Evaluating the Impact of an Introductory Course on Medical Students Participating in the UCSD Student Run Free Clinic Project

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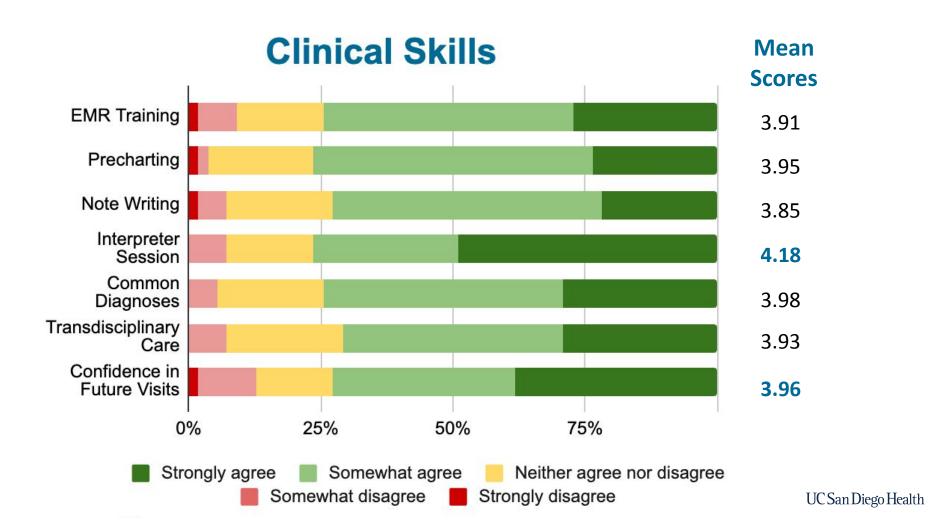
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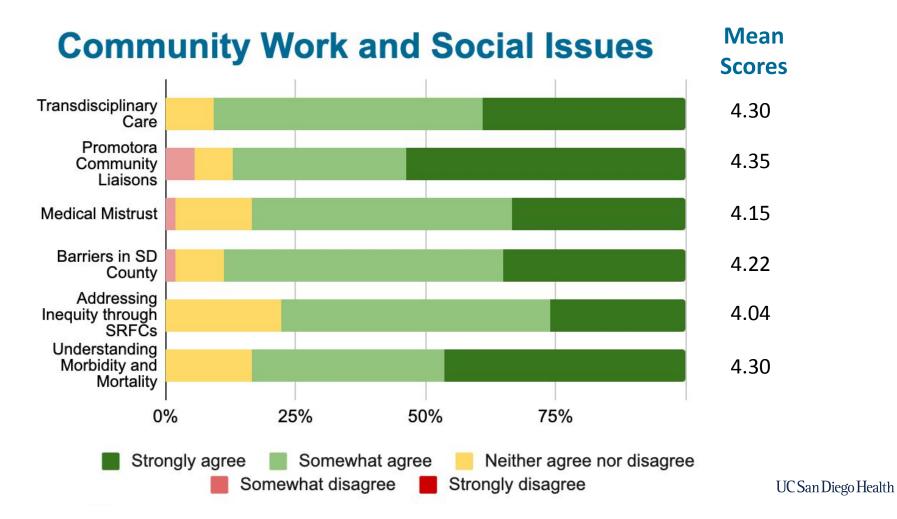
Introduction

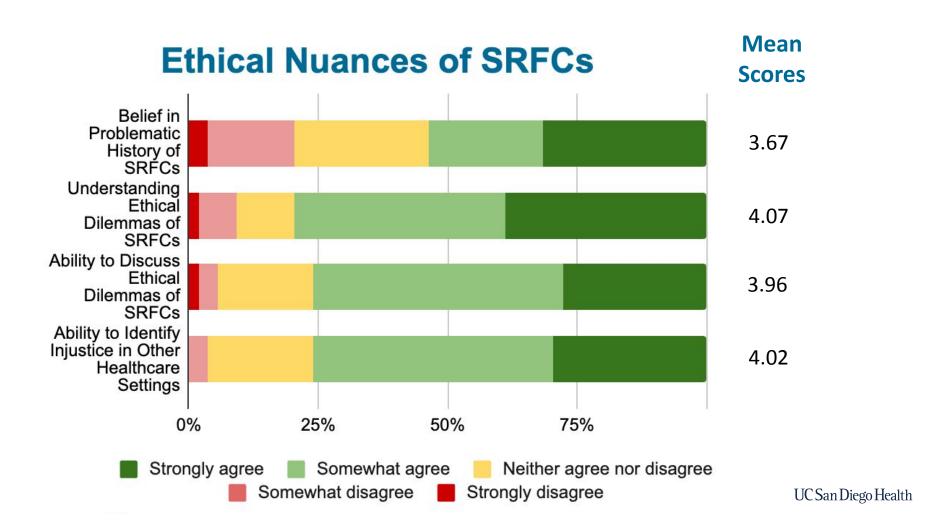
- Student-run free clinics (SRFCs) are a key source of care for under-insured populations
 - UCSD SRFC established in 1997
 - >1,300 medical students participated so far
- Challenges:
 - Complex system with transdisciplinary providers
 - Learning curve for early trainees
 - Constantly changing care providers for patients
- Training medical students to engage in this system is key
 - UCSD SRFC offers mandatory, semester-long introductory course for MS1s
 - Large group sessions: clinical skills, antiracism and ethics discussions
 - Small group sessions: EMR training, reflection, mentorship

