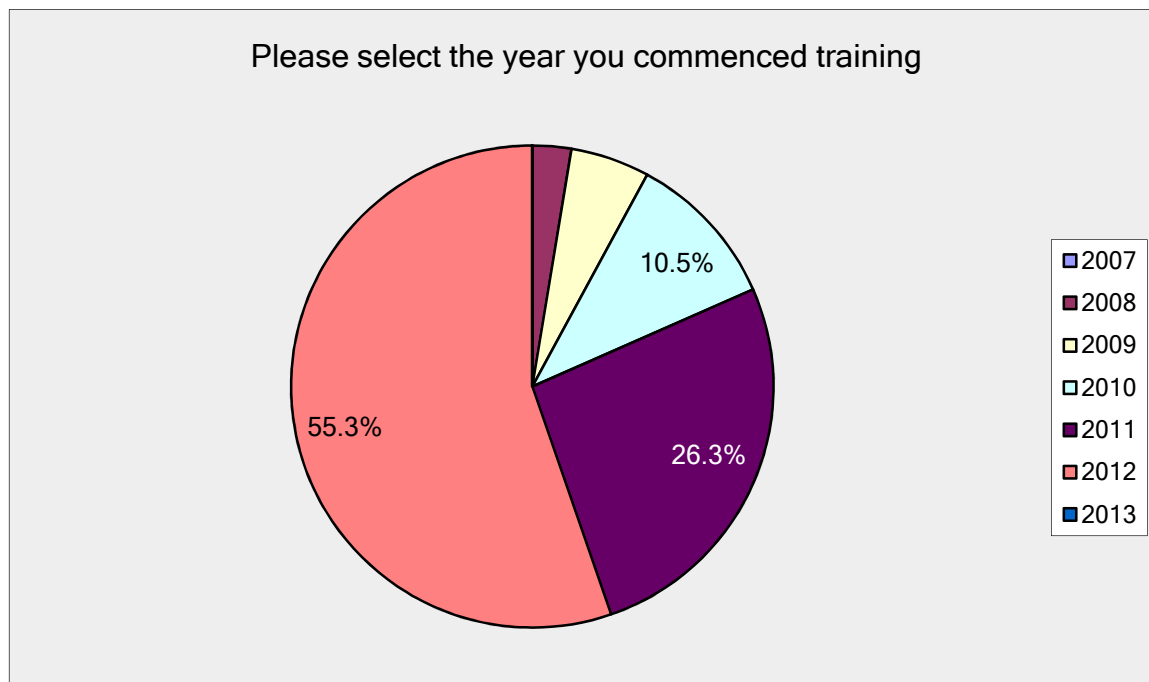


SURVEY OF TRAINEE PSYCHOLOGISTS

In spring 2013, the SIGN Healthcare Professionals in Training group ran a survey of all psychologists in training across Scotland. The purpose was to seek the views of trainees about the level of awareness of SIGN and its products and give them an opportunity to suggest new ways in which SIGN could support their training. 39 trainee psychologists responded and the results are summarised below accompanied by some comments from SIGN.

QUESTION ONE – stage of training

1. Please select the year you commenced training		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2007	0.0%	0
2008	2.6%	1
2009	5.3%	2
2010	10.5%	4
2011	26.3%	10
2012	55.3%	21
2013	0.0%	0
answered question		38
skipped question		1



