

# Medical students' reflections on the family topic treatment in the family medicine undergraduate program



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# Introduction

- Department of Family Medicine University of Tartu was established in 1992
- Family medicine is a separate subject in the undergraduate medical curriculum since 1993
- In the 2nd academic year- introductory course- 8 hours lectures and 16 hours practical work
- **In the 6th year** – 96 hours practicals
- The topics which are discussed during a seminars: prevention in family practice, consultation skills, men's health issues in family practice, women's health issues, child health issues, adolescent's health issues, cooperation and communication with other specialists, **family in family practice**



# “Family in family medicine”

## ■ **Subtopics:**

- Definition and structure of family
- Family systems theory
- Family systems assessment methods
- Family life cycle
- Family violence
- Brief counselling methods

## ■ **Teaching methods:**

- Discussion with students
- Clinical case-scenarios
- Home visits
- Writing a case study



## Aim

- To assess 6th year students' opinions and knowledge about family related issues
- To assess students' reflections on the family topic treatment in the family medicine undergraduate program



# Methods

## ■ Before the course

- Opinions
- Knowledge

## ■ After the course

- \*Opinions
- Knowledge
- Reflections

\* Questionnaire – open and closed questions, satisfaction on 10 point scale

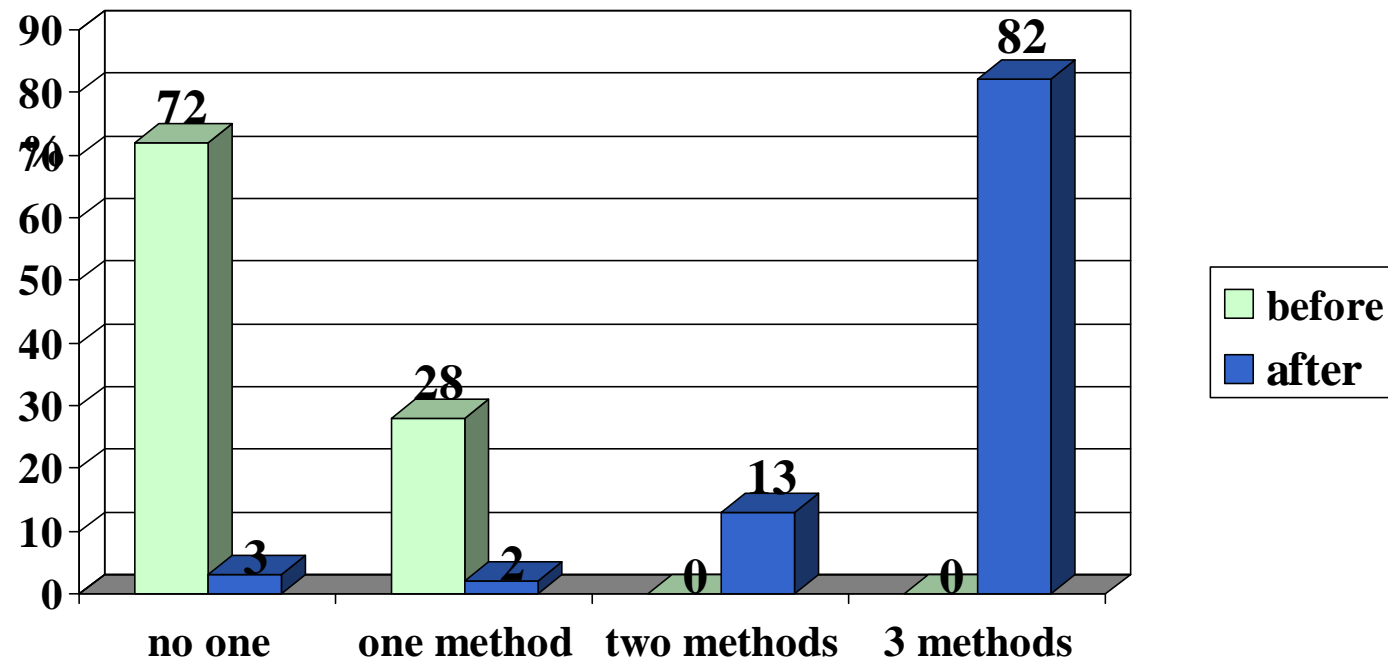
\* From March 2001 to May 2002 to all 6th year medical students who went family medicine program in our department



