

# Evaluating the Impact of an Interactive Intimate Partner Violence Module on Medical Student Preparedness, Knowledge, and Confidence

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## Background

- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a cyclical pattern of behavior that can cause physical, psychological, and/or sexual harm inflicted by a current or former intimate partner, regardless of marital status<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- The primary aim of such actions is to establish or maintain power or control over the partner<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Those who experience IPV have an increased risk of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder<sup>4</sup>
- While many organizations recommend screening for IPV<sup>5</sup>, there is limited exposure to IPV<sup>6</sup> in medical school curricula.
- This critical gap in knowledge represents an opportunity for further education and discussion.
- An interactive module on IPV was created for third year medical students on their psychiatry clerkship to teach learner skills in assessment, treatment planning, and resources.

## Objectives

1. Determine the effectiveness of an IPV module in educating medical students
2. Assess the readiness of medical students to address IPV in a clinical setting

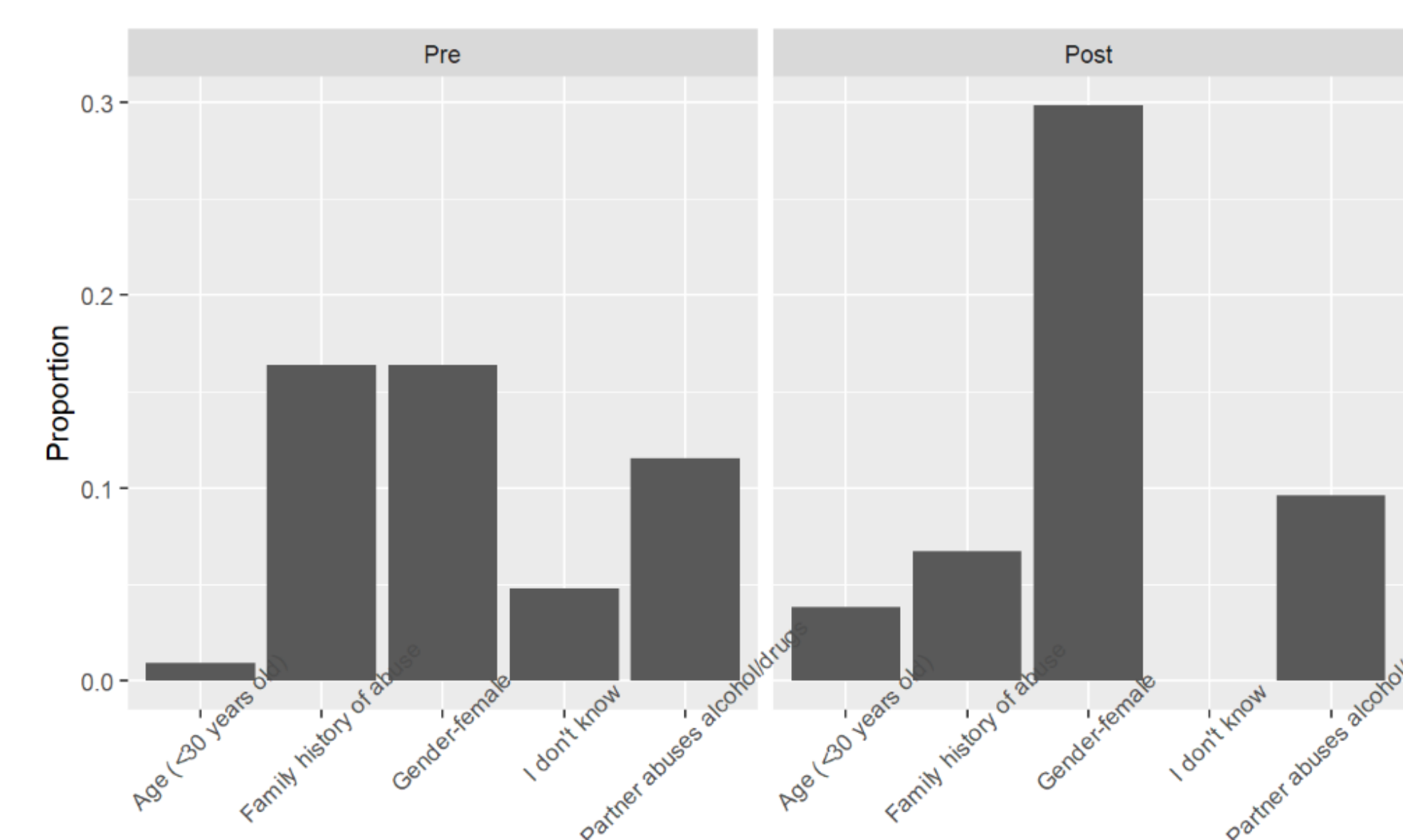
## Methods

- The module created included IPV information in a clinical setting, including screening and management.
- A pre and post module survey adapted from the Physician Readiness to Manage Intimate Partner Violence was administered to assess baseline knowledge, confidence, and preparedness in addressing IPV.
- Data from the pre and post surveys were analyzed using paired t-tests to assess the module's effectiveness.
- Data was collected from third year medical students in the 2024-2025 academic year.

