



The Royal College of **Pathologists**

Pathology: the science behind the cure

Breakdown of results from the histopathology/cytology training and examinations survey

March 2014



Introduction

A survey of the histopathology members, including registered trainees, of the Royal College of Pathologists was undertaken from 19 December 2013 until Monday 20 January 2014. The focus of the survey was around histopathology and examinations. 437 members responded, of which 131 were trainees.

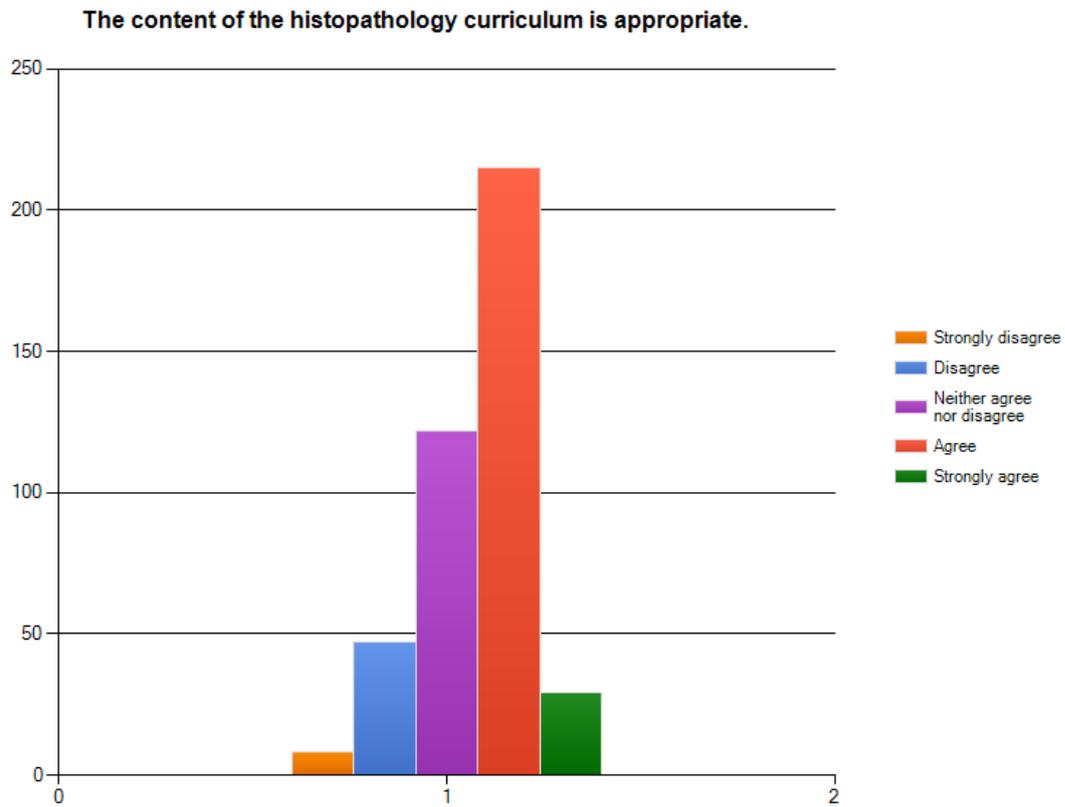
This document provides a breakdown of all of the responses to the questions with a pre-determined answer for selection. The breakdown for each question shows the response of all respondents and the response of the trainees only. It should be read in conjunction with the 'Report on the histopathology/cytology training and examinations survey' which is available on the [College website](#) (log-in required).

The following questions were asked.

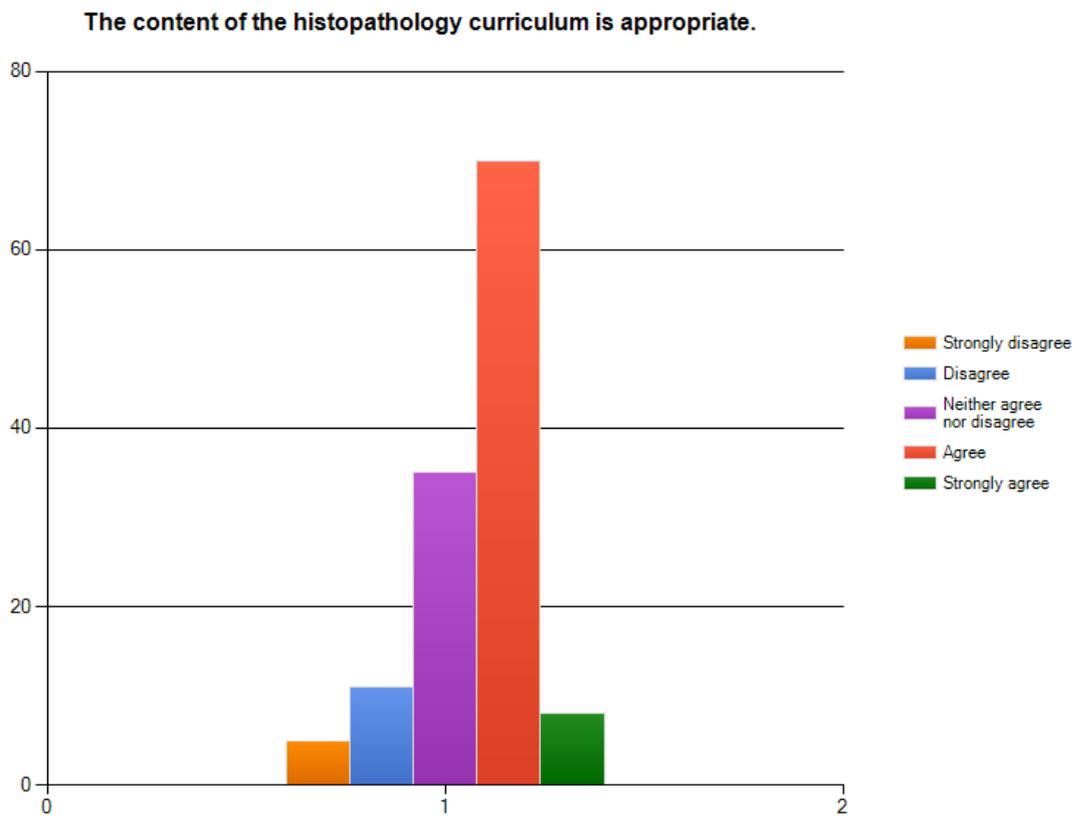
- The content of the histopathology curriculum is appropriate.
- The length of histopathology training is appropriate.
- Trainees report less histology and cytology cases than they used to.
- Adequate opportunities for training in diagnostic (non-cervical) cytology are available.
- A 12 month period of training (Stage D) after passing the FRCPATH Part 2 is essential preparation for effective consultant practice.
- The level of difficulty of the FRCPATH Part 2 examination is appropriate for an examination that is designed to assess the ability to practice independently.
- Diagnostic cytology cases should be selected which include all of the possible types of sample preparation (e.g. liquid based cytology, standard direct smears or cytopsins prepared with Papanicolaou and Giemsa stains).
- The diagnostic cytology section of the exam should include more than the current 8 cases.
- The current structure of the FRCPATH Part 2 examination is appropriate.
- The FRCPATH Part 2 examination should be modularised. e.g. to allow a pass in one or more of the components at one sitting to be carried forward to a subsequent attempt if the overall examination is failed at the first attempt. The requirement that all components must be passed to achieve FRCPATH would be maintained.
- Trainees in general are sitting the FRCPATH Part 2 examination too early and are not fully prepared for it.
- Trainees are under pressure to take the exam too early.
- Some independent reporting during Stage C of training might help prepare trainees for sitting the Part 2 examination.
- The feedback given to trainees about their performance in the examination is adequate.
- Recruits into pathology training have less basic knowledge of pathology than they used to.
- Trainers have sufficient time to train.
- Trainees have sufficient time to learn.
- Trainees undertake an appropriate amount of service work.
- Trainees report an appropriate number of suitable cases during their training.
- Trainees expect to be trained in a more structured and didactic fashion than previously.
- Trainees have sufficient opportunities for independent reporting.
- Independent reporting by trainees should be encouraged following demonstration of appropriate competence and subject to regular audit.
- There is too much emphasis on training courses to prepare for the exam rather than on preparing by reporting in routine practice.

The content of the histopathology curriculum is appropriate.

All respondents

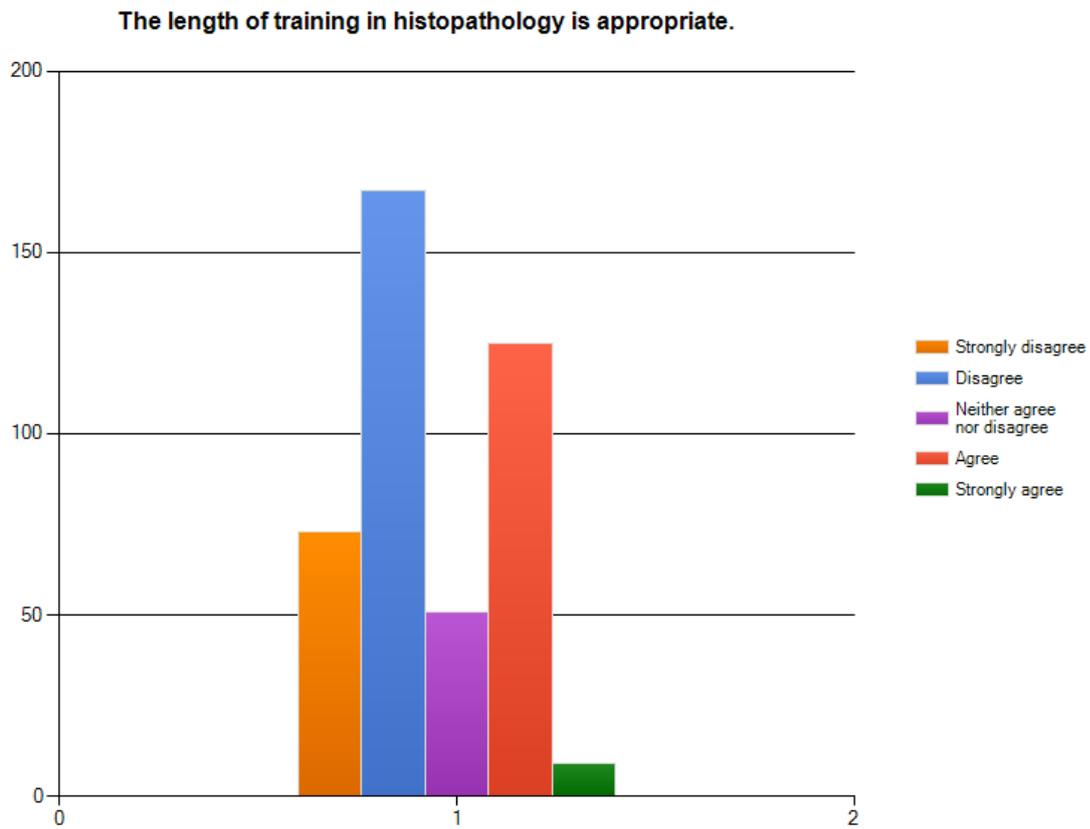


Trainees only

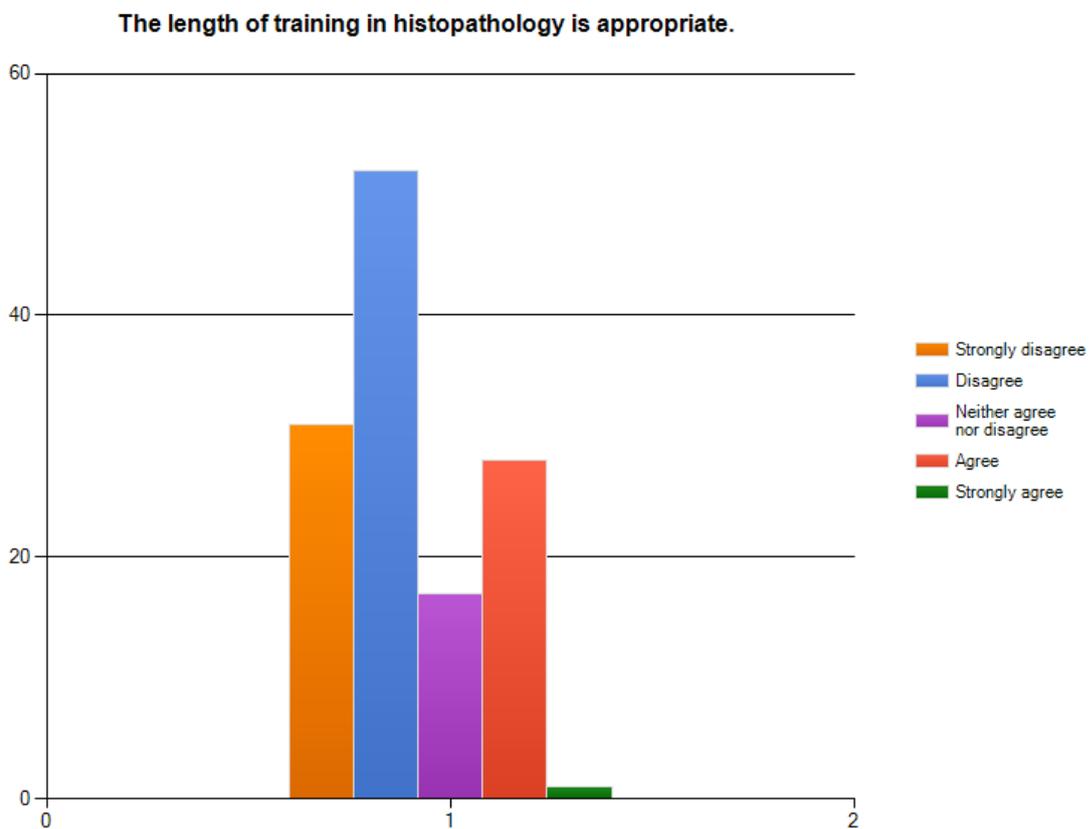


The length of histopathology training is appropriate.

