

# Analysis of University students' understanding of antimicrobial resistance and impact of becoming an antibiotic guardian.

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## INTRODUCTION

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global issue and it has been identified that education, understanding and preventative measures are crucial to controlling resistance with students being a specific target group for education about AMR as they are poor antibiotic users<sup>1</sup>. Students are an important group for Public Health England (PHE) and the antibiotic guardian campaign in order to implement the NHS England 5-year antimicrobial resistance strategy<sup>2</sup>.

The aim of the study is to raise awareness of and assess student knowledge of antimicrobial guardianship and AMR in students at the University of Huddersfield, and to compare to a previous student AMR campaign.

## METHOD

This study received ethical approval. A student questionnaire, previously developed was used as part of an AMR campaign within the University of Huddersfield during World Antibiotic Awareness week in November 2016. Students from all courses were signed up to become antibiotic guardians. A cohort of 3rd year pharmacy students became antibiotic guardians using the NHS handwashing technique to support their pledge.

## RESULTS

A total of 122 students (69 pharmacy students and 53 others) signed up to become antibiotic guardians resulting in Greater Huddersfield CCG being the 7<sup>th</sup> highest nationally. Healthcare students accounted for 56% of the 43 students who completed a questionnaire (fig 1) and 60% of the 43 students correctly identified antibiotics were used for bacterial infections, which is 12% less than 2016. Whilst 97% identified the importance of hand-washing techniques, only 67% used the correct technique. 46% missed a dose or stopped their antibiotics before the end of a course (down 10% from 2016). 65% (fig 2) would use a pharmacist first for help (improvement on 2016), but 35% would see another healthcare professional first.

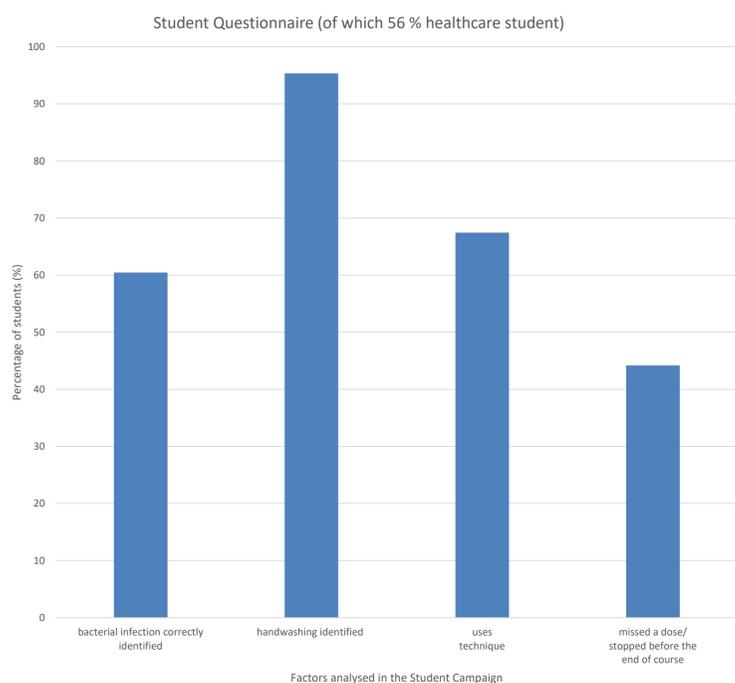


Figure 1 – Responses to student questionnaire (n=43)

## RESULTS cont

Who the students would see first for help (n=43)

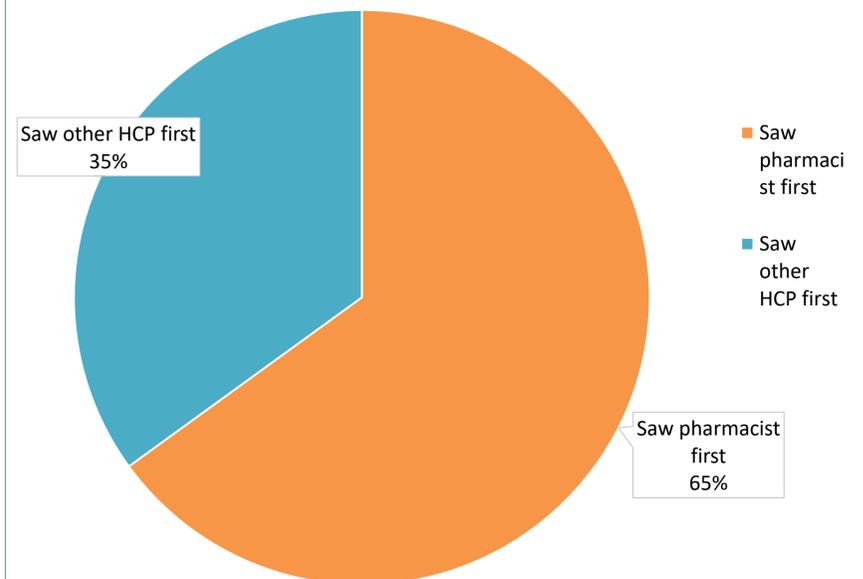


Figure 2– University students who would seek help from a pharmacist first or another healthcare professional.

## CONCLUSION

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## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Public Health England. 2016. Report of the English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (ESPAUR). [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/575626/ESPAUR\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575626/ESPAUR_Report_2016.pdf) (accessed 5 June 2017)

<sup>2</sup>Department of Health. 2013. UK 5 Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-antimicrobial-resistance-strategy-2013-to-2018> (accessed 24 May 2017)