# Results

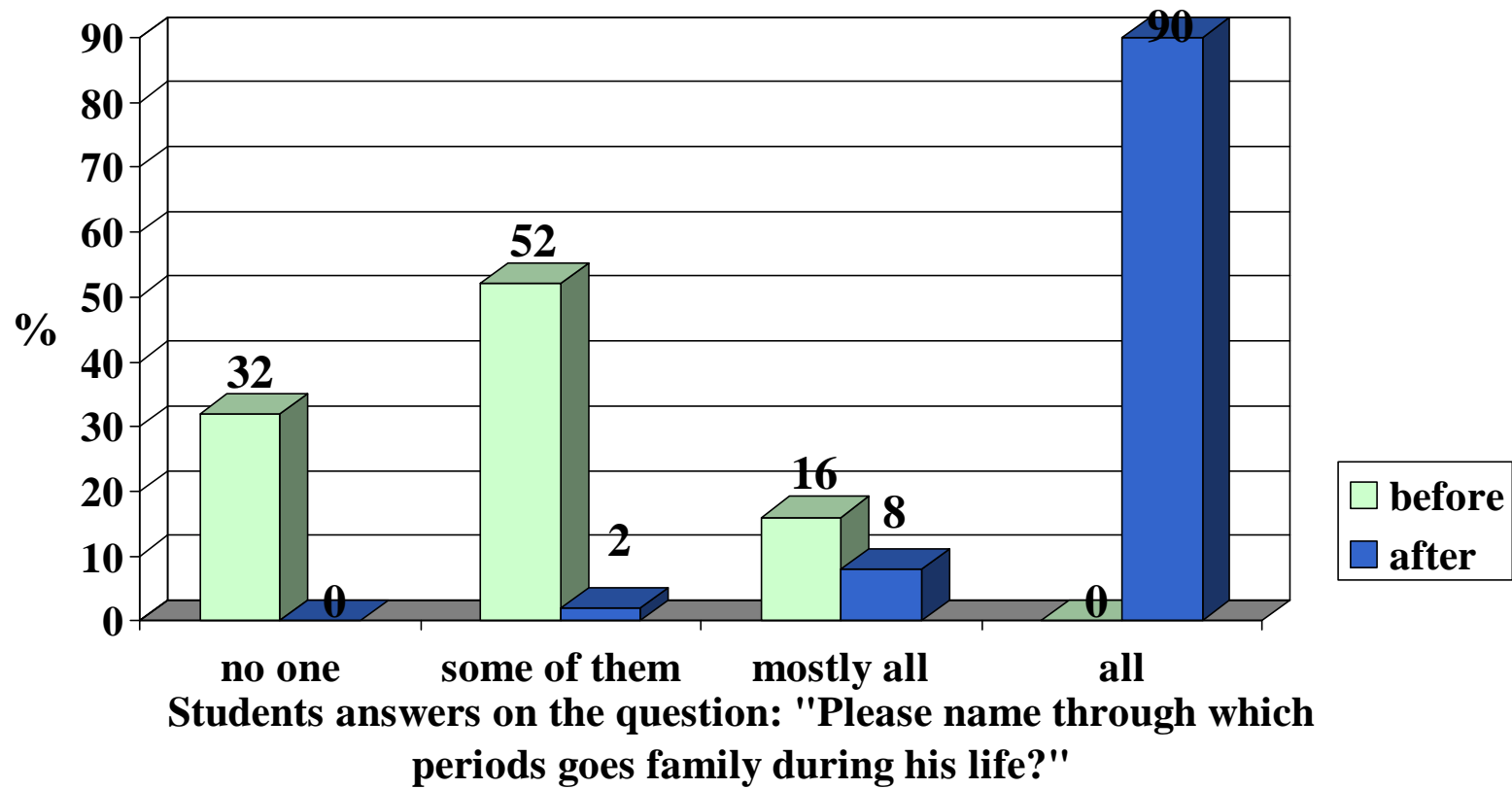
- 84 out of 121 students filled the questionnaire (69%)
- 75% (N=63) female students

