

Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical students switched from an in-person to virtual curriculum. This shift placed stress on medical schools to find alternatives to train students. Students relied on recorded lectures, emails, and video-conferencing to stay up-to-date with schoolwork. Understanding student experiences during the pandemic will help prepare students and administrators for repeat lockdown events. The goal of this study is to understand the experiences of medical students during the pandemic.

Aims and Objectives

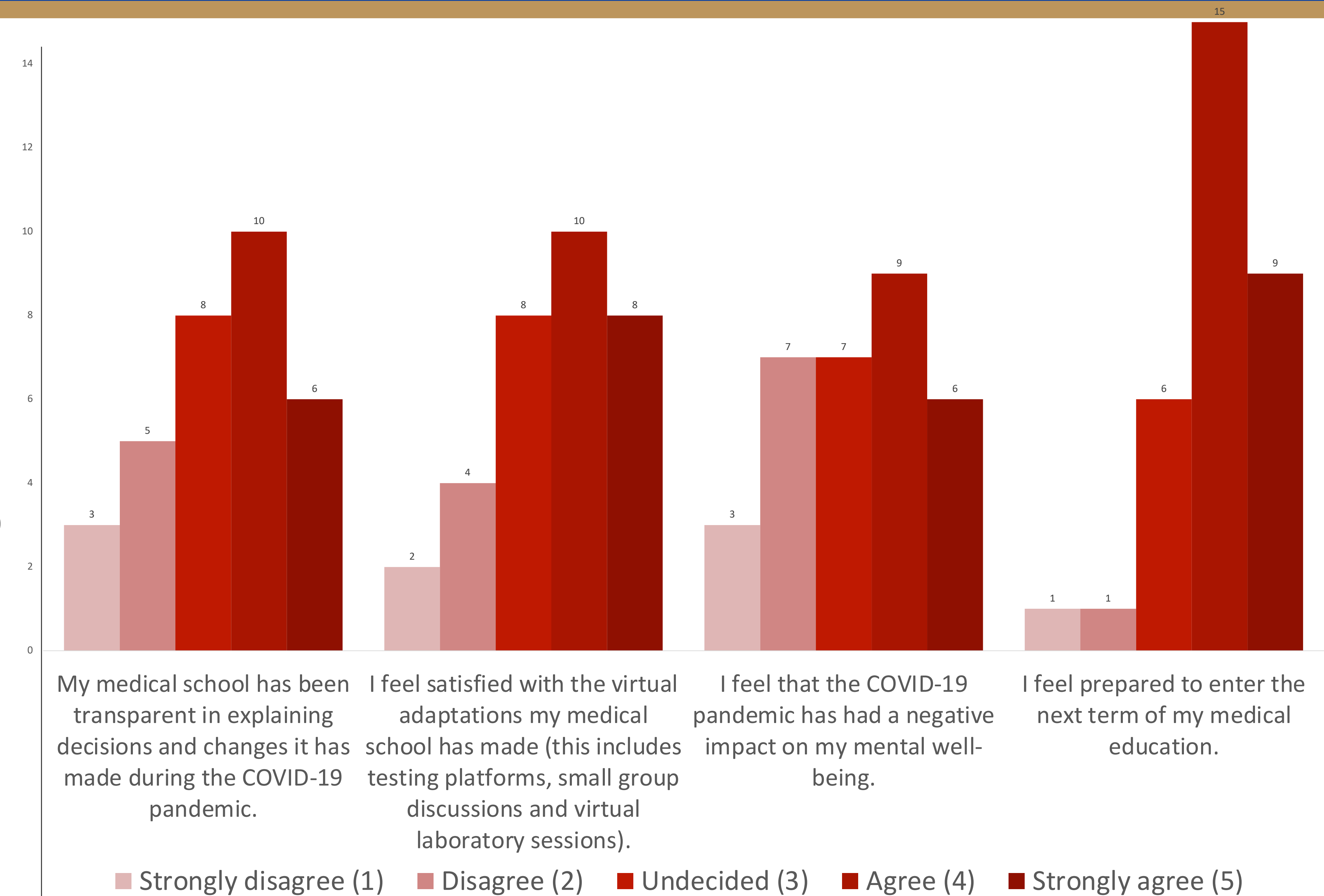
- To understand the implications the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the communication between medical school administration and medical students.
- I. To query the student perception of the quality of communication between medical educators and students during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - II. To query how students perceived their medical school's preparedness for a shift to an online curriculum.
 - III. To identify how individual experiences varied during the shift to an online curriculum.

Methods

A 5-point Likert Qualtrics survey was used to identify common experiences medical students faced during the pandemic. It was distributed electronically to all medical students at OUWB. Questions were organized into three categories: communication, medical school preparedness, and individual experiences. Answer choices ranged from strongly agree (5) to strongly disagree (1), with a corresponding numerical value according to the 5-point scale. Data was aggregated to provide means and standard deviations for each question and category.

Results

32 completed surveys were collected. Questions in the communication category received a mean of 3.5, corresponding to an above-average opinion with regard to the school's communication. Questions in the medical school preparedness category received a mean of 3.6, corresponding to an above-average opinion with regard to the school's adaptations. Questions in the individual experience category received a mean of 3.2, indicating a small degree of agreement with regard to the negative impact of the pandemic on student performance and well-being.



Conclusion

All categories scored positively in student response. In the communication category, students felt well-informed on decisions/changes that were being made in real time. In the medical school preparation category, students felt the structural changes to adapt to the virtual platform were appropriate and felt comfortable entering their next term. In the individual experiences category, students felt the pandemic negatively impacted their mental and physical wellbeing.

References

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank OUWB and the department of Pulmonary Critical Care at Beaumont Royal Oak for their help with this project.