

Teaching Public Health Ethics in Canadian Universities:

Are the Current Means Meeting the Needs of Future Public Health Professionals?

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST & FUNDING

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ETHICS APPROVALS



- Health Research Ethics Board of the Université de Montréal (15-057-CERES-D, March 23, 2017 and November 8th, 2017)
- *Comité d'éthique de la recherche en Dépendances, Inégalités sociales et Santé publique (CER-DIS) of the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (DIS-1617-29, May 9, 2017 and May 1st, 2018)*

A FEW QUESTIONS

- Does the next generation of public health (PH) professionals have the training to face the ethical challenges likely to arise in their practice?
- Are they receiving training in ethical problem solving to address issues that arise when implementing policies or interventions?
- How should PH ethics be taught? And what are the barriers to teaching PH ethics in Canadian universities?



TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES

We conducted two surveys to better understand:

- The state of PH ethics education in Canadian university PH programs & schools (barriers, challenges, etc.). *Survey 1*
- The perspectives of Canadian PH professionals on the ethics resources they use and their needs for additional tools & training. *Survey 2*

METHODS: 2 CANADA-WIDE SURVEYS

Details	Survey 1	Survey 2
Email invitations <ul style="list-style-type: none">publicly available addresses+ mail lists (survey 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">401 directors and professors responsible for teaching PH ethics in 32 Canadian universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PH practitioners in Canada<ul style="list-style-type: none">1829 PH professionals195 medical officers of healthStakeholders at all levels: local, regional, provincial or federal, PHAC, non-profit organizations in PH
Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">May 16 to June 23, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">May 23 to June 14, 2017
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Max 41 questions~ 5 to 15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Max 22 questions~ 5min
Software	EVAL&GO (www.evalandgo.fr)	VOXCO (NCCHPP)

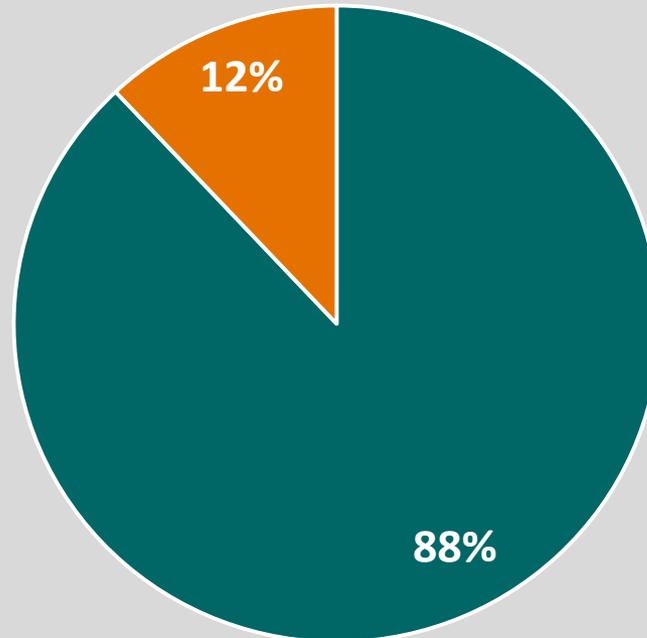
RESULTS: PARTICIPANTS

Survey 1	Survey 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 49 participants<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 francophones• 35 anglophones▪ All age groups (25 to over 65)▪ Professors, directors, deans, researchers, students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 401 participants<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 95 francophones• 306 anglophones▪ Health professionals, managers, researchers, administrative support, communications, students
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 20 universities▪ Various departments (PH, Bioethics, Medicine, Health management, Humanities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All levels of government and various health-related organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 7 provinces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All provinces & territories

RESULTS: SURVEY 1

Are there gaps or areas for improvement with the current ethics training in your PH programs?