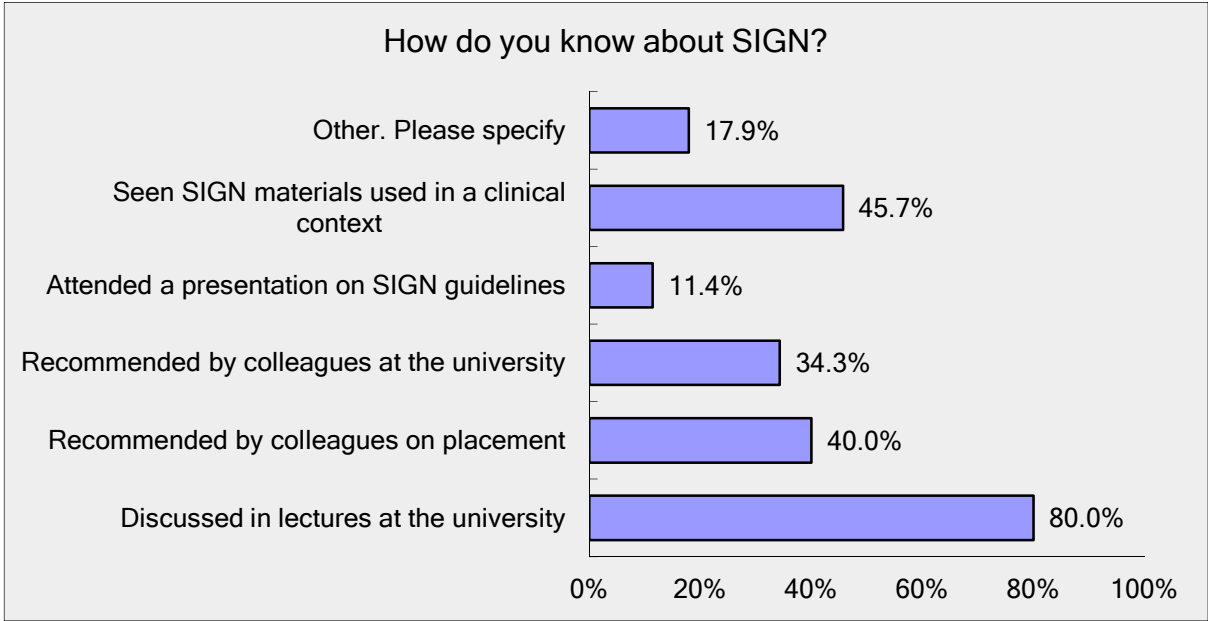
COMMENT FROM SIGN – The majority of those who responded to the survey are in their first or second year of study. By the end of year one, students have completed placements which allow for exposure to SIGN guidelines in clinical contexts.

QUESTION TWO – Awareness of SIGN

Q2a Are you aware of SIGN?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	97.4%	37
No	2.6%	1
answered question		38
skipped question		1



Q2b How do you know about SIGN? (Select all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Discussed in lectures at the university	80.0%	28
Recommended by colleagues on placement	40.0%	14
Recommended by colleagues at the university	34.3%	12
Attended a presentation on SIGN guidelines	11.4%	4
Seen SIGN materials used in a clinical context	45.7%	16
Other. Please specify	17.9%	7
answered question		35
skipped question		4