All respondents

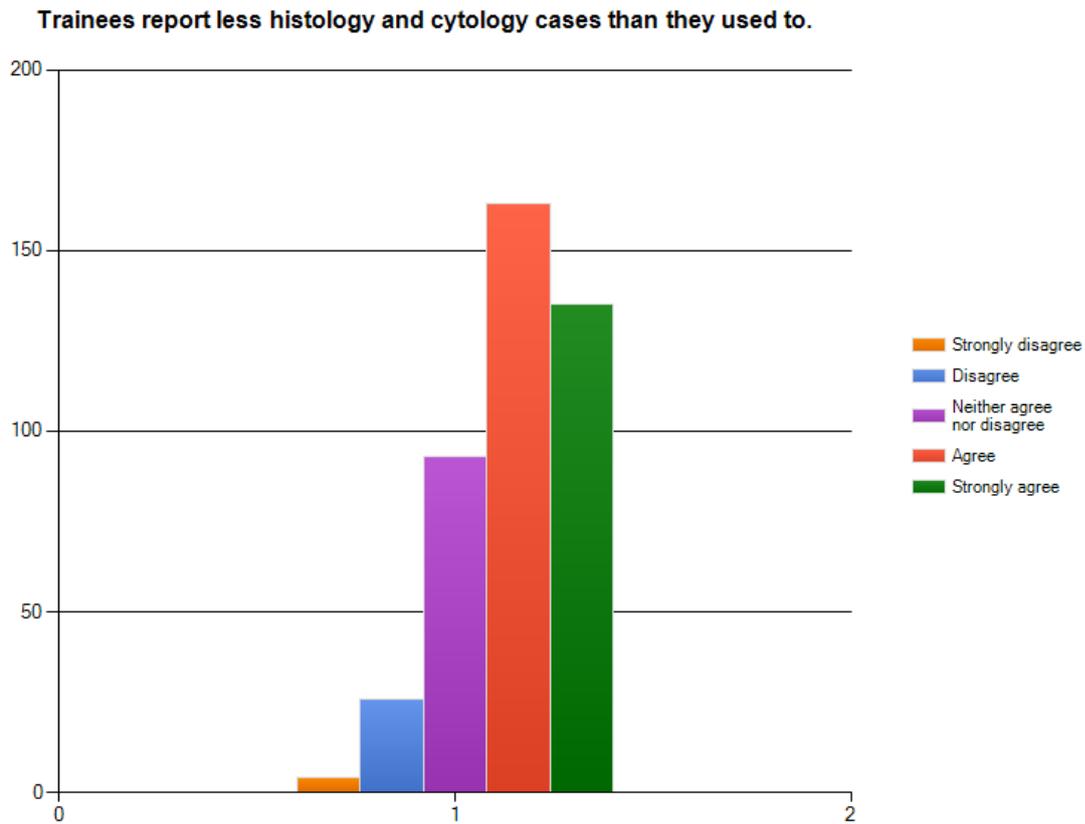


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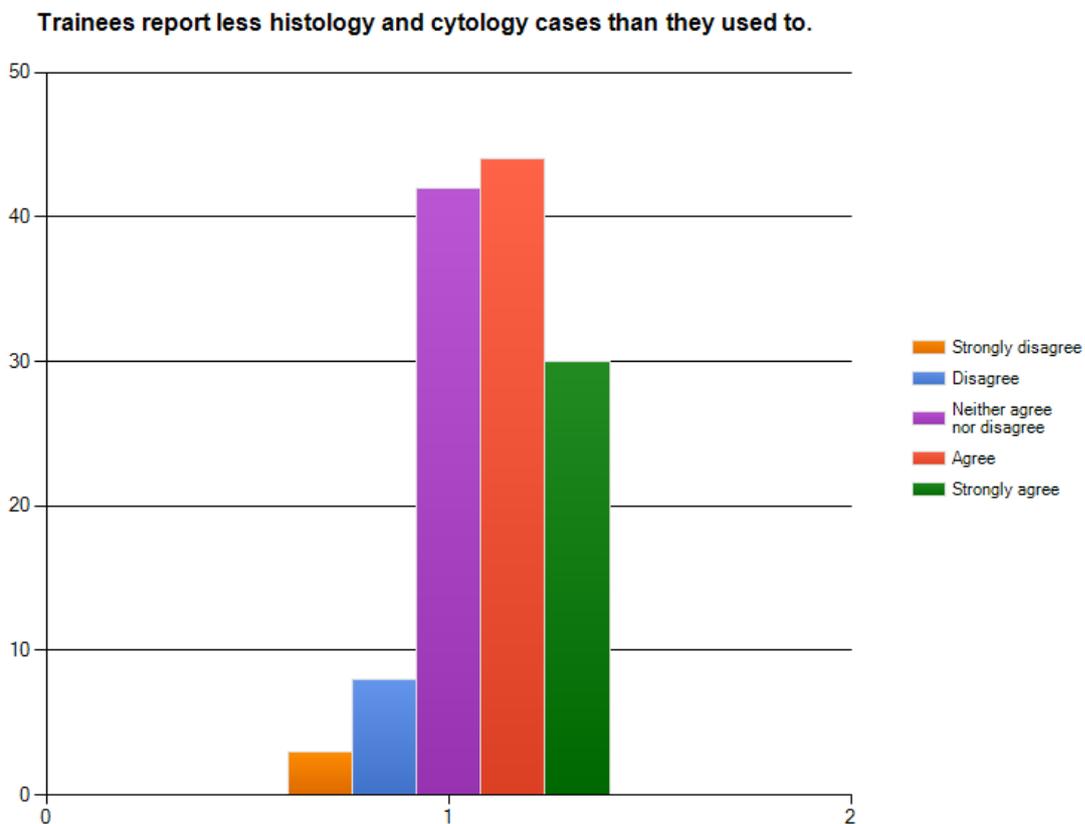


Trainees report less histology and cytology cases than they used to.

All respondents

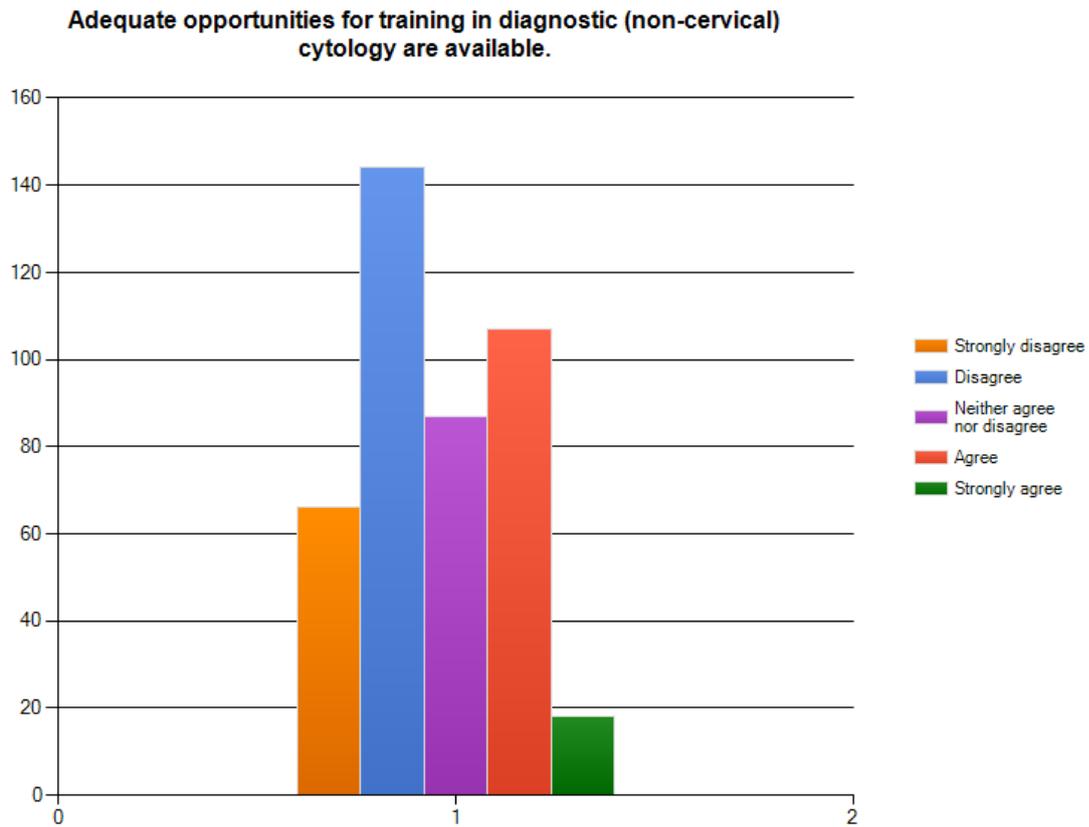


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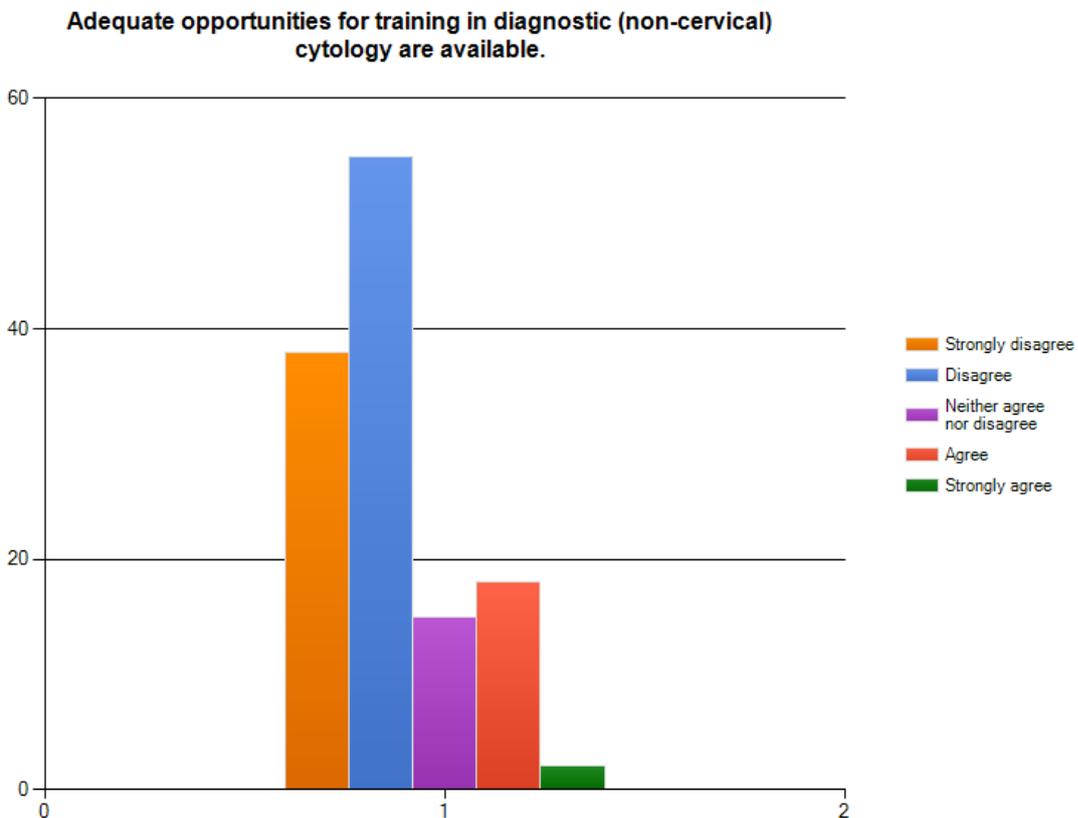


Adequate opportunities for training in diagnostic (non-cervical) cytology are available.

All respondents

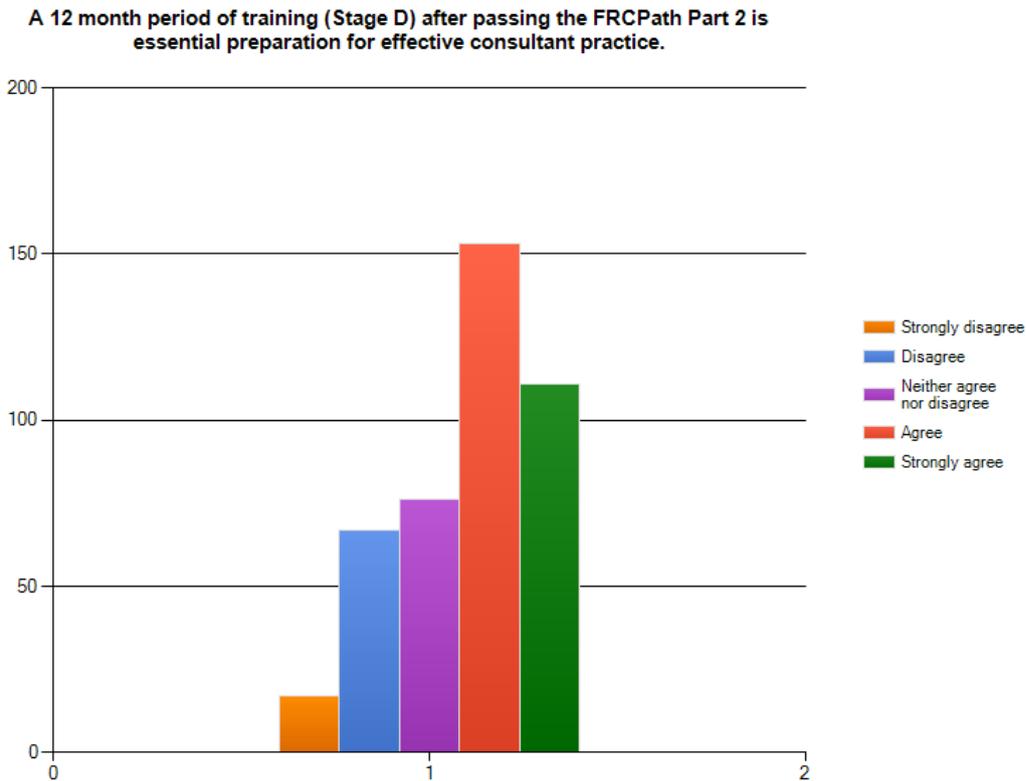


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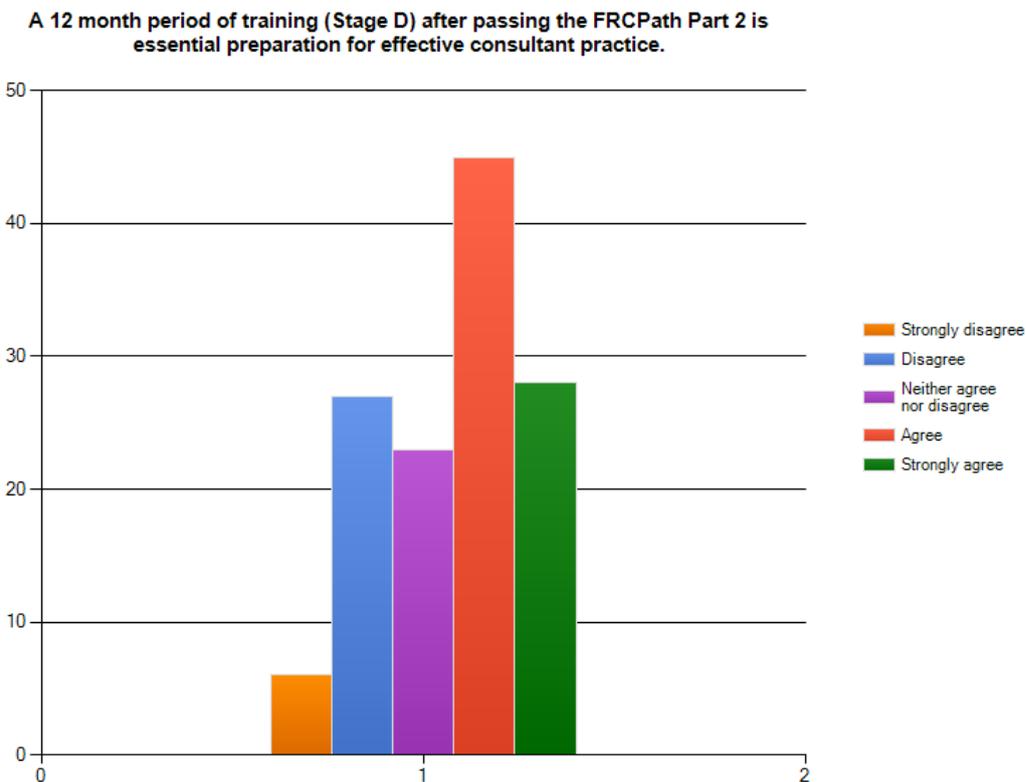


A 12 month period of training (Stage D) after passing the FRCPATH Part 2 is essential preparation for effective consultant practice.