(N=25)

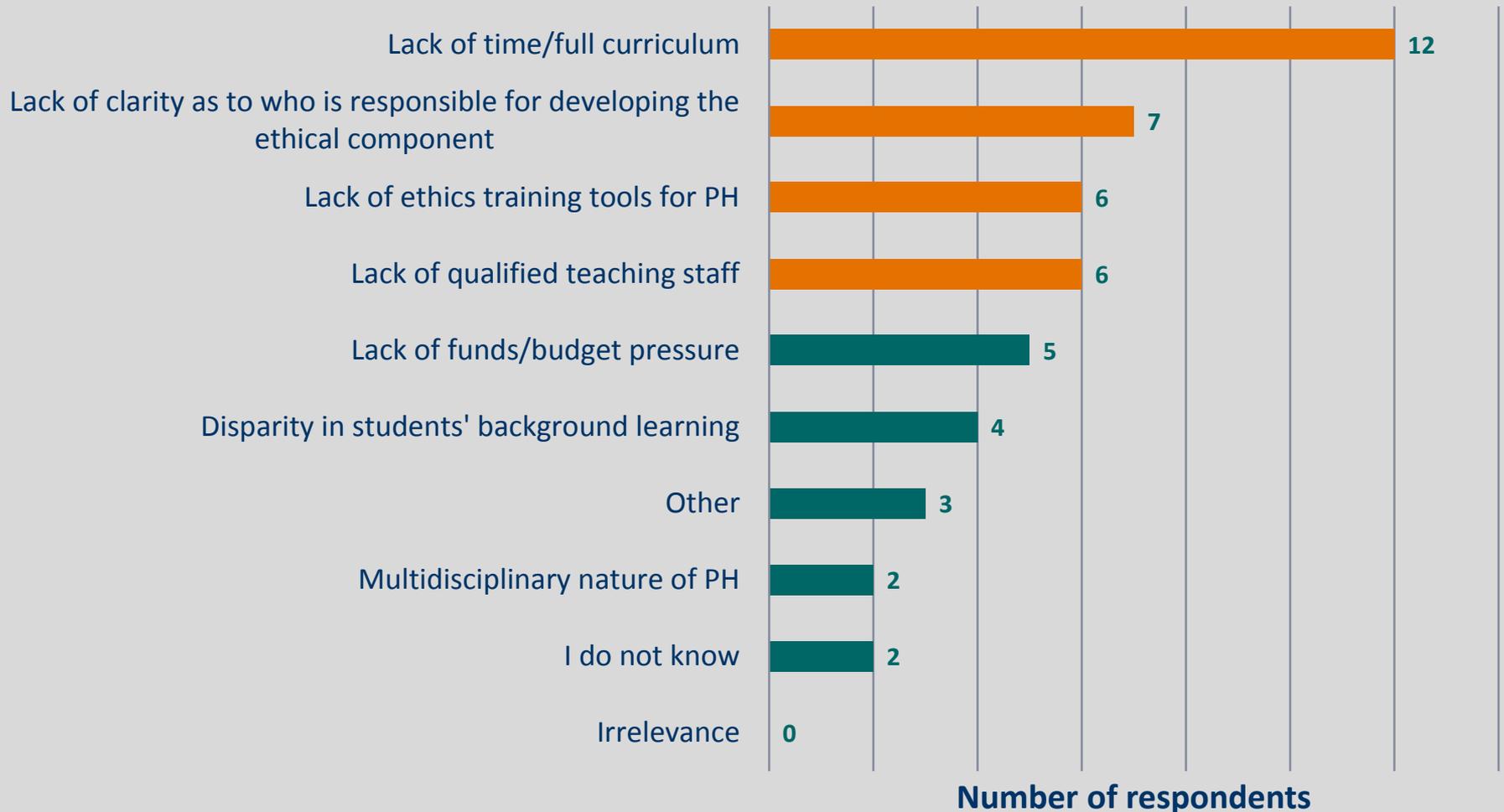


88% of respondents believed there are areas for improvement

■ Yes ■ No

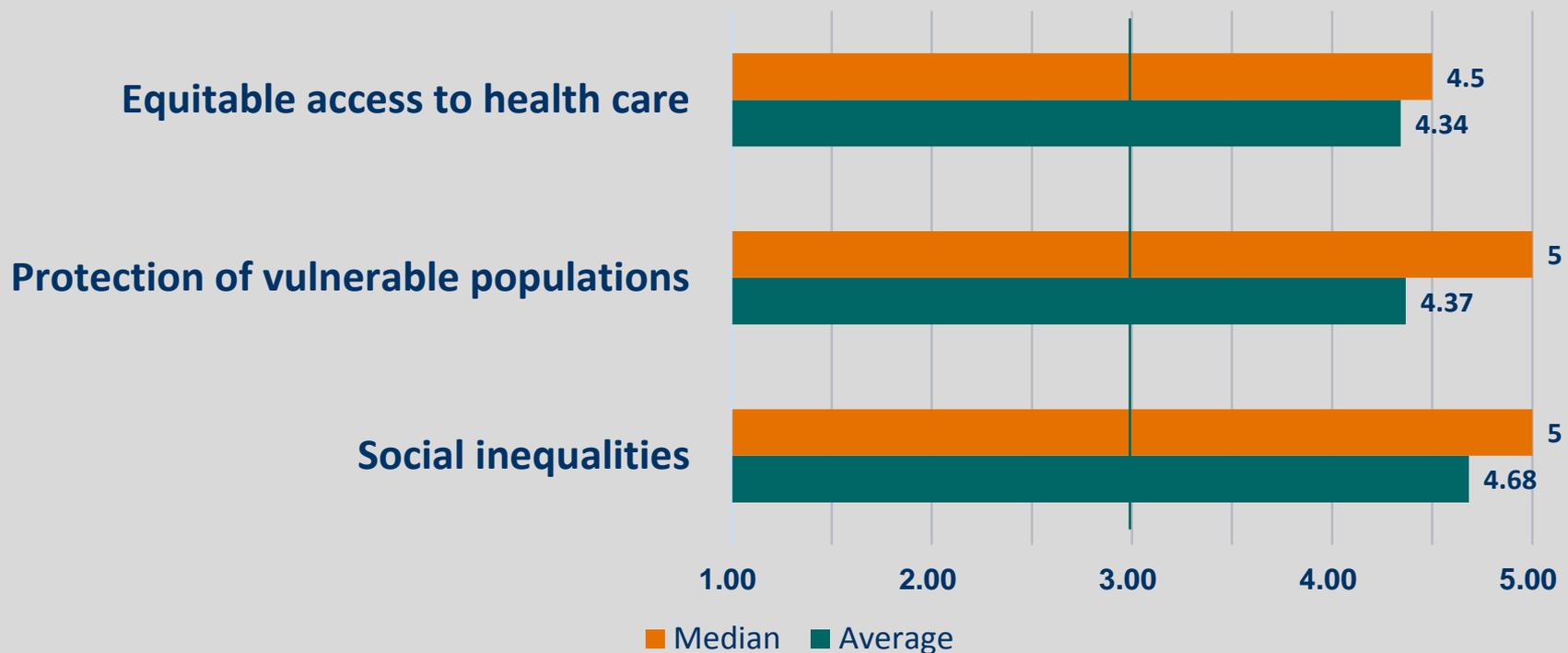
RESULTS: SURVEY 1

What are the three main barriers to teaching ethics in your PH programs (N=22)



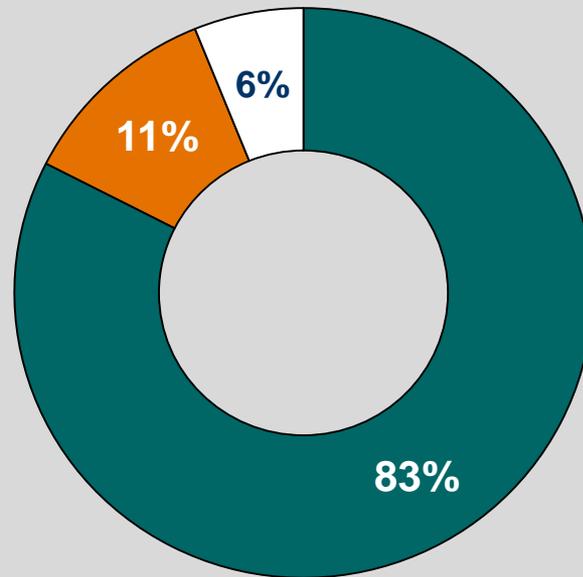
RESULTS: SURVEY 1

*What are the major challenges that will confront today's public health students in their future practice?
(1-Not at all important to 5-Essential) (N=38)*



RESULTS: SURVEY 2

Would you be interested in resources & training in PHE? [269 En; 84 Fr]