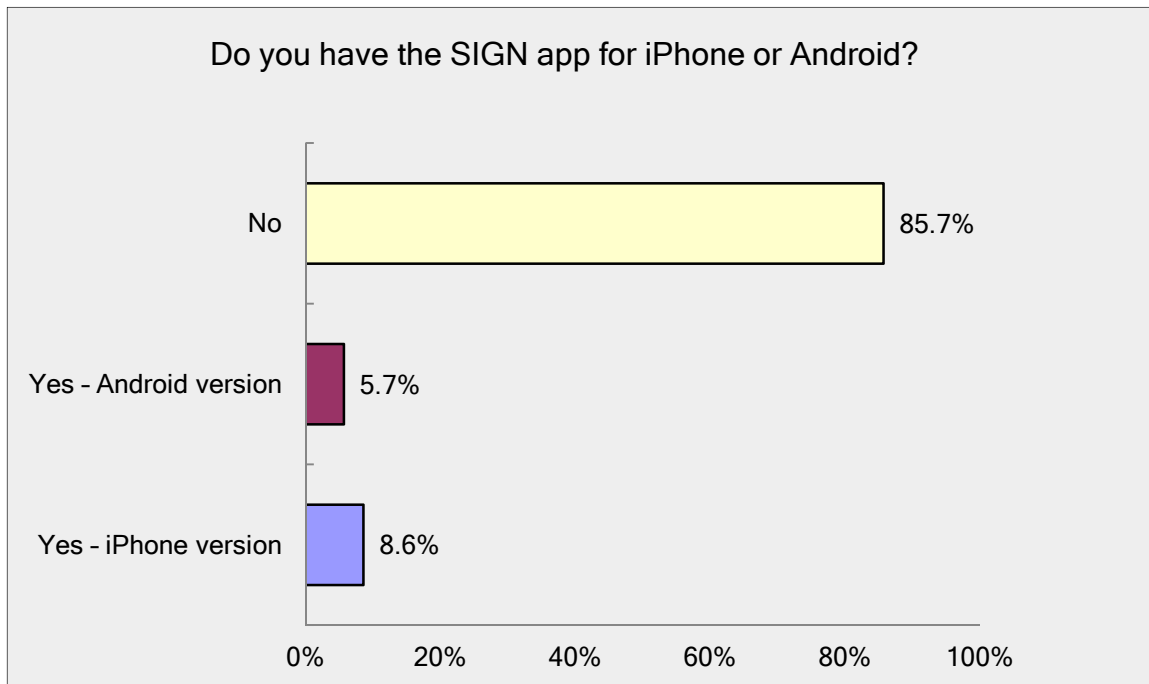


COMMENT FROM SIGN - We are reassured that the majority of responders were aware of SIGN before completing the survey. The results of these questions indicate that most trainee psychologists had been introduced to SIGN guidelines at university, perhaps reflecting that the majority of respondents were in their first year of training and may have had limited opportunities to see SIGN guidelines used in a clinical context. Other uses mentioned included involvement with research projects based on SIGN guidelines, use as interview aids and familiarity during work experience.

QUESTION THREE – The SIGN app

Q3a Do you have the SIGN app for iPhone or Android?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - iphone version	8.6%	3
Yes - Android version	5.7%	2
No	85.7%	30
answered question		35
skipped question		4



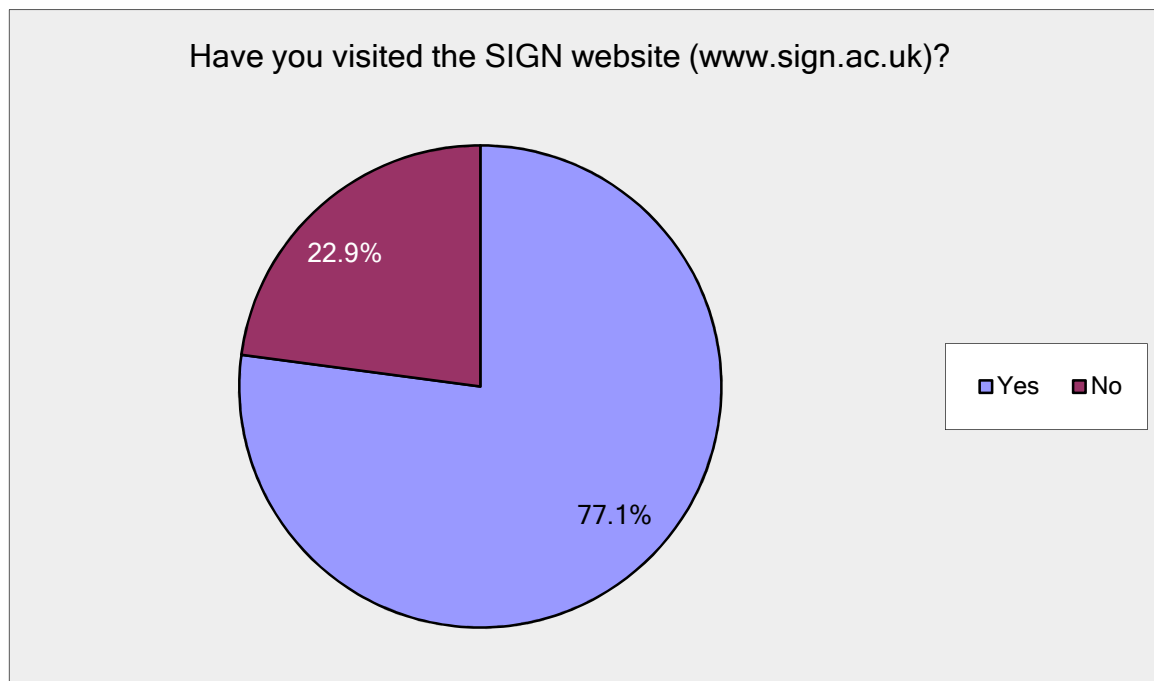
Q3b How often do you access the app? Please select one answer:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	0.0%	0
Twice weekly	0.0%	0
Weekly	0.0%	0
Fortnightly	0.0%	0
Monthly	0.0%	0
Less often	100.0%	5
answered question		5
skipped question		34

