



ABSTRACT

As many academic practices move toward collaborative models and engage midwives as educators for medical student and resident training, there are no national standards or curricular expectations [4]. Furthermore, there is limited published research on medical students' perceptions of midwifery faculty or the midwifery model of care. This qualitative study examined the impact of interprofessional education (IPE) between medical students and Certified Nurse Midwives during the 3rd year obstetrics/gynecology clerkship. Medical students in each cohort are currently required to spend at least one half-day with a Certified Nurse Midwife. A six-question open-ended survey with is embedded in the 3rd year Obstetrics/Gynecology clerkship evaluation. The study findings indicate that majority (~94%) of 3rd year medical students felt this IPE experience enhanced their educational experience. In addition, students were able to describe their perceptions of the midwifery model of care that correlated with the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Accomplishing the goal of interprofessional education requires the continuous development of interprofessional competency by health professions students and students in other professional fields as part of the learning process, so that they enter the workforce ready for collaborative practice. This IPE study design demonstrated an overall positive impact on medical student education during the 3rd year Ob/Gyn clerkship. Therefore, we recommend medical educators to incorporate IPE within the curriculum for future research and to advance medical education training.

INTRODUCTION

- The skills of interprofessional teamwork, such as collaboration, team management, and interprofessional communication skills, should be embedded in the early stages of health profession education [5].
- This qualitative study examined the impact of interprofessional education (IPE) between medical students and Certified Nurse Midwives during 3rd year obstetrics/gynecology clerkships.
- A review of the literature has revealed that Certified Nurse Midwives often integrate the teaching of medical students and residents into their care on an informal basis. Although interprofessional care teams have become more prominent in practice, they are not yet an integral part of medical education.
- The author aims to investigate the importance of interprofessional educational experiences within the medical school curriculum and assessing medical students' perception of the midwifery model of care.

MATERIALS & METHODS

- A six-question open-ended survey was embedded in the 3rd year Obstetrics/Gynecology post-clerkship online evaluation. The 3rd year Ob/Gyn clerkship at The Brody School of Medicine is 6-weeks long and consists of 12-16 students per cohort. Medical students in each cohort are currently required to spend at least one half-day with one of the four Certified Nurse Midwives.
- The focus of the survey requests students to describe their experience working with CNM providers, the midwifery model of care and how it complements the team setting, and if they felt this IPE experience enhanced their educational experience.
- The survey responses were deidentified and analyzed utilizing a thematic analysis approach. If an individual response included comments applicable for more than one theme, then it was counted more than once with each corresponding theme.
- This study has an approved IRB exemption status and clerkship survey data from April 2019-Aug 2021 was used for this study.

RESULTS

Table 1. "Describe in your own words the midwifery model of care and how it complements our team setting" survey responses (students can list multiple answers).

Medical Student Perceptions of the Midwifery Model of Care Themes	Total Number of Coded Responses	Percentage of Coded Responses
Theme 1: Woman-centered, nurturing and holistic care throughout the childbearing cycle	69	43%
Theme 2: Benefits of Interprofessional Healthcare Team	47	30%
Theme 3: Skillful communication, guidance and counseling	14	9%
Theme 4: Minimizing surgical interventions	15	9%
Theme 5: N/A	14	9%
Sum of Total comments around themes	159	

Table 2. "Describe your experience in working with the CNM provider(s)" survey responses (students can list multiple answers).

Medical Student Experiences working with Certified Nurse Midwives Themes	Total Number of Coded Responses	Percentage of Coded Responses
Theme 6: Overall positive and educational IPE experience	105	72%
Theme 7: Prefer more time with Certified Nurse Midwives	24	16%
Theme 8: Negative experience	0	0%
Theme 9: N/A	17	12%
Sum of total themed comments	146	

- There were 61 participants from 2019-2020 and 63 participants from the 2020-2021 school years for a total of **124 participants**
- "Describe in your own words the midwifery model of care and how it complements our team setting" responses (table 1 and figure 1):
 - 43% of responses favored the theme of "woman-centered, nurturing and holistic care throughout the childbearing cycle"**
 - 30% of students noted the benefits of having CNMs and an interprofessional healthcare team for patients and workflow**
 - The additional 3 themes revolved around skillful communication/counseling, minimizing surgical interventions and no response recorded**
- "Describe your experience in working with the CNM provider(s)" responses (table 2 and figure 2):
 - 72% of responses stated that this was an overall positive and educational IPE experience**
 - 16% preferred more time working with CNMs in the clinical setting**
- ~94% of respondents thought that this IPE experience during the Ob/Gyn Clerkship enhanced their educational experience (Figure 3)**
 - Of the ~5% who said "no" to this question, one participant stated that they were not sure what an IPE experience was supposed to entail.

