

Background

- Exposing students to pharmacy early on can spark an interest in science, healthcare, and helping others
- While many programs have focused on high school students, little has been done to focus on the middle school space

Objective

- To evaluate the feasibility and impact of a pilot middle school focused pharmacy educational program on student understanding and perception of the profession of pharmacy

Methods

- This study was an evaluation of student perception and opinion of the pilot program. The University of Pittsburgh's IRB classified this program as exempt
- Sessions included:
 - Compounding lab
 - High fidelity human case simulation
 - Molecule docking simulation
 - Tour of the school and wet lab
 - Virtual problem-based learning scenario



Figure 1: Compounding lab



Figure 2: Student attendees



Figure 3: High fidelity human case simulation

Methods

- A pre and post survey were given to all students
 - 1st survey focus: knowledge of a pharmacist's education and career opportunities
 - 2nd survey focus: evaluation of the activities
- Descriptive statistics and Wilcoxon signed rank tests were used

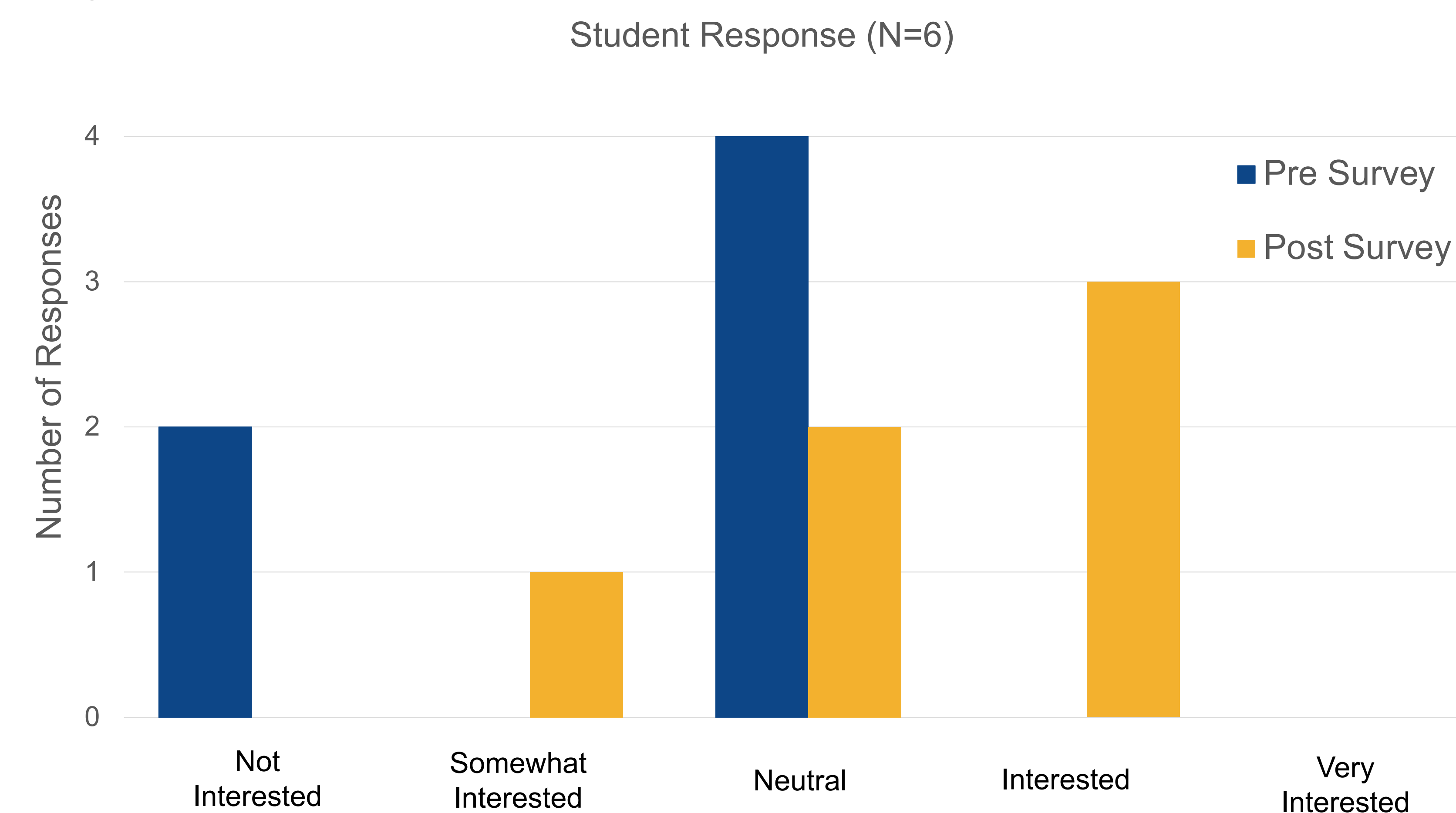
Results

- 7 students attended and only 6 filled out the surveys

	N=7
Age: (median; range)	13;11-14
Sex: % male	57
Ethnicity: % Caucasian	100
Grade: (median; range)	8; 6-9

Table 1: Student Demographics

Figure 4: Student's interest in becoming a pharmacist

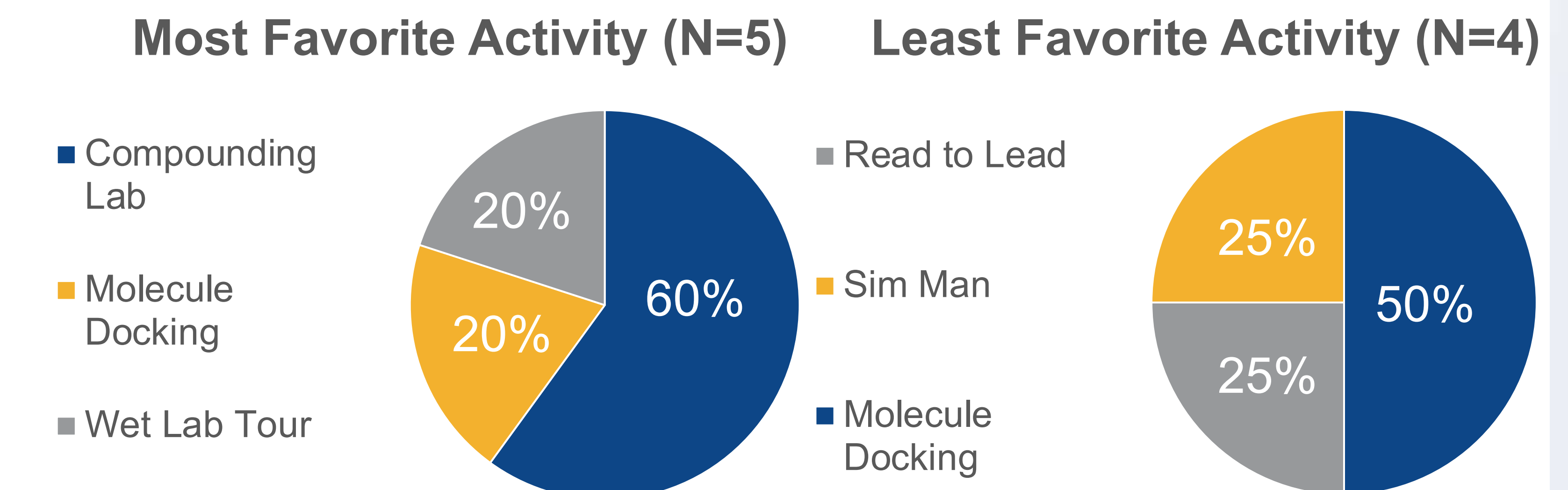


Results

Table 2: On a scale of 1-5, what is your understanding of what a pharmacist does? (1 = no understanding, 5 = great understanding) (N=6)

Overall Understanding	Median	Range	P-value
Baseline	3	2-4	< 0.03
Exit	4	4-5	

Figure 5: Student's most and least favorite activities



Conclusions

- Results show that early immersion into the profession of pharmacy is of interest to middle school students and a larger program should be conducted

Next Steps:

- One limitation to the program is the lack of diversity. Our school is passionate about equal representation and in a larger program we would recruit from underrepresented areas
- Tailor the activities to what we found to be most beneficial in helping the students learn the pharmacist's role