SIGN COMMENT – The free SIGN app was developed to allow instant access to SIGN recommendations when referring to a full guideline is not practical or possible. Although it was the winner of the 2011 NHSScotland e-Health award and, by December 2013, has been downloaded almost 100,000 times, the results of this question show that awareness of the app among trainees could be improved. SIGN will continue to work with NHS Education Scotland to promote its products to trainee audiences, and collaborate with universities to arrange opportunities to explain the materials available to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Our respondents asked for more guidelines to be included on the app with more focus on mental health. We update the coverage of current SIGN guidelines on a regular basis.

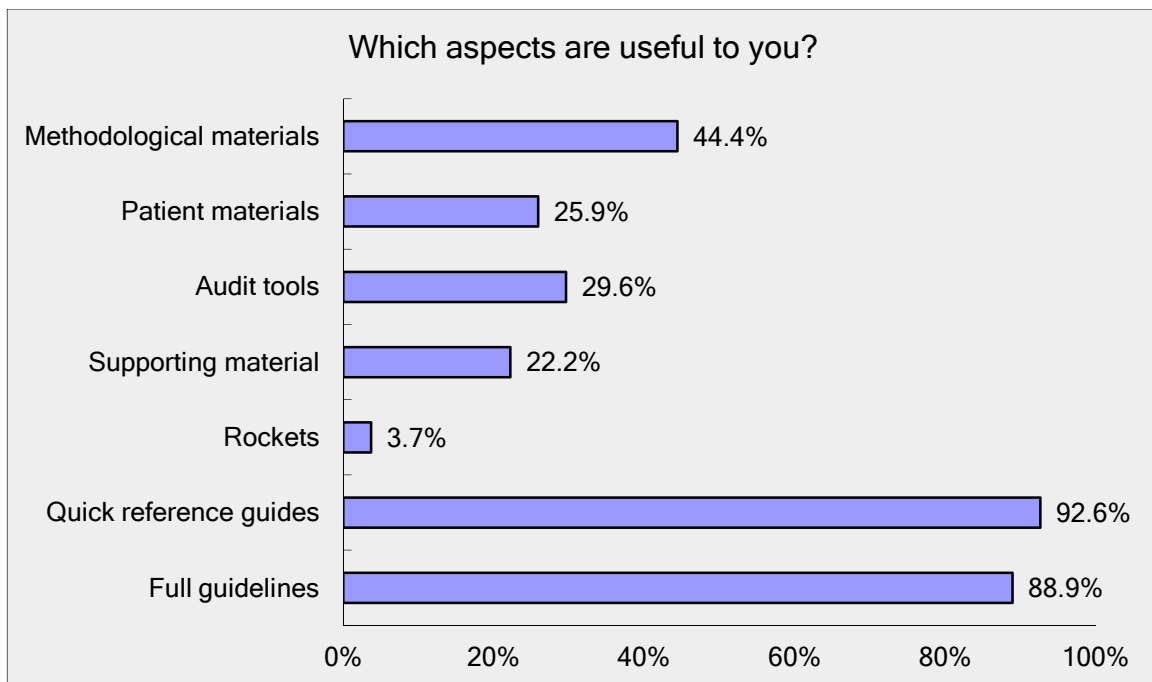
QUESTION FOUR – Preference for SIGN products

