

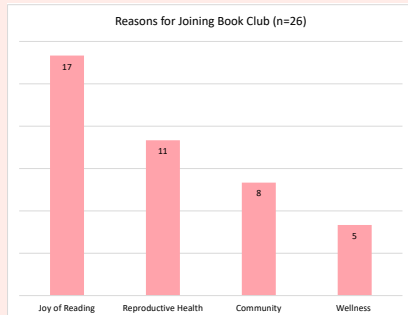
The Value of a Reproductive Health Book Club at a Florida Medical School

Purpose

- Few studies evaluate impact of book clubs on medical students' personal and professional growth.
- Our book club was created in 2022 to engage students and faculty in conversations about reproductive health.

Methods

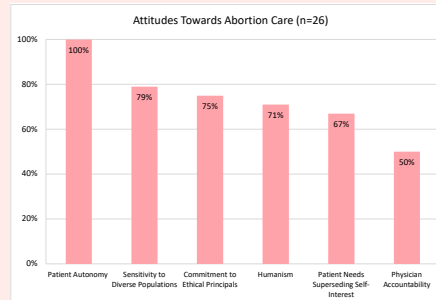
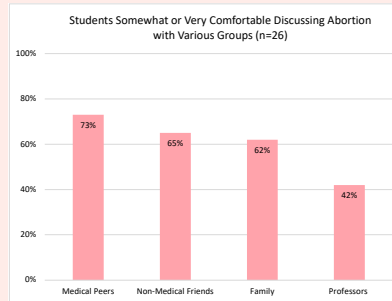
- 53 students and 6 faculty participated.
- Surveys completed prior to Florida's 6-week abortion ban assessed reasons for participating, feelings about reproductive health care in U.S., comfort speaking about abortion and attitudes towards abortion care.



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Results

- Pre-book survey: Most students used words “disappointed” and “scared” to describe reproductive health care in the U.S.
- Post-book survey: Students described parallels in the fight for reproductive freedom in the 1800s compared to present-day.



Conclusions

- Students appreciated participating in a book club to pursue interest in reading and to build community.
- The book club served as an avenue to understand that the obstacles facing reproductive health have occurred for centuries.
- Hosting multiple book club meetings provided opportunities for students to speak with professors about abortion.
- All students view abortion care as an issue about patient autonomy, while half view it as an issue of physician accountability.
- Future studies may explore how the book club has shaped students' communication skills and empathy in speaking with patients about reproductive health.

