



# An Evaluation of Nursing Student Preparedness to Serve the LGBTQ+ Community

Collin Mullis

Department of Anthropology, University of North Florida

## Introduction

- u LGBTQ+ people experience health and the health care system differently than non-LGBTQ+ people
- u These differences in experience are not (typically) adequately addressed in a health care professional's education or training
- u Inadequate training and education ...
  - Impairs health care professionals' ability to serve a vulnerable population of clients
  - Contributes to hostile health care environments
  - Contributes to the LGBTQ+ community's underutilization of health care services

## Purpose

- u Responding to institutional calls for research
- u To better understand how current nursing students are being prepared to serve LGBTQ+ clients
- u Preparedness is defined as having knowledge of LGBTQ+ health topics, the development of relevant clinical skills, and having a positive attitude toward LGBTQ+ clients

## Methodology

- u An anonymous, online survey instrument was created through Qualtrics
- u Survey instrument was sent to the college of nursing at three Florida universities
- u **Main Measure:** modified version of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Developments of Clinical Skills Scale (LGBT-DOCSS)
- u Data collection took place October 2019 – January 2020

Variables	
Demographics	Age range, degree, years of nursing experience, LGBT status, LGBT loved ones
Educational Experiences	Guest speakers, assignments, courses, AIDS education
LGBT-DOCSS (Bidell 2018)	Knowledge, attitudes, clinical preparedness
Satisfaction	Quality, quantity, and interest in LGBT health classes

