Preparing future doctors for abortion-related care:

A national FOI study of UK medical school teaching

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Background

2021: Survey of UK medical schools & interviews with medical students
Findings: dissatisfaction with lack of clinically focused education

2022: *Doctors for Choice (DfC) UK Curriculum Champions project*
Aim: support healthcare providers and medical students to improve abortion education locally

2023: BSACP / RCOG / CoSRH letter to medical schools
Advice: improve abortion education, including >3 hours on clinical aspects abortion care

Aim

Evaluate current abortion teaching in UK medical schools

Methods

Freedom of information requests to 42 medical schools:

- Core mandatory teaching
- Hours allocated
- Learning outcomes
- Assessment methods
- Clinical placement

Limitations

- Relies on recorded information
- Doesn't assess teaching quality / student experience
- Information from specific academic year

Key findings

40/42 schools provided abortion teaching

4.5 hours of abortion teaching on average

33 learning outcomes specifically mentioning "abortion" or "TOP"

10 learning outcomes related to communication

33 schools formally assessed abortion care

12 offered clinical abortion care exposure

Conclusions

UK abortion education is widespread but inconsistent

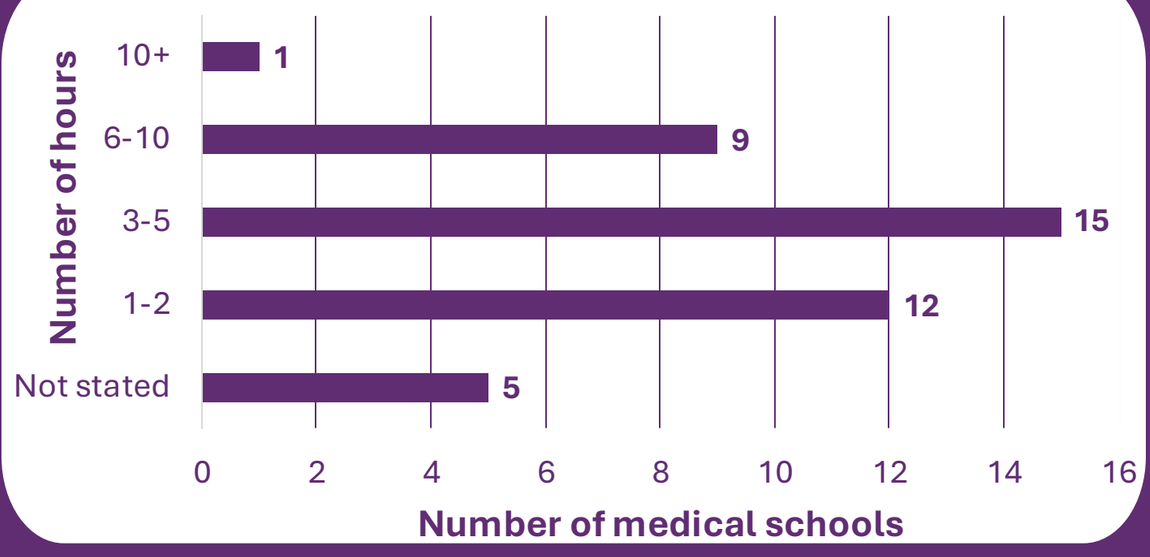
COMMUNICATION & CLINICAL EXPOSURE ⟷ **ETHICO-LEGAL & CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE**

