

Foundation Programme Supervision: Developing an Essential Checklist for Educational and Clinical Supervisors

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BACKGROUND

- Educational and clinical supervisors (ES/CS) play a central role in providing guidance, support and assessing foundation doctors (FDs).
- ES/CS lacking consistent training through accessible, user-friendly and high-quality resources causes significant challenges:
 - ES/CS can struggle to manage FDs, which can result in poor outcomes for FDs by hindering timely support, and decision-making regarding trainees' progression, and ultimately can lead to a decline in the overall quality of the care delivered by the trust and the safety of its users.
 - The absence of clear direction can leave supervisors feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about their responsibilities.
- There is a need for a closed communication loop between supervisors and an independent group at individual trusts through anonymous feedback to enable actionable responses. Moreover, a uniform means to convey trust-specific up-to-date information is needed to facilitate consistent high-quality training and guarantee alignment in supervision.

METHODS

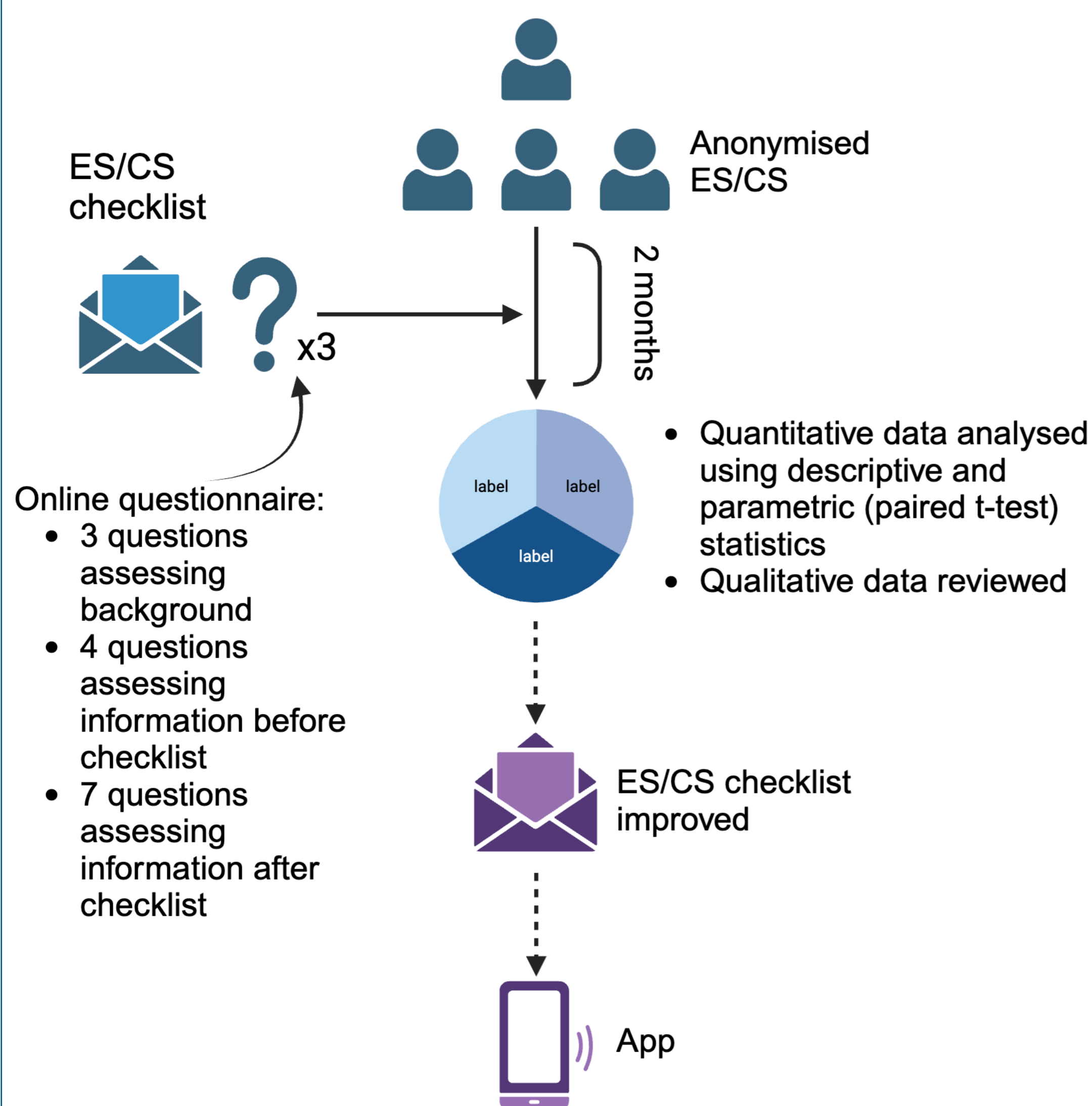


Figure 1. Diagram of our methodology. Created with BioRender.com.

