

# “The virtual patient will see you now.”

## Preparing candidates for the MRCPCH COVID Adapted Clinical Examination

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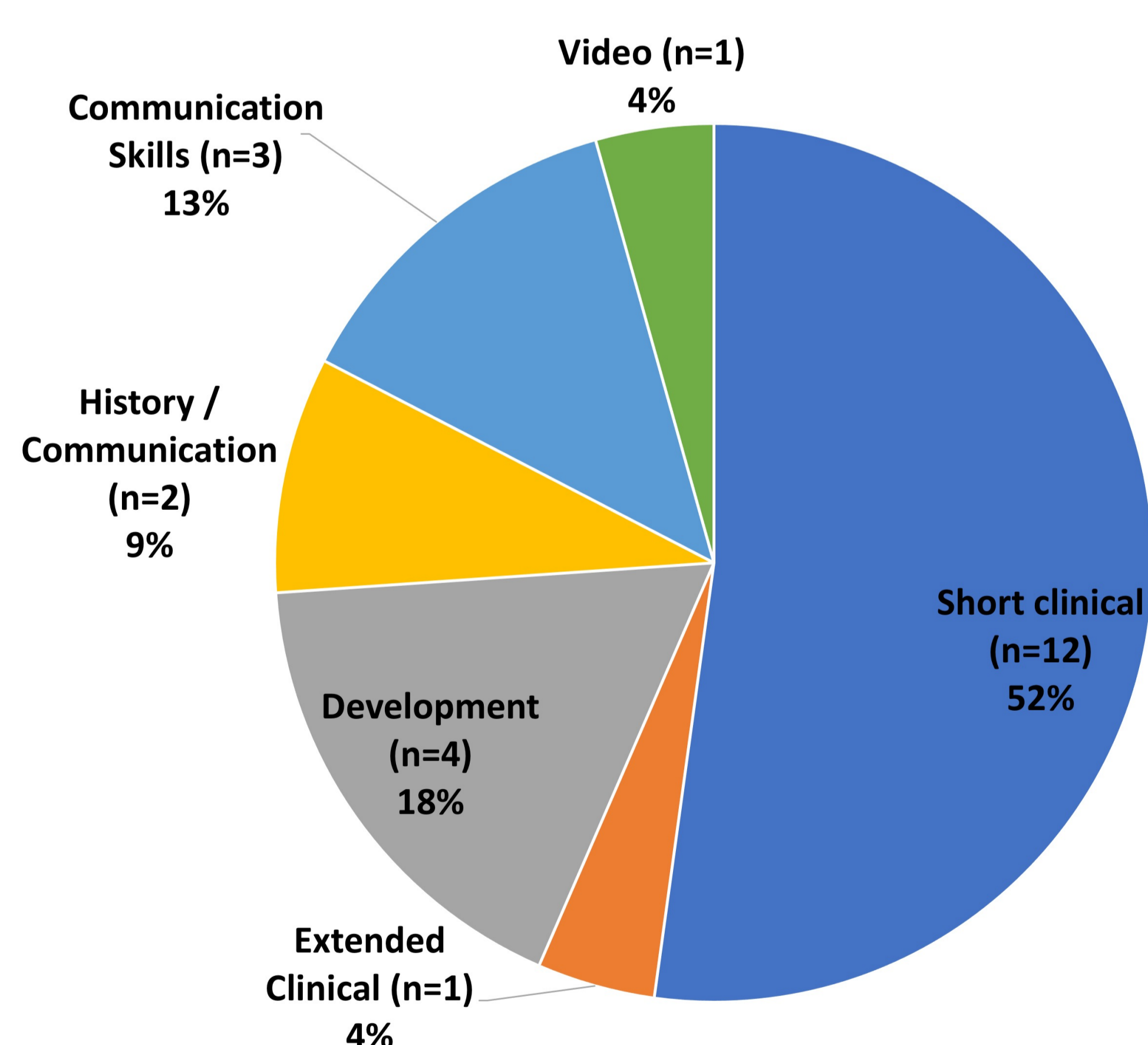
### Introduction

- The RIPPLE programme provides teaching for MRCPCH clinical examination candidates.
- The programme has been running across North West London since 2012.
- This previously consisted of bedside teaching in the weeks before the examination.
- Due to the COVID pandemic, the RCPCH changed to a virtual COVID Adapted Clinical Examination for November 2020.
- To adapt to these changes we developed a way of delivering teaching using a virtual format.

