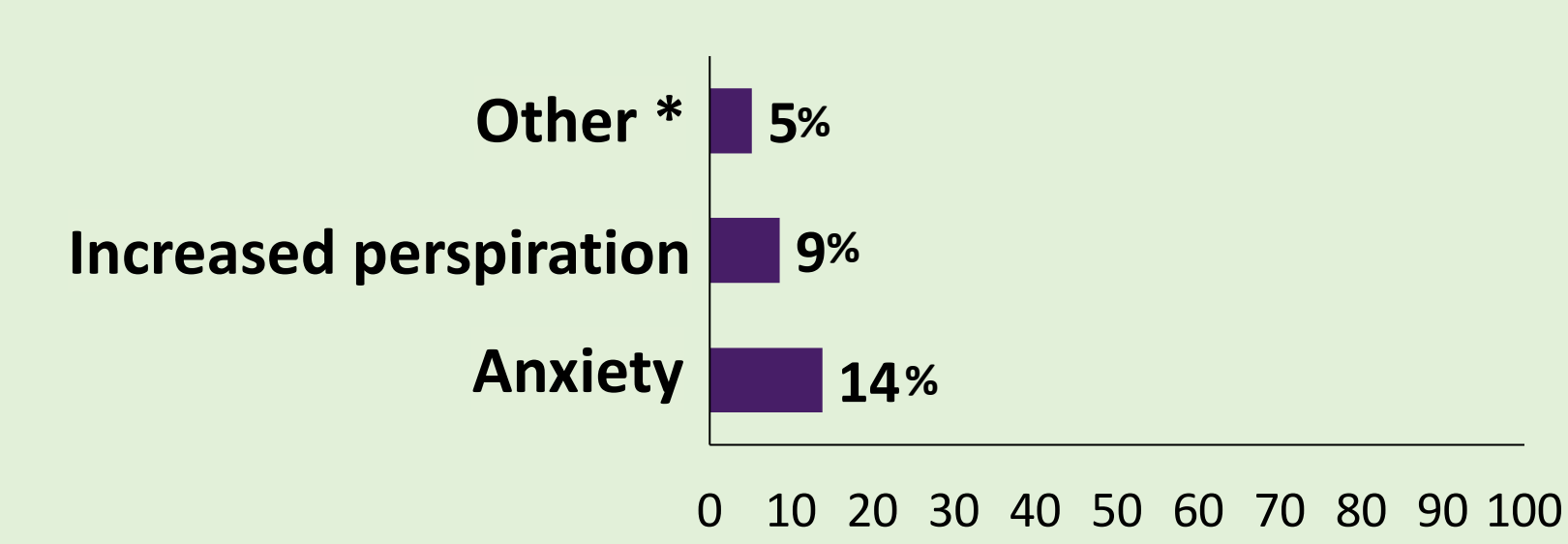


Fig 5: Health consequences -Med Students
*Sleep disturbance, Crying, Palpitations, and Headache each 5%
(n=58; missing n=15)

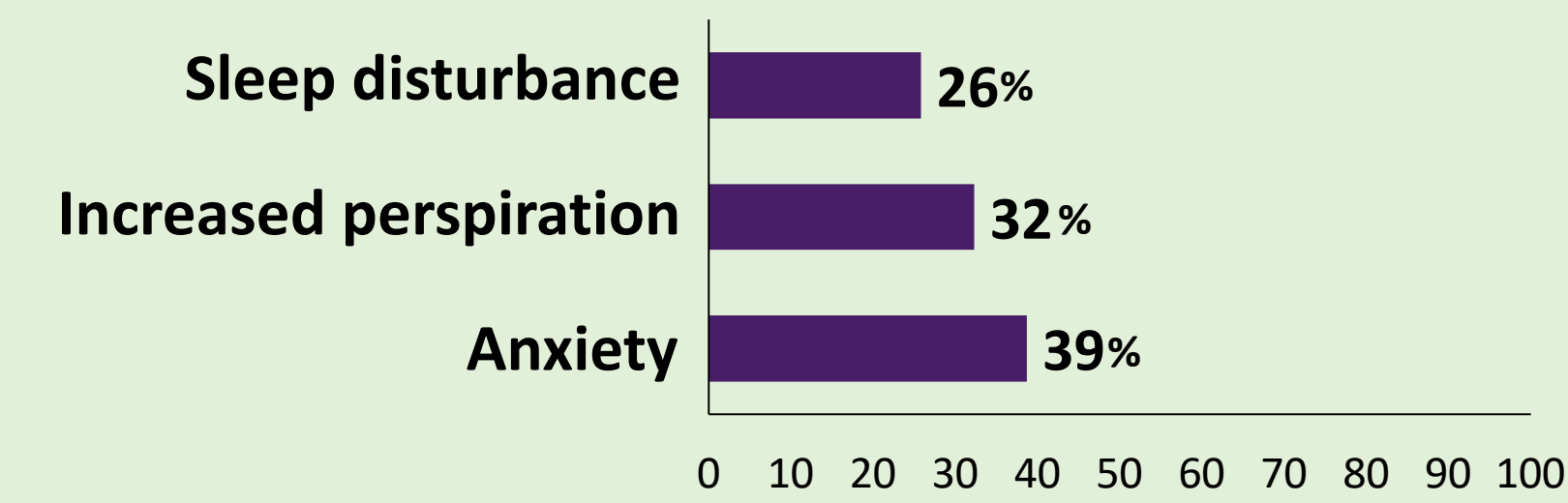


Fig 6: Health consequences - Trainees
(n=62; missing n=11)

- At least 1 health consequences of GDSH was experienced by 14% of medical students (8/58) and 56% of trainees (35/62); both most commonly reporting **anxiety**

CONCLUSION

Our data supports the literature that GDSH exists throughout OBGYN medical training. GDSH has work, career and health-related consequences among OBGYN medical students and trainees. Training to prevent GDSH and improve GDSH reporting process awareness is crucial. These findings show the need for tailored strategies for prevention of GDSH and improvement of measures to address it. Results should inform policies and practices to address this issue.