Do you believe this experience in Interprofessional Education during the OB GYN Clerkship enhanced your educational experience?

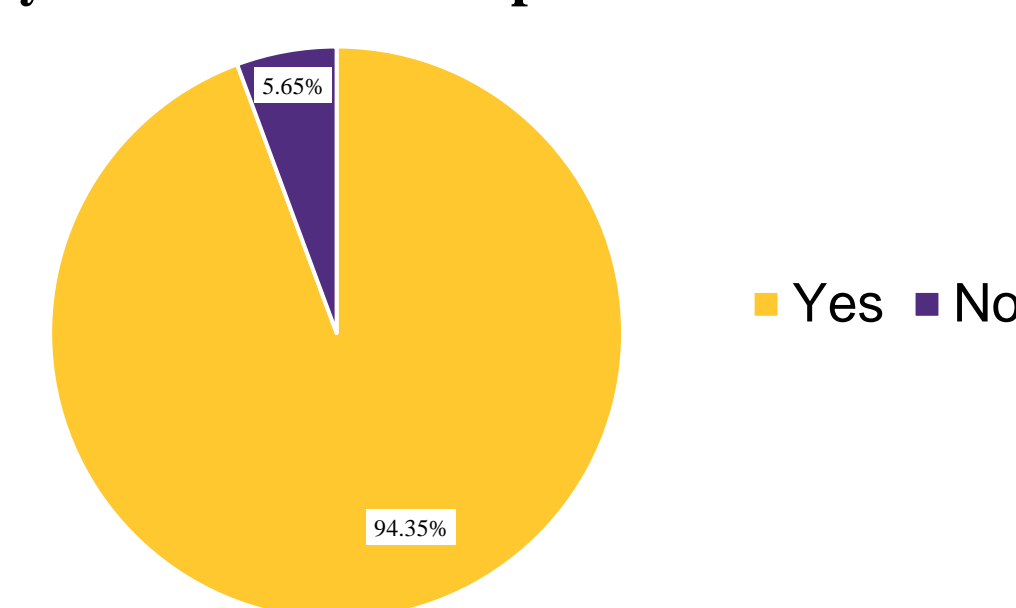


Figure 3. Survey responses from 3rd year medical students in the 2019-21 Ob/Gyn Clerkship. (N=124)

