

# Assessing Student Pharmacists' Perceptions and Knowledge of Transgender and Gender-Diverse Healthcare

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## Background

- Gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT) aims to align an individual's physical characteristics with their gender identity<sup>1,2</sup>
- GAHT may help alleviate gender dysphoria and mental health comorbidities commonly experienced by transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) individuals<sup>1,2</sup>
- Pharmacists are important resources for monitoring the safety and efficacy of GAHT while also managing risk-reduction strategies<sup>3</sup>
- Most pharmacy programs lack inclusion of TGD health topics in their curricula<sup>4</sup>
- Few studies evaluate perceptions and knowledge of TGD healthcare among student pharmacists<sup>4</sup>

## Objectives

- Assess P1-P4 pharmacy student perceptions of TGD healthcare
- Assess P1-P4 pharmacy student knowledge of TGD healthcare

## Methods

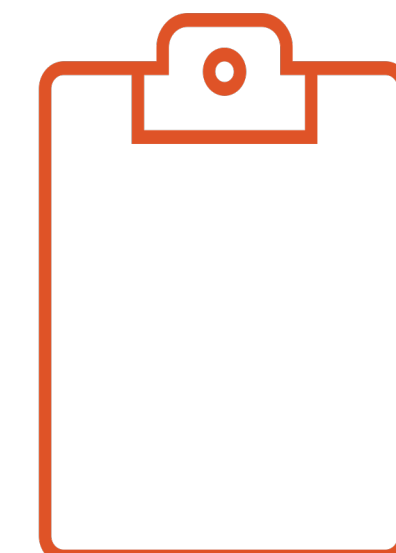


### Study Design

- Cross-sectional comparative survey
- Incomplete surveys were excluded
- Surveys completed after deadline were excluded

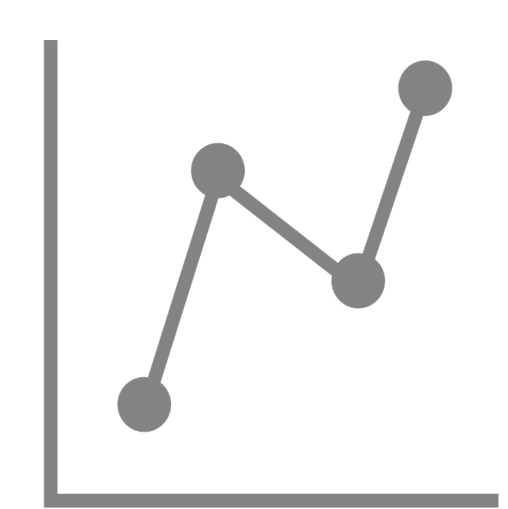
### Survey Information

- 20 survey items related to prior education and perceptions and knowledge of TGD-related care
- Likert-scale perception items ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)
- Multiple-choice items were assigned "1" point if answered correctly