All respondents



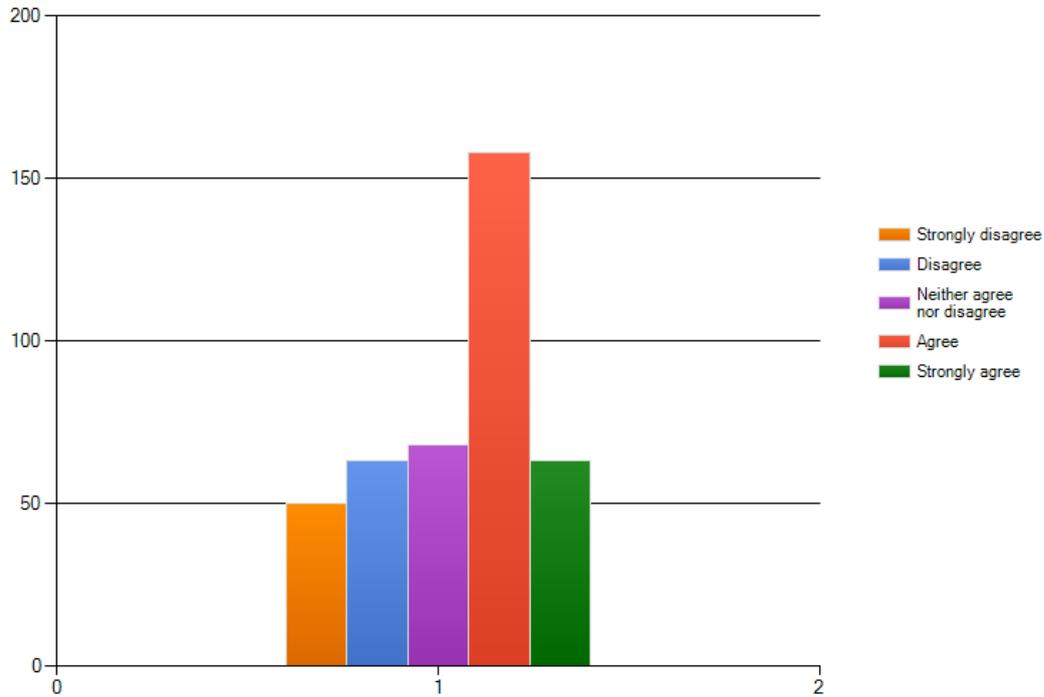
Trainees only



The level of difficulty of the FRCPATH Part 2 examination is appropriate for an examination that is designed to assess the ability to practice independently.

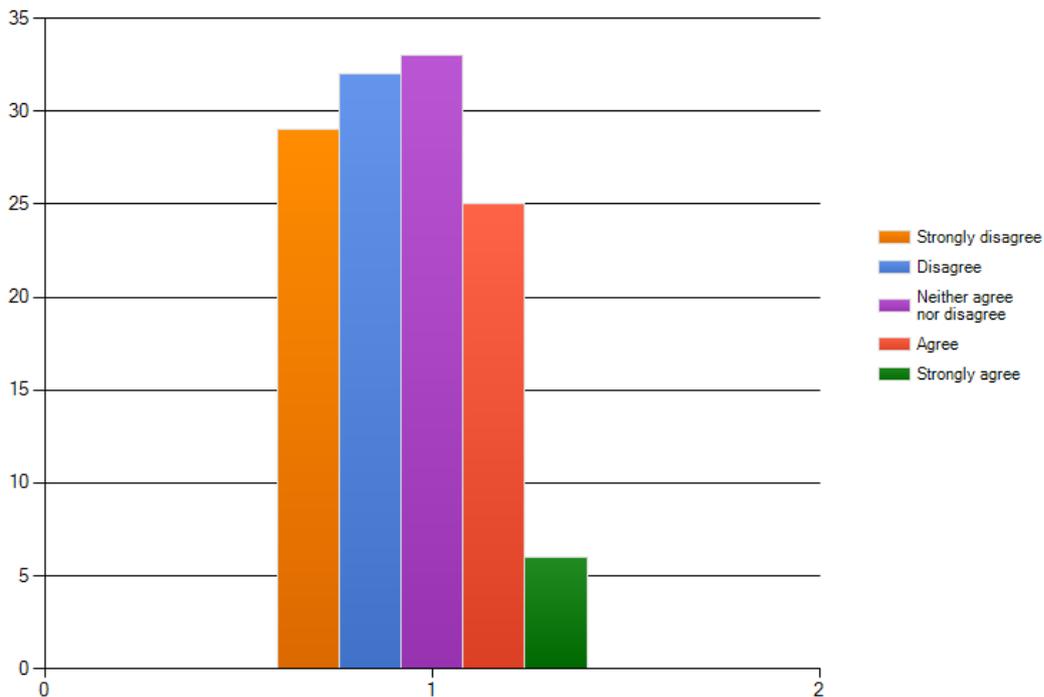
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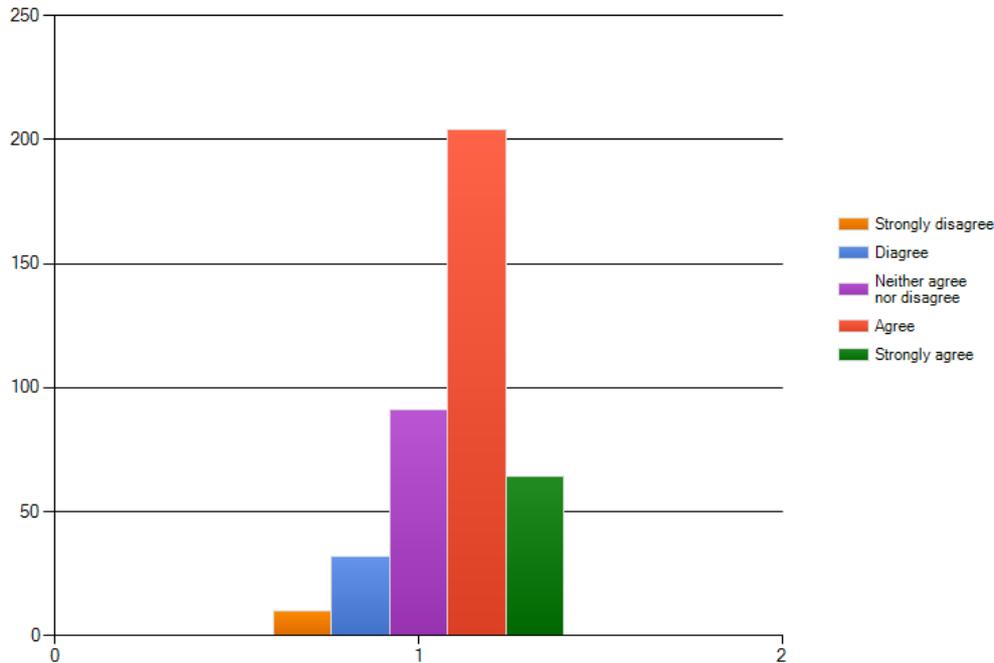
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Diagnostic cytology cases should be selected which include all of the possible types of sample preparation (e.g. liquid based cytology, standard direct smears or cytopins prepared with Papanicolaou and Giemsa stains).

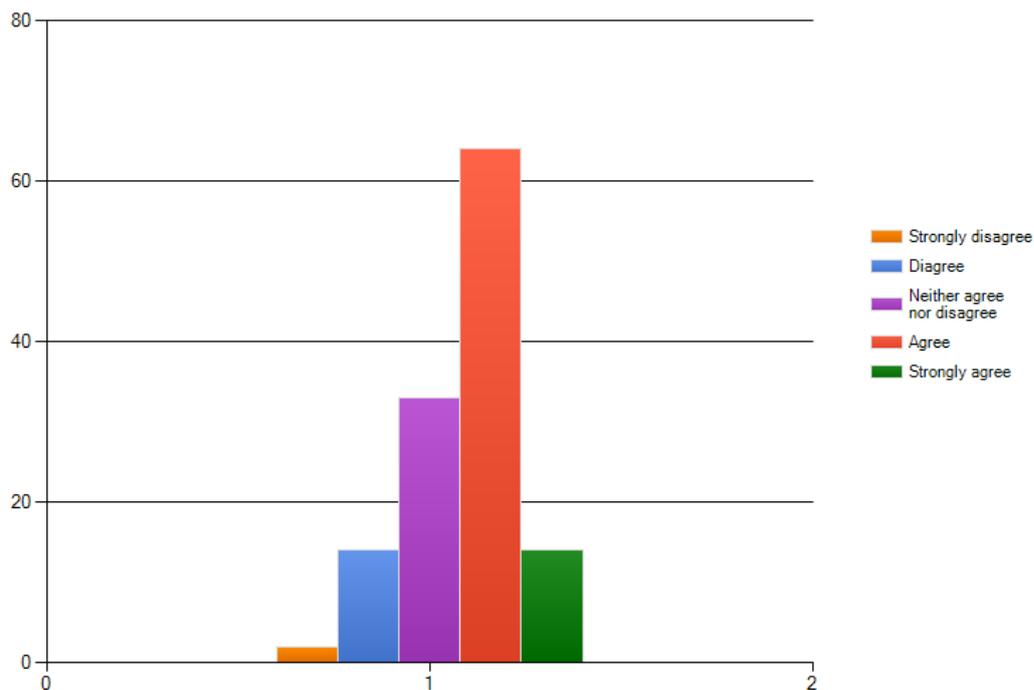
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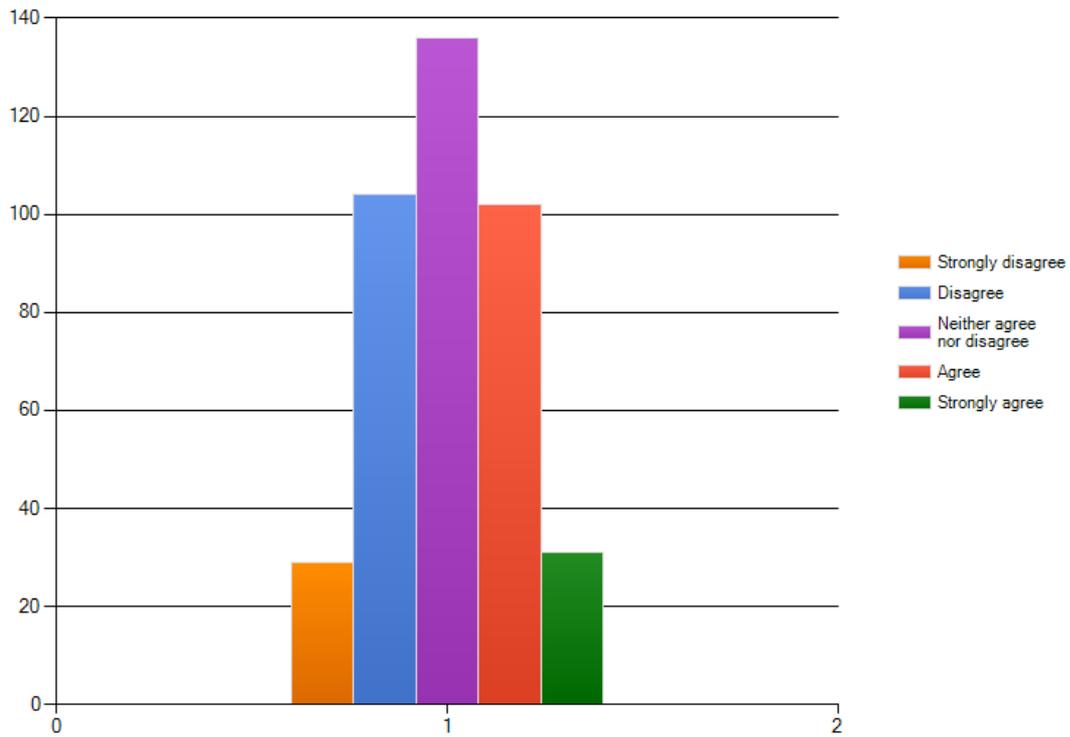
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The diagnostic cytology section of the exam should include more than the current 8 cases.

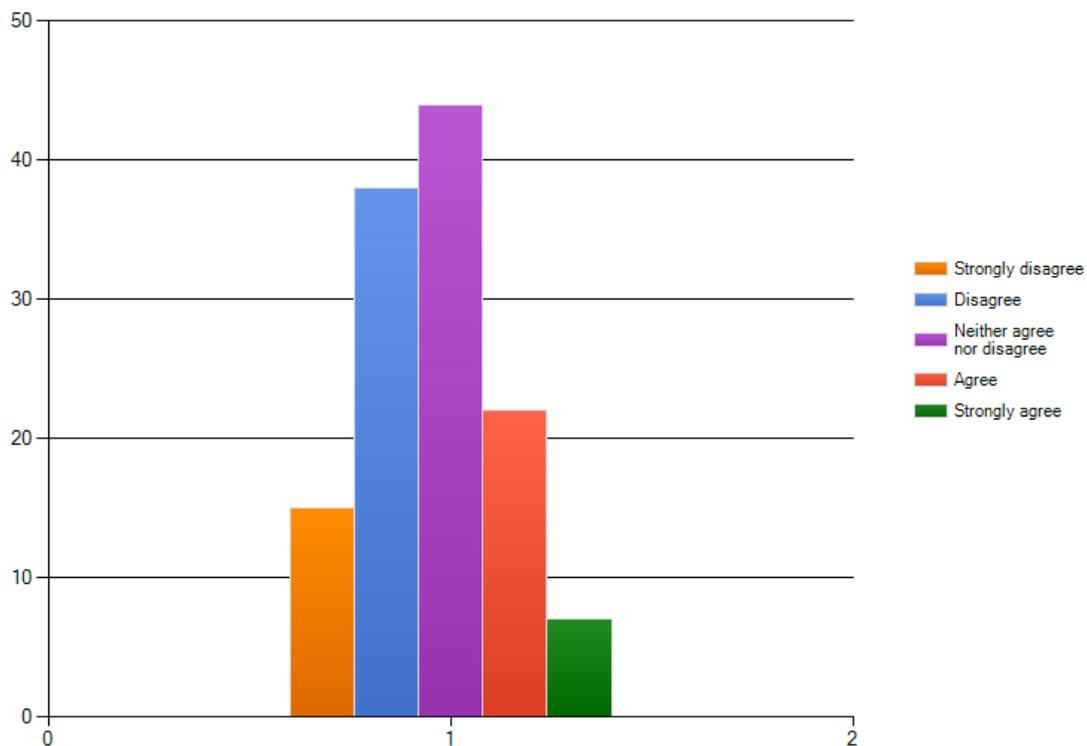
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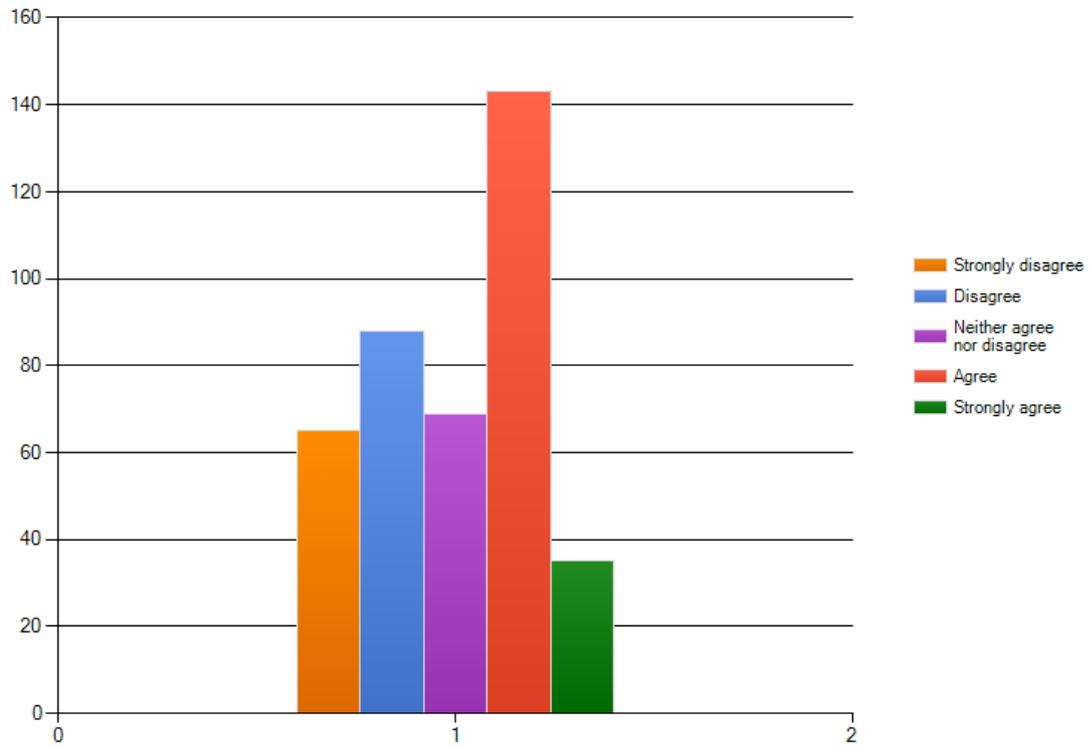
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The current structure of the FRCPATH Part 2 examination is appropriate.