Medical Student Perceptions of the Midwifery Model of Care

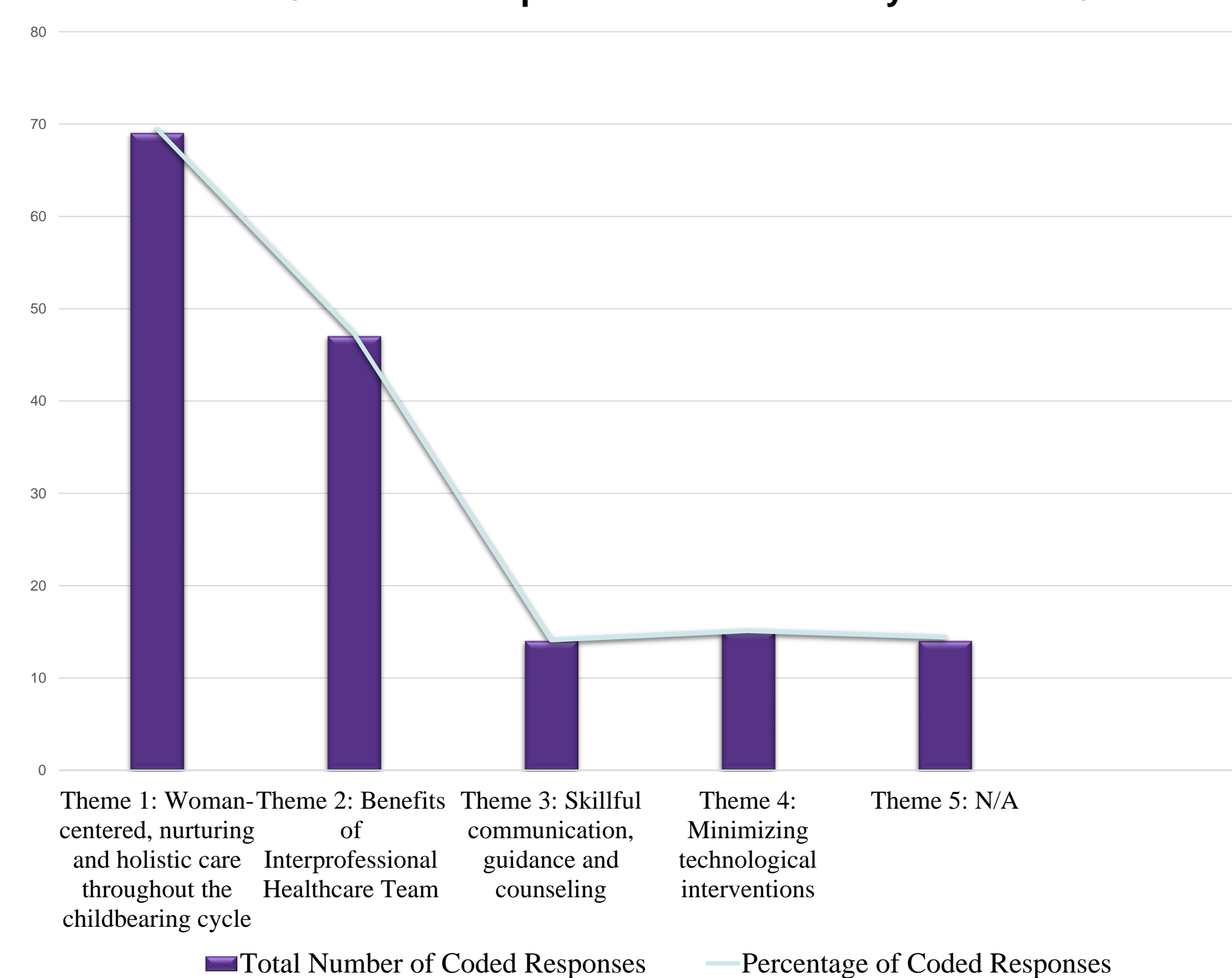


Figure 1. "Describe in your own words the midwifery model of care and how it complements our team setting" survey responses from 3rd year medical students in the 2019-21 Ob/Gyn Clerkship (students can list multiple answers).