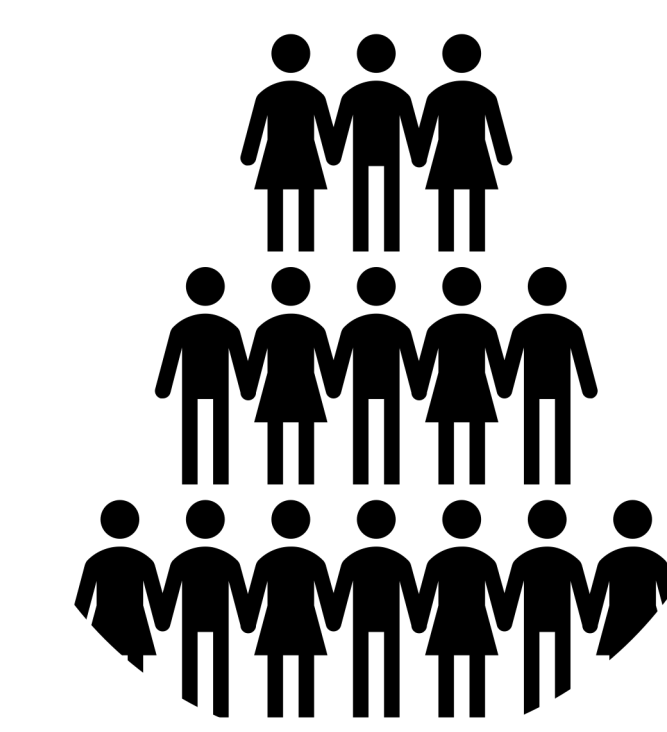


### Data Analysis

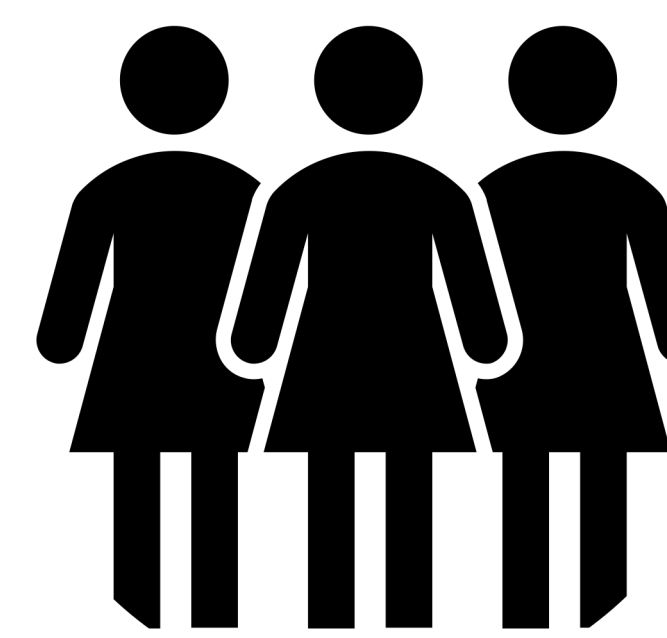
- Responses were reported as categorical and continuous data
- Data analyzed with statistical tests as appropriate using JMP Pro (v17)



## Results



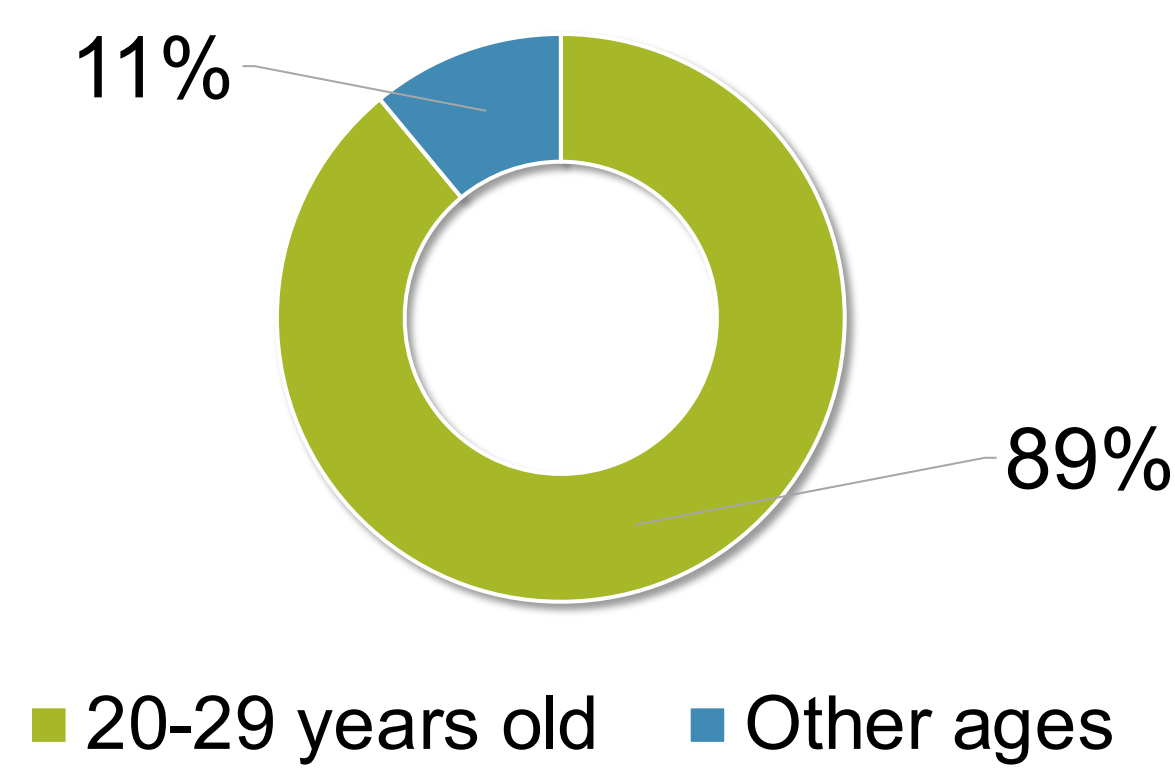
441 total student pharmacists invited to participate in survey