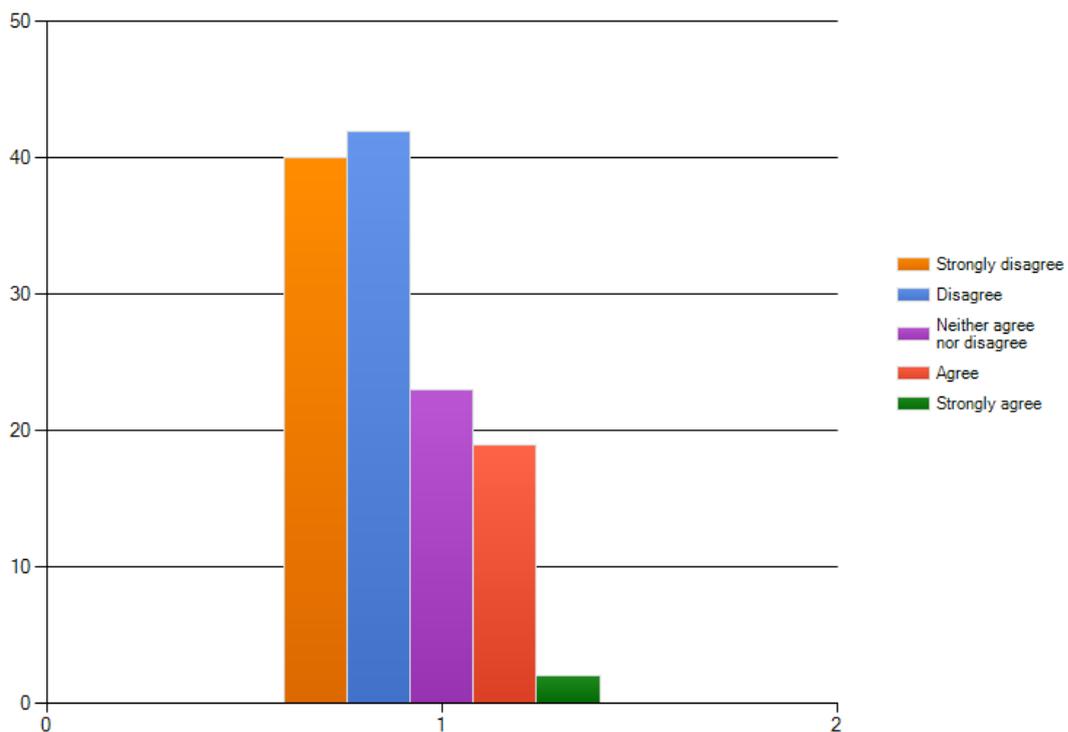
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Trainees only

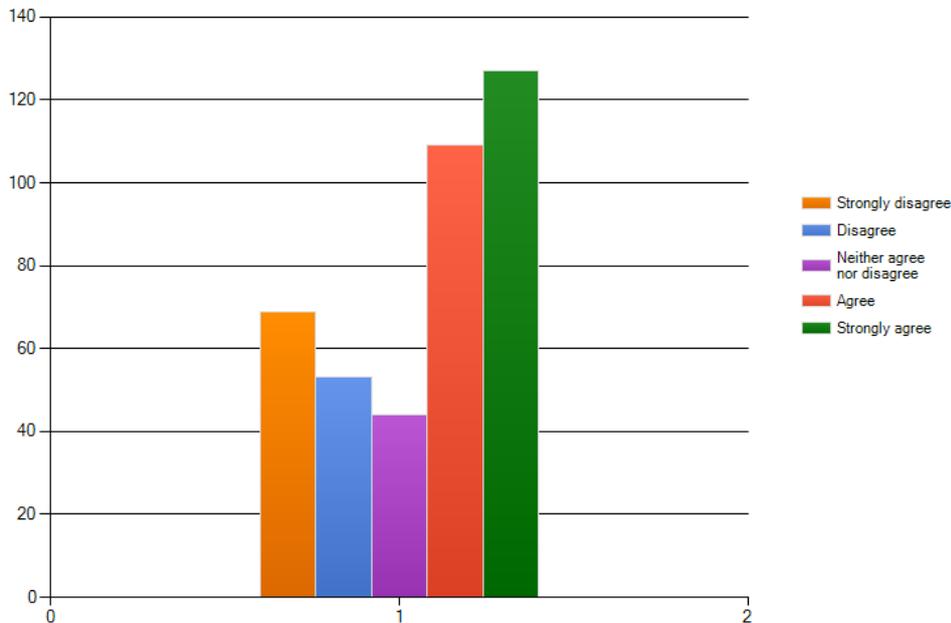
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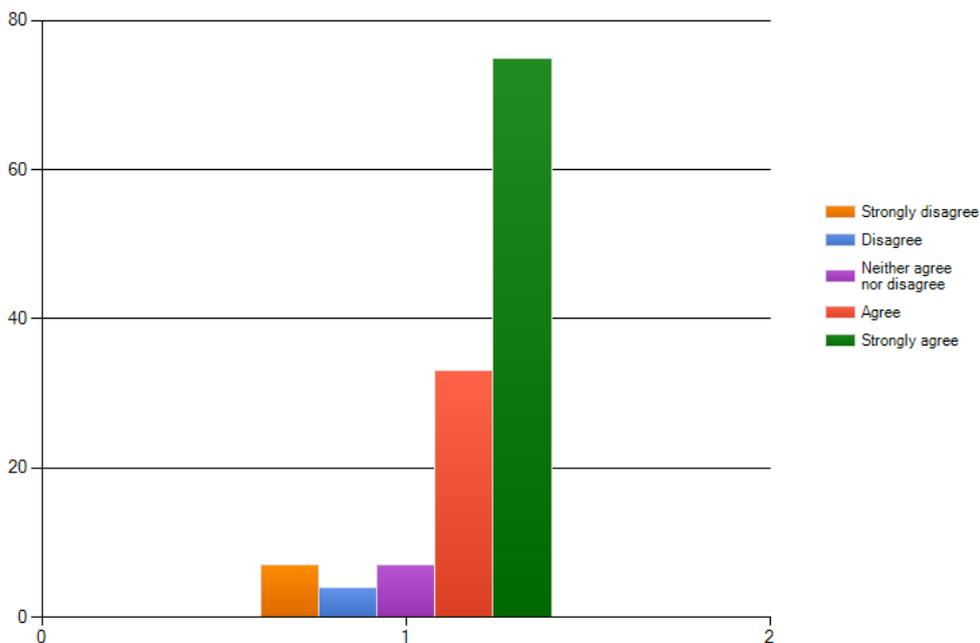
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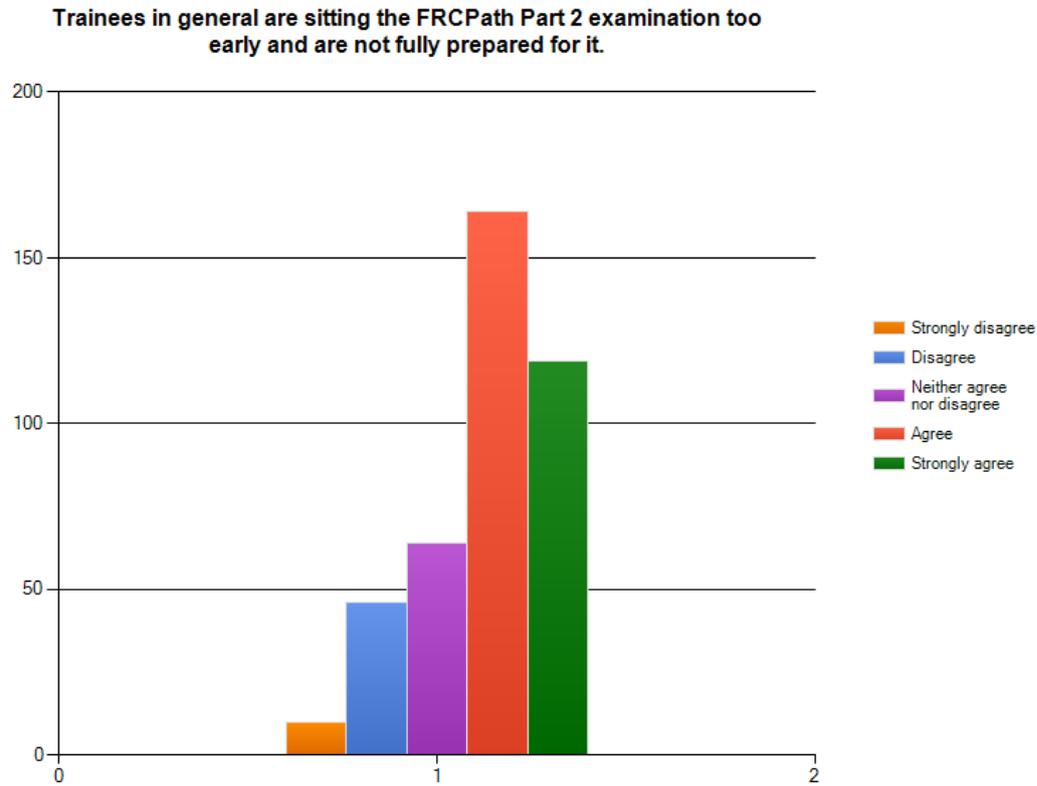
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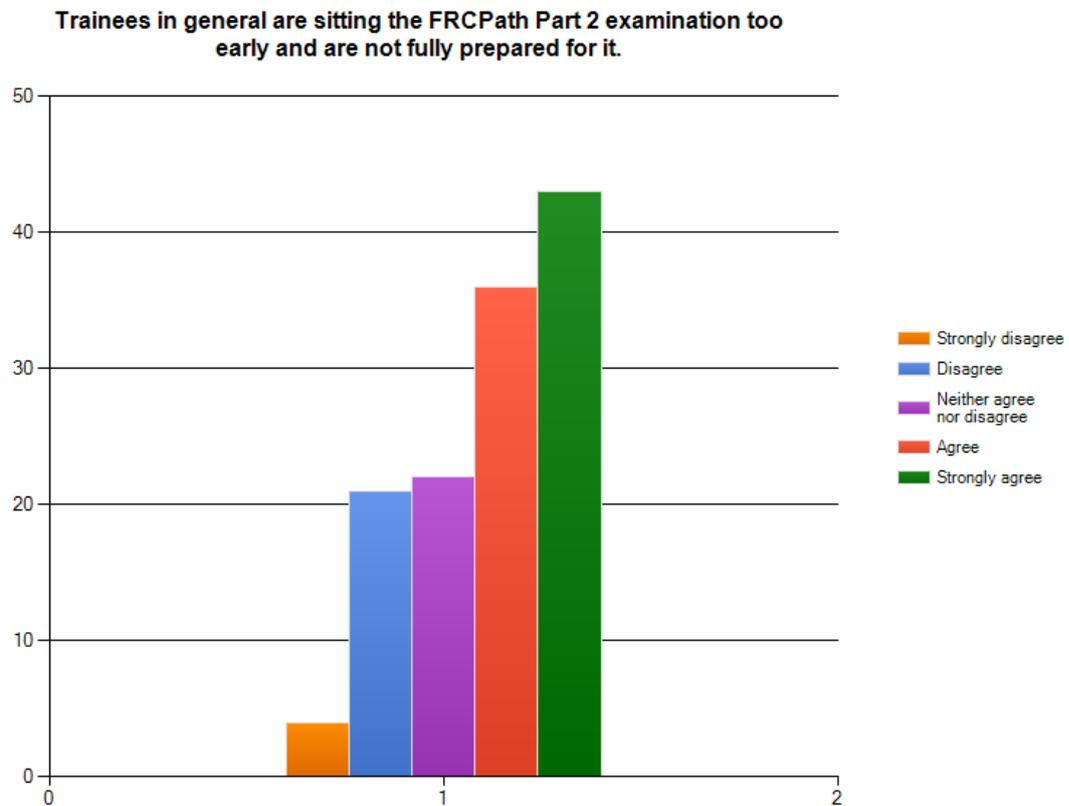


Trainees in general are sitting the FRCPATH Part 2 examination too early and are not fully prepared for it.