## Results

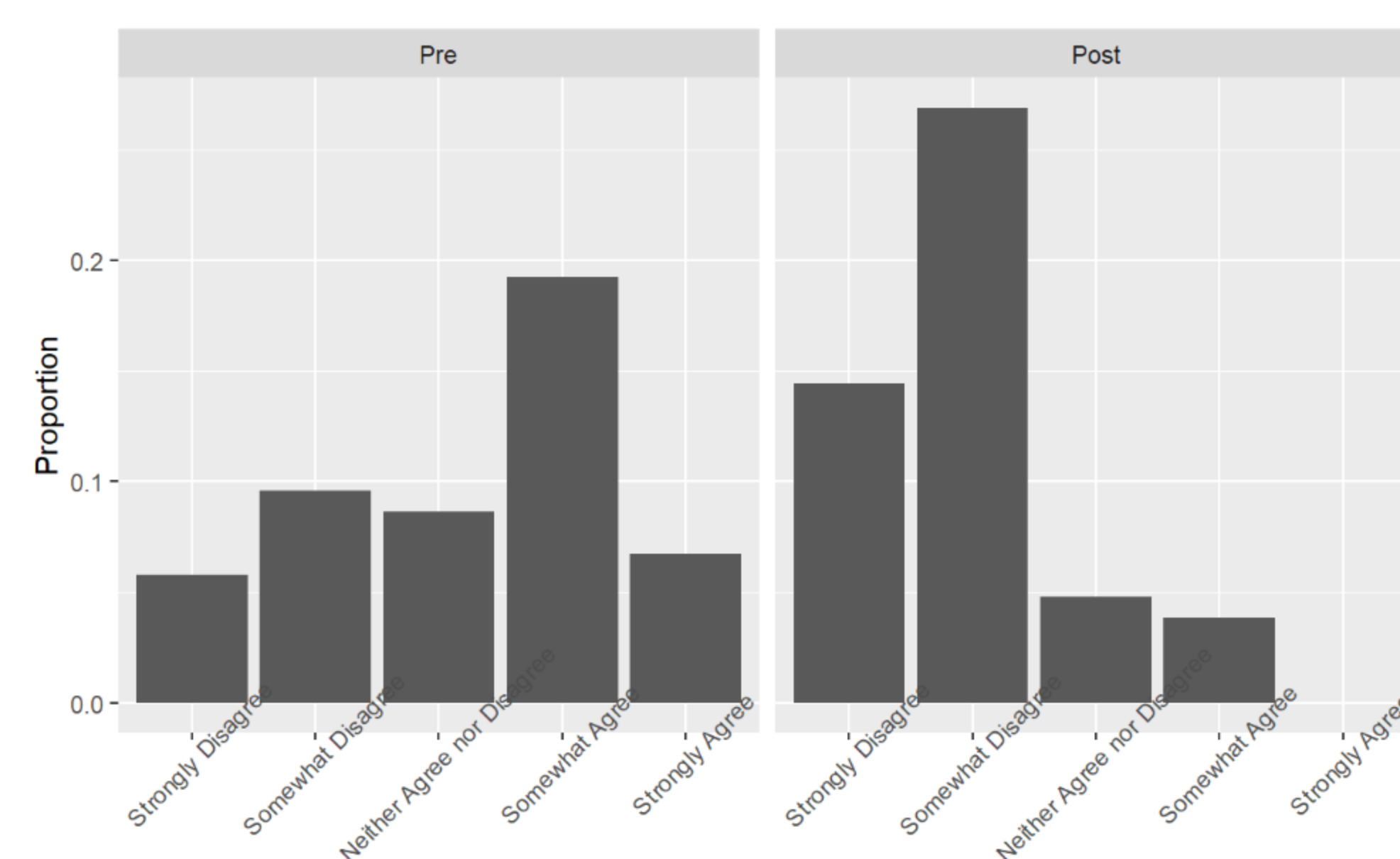
### Baseline Knowledge:

- Survey question: What is the strongest single risk factor for becoming a victim of intimate partner violence?
- Mean difference in scores between the pre and post surveys was 0.75 and a paired t-test was used ( $t = 2.301$ ,  $df = 51$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.025$ ).



