

P1708 **Assessing knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of health students towards antimicrobial resistance in England**

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Background: Increased awareness and knowledge about the causes, consequences and effective interventions regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR); amongst students studying health courses can contribute to improved antimicrobial stewardship and positively influence future prescribing. This study was carried out to identify changes in knowledge and behaviour a year after initiating health student focus as part of European Antibiotic Awareness Day activities in the UK.

Materials/methods: In 2016 an electronic questionnaire on AMR knowledge, attitudes and behaviour was circulated to health profession students at 27 UK universities. In 2017 an adapted version of the questionnaire was circulated and completed prior to the first UK national student conference on AMR. Questions common across these surveys were compared using a T-test and two sample test of proportion.

Results: In 2016, 255 students from 27 universities completed the questionnaire and in 2017, 166 students from 12 universities. Similar numbers of students reported use of oral antibiotics between 2016 and 2017 (35.5% vs 32.7%). More students had heard about antimicrobial/antibiotic stewardship in 2017 compared to 2016, although not significant (48.3% vs 55.2%, $p>0.05$).

In both 2016 and 2017 AMR was considered more important than obesity, food security, gender inequality and climate change ($p<0.05$) and was considered to be a greater national challenge in 2017 (72.90% vs 82.6%, $p>0.05$).

In 2017 students were more aware of side effects caused by antibiotics (74.7% vs 82.91% $p>0.05$) whilst fewer students identified that antibiotics kill both good and bad bacteria (90.6% vs 85.88%, $p>0.05$). In both years only a few students thought antibiotics are effective against colds and flu (5.8% vs 6% $p>0.05$) and most students could correctly identify effective preventative methods for tackling AMR (table 1). Although knowledge that antibiotics do not kill viruses was high in both years, there was a significant decrease in ability to correctly identify this (99.1% vs 94.3% $p<0.05$).

Conclusions: Although more students perceived AMR to be a national challenge in 2017 compared to 2016, students still had misunderstandings about AMR. Whilst we identified knowledge gains in some areas, our results suggest undergraduate education on AMR continues to require focus and attention

	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	P value
Good hand hygiene	94.4	95.3	0.6
Keeping patients in isolation	95.8	90.0	<0.01
Avoiding use of antibiotics to treat cold and flu	93.3	91.0	0.4
Increased uptake of flu vaccine	79.4	71.0	<0.05

Table 1: Percentage of students who considered these actions effective in preventing the emergence or spread of antimicrobial resistant organisms