All respondents

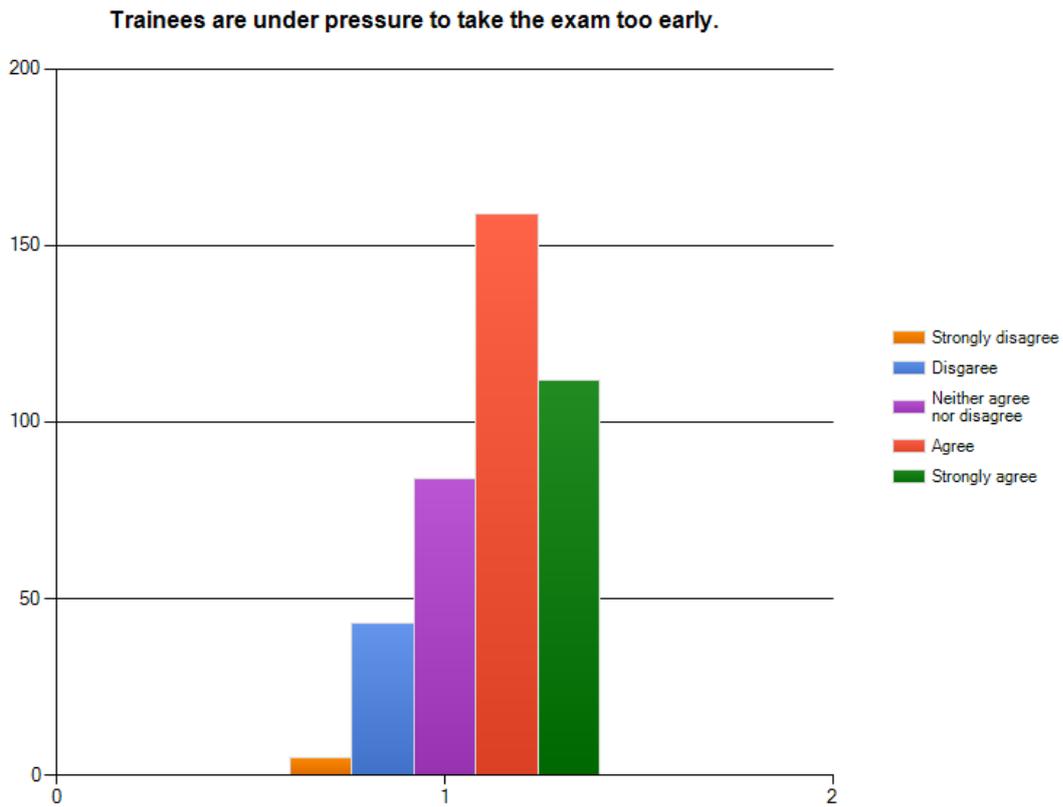


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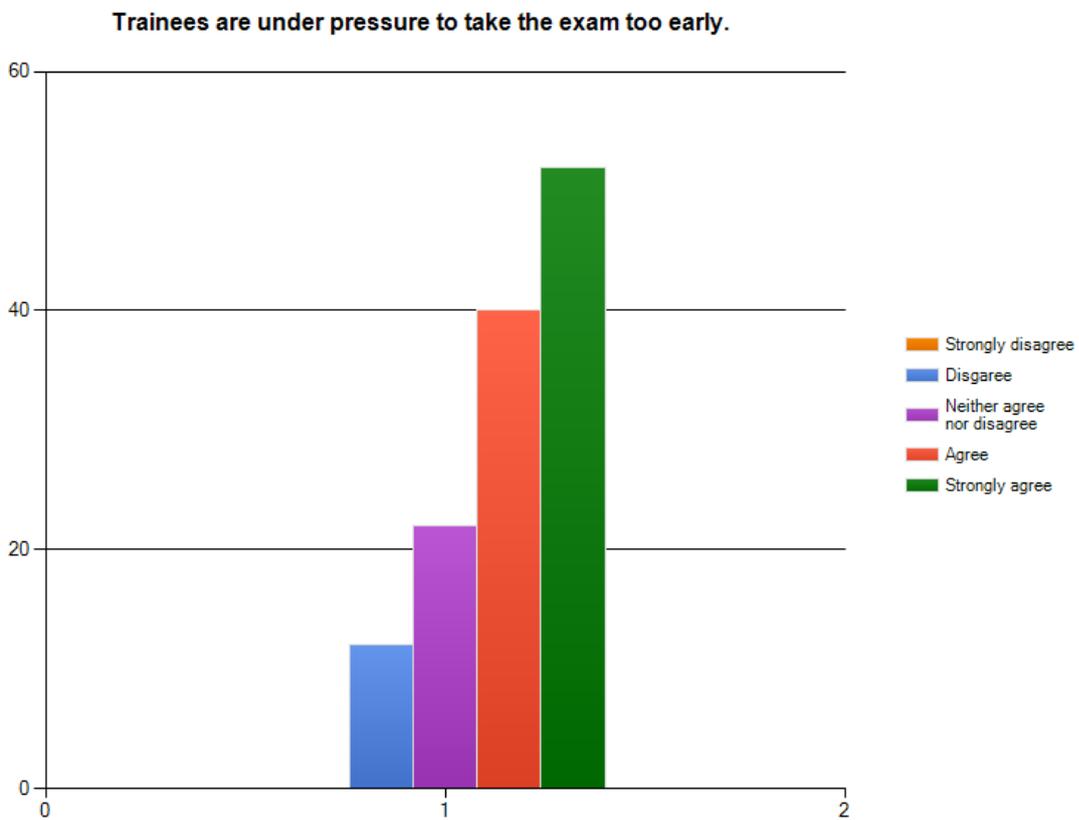


Trainees are under pressure to take the exam too early.

All respondents

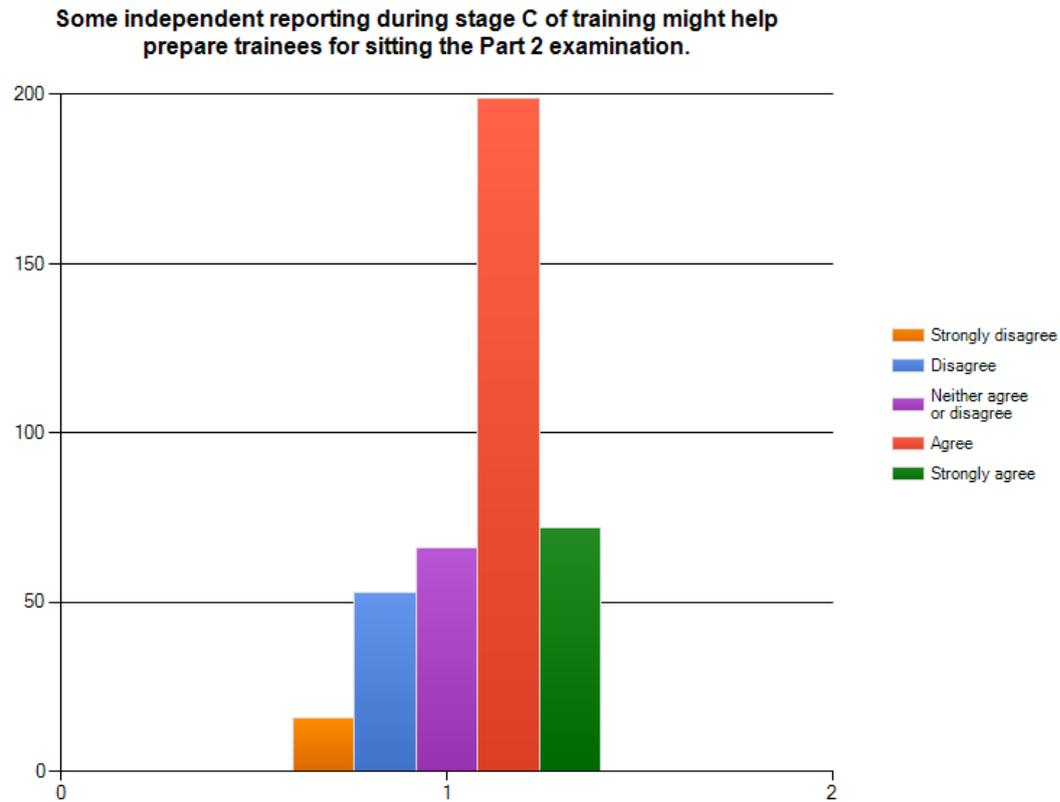


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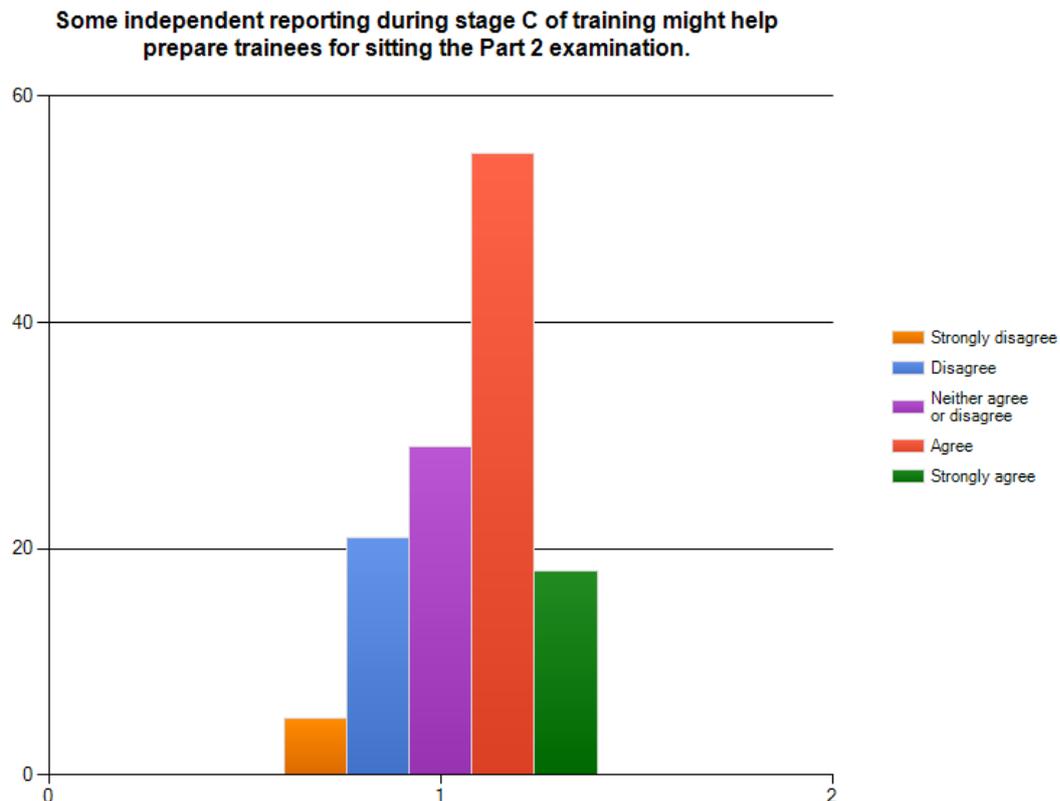


Some independent reporting during Stage C of training might help prepare trainees for sitting the Part 2 examination.

All respondents

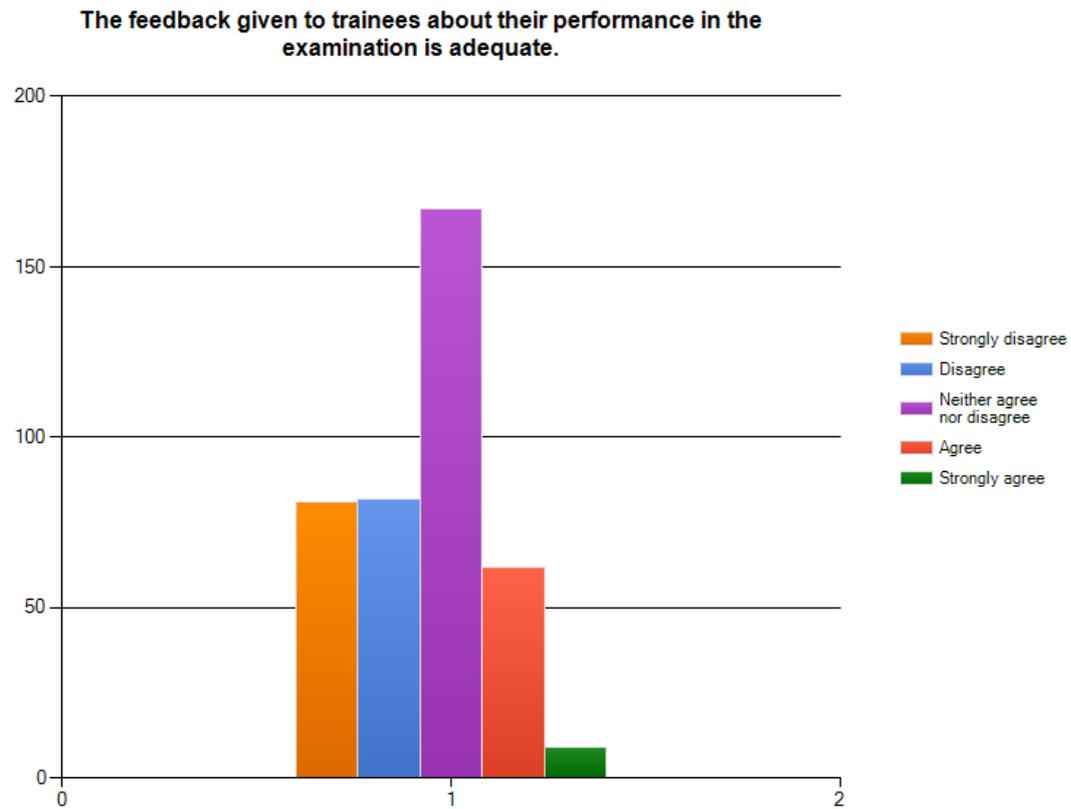


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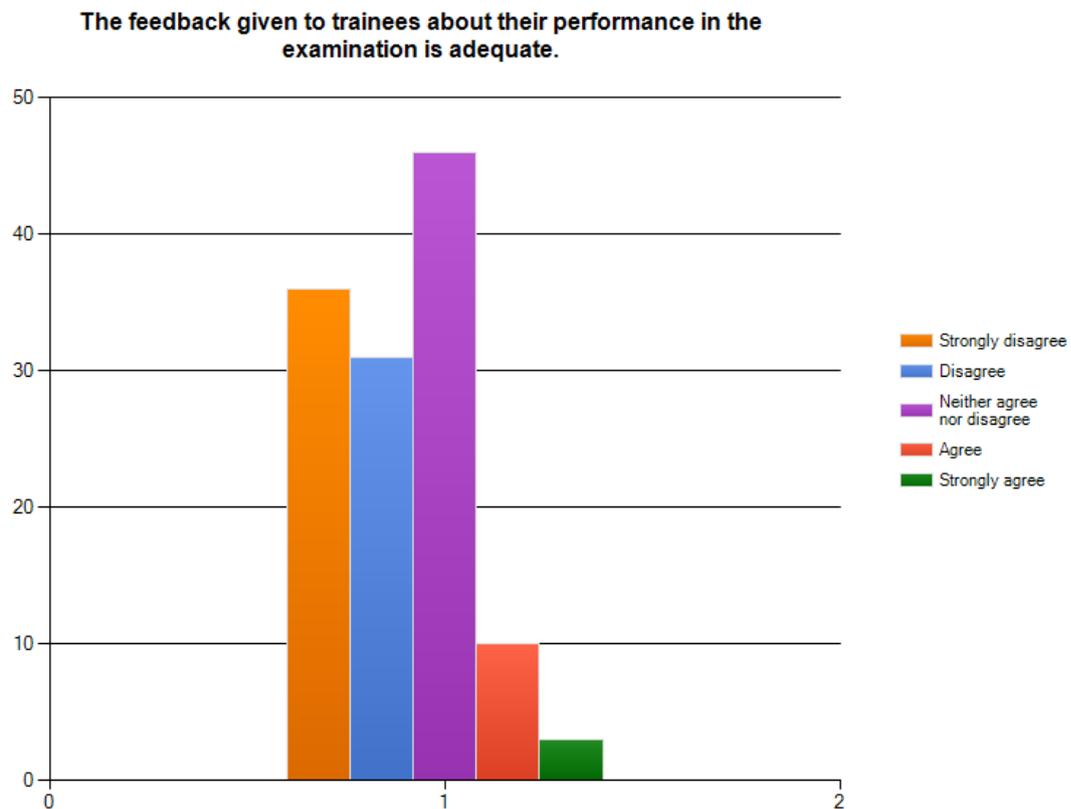


The feedback given to trainees about their performance in the examination is adequate.