Q4a: Have you visited the SIGN website (www.sign.ac.uk)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	77.1%	27
No	22.9%	8
answered question		35
skipped question		4



Q4b: Which aspects are useful to you? (Select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Full guidelines	88.9%	24
Quick reference guides	92.6%	25
Rockets	3.7%	1
Supporting material	22.2%	6
Audit tools	29.6%	8
Patient materials	25.9%	7
Methodological materials	44.4%	12
answered question		27
skipped question		12

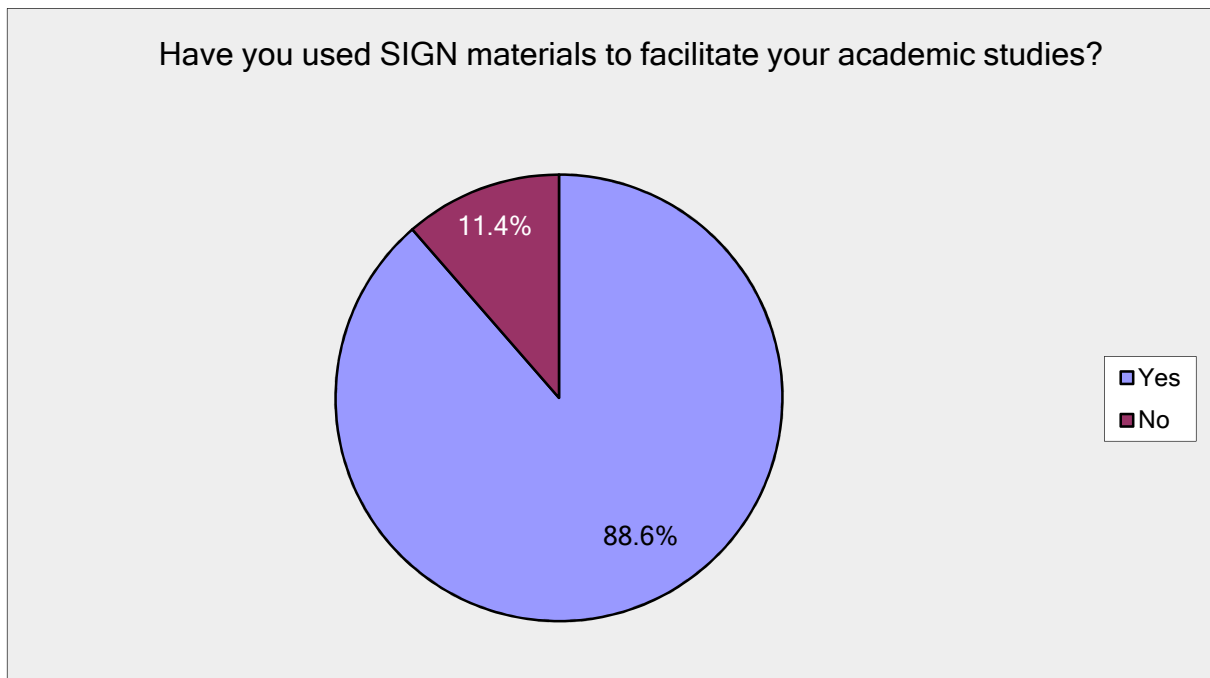


SIGN COMMENT – SIGN produces a range of materials associated with each topic it considers. While some topics have audit tools and patient versions, there are full guidelines and quick reference guides for every topic included on SIGN's work programme. This reflects the fact that these are the main mechanisms for communicating key clinical recommendations, and we are encouraged that these are considered useful by the large majority of respondents. We are also pleased that some individuals find the range of other supporting materials to be helpful, and will be continuing to provide these on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTION FIVE – Use of SIGN products

Q5a: Have you used SIGN materials to facilitate your academic studies?