### Methods

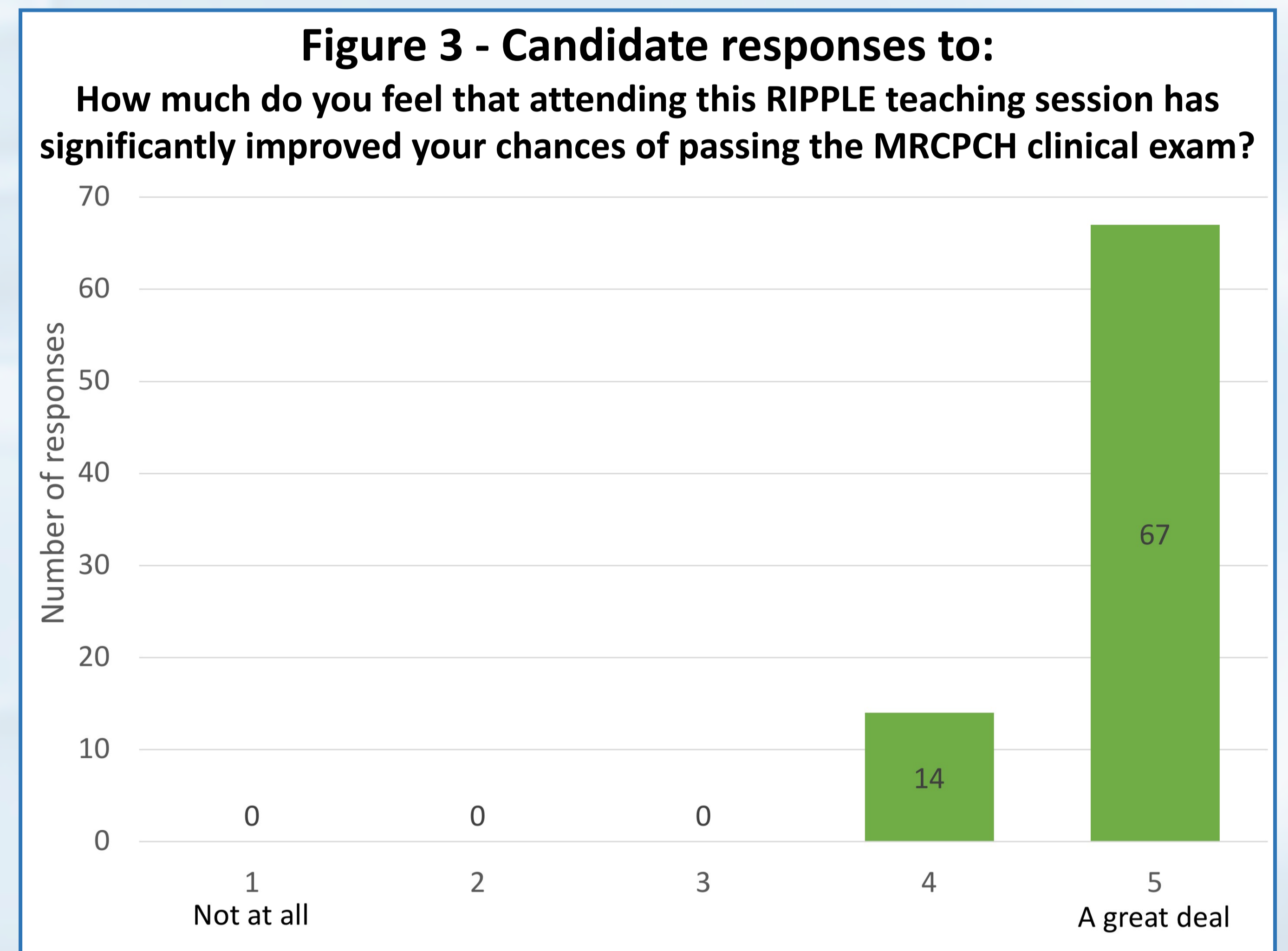
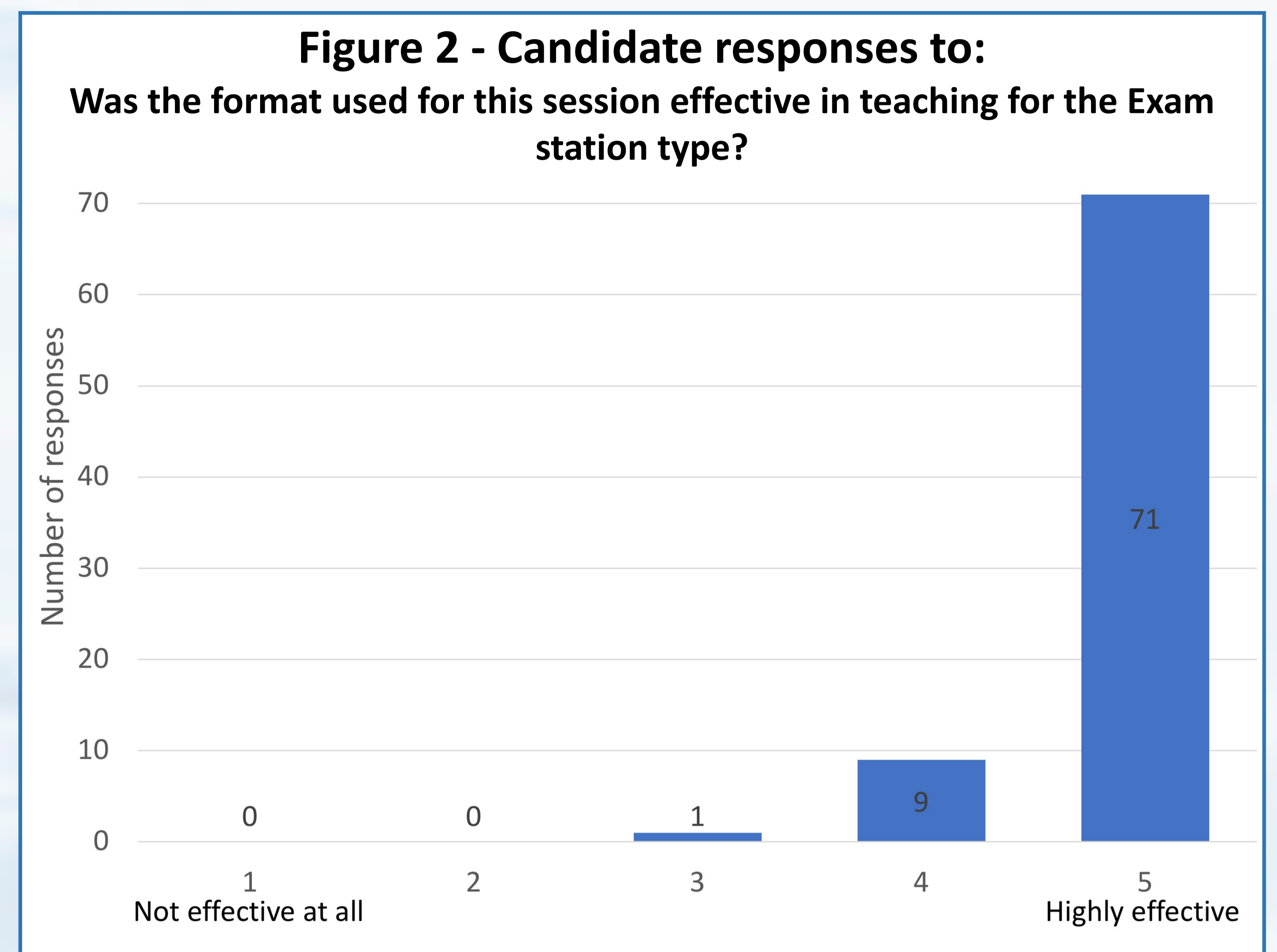
- We recruited tutors to run sessions virtually using Microsoft Teams
- Tutors were advised to emulate the format of the various examination stations.
- For guidance we used the candidate documents published by the RCPCH.<sup>1</sup>
- 10 candidates participated in the programme
- We recruited 15 tutors to facilitate sessions.
- Total of 23 sessions over 6 weeks covering the different station formats (Figure 1).
- Feedback was collected after every session using a Google Forms questionnaire.
- We collected quantitative and qualitative data from these responses.

**Figure 1 - Range of station types covered by RIPPLE Teaching sessions**



### Results

- 81 feedback responses were received across all sessions.
- Mean feedback response rate 68% (range 33-100%).
- 88% of candidates indicated that the teaching format used was “Highly effective” (Figure 2).
- 83% of candidates felt attending had improved their chance of passing the examination “A great deal” (Figure 3).
- Qualitative feedback for the programme was overall very positive (Figure 4).



### Conclusion

- We successfully developed an effective virtual teaching programme for the Adapted Clinical Examination.
- The programme was well received by the candidates.
- The format used by our group could readily be adapted to other regional programmes.

**Figure 4 – Word Cloud of Qualitative feedback received for the programme**



### References

1. <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/mrcpch-covid-adapted-clinical-exam-information-hub>

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