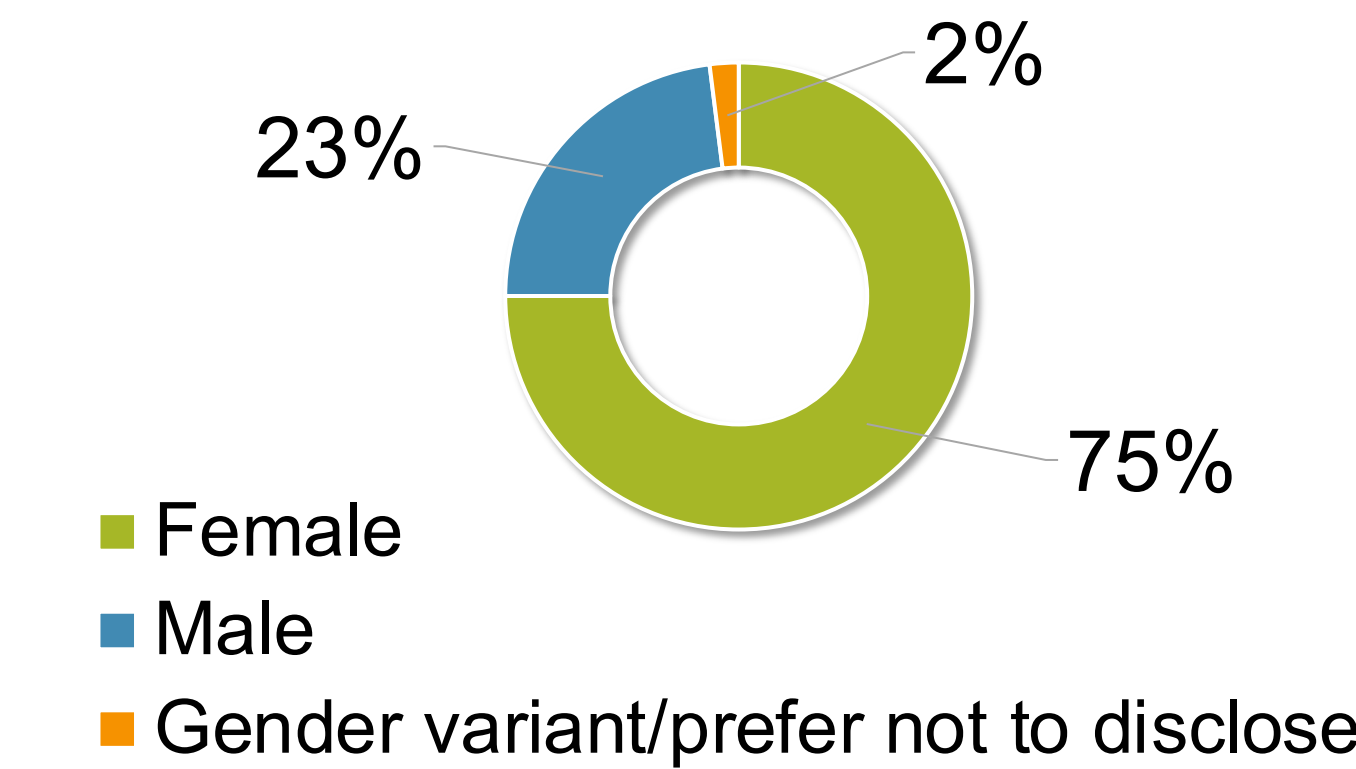
150 total participants

Figure 1. Total respondents

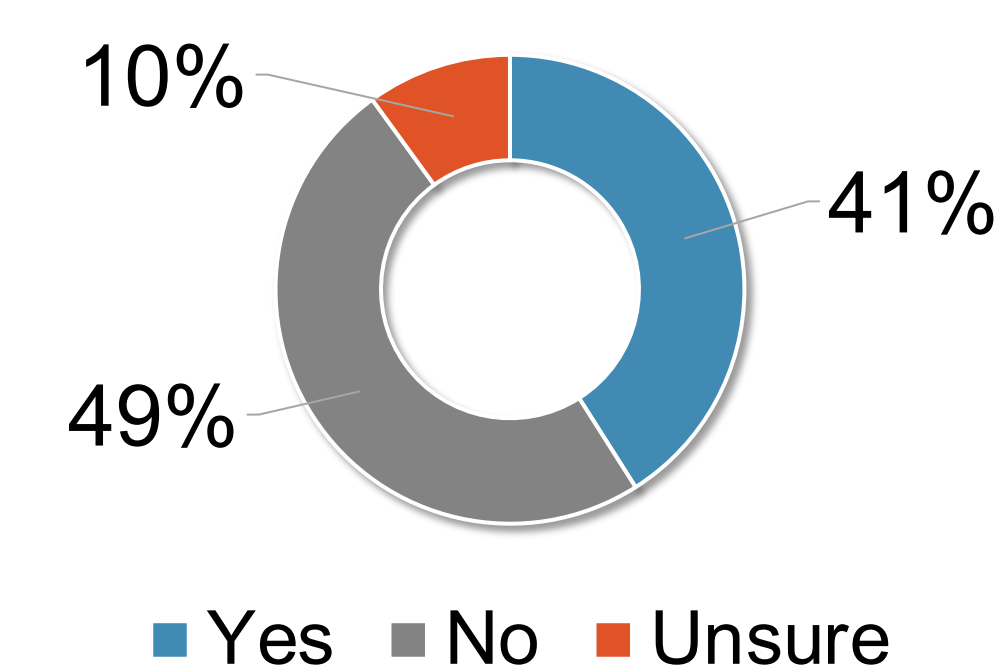
### Age group



### Gender



### Received GAHT education during pharmacy school



### Prior experience caring for TGD patients

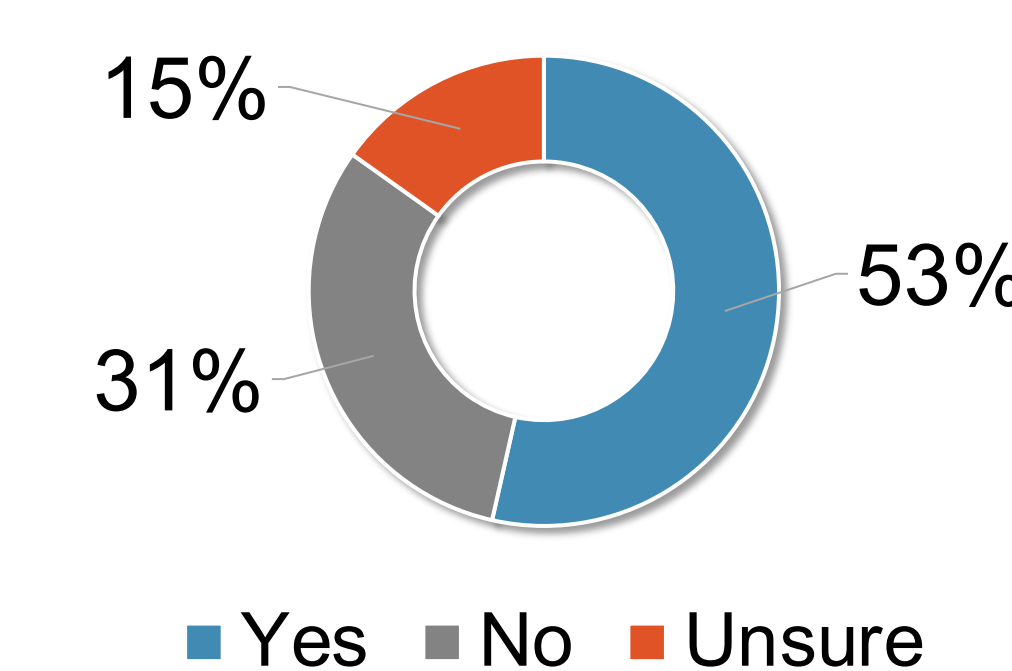


Figure 2. Baseline characteristics of respondents

## Response to Perception Items



Figure 3. Percent of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed

## Response to Knowledge Items

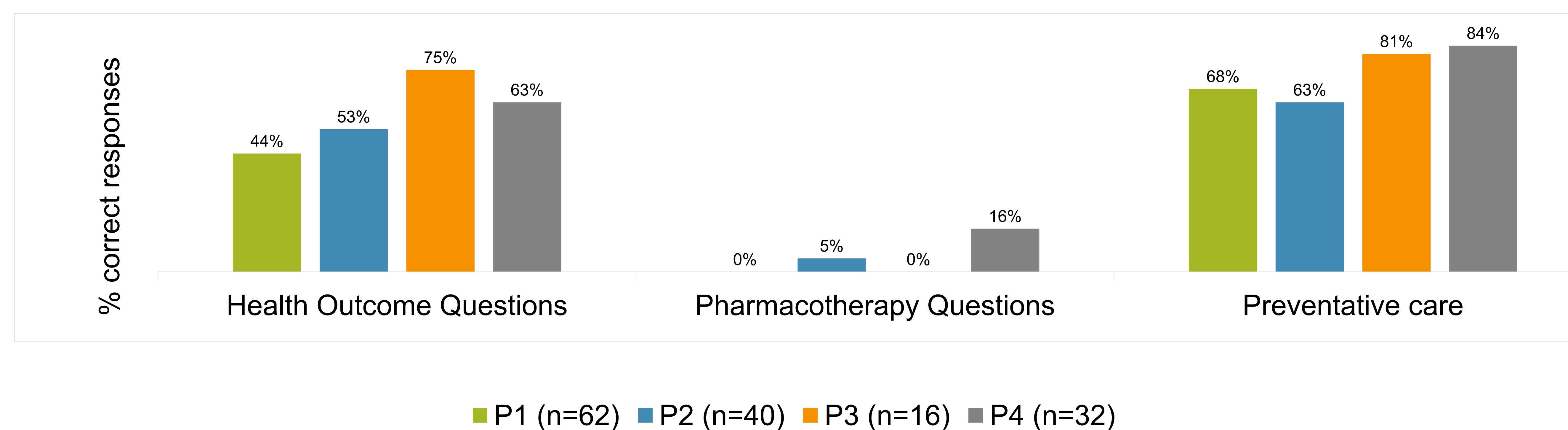
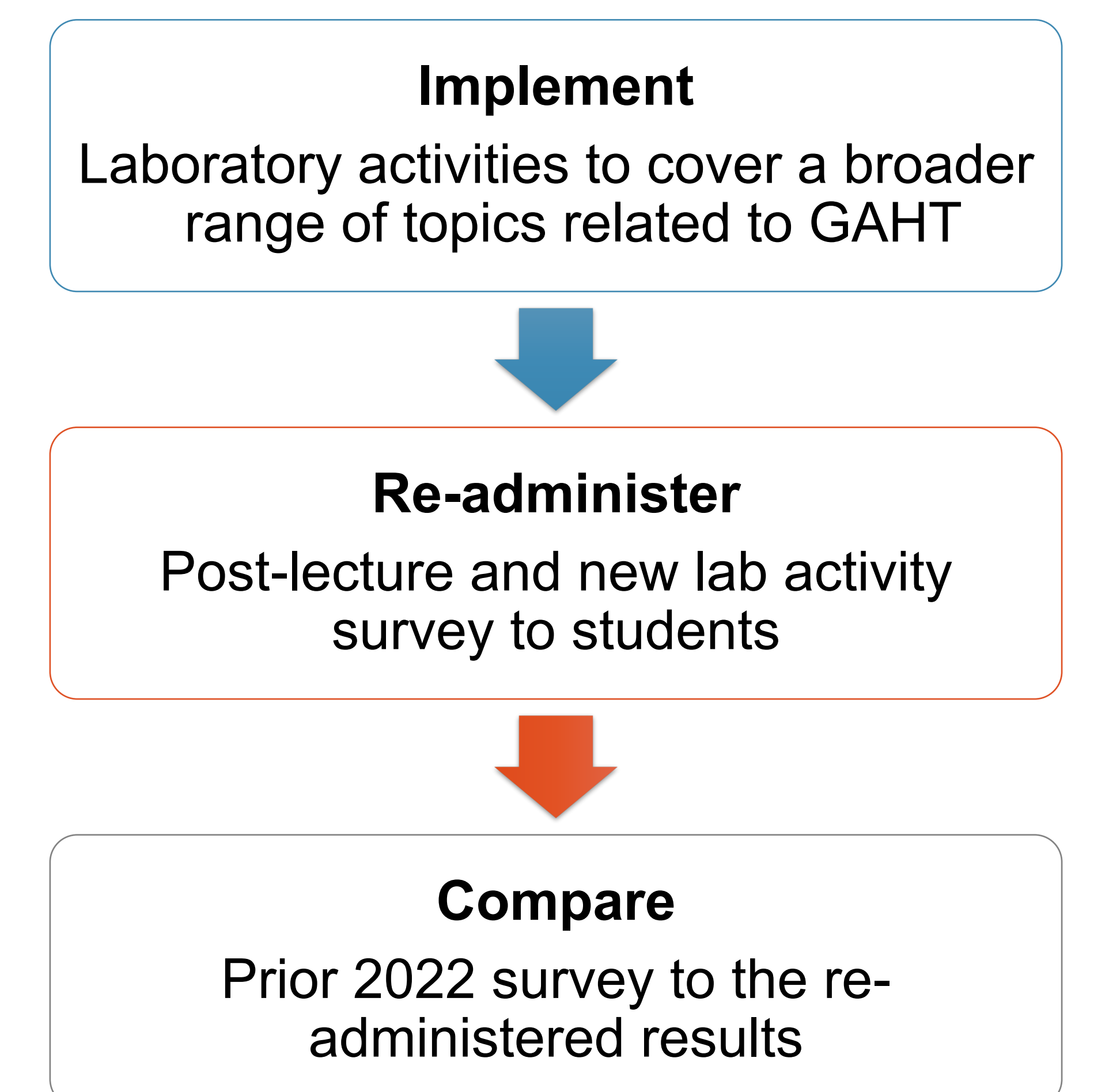


Figure 4. Correct responses by theme and class (n=150)

## Discussion

- Overall response rate was 34% with the lowest response rates being from P3s and P4s
- About 46% of students did not have any prior experience caring for TGD patients
- Most students recognize the need (89%) and importance (95%) of TGD healthcare education
- About 90% of students lack confidence in providing GAT counseling or recommendations
- Proportions of students who correctly answered healthcare outcomes and preventative care themes did not significantly differ from P1s-P4s
- Only 4.7% of all students accurately answered the pharmacotherapy theme
- Improving knowledge related to GAHT is an area that requires attention across all classes

## Future Directions



## Conclusions

- Incorporating TGD healthcare education into pharmacy curricula may prepare future pharmacists to provide comprehensive care to TGD individuals
- This study contributes to the sparse literature that assesses student pharmacists' perceptions and knowledge of TGD healthcare

## References

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- Baker KE, et al. *J Endocr Soc.* 2021;5(4):bvab011.
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