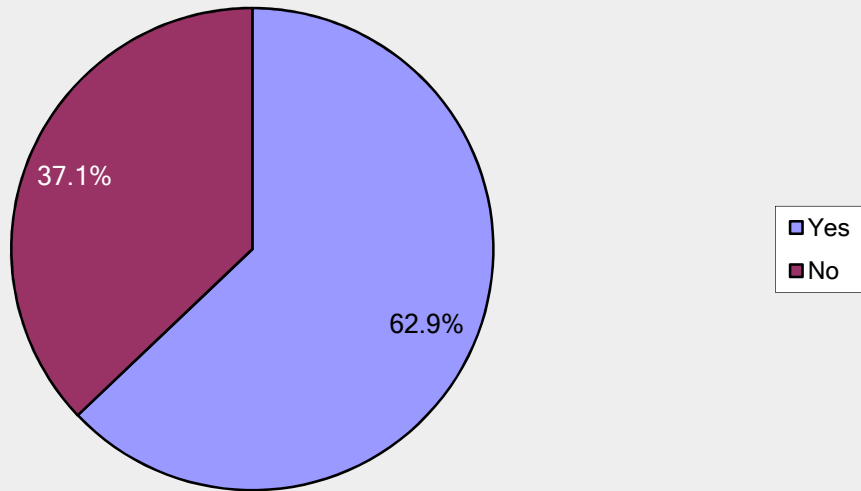
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.6%	31
No	11.4%	4
<i>answered question</i>		35
<i>skipped question</i>		4



Q5b: Have you used SIGN materials to aid your clinical work?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.9%	22
No	37.1%	13
<i>answered question</i>		35
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Have you used SIGN materials to aid your clinical work?

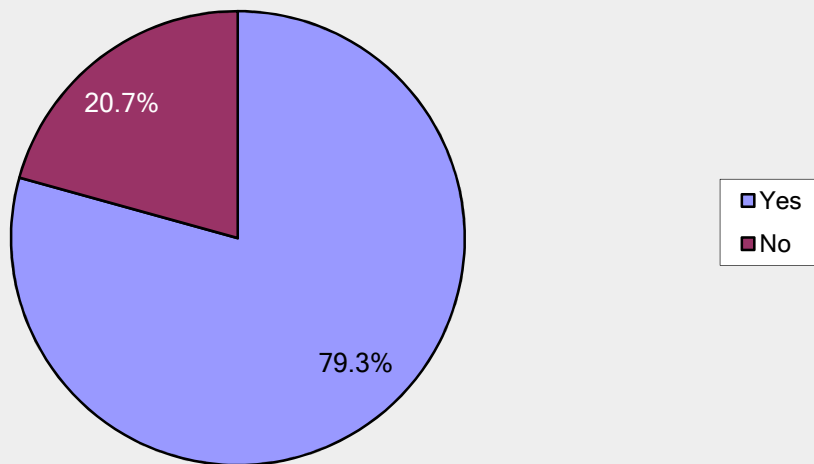


83% of respondents indicated that they had previously completed evaluation or research or were currently engaged in such activity. These individuals were asked to what extent SIGN guidelines had informed this research.