### Confidence:

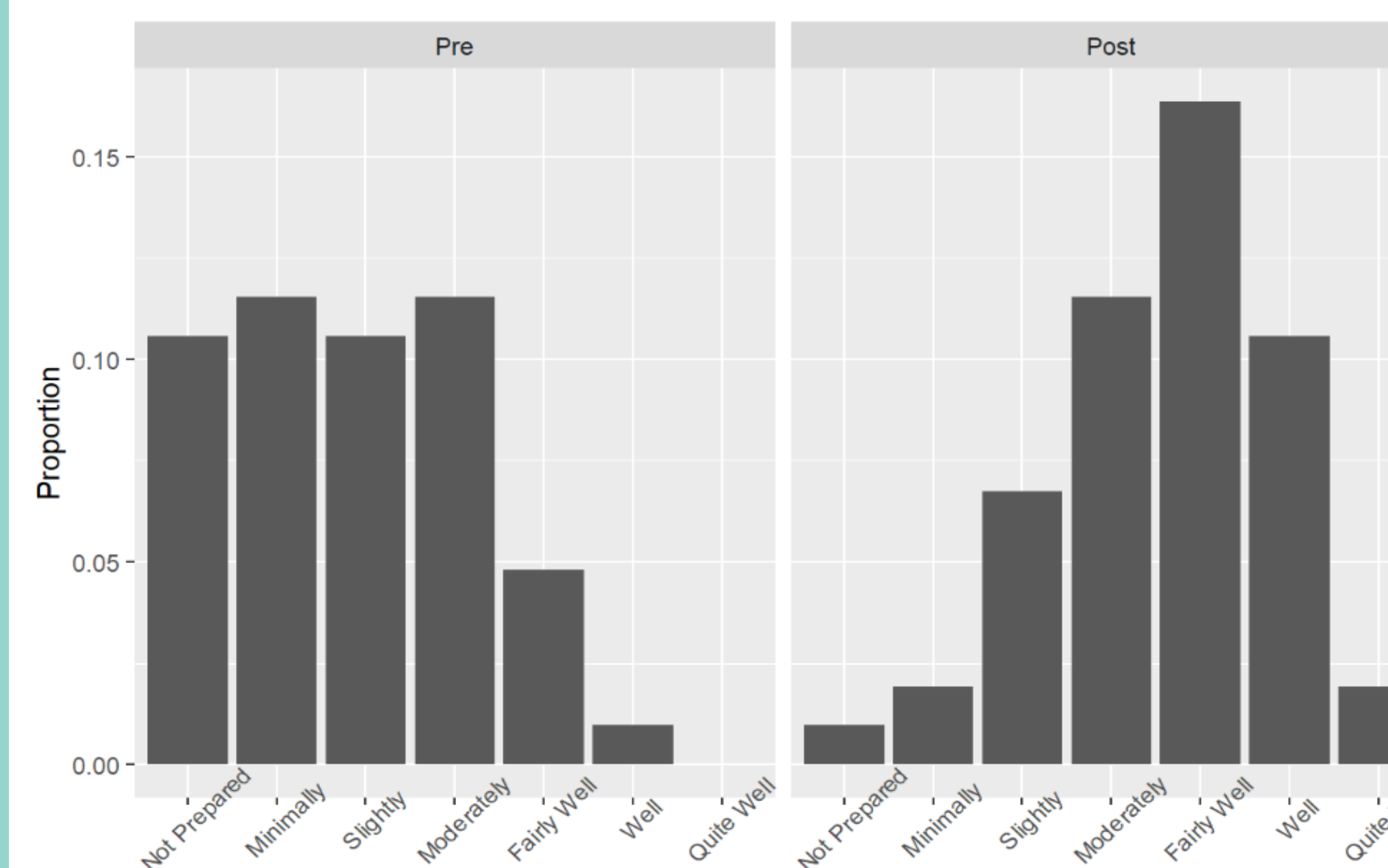
- Survey question: I do not have sufficient training to assist individuals in addressing situations of IPV.
- The mean difference for confidence was 8.48 and a paired t-test was used ( $t = 11.288$ ,  $df = 51$ ,  $p\text{-value} < 0.001$ ).



## Results

### Preparedness:

- Survey question: Providing referral sources to victims of IPV
- The mean difference in scores for preparedness was 14.33 and a paired t-test was used ( $t = 11.569$ ,  $df = 51$ ,  $p\text{-value} < 0.001$ ).



## Discussion

From the mean difference in scores, it was determined that the results were statistically significant for all three categories: knowledge, confidence, and preparedness. This overall indicates that the IPV training module had a meaningful impact on students' understanding and approach to IPV. The increase in the number of students correctly identifying the "gender female" as the single risk factor for becoming an IPV victim indicates an increase in overall awareness of IPV dynamics. Within the confidence section, the increase in mean score suggests that the module was an effective intervention to improve confidence among medical students to address IPV. Limitations of this study include a small sample size and limited assessment in application of knowledge in a clinical setting. Future studies should continue to explore knowledge retention and application to clinical care.

## Conclusion

Students demonstrated an improved ability to identify risk factors of IPV, address IPV with patients, and assist potential victims. These improvements suggest that the module was effective in preparing students to address IPV in a clinical setting, which can impact support for victims. Knowledge learned and retained in this module may improve students' communication skills. This can have an impact on how patients disclose sensitive information, which directly influences health outcomes.

## References

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