# Results: knowledge



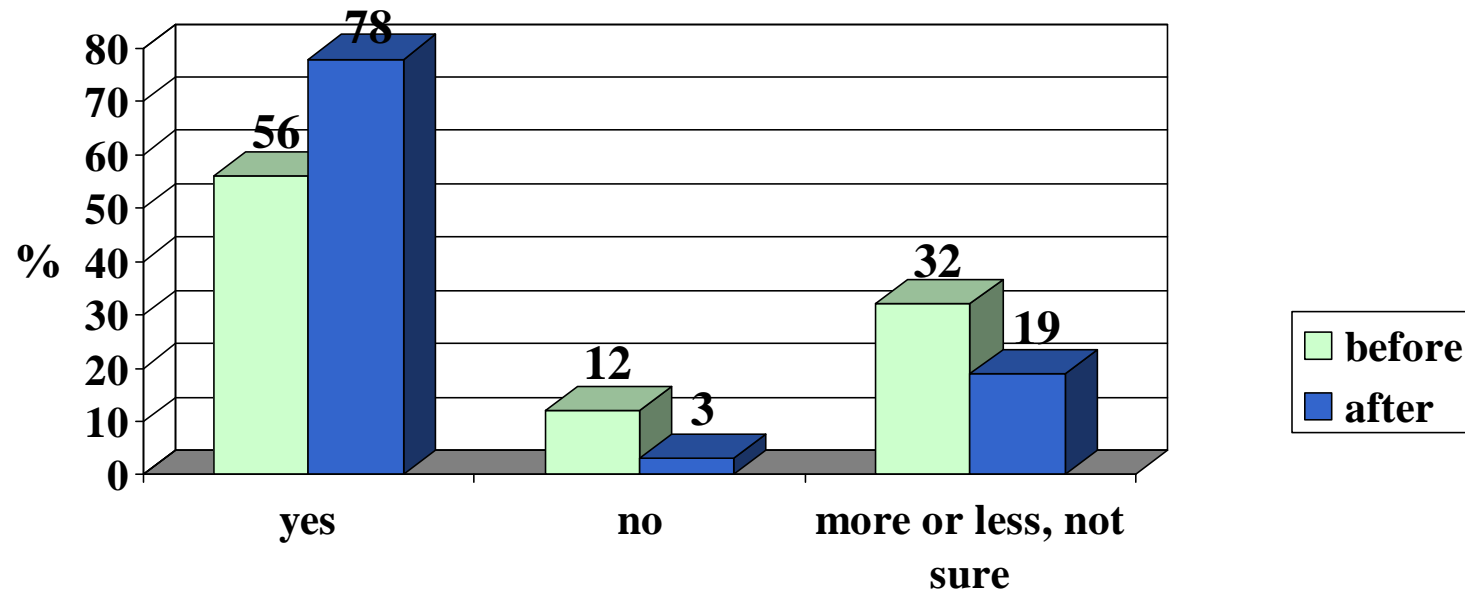
Answer on the question: "Please name the methods of family system assessment"