All respondents

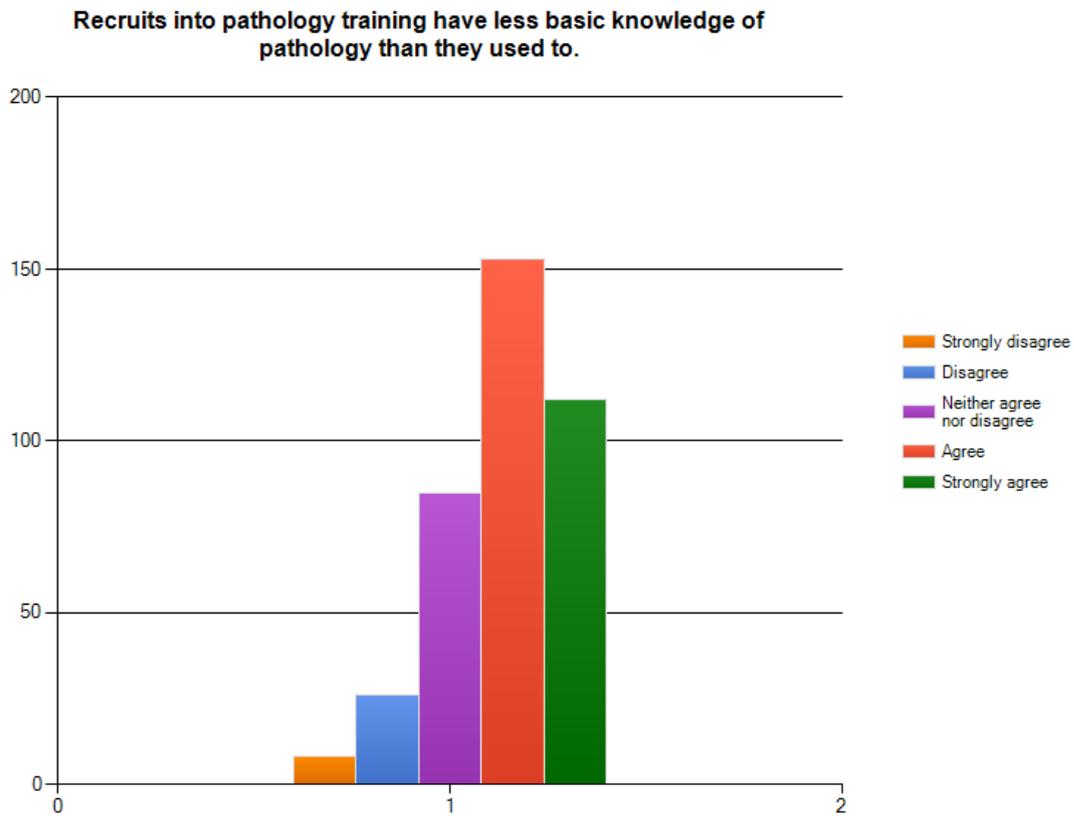


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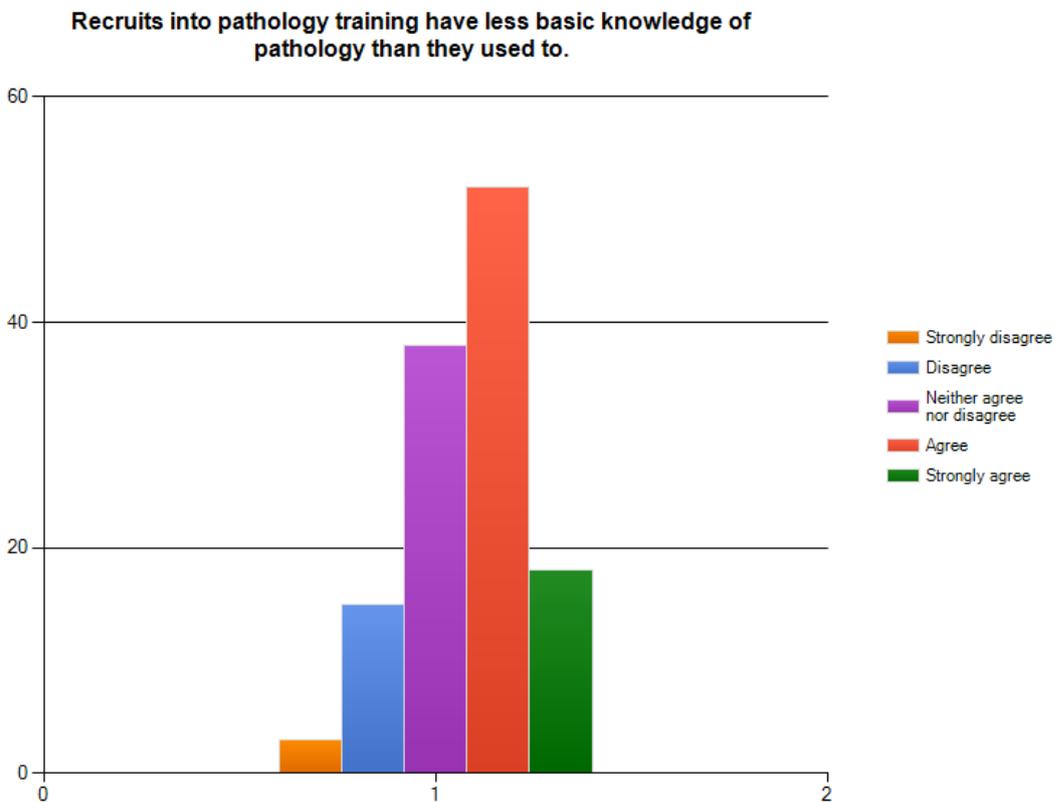


Recruits into pathology training have less basic knowledge of pathology than they used to.

All respondents

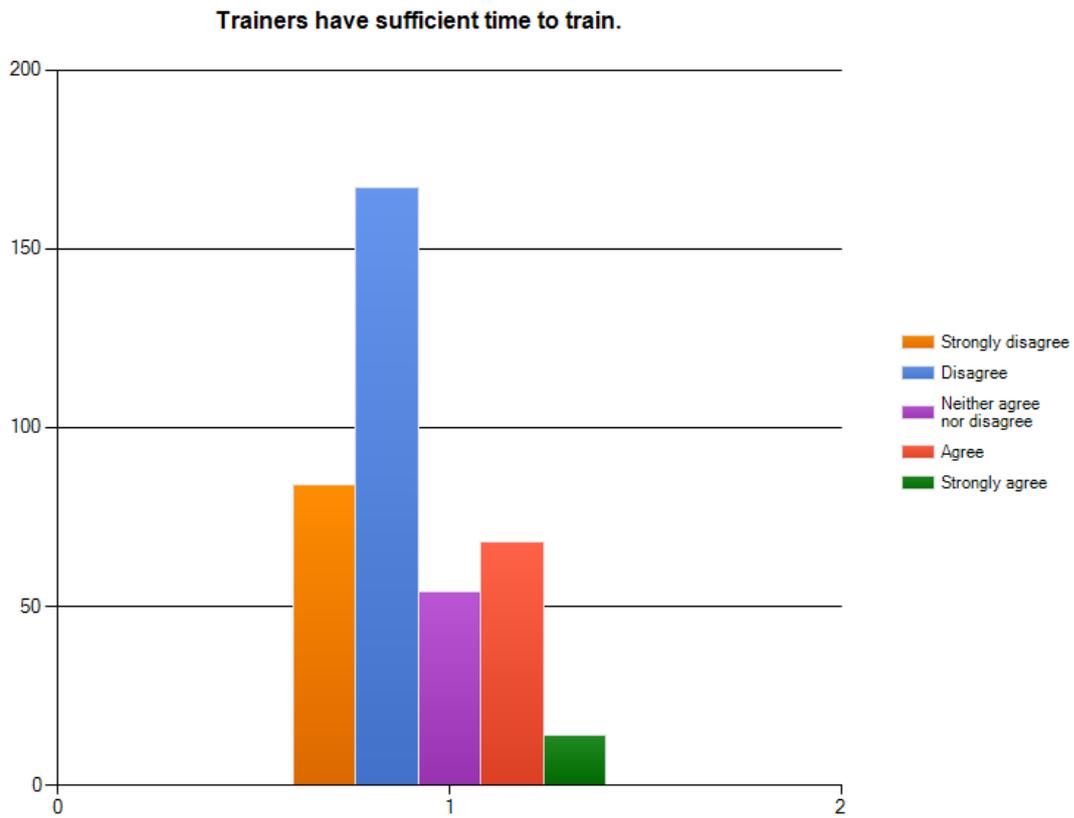


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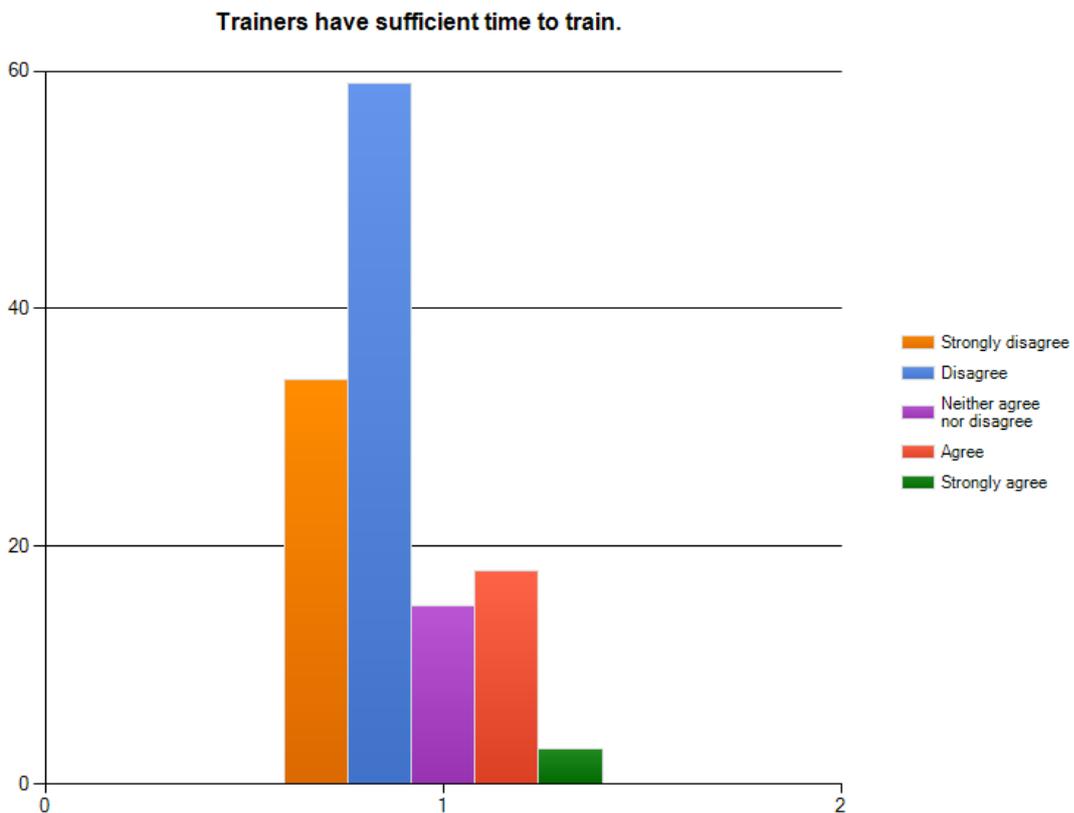


Trainers have sufficient time to train.

All respondents

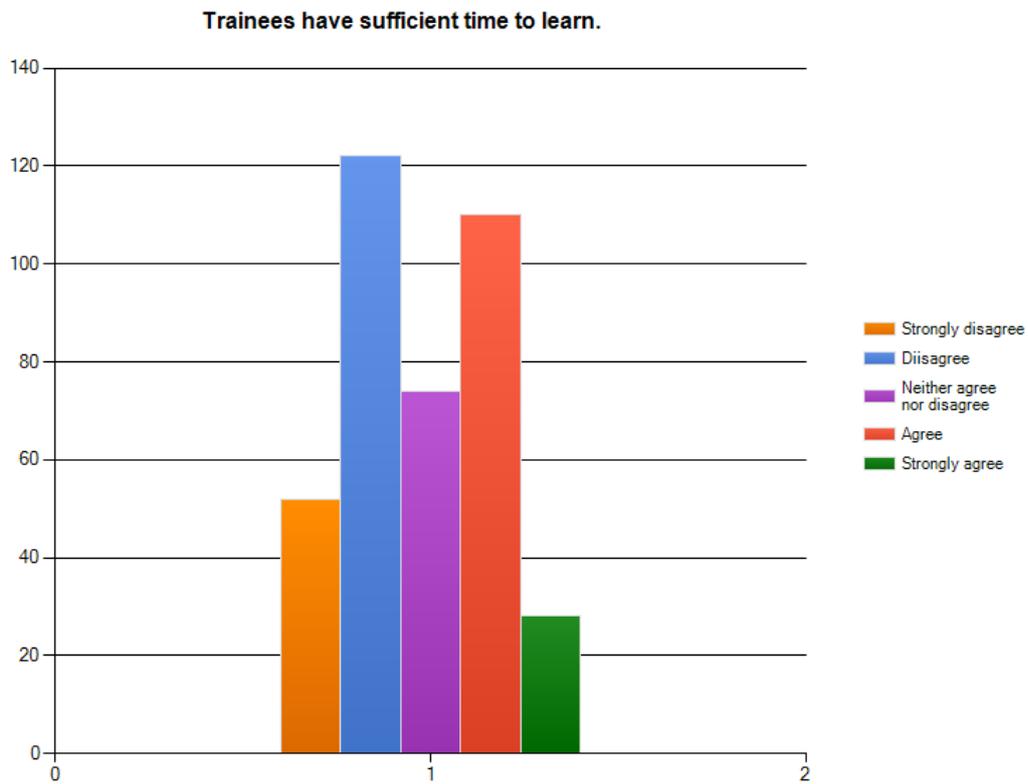


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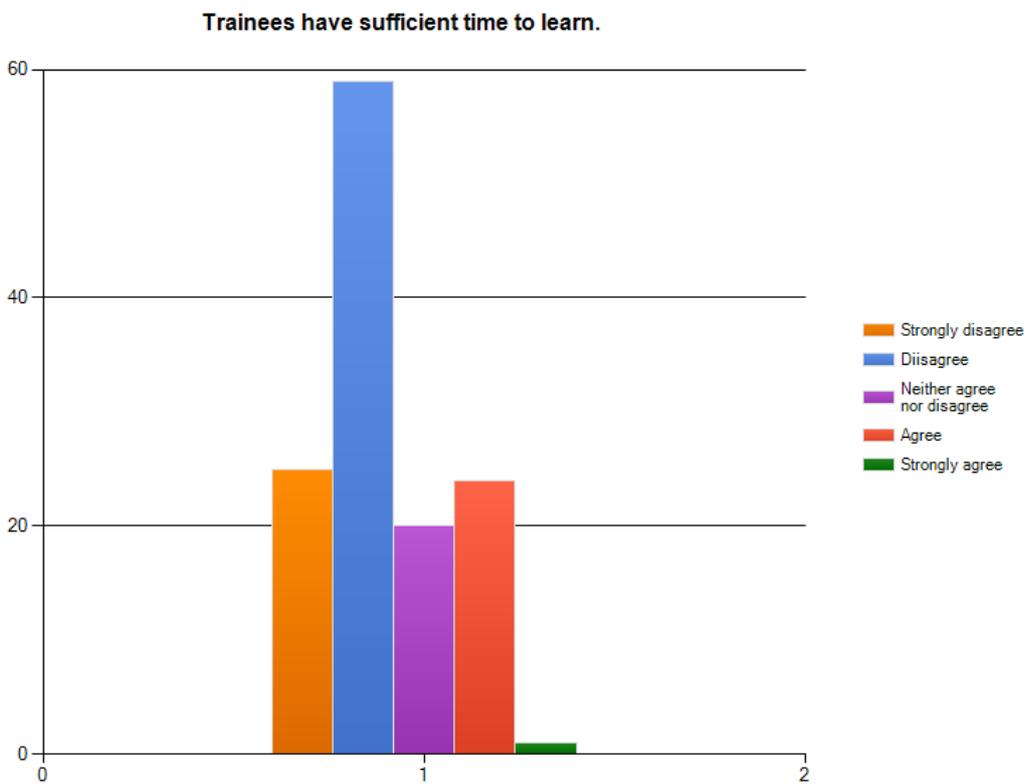


Trainees have sufficient time to learn.

