

LGBTQ+ Allies Training: Longitudinal Analysis of Curriculum Effectiveness & Development



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Background

- There are no current requirements for LGBTQ+ education hours in the ACME which accredits medical education facilities¹.
- Physicians feel generally comfortable working with LGBTQ+ coworkers, but largely uncomfortable teaching LGBTQ+ patients².
- Despite limited education about LGBTQ+ healthcare, it appears that education on these issues are promising.³

Research Purpose & Questions

- **Evaluate the efficacy** of LGBTQ+ Allies Training over the past 9 years
- **Utilized a pre- and post-training survey** of health profession students and faculty to evaluate:
 - Basic demographics including program, education, gender identity, and sexual orientation
 - Comfort and confidence levels with LGBTQ+ health topics:
 - i. Differentiating terminology
 - ii. LGBTQ+ history and symbolism
 - iii. Discussing safe sexual practices
 - iv. Taking a sexual history
 - vii. Managing sexual health issues
 - viii. Gauging importance of sexual health
 - ix. Comfort treating transgender and non-binary patients
 - xii. Extent of previous training

Training Design

- **2-hour training comprised of lecture and interactive session**
- Training sessions are **updated annually** to reflect the most current information in the field of LGBTQ+ health.
- Starting in 2022, students self selected into **beginner** or **advanced** groups based on comfort levels in LGBTQ+ health.
- Interactive case studies were **updated** in **2023** to discuss ethics surrounding LGBTQ+ care to reflect changes in **legislation**.
- The training addressed the following topics:
 - **History** of LGBTQ+ health and legislation
 - Defining **sex, gender, and sexual orientation, transgender and intersex**, pronouns, gender dysphoria, and the spectrum of gender transition
 - Addressing **common mistakes** made by providers when interacting with LGBTQ+ patients and how to make the clinical setting more **inclusive**.
 - Reviewing **social determinants of health** and the **minority stress model** seen in the LGBTQ+ individuals.
 - Discussing situations that address complex LGBTQ+ **interdisciplinary care** and **ethical considerations** when interacting with patients.

Research Methods

Measuring Device: Prior and subsequent to Allies in Health training, 923 health professional students and faculty over a 8 year period, excluding 2021, completed a 14-question 5-level Likert survey administered electronically .

Data Analysis: We compiled questions together based on associated LGBTQ+ categories. As this was a multi-year comparison of the pre- and post-test data means, a paired t-test was used to assess the difference in survey data. A p-value of 0.05 was the cut off for determining statistical significance.

Results

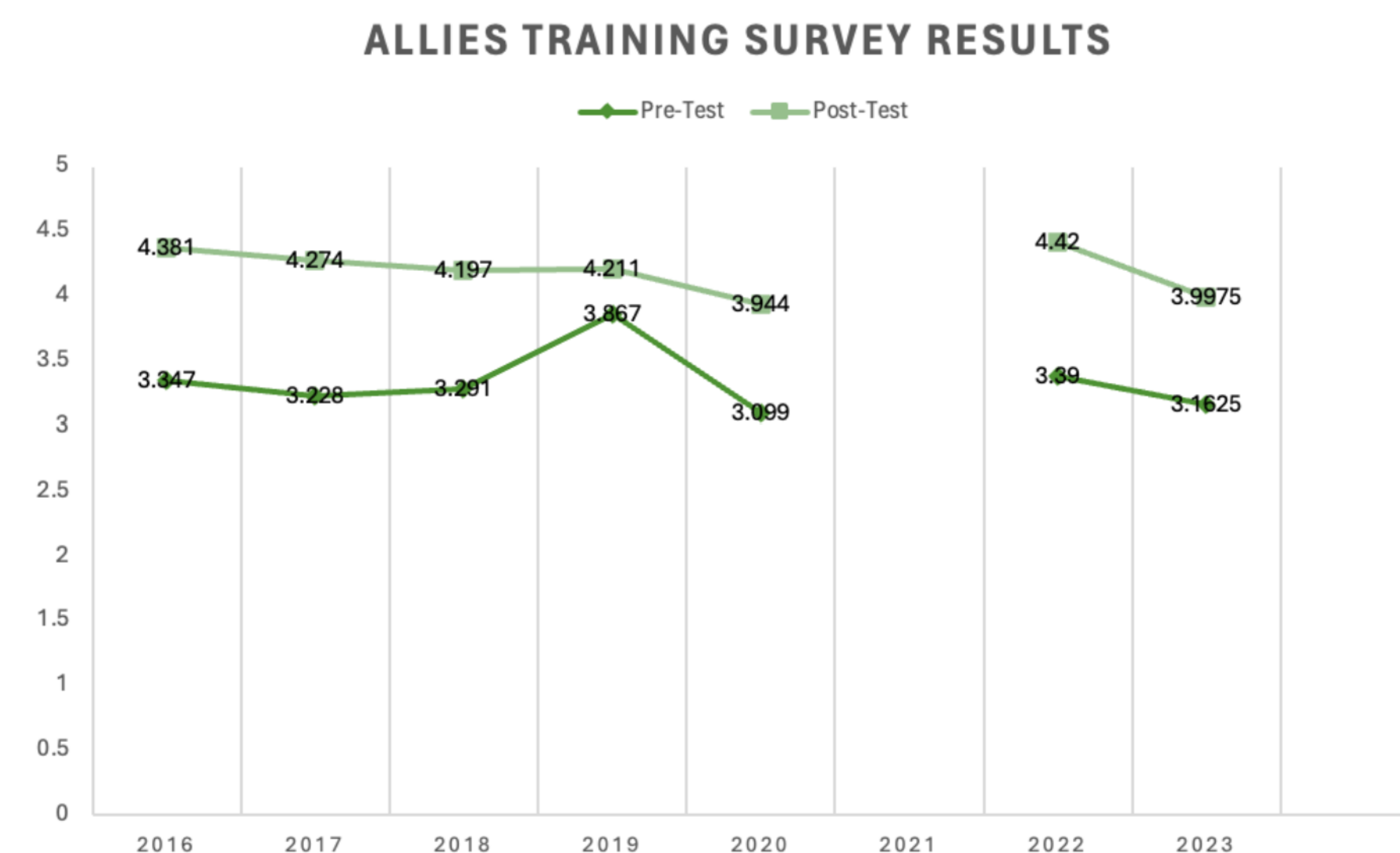


Table 1: Visual representation of mean pre- and post-training survey scores for each year the LGBTQ+ Allies Training has been conducted.

- When comparing the mean pre- and post-training response scores across years, there was a statistically significant difference between values in all recorded years.
- The cumulative results from the pre-training survey (M = 3.34, SD = 0.25) and post-training (M = 4.20, SD = 0.18) had a two-tailed P value of 0.000088 indicating the training **increased** participants perceived comfort and confidence in various LGBTQ+ topics each year.

Discussion & Conclusion

- After completion of the LGBTQ+ health training, attendees reported significantly improved confidence in their understanding of LGBTQ+ health on average in every year from 2016-2023, despite lack of data from 2021.
- Limitations include varying training delivery methods, instructors, and curriculum updates over the years. Additionally, as our research is a snapshot of the populations comfort & knowledge, we are unable to assess long term benefits to training.

Next Steps

- Future directions include designing studies to investigate training participants' experiences treating LGBTQ+ patients throughout their medical school careers
- As the LGBTQ+ Allies Training has consistently shown significant post-training improvement based on the information gathered through longitudinal analysis, our group can campaign for further integration of LGBTQ+ health topics and workshops into the curriculum

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References