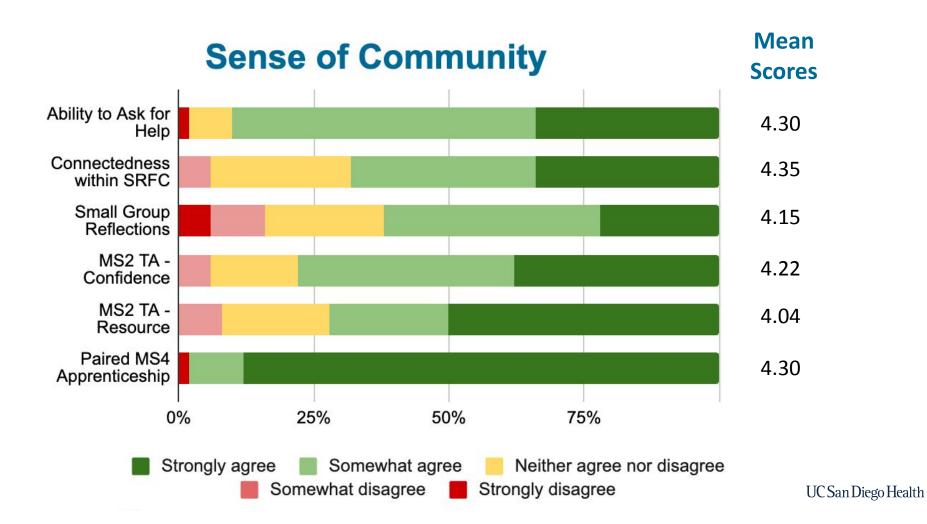
Methods

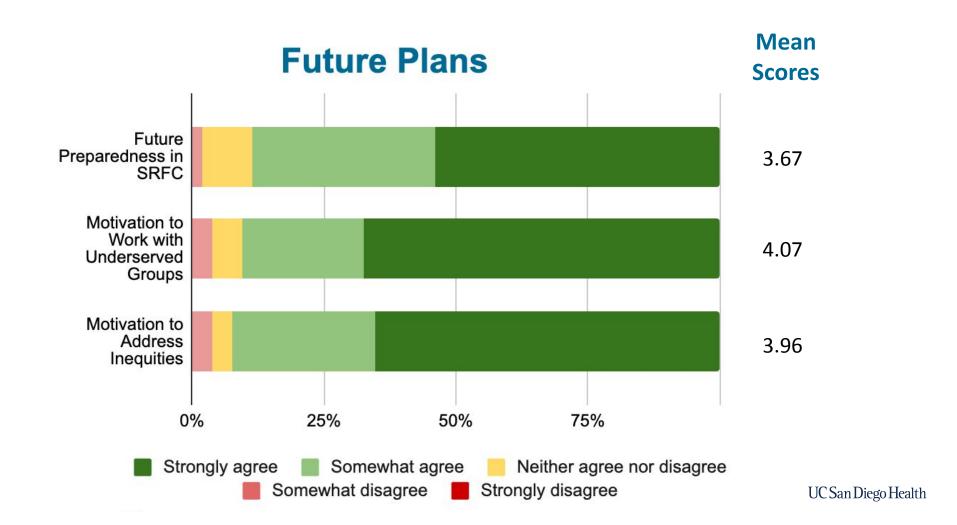
- One-time survey to all 52 students enrolled in UCSD SRFC's quarter-long introductory course
- Likert 5-point scale statements to assess impact on:
 - Clinical skills
 - Understanding of social and community issues
 - Understanding of ethical nuances
 - Sense of connectedness to SRFCP community/fellow students
 - Future motivation to work with the underserved
- Mean scores calculated for each topic (1-5)











Conclusion

- Recently updated sessions on health equity and clinical skills were most impactful
- Opinions on the ethical nuances of SRFCs were notably mixed, highlighting the importance of ongoing in-person discussions
- This study emphasizes the need for thorough student preparation by SRFCs to:
 - Deliver high-quality care to patients
 - Empower students to apply skills to other healthcare settings
 - Remain motivated to work with underserved communities