



The CENTER for
SURGICAL HEALTH



PENN
SURGERY

Introducing the Social Determinants of Surgical Health into Contemporary Medical Education: An Efficacy Evaluation of Operation Equity, a Curriculum on Surgical Equity

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Introduction & Methods

Purpose: Evaluate effectiveness of “Operation Equity: An Introduction to Social Determinants of Surgical Health”

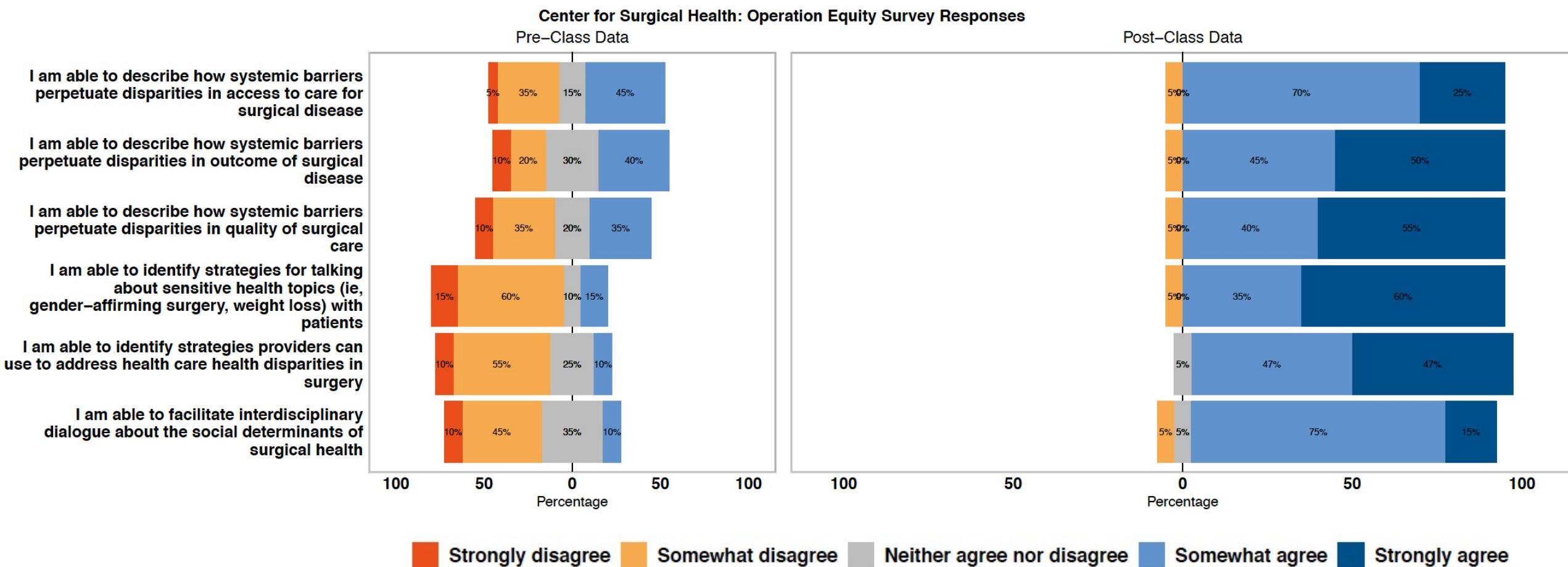
Course Design:

- 10 sessions x 1.5 hours / session
- Met virtually every other week from January 6, 2021 to May 11, 2021

Mixed Methods Approach:

- Pre and Post Course Survey
- Quantitative: Likert scale and multiple-choice questions
- Qualitative: Thematic analysis on open-ended questions and case scenario examining general attitudes and goals

Results



Results

Theme	Quotes from Pre and Post-Course Survey
Bias	<p><u>Pre:</u> "These are deeply rooted obstacles to access surgery like racial biases among health care providers, SES, geographical proximity, and patient beliefs that prevent them from getting the operations that they need."</p>
Attitudes Toward Social Determinants of Surgical Health and Systemic Barriers	<p><u>Post:</u> "[I] feel like I gained a sense of changes I personally can make in the outpatient setting when evaluating patients for surgery."</p>
Changes in Career Goals or Interests	<p><u>Post:</u> "[M]y impression was that many surgeries can be prevented with adequate primary care, and I thought I would feel discouraged to treat so many things that could have been prevented. I now know that surgery is much broader than I thought it was and that being a surgeon could still involve working towards equity and care for underserved populations in different ways."</p>

Conclusion

- This course led to **self-reported improvements** in
 - **understanding** individual, provider, and systemic **bias**
 - **confidence** speaking to others about **social determinants of surgical health**
 - **identification of strategies** to mitigate **barriers to surgical equity**

Future Directions:

- Use course data to **inform next iteration** in Spring 2022
- **Collaborate** with peer institutions to **expand the reach** of formal surgical equity curricula
- Engage a **national audience** on the **need for surgical equity**