Medical Student Experiences working with Certified Nurse Midwives

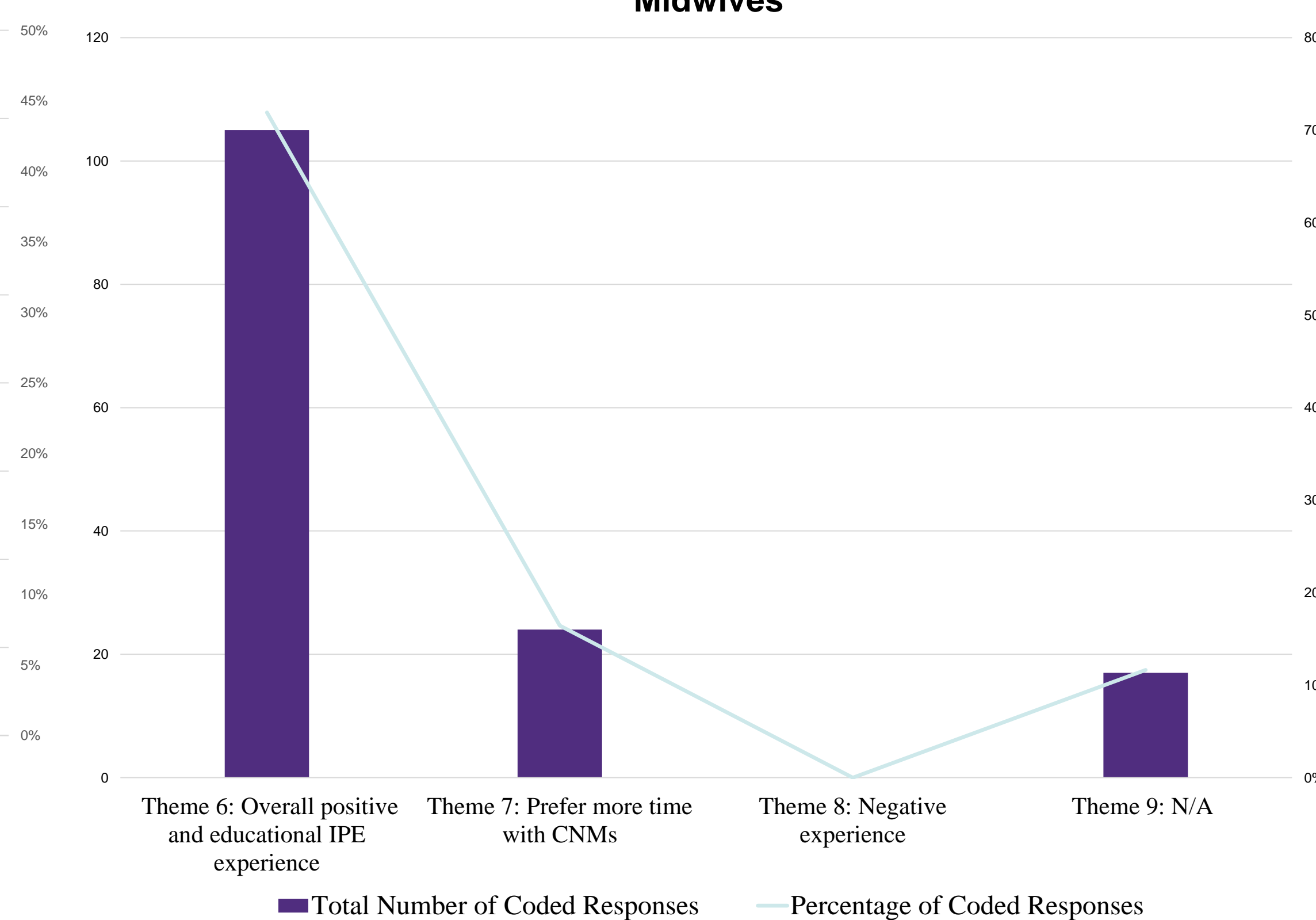


Figure 2. "Describe your experience in working with the CNM provider(s)" survey responses from 3rd year medical students in the 2019-20 Ob/Gyn Clerkship (students can list multiple answers).

DISCUSSION

- According to the 2019 LCME Annual Medical School Questionnaire 146/151 participating schools required interprofessional education with 81% occurring in the curriculum during clerkships/clinical years.
- ~94% of respondents thought that this IPE experience during the Ob/Gyn Clerkship enhanced their educational experience.
- Overall, students mentioned they received more hands-on opportunities when working with midwives and felt they helped cover Ob/Gyn medical education topics during downtime.
- Our results of medical student experiences working with midwives align well with the current goals interprofessional education within the medical school curriculum.
- There are numerous advantages of midwifery involvement in medical education, the most significant being the introduction of the midwifery model of care and expanded awareness of the normalcy of birth in tertiary care settings [3].
- Limitations to this study are response bias and lack of participation by all students in each cohort as they can opt-out of completing this survey. Furthermore, a weakness of the study involves scheduling difficulties that created variations in the actual time spent between CNMs and third year medical students.
- Of note, the medical students did not have a formal lecture or materials regarding the midwifery model of care at the beginning of the clerkship, these responses were based solely on individual experiences and knowledge gained.

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"Exposure to a different model of care with its own strengths was beneficial. In fact, I admired the patient centeredness of the midwifery model so much that I will aim to try to emulate certain practices while seeing patients in other scenarios in the future."