All respondents

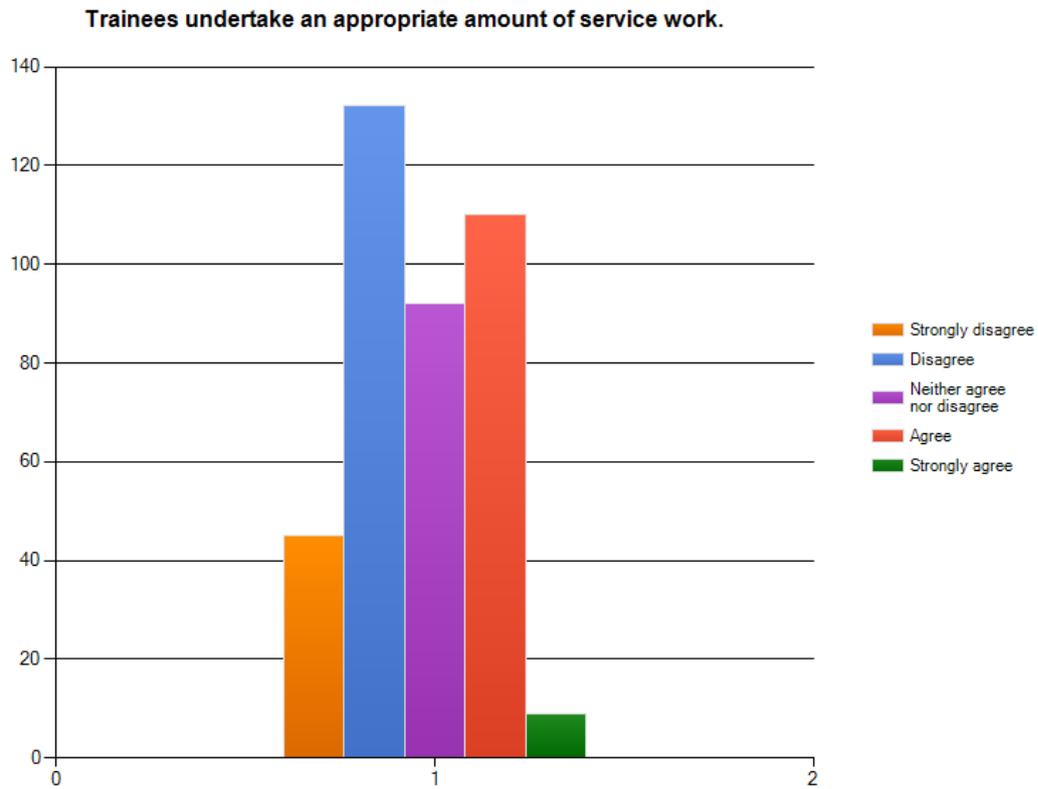


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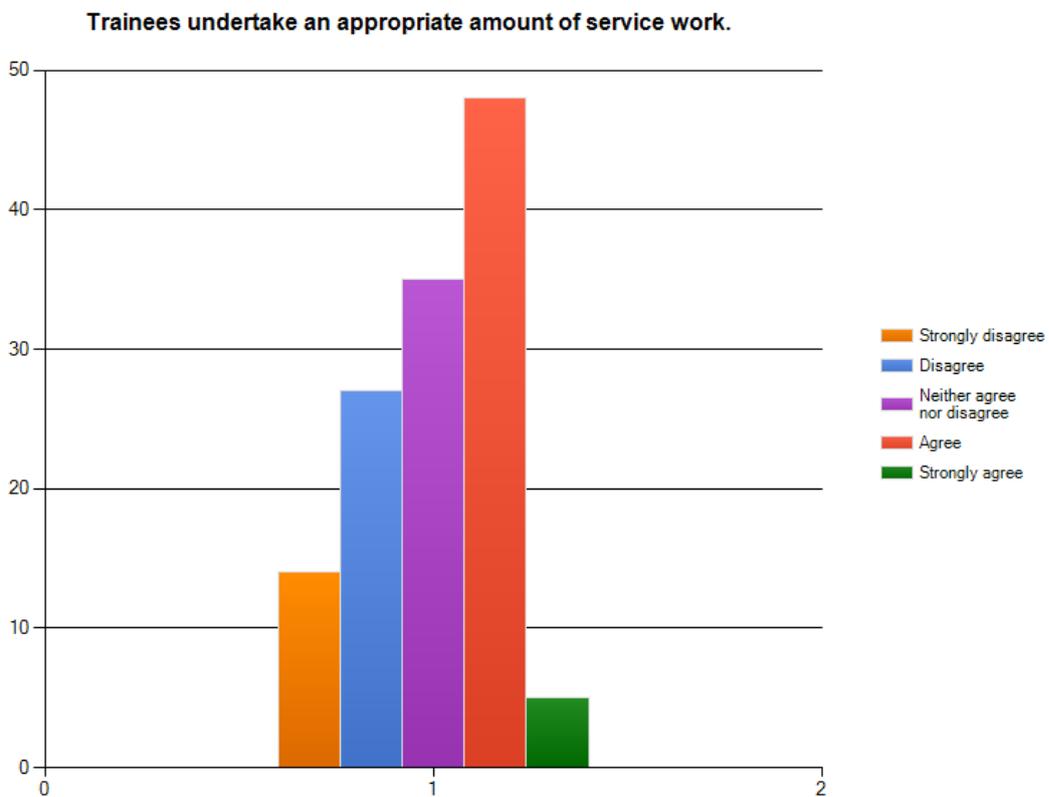


Trainees undertake an appropriate amount of service work.

All respondents

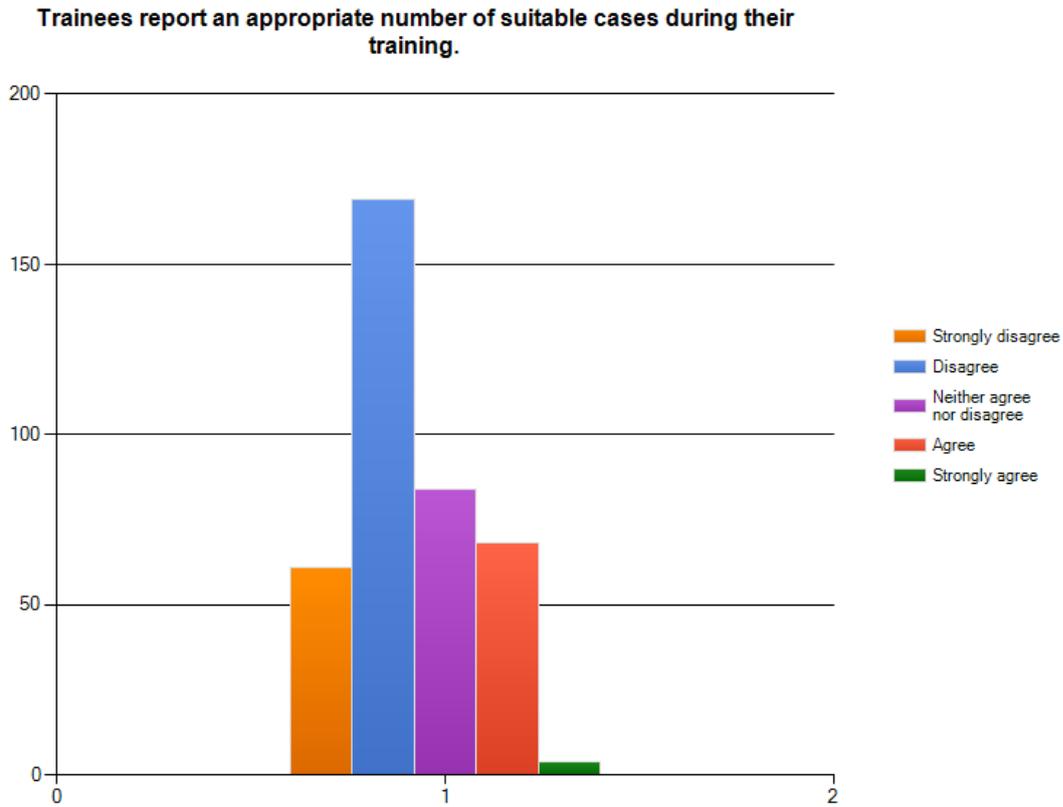


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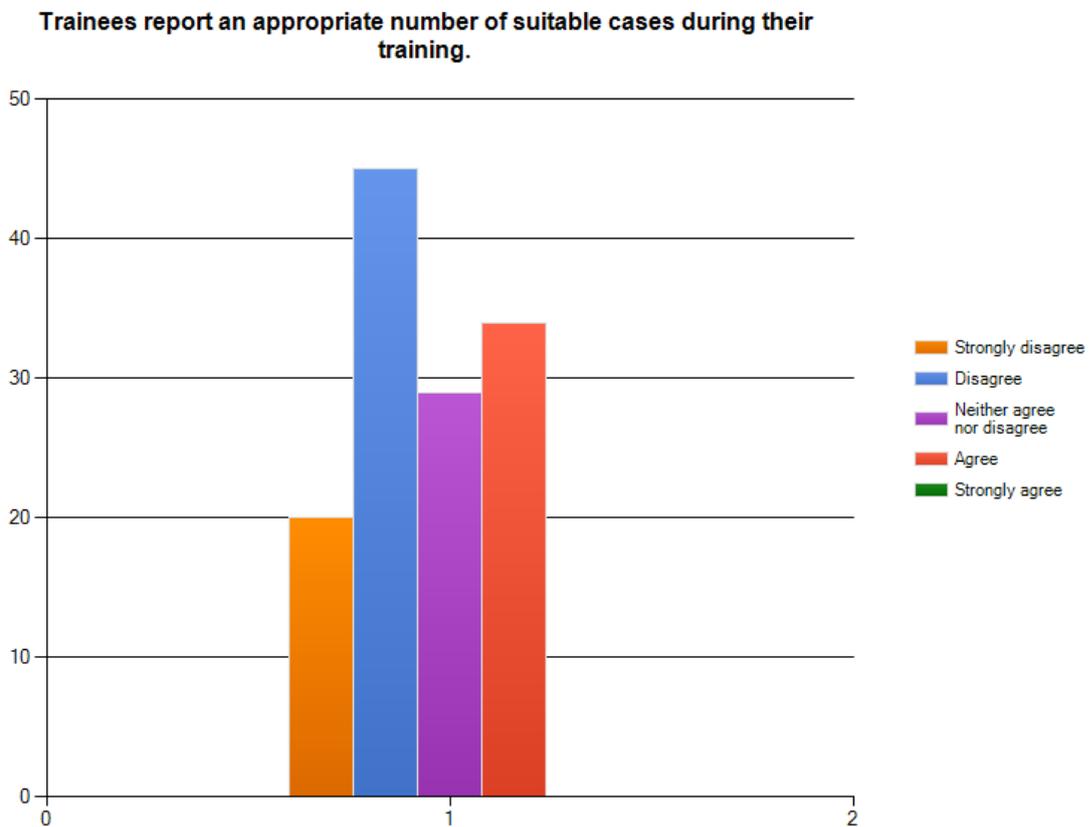


Trainees report an appropriate number of suitable cases during their training.

All respondents

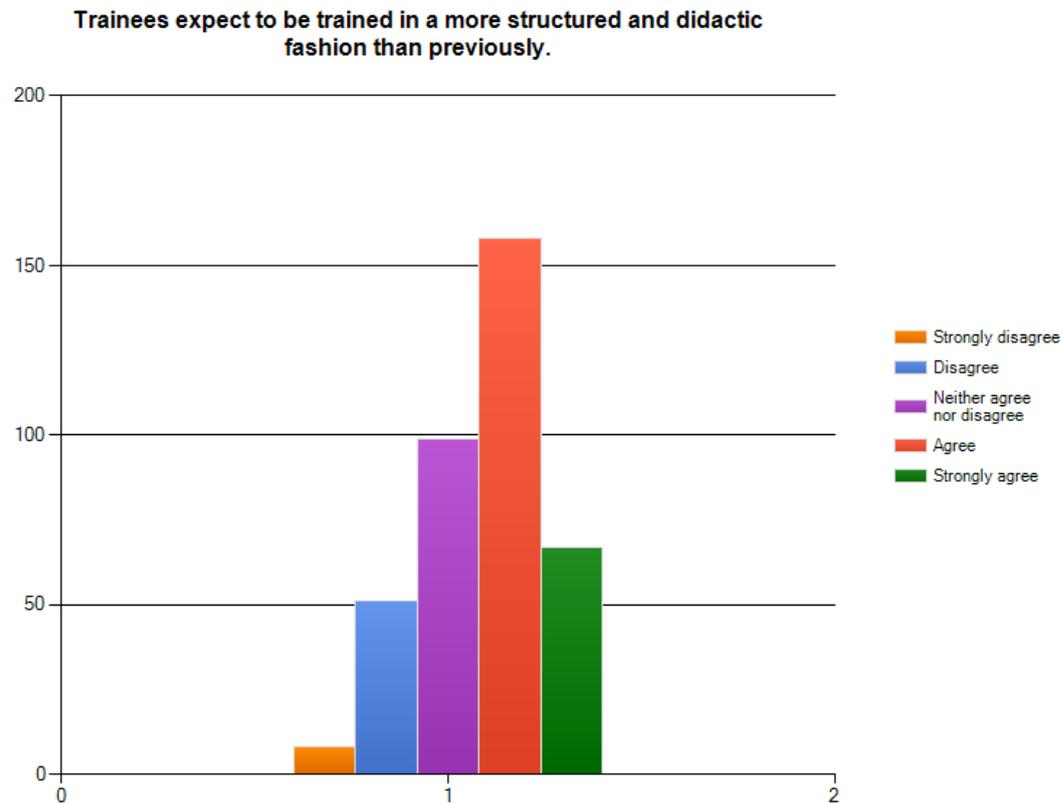


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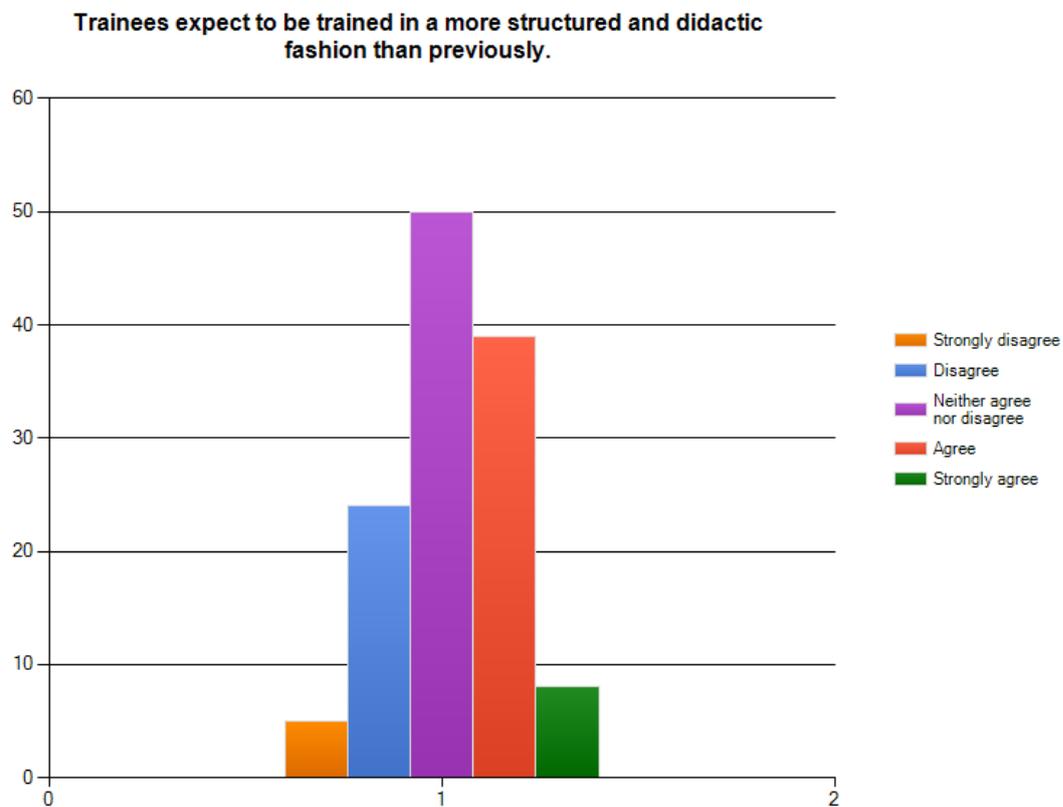


Trainees expect to be trained in a more structured and didactic fashion than previously.

