CORA Cork Open Research Archive
Cartlann Taighde Oscailte Chorcaí

| | |
|---|---|
| Title | Pharmacy students' experiences of discrimination during experiential learning placement - a quantitative survey |
| Authors | McCarthy, Ruth;Cleary, P.;Sahm, Laura Jane |
| Publication date | 2023-04-17 |
| Original Citation | McCarthy, R, Cleary, P & Sahm, L J 2023, 'Pharmacy students' experiences of discrimination during experiential learning placement - a quantitative survey', Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference, Birmingham, United Kingdom, 9/04/19. |
| Type of publication | Conference item |
| Rights | © 2023, the Authors. |
| Download date | 2026-11-15 15:03:50 |
| Item downloaded from | https://hdl.handle.net/10468/18593 |


UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

# Pharmacy Students' Experiences of Discrimination during Experiential Learning Placement - a quantitative survey

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

School of Pharmacy
University College Cork

Ruth McCarthy, Patrick Cleary, Laura J. Sahm,
Pharmaceutical Care Research Group, School of Pharmacy,
University College Cork, Ireland, T12 YN60.

## BACKGROUND

- Discrimination in the workplace is defined by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission as 'less favourable treatment' than another employee in a comparable setting. (1)
- When pharmacy students undertake experiential learning placements (ELP's), they become part of the workplace and therefore potential candidates for exposure to discrimination.
- This study aimed to investigated if pharmacy students experienced discrimination during ELP with a focus on equality, diversity and inclusivity, (EDI). The prevalence and types of discrimination encountered were also to be examined.

## METHODS

- A 20-item quantitative survey was created relating to differing areas of discrimination including age, gender, appearance, sexual identity, race/ethnic origin, or English language proficiency.
- Questions included 4 binary yes/no responses, 6 were demographic in nature. A free text box for additional comments was included.
- The survey was emailed to 3rd, 4th, and 5th year pharmacy students in University College Cork (UCC).
- Data from the survey was entered into Microsoft Excel for descriptive statistics which included percentages and frequencies.
- Further statistical analysis was undertaken using SPSS version 28, chi-squared tests were undertaken and a $p \leq 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

- Of 201 students, 84 completed the survey (response rate=41.8%).
- 72.6% (*n=61*) female, and 27.4% (*n=23*) male.
- 3rd year 53.6% (*n=45*), 4th year 14.3% (*n=12*) and 5th year 37.1% (*n=27*).
- Figures 1 and 2 indicate participant age category and sexual orientation.
- 39.3% (*n=33*) reported experiencing at least one incident of discrimination during ELP.
- 19% (*n=16*) reported experiences of discrimination based on age, this had the highest incidence.
- Chi-squared test of independence to investigate the association between age and discrimination based on age, showed no statistically significant association between these two variables, $X2(4, N=84)=2.5$, *p= 0.664.*
- 7.1% (*n=6*) reported gender discrimination.
- 7.1% (*n=6*) reported discrimination based on appearance, of which 66% were female (*n=4*).
- No student reported racial discrimination.

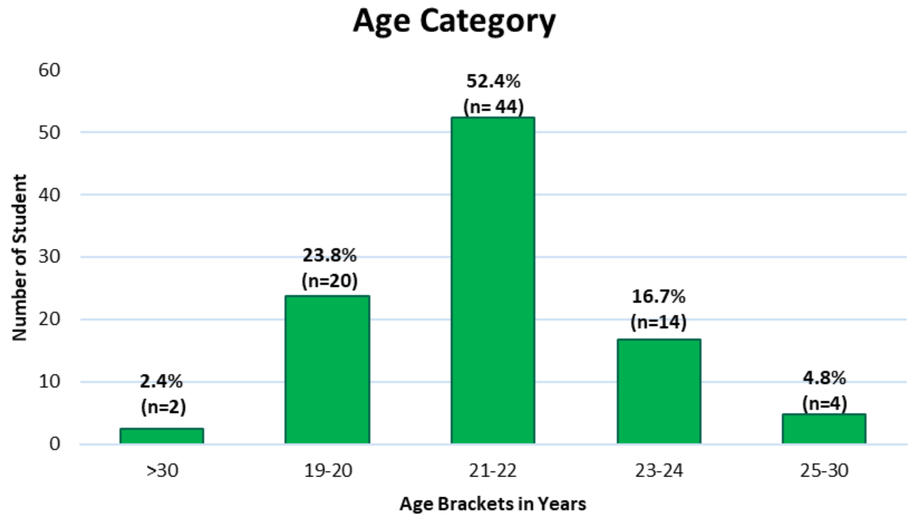



Figure 1: Respondent's Age Category

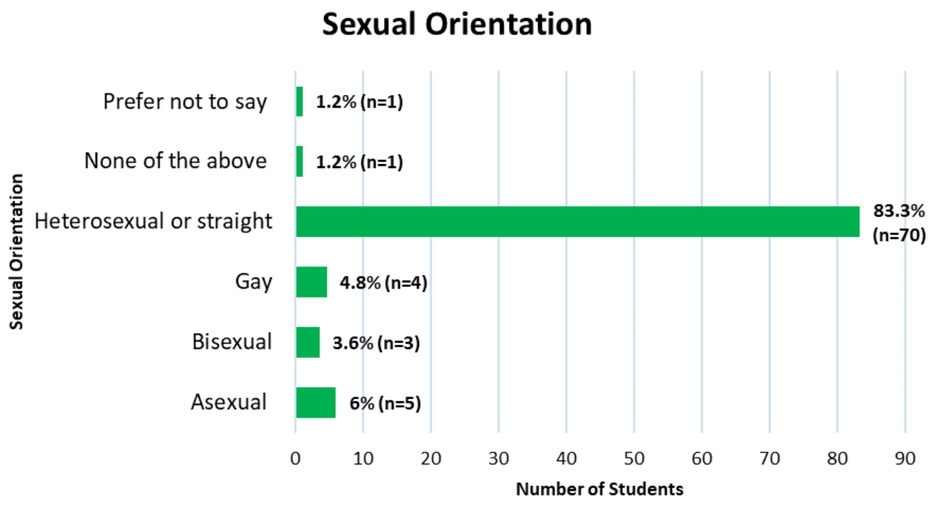



Figure 2: Respondent's Sexual Orientation

## CONCLUSIONS

- Almost two in five pharmacy students in UCC report experiencing discrimination on ELP.
- Discrimination can have a negative impact on mental health; therefore, efforts are needed to reduce its prevalence.
- Students should receive awareness training and encouragement to report episodes of discrimination.
- Preceptors may also benefit from training in how to support students experiencing discrimination.

REFERENCES:
1. Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission [Internet]. Citizensinformation.ie. 2022
2. Avant ND, Penm J, Hincapie AL, Huynh VW, Gillespie GL. 'Not to exclude you, but…': Characterization of pharmacy student microaggressions and recommendations for academic pharmacy. Curr Pharm Teach Learn. 2020 Oct;12(10):1171–9.

Contact: ruth.mccarthy@ucc.ie
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Pharmacy_UCC
LinkedIn:https://www.linkedin.com/company/scholofpharmacyucc/