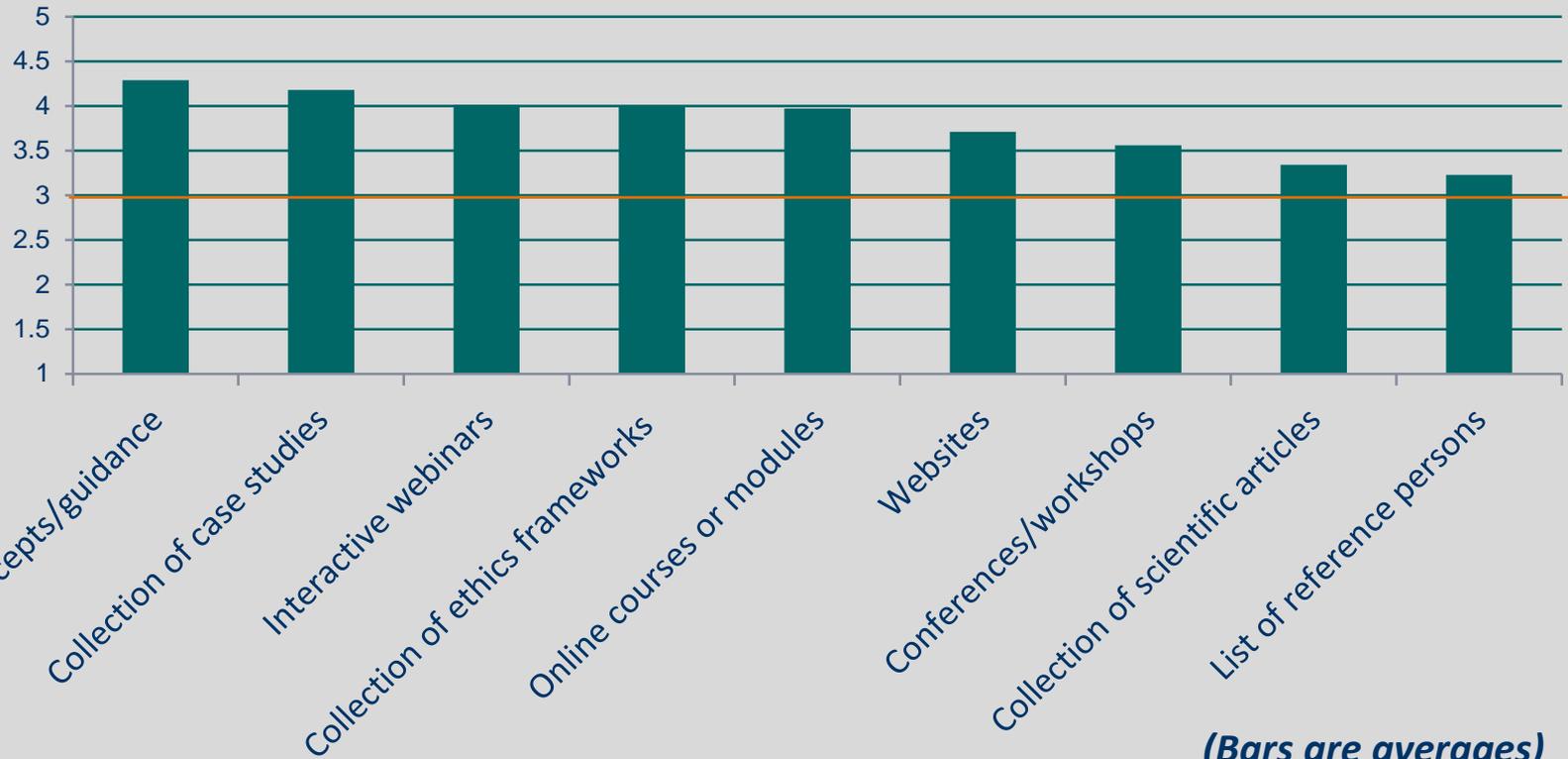


More than 80% of respondents are interested in resources & training in PHE

■ Yes (283) ■ No (39) ■ I do not know (21)

RESULTS: SURVEY 2

What types of resources or training in PHE would you be most interested in? (1=No interest; 5=Very interested)
[212 En; 71 Fr]