# Results: knowledge



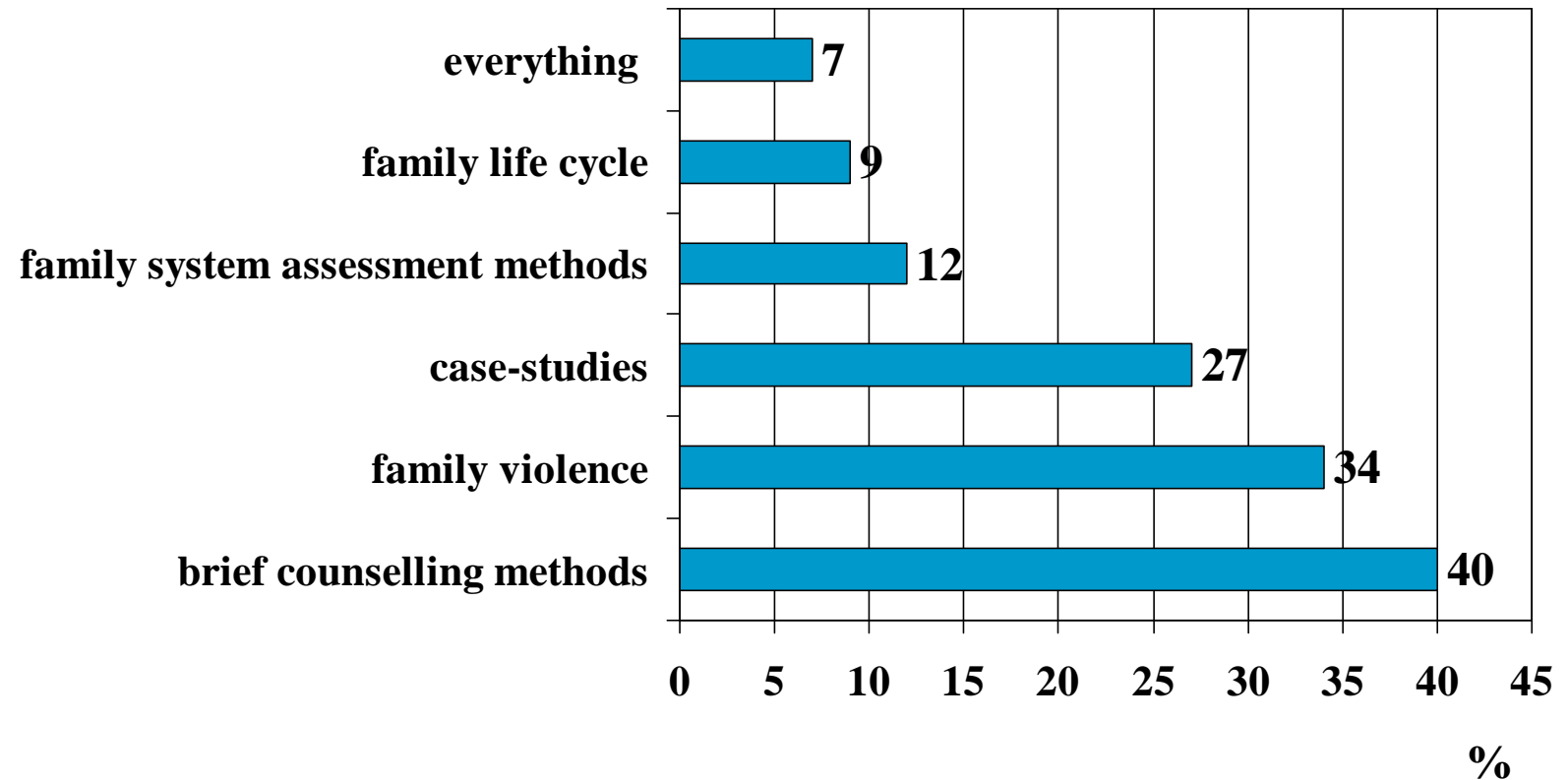


# Results:opinions



Students answered on the question: "Do you think this topic is necessary and valuable to include into family medicine program?"

## Results: reflections



Answer on the question : Which one of the discussed topics you considered the most interesting and valuable?"

