

Physician attitudes about abortion and willingness to consult in abortion care at UW School of Medicine & Public Health

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PURPOSE: To assess abortion-related attitudes, practices, and knowledge among physicians of all specialties at UW SMPH.

METHODS:

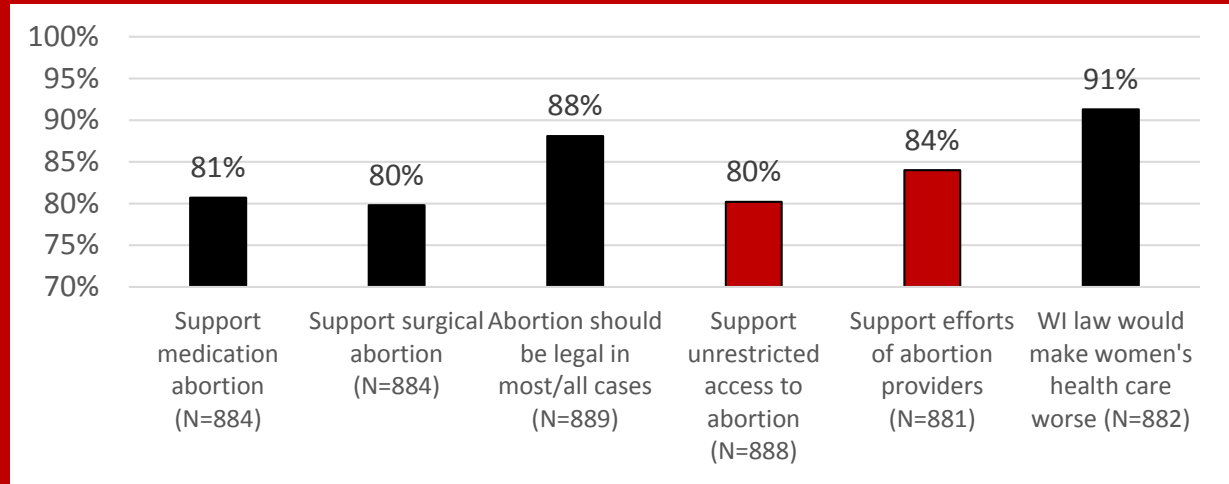
- Cross-sectional survey
- Web and mail mixed-mode methodology
- 67% response rate

RESULTS:

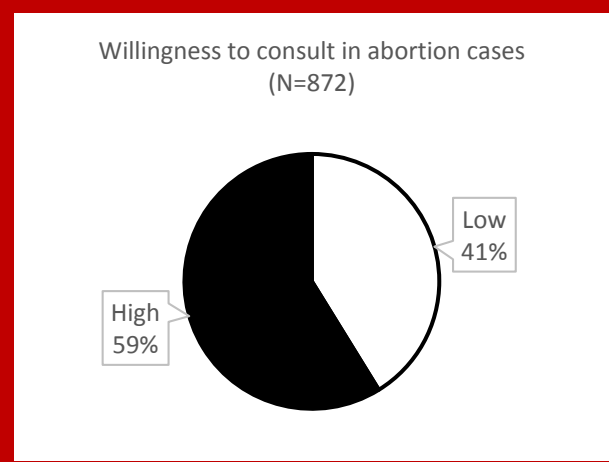
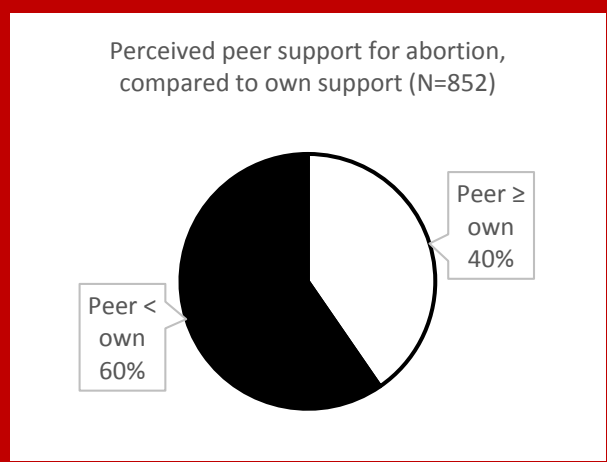
- 94% reported caring for women of reproductive age.
- 69% reported no opportunity to participate in abortion care.
- 44% knew whom to contact to refer a patient for abortion care.
- 14% reported current participation in any aspect of abortion care.
- Gender and religiosity predicted support for abortion.
- Gender, religiosity, exposure to abortion during training, relevance of expertise to abortion, and perceived social norms predicted willingness to consult in abortion cases.

CONCLUSION: Inaccurate perceptions about lack of peer support for abortion (pluralistic ignorance) may negatively affect access to abortion care.

Physicians reported high levels of support for abortion across all specialties and socio-demographic categories.



Physicians perceive that their peers are relatively less supportive of abortion, and willingness to consult in abortion care does not match support.



Factors associated with support for abortion among UW SMPH faculty physicians (N=849)

	AOR	95%CI
Age	1.00	0.98-1.01
Gender		
Male	ref	
Female	2.05	1.35-3.12
Religiosity		
None or low	ref	
High	0.10	0.06-0.16
Exposure to abortion during training		
No	ref	
Yes	1.14	0.77-1.70
Relevance of expertise to abortion		
None or low	ref	
High	1.17	0.77-1.77
Practice type		
Non-PCP	ref	
PCP	1.11	0.71-1.72

Factors associated with willingness to consult in care of patients seeking abortion among UW SMPH clinical faculty (N=820)

	AOR	95%CI
Age	0.99	0.97-1.00
Gender		
Male	ref	
Female	1.45	1.06-1.98
Religiosity		
None or low	ref	
High	0.53	0.39-0.71
Exposure to abortion during training		
No	ref	
Yes	1.36	1.00-1.83
Relevance of expertise to abortion		
None or low	ref	
High	1.91	1.39-2.62
Perceived peer support		
Peer < own	0.47	0.34-0.63
Peer ≥ own	ref	
Practice type		
Non-PCP	ref	
PCP	0.92	0.66-1.28