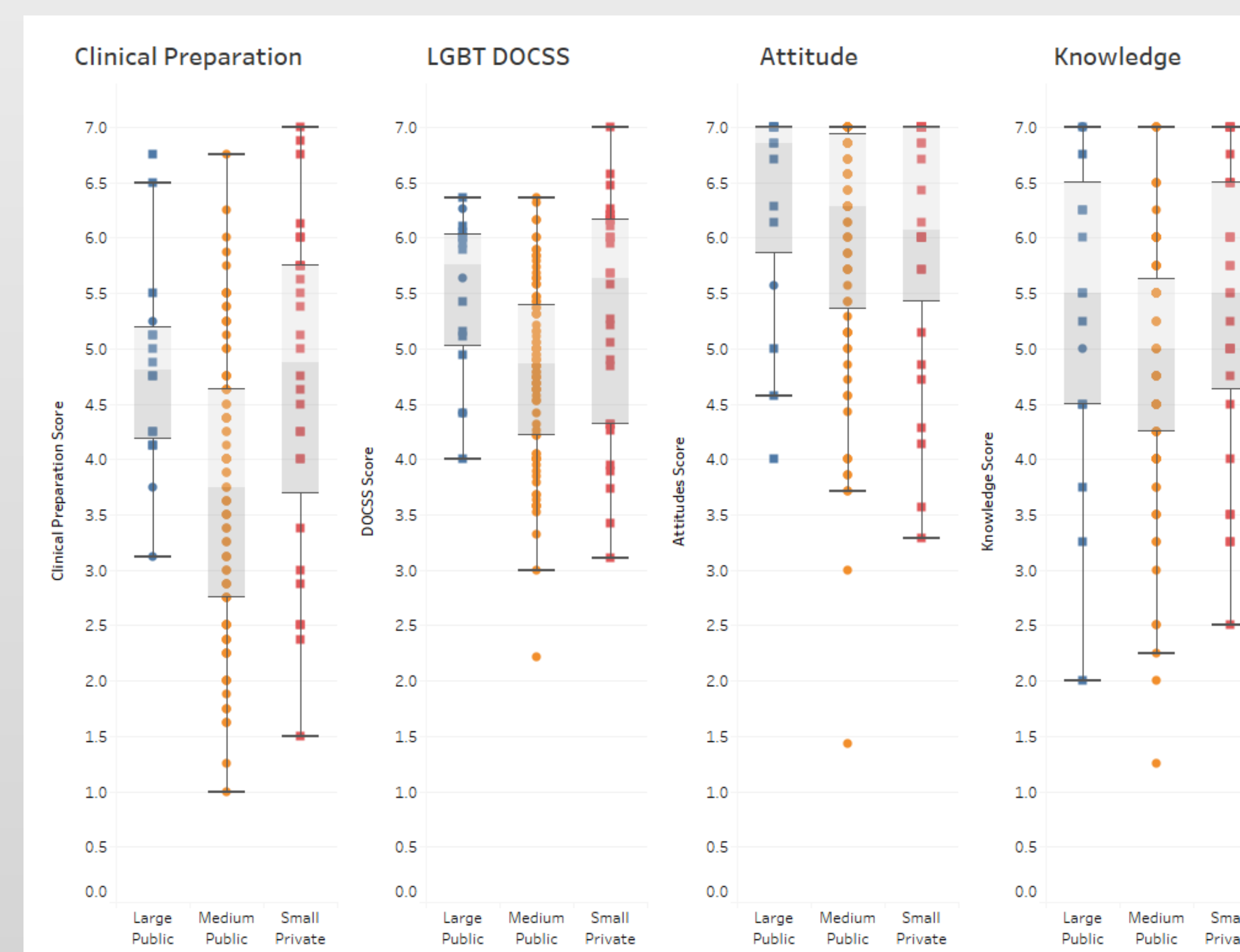
## Sample

- u 128 Complete responses
  - u 32% graduate students (n=41)
  - u 16% identify as LGBTQ+ (n=21)
- u Most students in this sample were perusing a bachelor's of nursing (BSN) degree (n=87)

## Preliminary Analyses

### LGBT-DOCSS Scores

- u **Mean Score:** 5 out of 7 possible points
- u **Mean Subscale Scores:**
  - u **Knowledge:** 5 out of 7
  - u **Attitudes:** 6 out of 7
  - u **Clinical Prep:** 4 out of 7

