

Emotional Responses to the Overturning of Roe Vs Wade Amongst an Obstetrics and Gynaecology Cohort

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Background

Access to safe abortion is a fundamental reproductive right and human right. 45% of all abortions worldwide are unsafe¹, and every year at least 22,000 women and girls die from unsafe abortions².

The overturning of Roe Vs Wade will remove a person's constitutional right to abortion and mean that it can be made immediately illegal in any state of America. This will have detrimental effects on women and girls and their reproductive health and rights, and will disproportionately affect those who are most vulnerable.

Aim

To capture the emotional responses to the (at the time of study) leaked report amongst junior doctors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

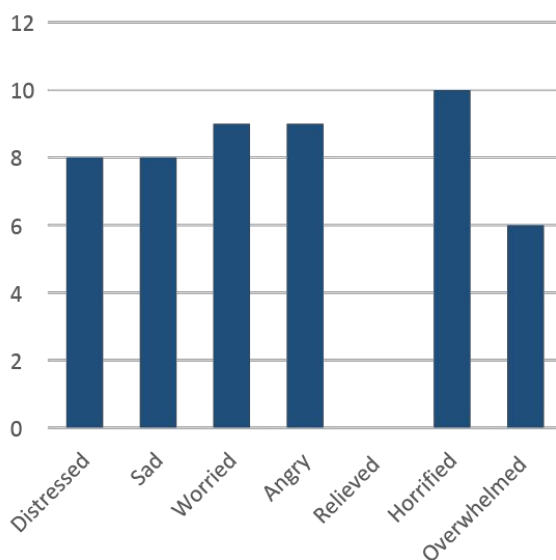
Methods

Junior doctors in the department (intern through to senior registrar) were sent a link via a group whatsapp chat inviting them to complete an anonymous online survey on survey monkey.

Results

- 60% of respondents worried that this could affect abortion laws in Australia in the future
- Respondents experienced high level of negative emotions including disappointment, shock, horror, anger, worry, distress and sadness

Emotions Experienced



Discussion

The decision to overturn Roe Vs Wade has a negative emotional impact on doctors working in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in this cohort, and there is a widely held concern that it will threaten abortion laws in Australia. It is imperative that RANZCOG continues its advocacy for safe and accessible abortion for all women as a fundamental health right.



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References

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abortion>
2. <https://msf.org.au/article/project-news/unsafe-abortion-fo>