Q5d: Have the SIGN guidelines informed your work?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes (Go to Q6)	79.3%	23
No	20.7%	6
<i>answered question</i>		29
<i>skipped question</i>		10

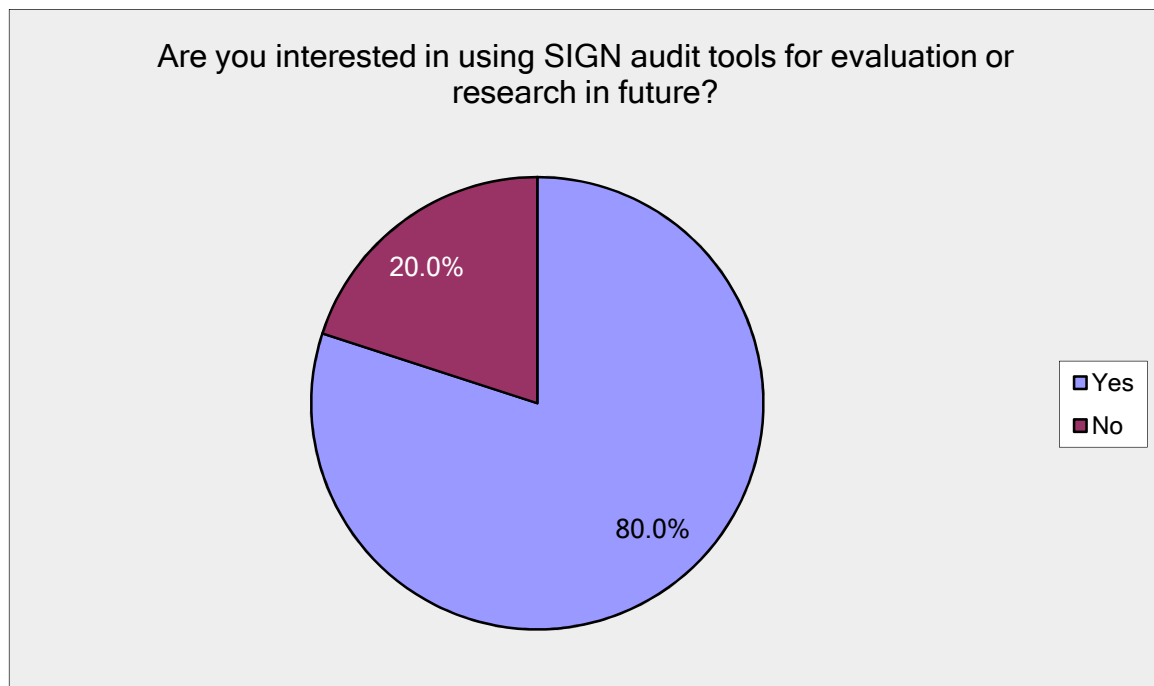
Have the SIGN guidelines informed your work?



SIGN COMMENT – SIGN is pleased that the majority of respondents have made use of SIGN guidelines in either clinical, academic or other circumstances. The relatively lower proportion of users in a clinical context may be related to the higher percentage of respondents in their first year of training, and also to the fact that there are relatively few SIGN guidelines orientated exclusively towards psychological medicine.

QUESTION SIX – Audit tools

Q6a: Are you interested in using SIGN audit tools for evaluation or research in future?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.0%	28
No	20.0%	7
answered question		35
skipped question		4



SIGN COMMENT – The SIGN Healthcare Professionals in Training group has authored a number of simple audit tools based on key recommendations of published guidelines. These are intended for use by trainees and, once completed (a minimum of two completed audit cycles), if audit data is uploaded back to SIGN we issue a certificate of completion which can be included in training portfolios. To promote the use of audit tools, NHS Education for Scotland has made their evidence based medicine module (part of the Doctors Online Training System – DOTS) mandatory. This will increase the exposure of trainees to the suite of existing SIGN audit tools and encourage the development of new tools.

QUESTION SEVEN – Suggestions

We asked respondents to suggest further ways in which SIGN could support trainee psychologists. Suggestions included raising awareness of SIGN products in trainees, focusing products on mental health issues, holding CPD and training events. In addition, respondents indicated interests in developing new audit tools and joining the SIGN HCPiT group.