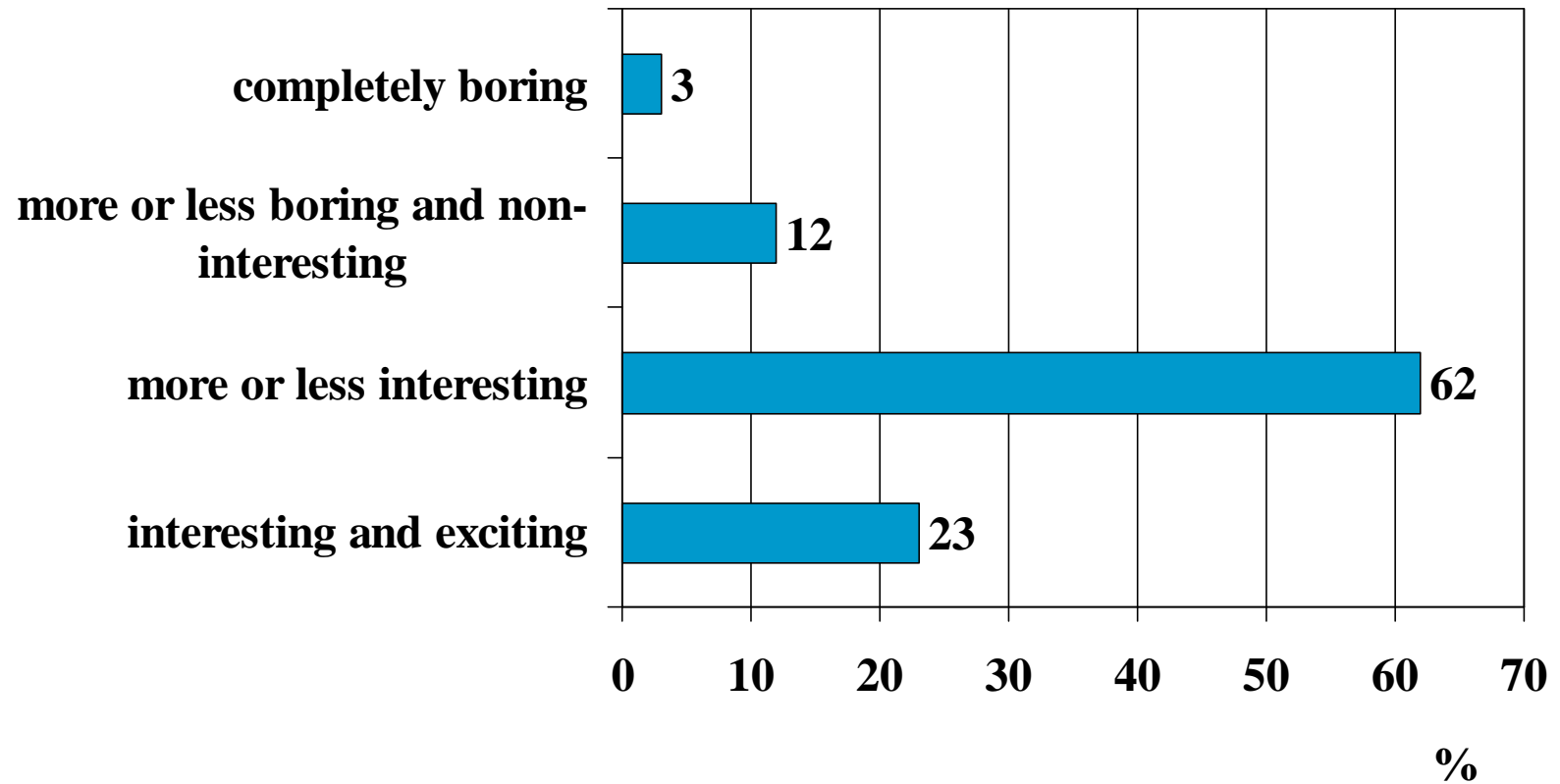


## Results: reflections

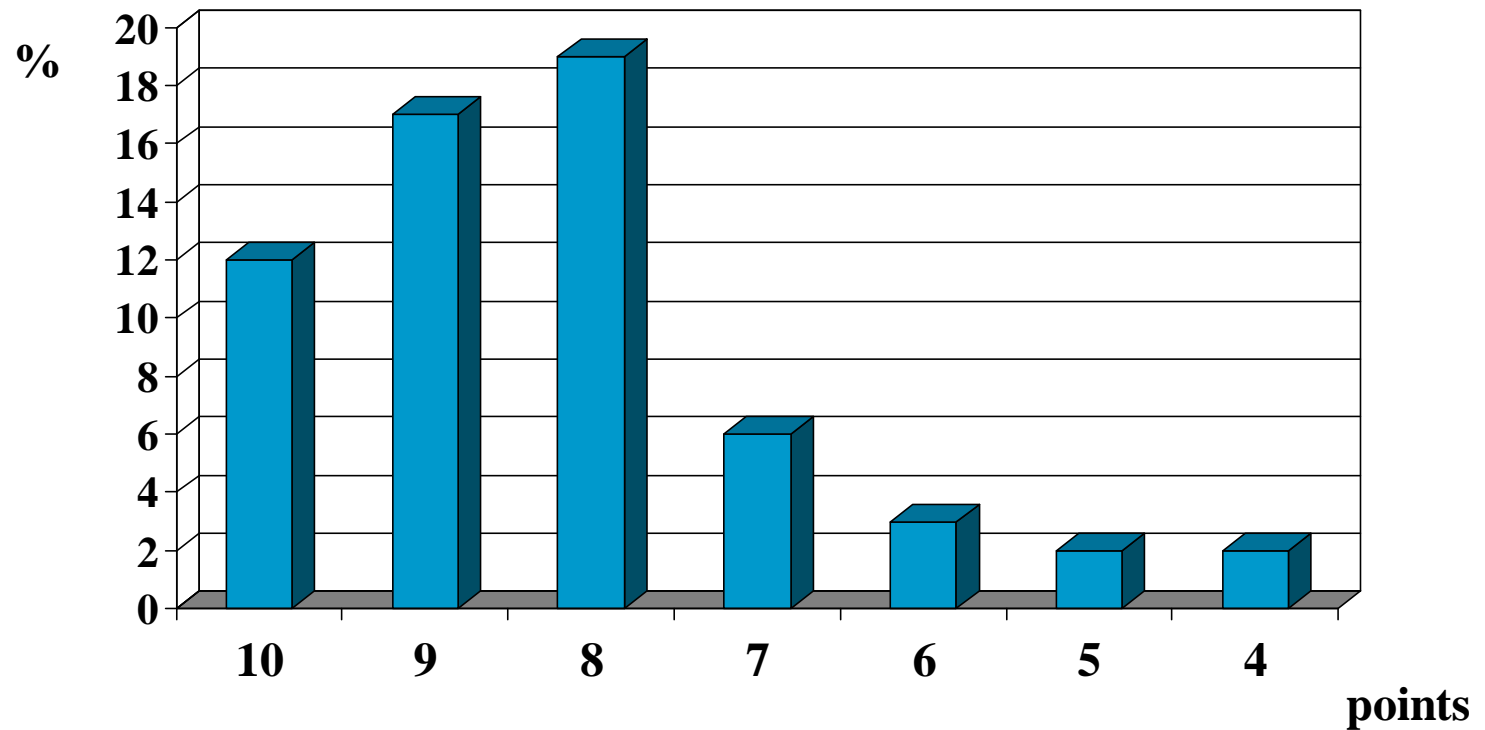
Question: “Which topic you consider “not interesting and non-valuable?”

- Didn't reply – 38
- Nothing is non-valuable- 27
- Family system assessment methods- 6
- Family life cycle – 4
- Structure of family – 3
- Brief counselling methods – 1
- Case-studies – 1
- Everything was non-valuable - 4

# Results: evaluation the interest of the seminar



# Results: satisfaction



The mean grade of satisfaction was 7.9



# Conclusions

During a course:

- Increase of knowledge
- Improvement of opinions
- Mostly high satisfaction

After looking a feedback, some changes in program were implemented: more case scenarios



# Brief counselling method- **BATHE**

- **Background** – How is going with your life ? What was happened in your life?
- **Affect** – What kind of feelings does it make?
- **Trouble** – What is worrying you most?
- **Handling** – How you cope with that?
- **Empathy** – Expressing of empathy



## Example of case-study

Typical family: father, mother and 2 children. One of child has serious chronic disease. Please assess of functioning of family in given situation: what kind of influence may have illness of one family member to the others and to the relationships between family members? What kind of role can they take? How can family situation and roles of family members influence the course of illness of the child? What kind of role should have a family doctor in this situation ?