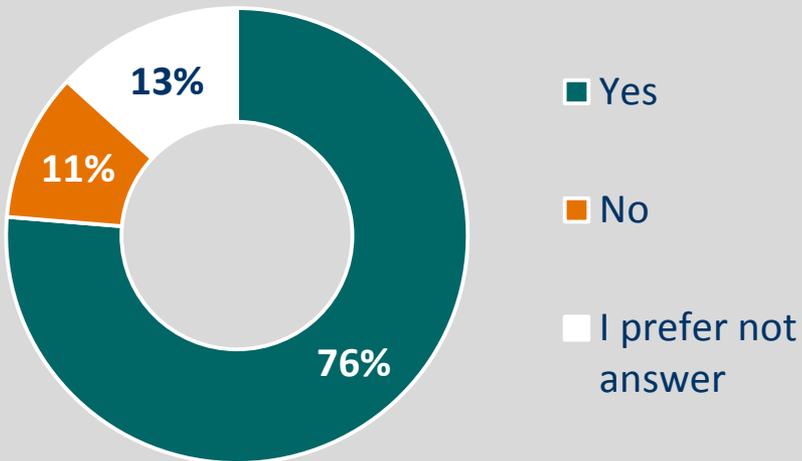


(Bars are averages)

RESULTS

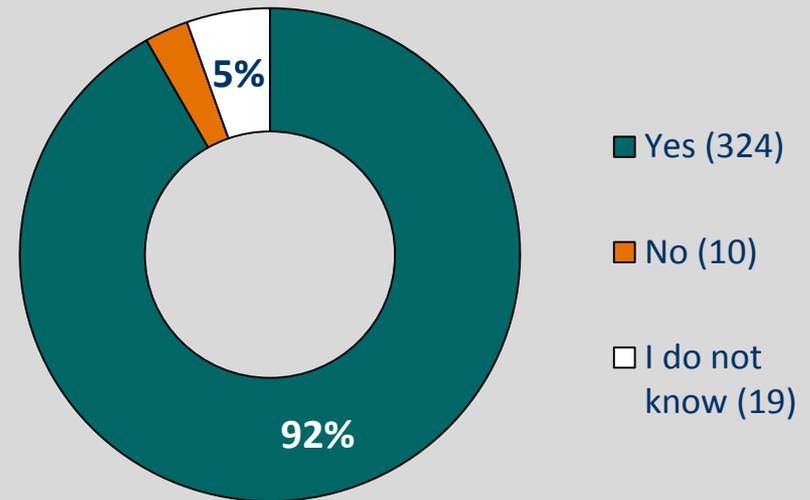
Survey 1

Do you believe that a basic curriculum (with a minimum number of hours & content) in PHE would be desirable within PH schools in Canada (N=38)



Survey 2

Do you believe that the postsecondary training of PH practitioners should include a minimum number of hours & basic material in PHE? [269 En; 84 Fr]



DISCUSSION

- This is the first Canadian study to integrate perspectives on *current ethics education* in PH schools/programs, and *PH professionals' ethics resources and needs*.
- Both educators and professionals believe that a basic curriculum in PHE (minimum number of hours and content) would be desirable for students (future professionals) and professionals in action.
- **Barriers:** Lack of time/full curriculum, who is responsible for, lack of ethics training tools for PH.
- **Needs:** Accessible tools like short documents, case studies, webinars and frameworks.

Most important challenges: Equitable access to health care, protection of vulnerable populations and social inequalities.

CONCLUSION

- This work has contributed to understanding the state of PH ethics education in Canadian universities, and laid the groundwork for a better understanding of PH ethics practices and needs among PH professionals.
- Results will guide future work to develop training tools adapted to the needs of PH students, current and future PH professionals.
- Further results will be presented during the symposium this afternoon.

REFERENCES

- Preliminary reports are available on the NCCHPP website:
 - Survey 1
http://www.ncchpp.ca/127/Publications.ccnpps?id_article=1774 (En)
http://www.ccnpps.ca/120/Publications.ccnpps?id_article=1773 (Fr)
 - Survey 2
http://www.ncchpp.ca/127/Publications.ccnpps?id_article=1776 (En)
http://www.ccnpps.ca/120/Publications.ccnpps?id_article=1775 (Fr)

- Doudenkova, V., Bélisle-Pipon, J.-C., Ringuette, L., Ravitsky, V., & Williams-Jones, B. (2017). Ethics education in public health: Where are we now and where are we going? *International Journal of Ethics Education*, 2017. Open access.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40889-017-0038-y>

- Summary (4 pp.) version of Ethics education in public health: Where are we now and where are we going?
http://www.ncchpp.ca/127/publications.ccnpps?id_article=1772 (En)
http://www.ccnpps.ca/120/publications.ccnpps?id_article=1771 (Fr)