



A Quantitative Investigation of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Use of Simulation-Based Education Among Registered Dietitians in Ireland

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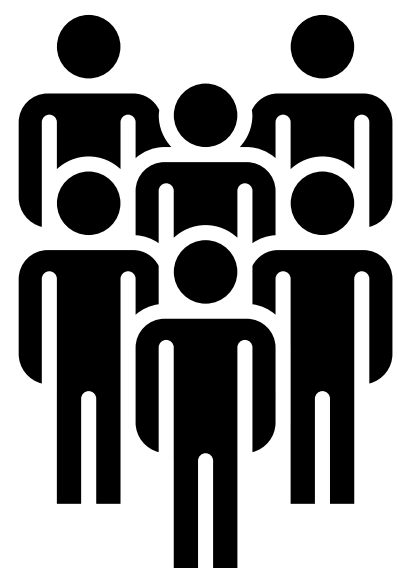
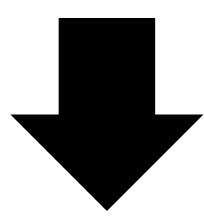
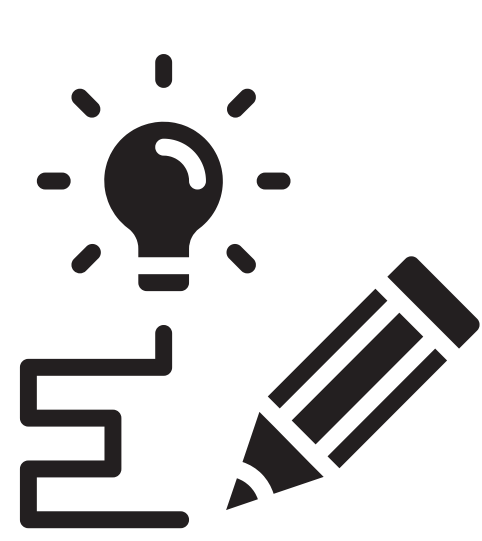
Introduction

Simulation-based education (SBE) is widely used across health professions to support clinical skill development.^{1,2,3} However, its use in dietetics remains limited. Understanding registered dietitians’ knowledge, attitudes and current use of SBE is important to inform its integration into pre-registration training in Ireland.

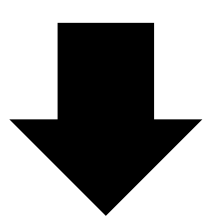
The aims of this study were to explore registered dietitians’ knowledge, attitudes and current use of SBE, and to identify perceived facilitators, barriers and predictors of use and interest in further training.

Methodology

An online questionnaire was developed using established Knowledge-Attitudes-Practice tools⁴

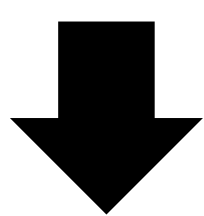
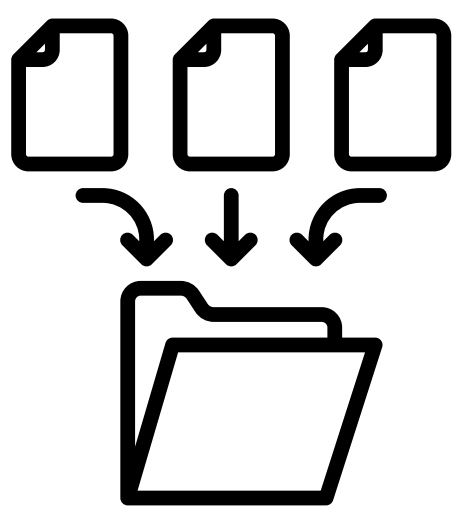


Piloted and distributed to CORU-registered dietitians across practice settings



Data collection:

- Demographic data
- Familiarity
- Attitudes
- Perceived barriers and facilitators



Statistical analysis (using SPSS Version 27):

- Chi-Square
- Correlations
- Logistic regression



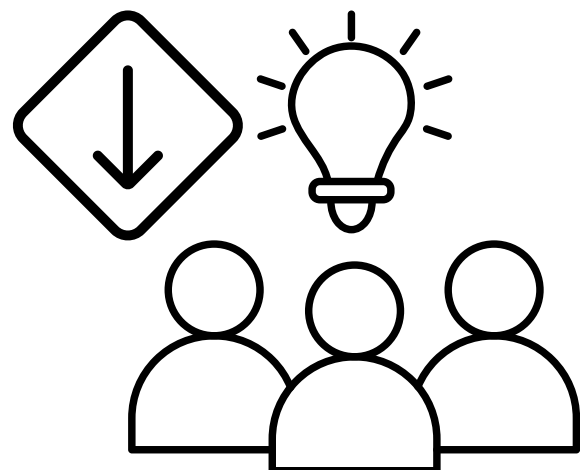
Results

A total of 114 dietitians completed the survey (8% of CORU-registered dietitians)

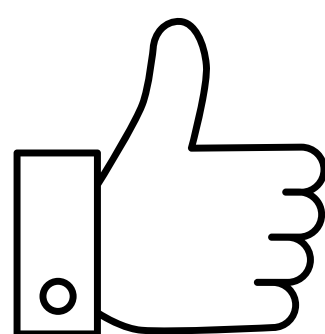
Most worked clinically and lacked formal SBE training



Familiarity with SBE was low

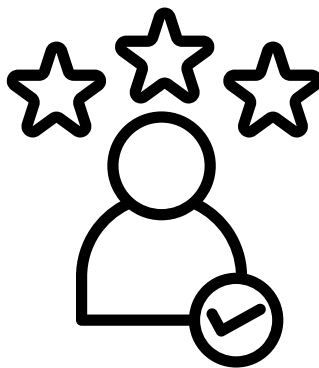


Only 14% reported current use



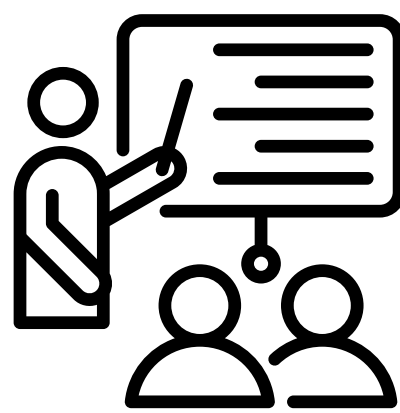
Attitudes towards SBE were positive

Higher positivity associated with greater familiarity and fewer concerns about cost and resources



More years of experience was the only predictor to current use

Barriers included limited knowledge, training and access to resources, alongside a need for greater institutional support



Conclusions

Irish dietitians demonstrate positive attitudes towards SBE but inconsistent use. Findings highlight the need for national guidance, structured frameworks, training opportunities, and further research to support effective integration of SBE into pre-registration dietetics education.

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References:

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