Potential impacts on stigma, competence and workforce

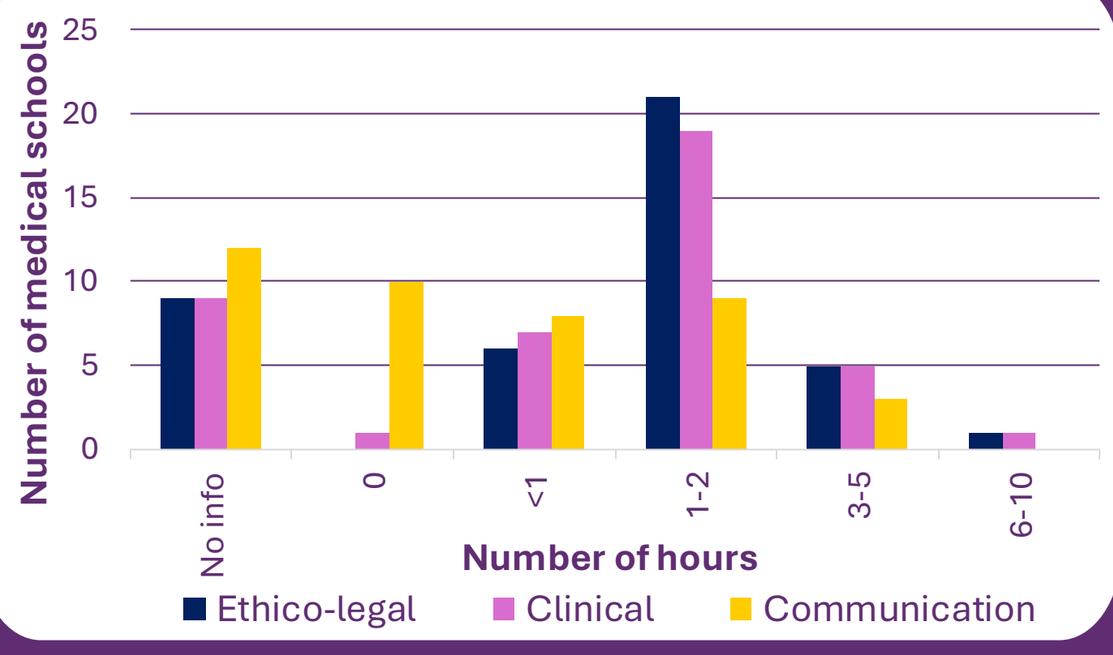
Results

100% response rate

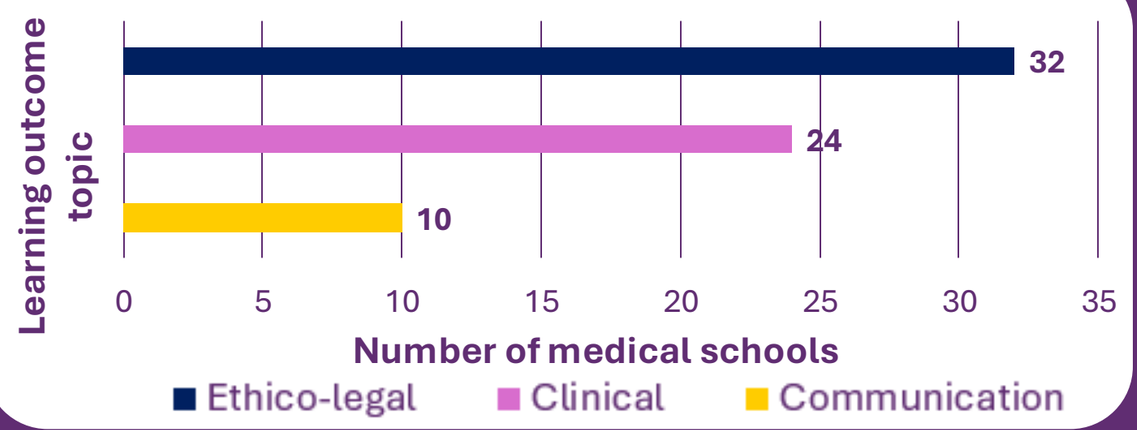
Total scheduled teaching hours



Scheduled teaching hours by topic



Learning outcomes by topic



Learning outcomes language



Next steps

National guidance
- Raise awareness of existing model curricula and recommendations

BSACP and DfC undergraduate working group
- Resources e.g. suggested learning outcomes, lesson plans, language guide

DfC Education Roadshow
- UK wide tour of DfC Abortion Care Student Conference *(scan QR code)*