All respondents

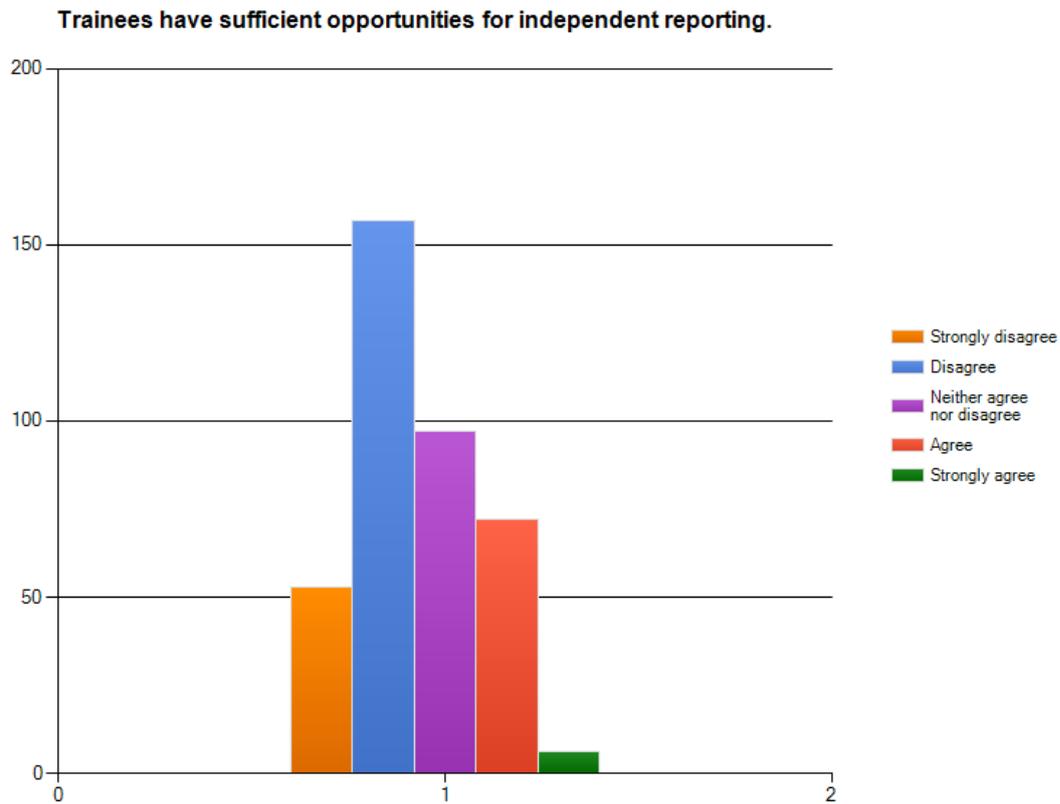


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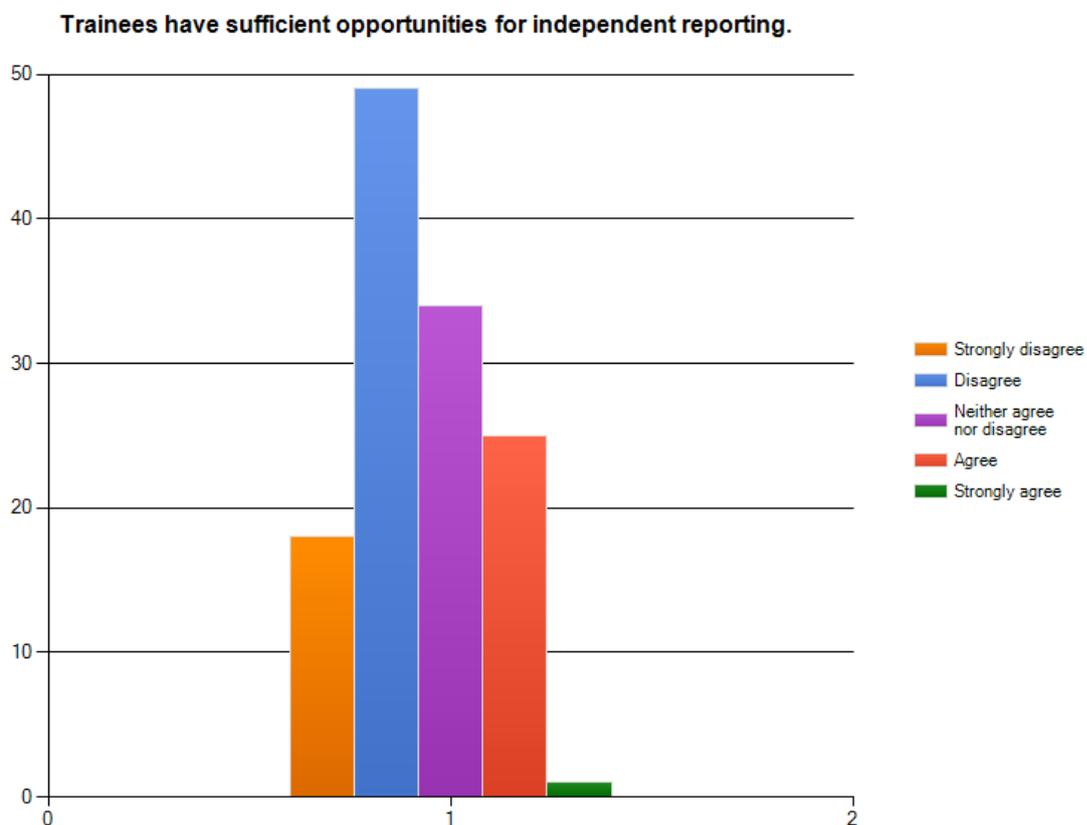


Trainees have sufficient opportunities for independent reporting.

All respondents

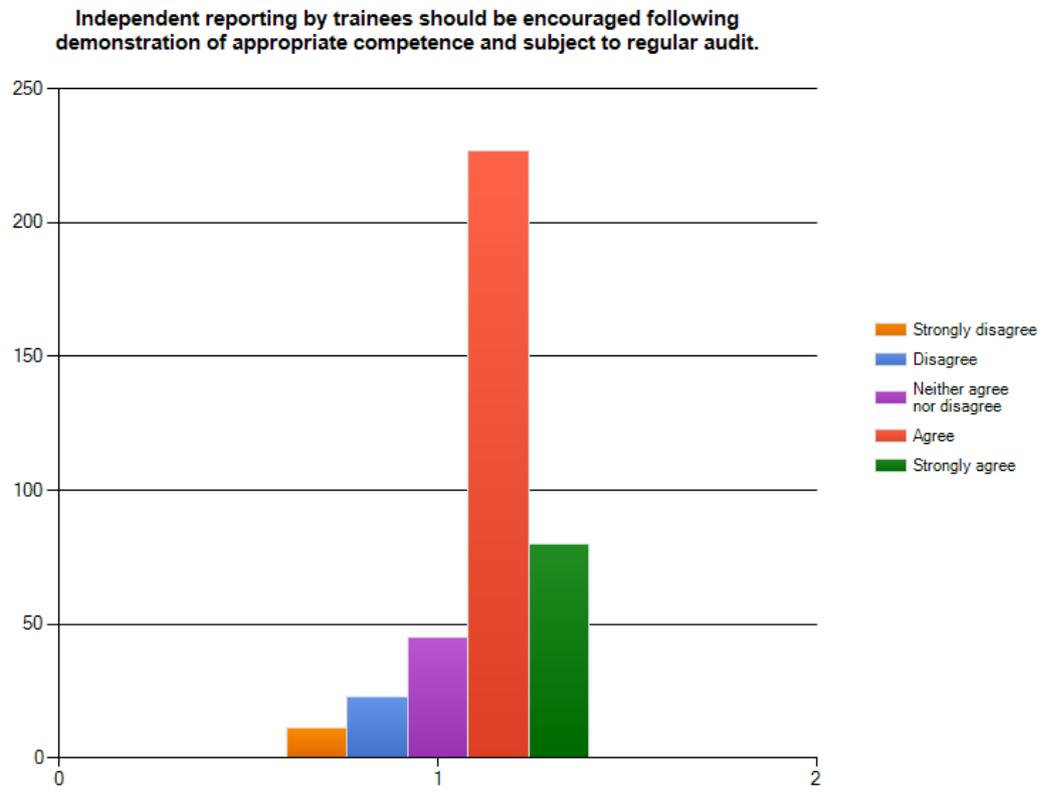


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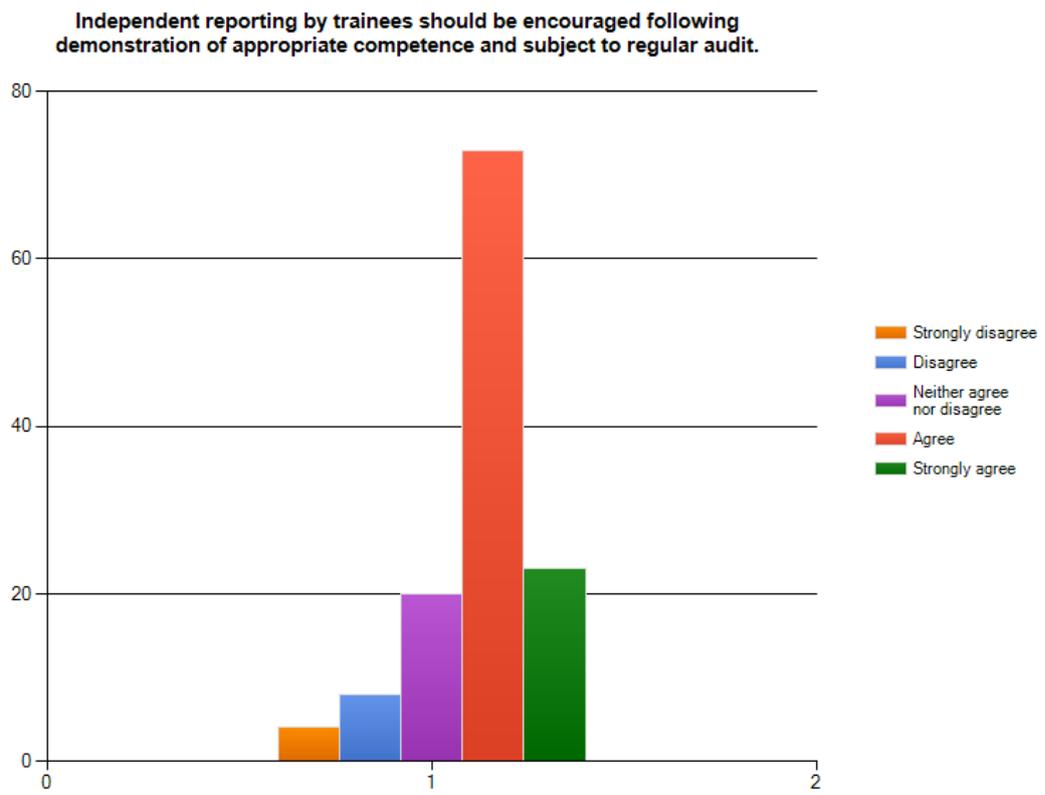


Independent reporting by trainees should be encouraged following demonstration of appropriate competence and subject to regular audit.

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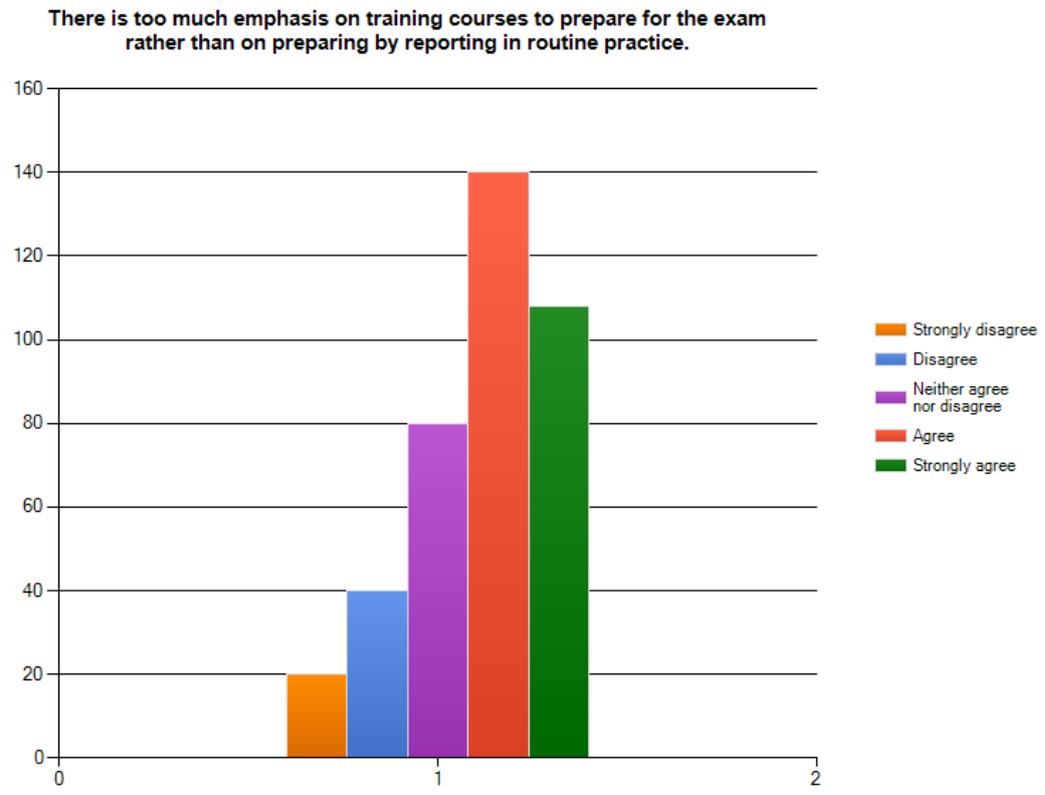


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There is too much emphasis on training courses to prepare for the exam rather than on preparing by reporting in routine practice.

All respondents



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