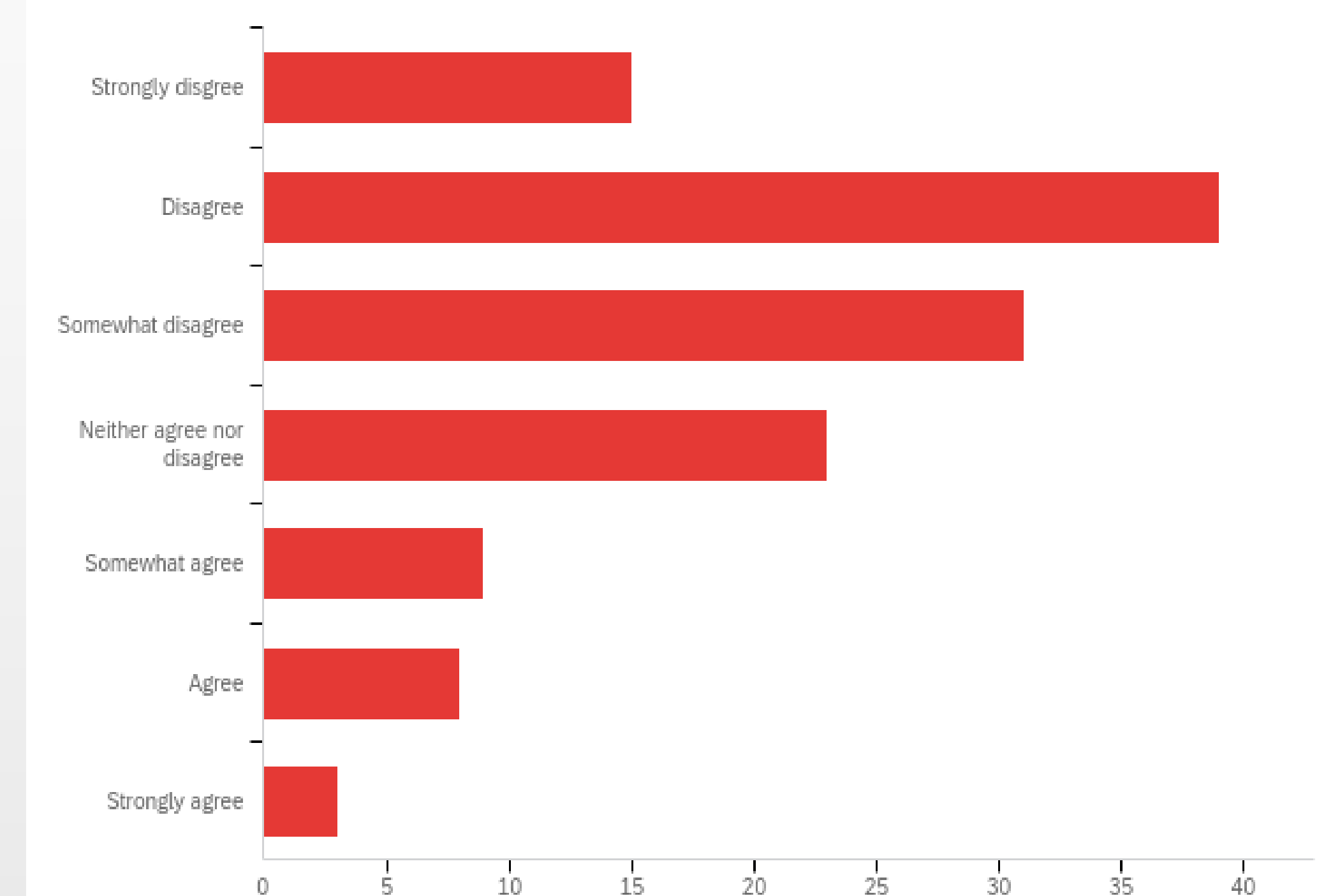


### Student Satisfaction

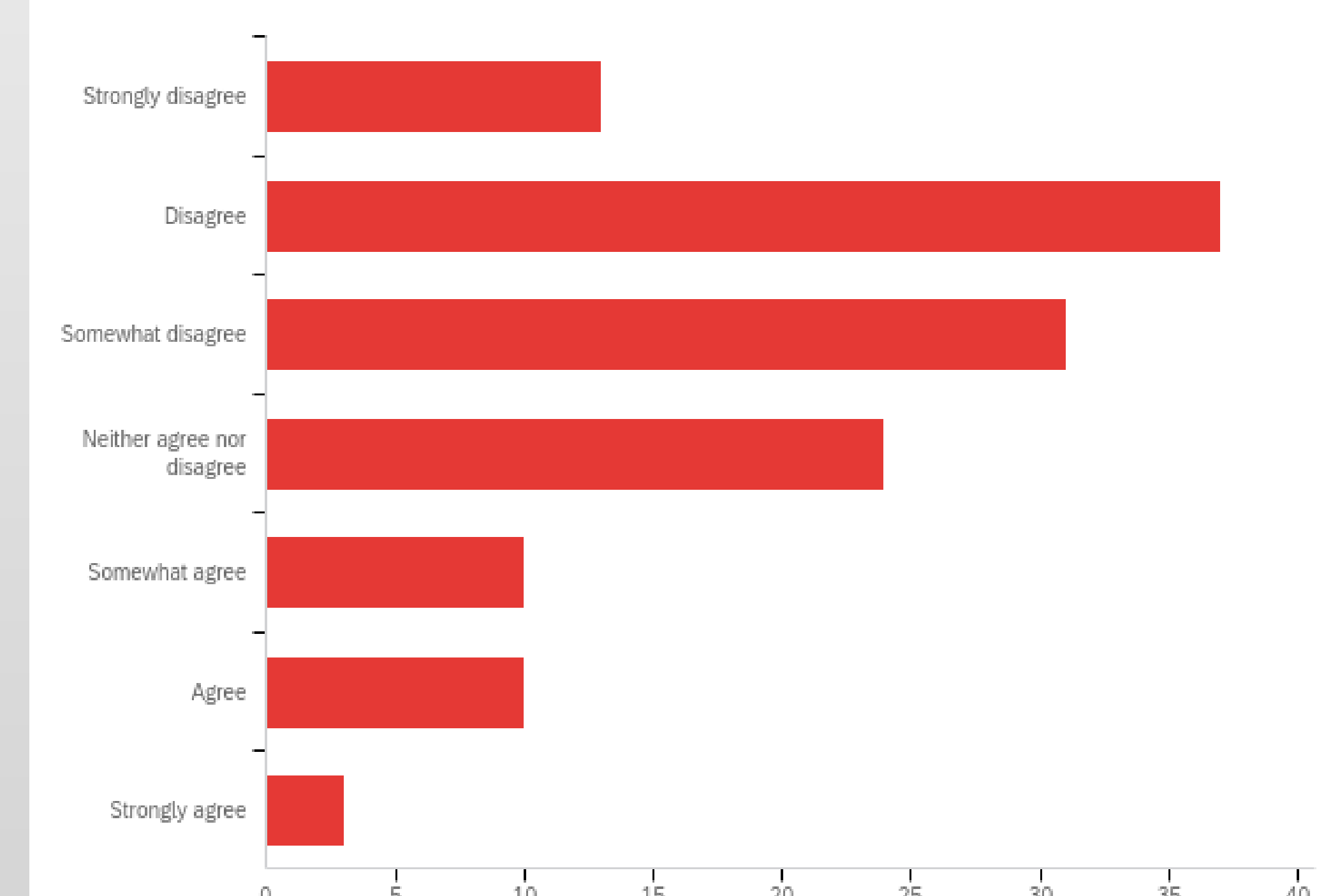
- u **66%** of students are not satisfied with the quantity of the LGBTQ+ specific education they have received
- u **63%** of students are not satisfied with the quality of the LGBTQ+ specific education they have received

Two out of three students in this sample are unsatisfied with this dimension of their nursing education.

I am satisfied with the quantity of LGBTQ+ specific education I have received.



I am satisfied with the quality of LGBTQ+ specific education I have received.



## Discussion

- u On average, students have some knowledge of LGBTQ+-specific health topics, have positive attitudes about LGBTQ+ people, but report low levels of clinical preparedness to work with this population.
- u Inconsistency in subscale scores could be a result of inconsistent education within institutions.
- u Most students in this sample are not satisfied with their current education on LGBTQ+ health topics, which can and should be communicated to nursing programs.