RESULTS

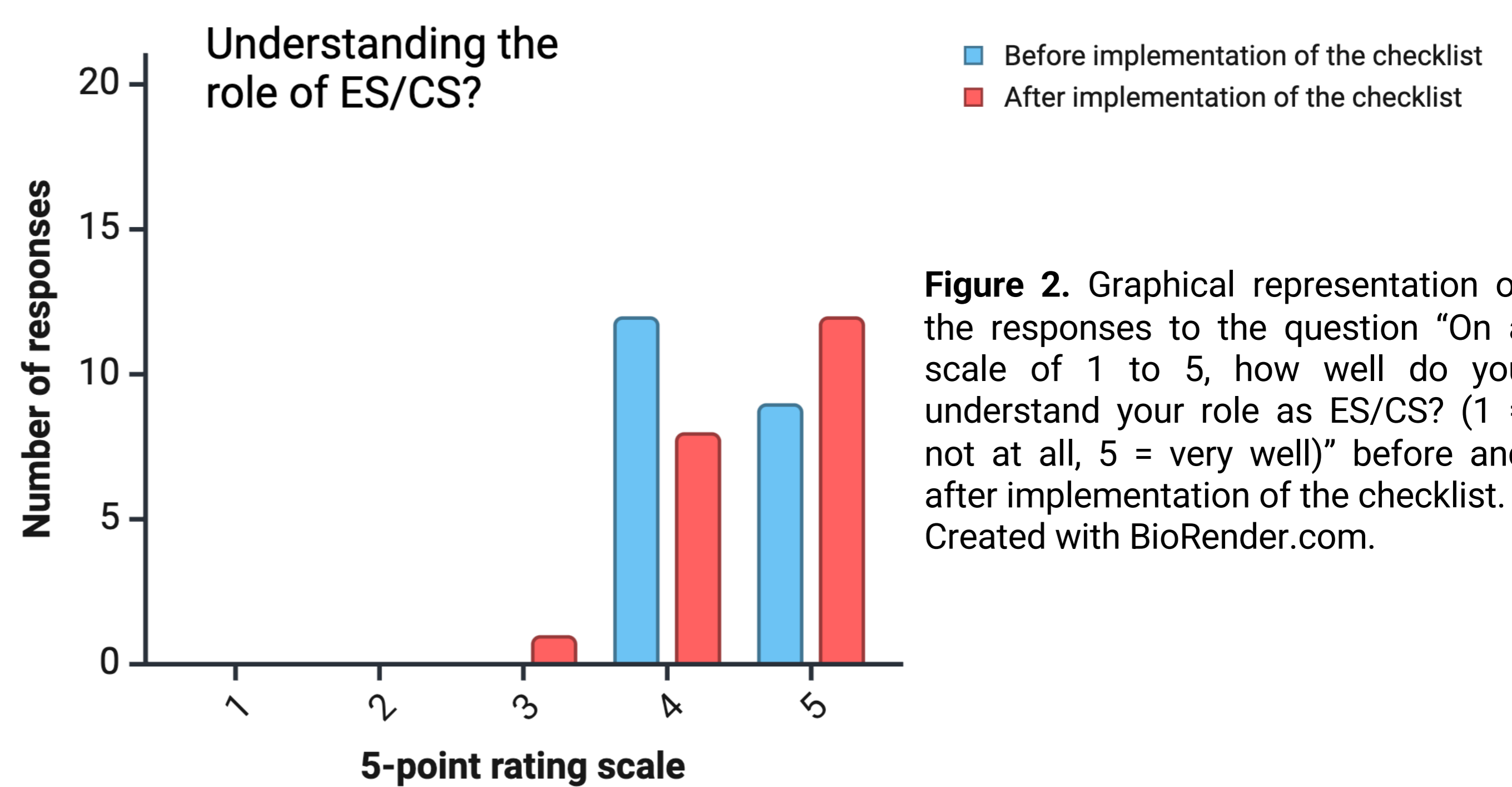


Figure 2. Graphical representation of the responses to the question "On a scale of 1 to 5, how well do you understand your role as ES/CS? (1 = not at all, 5 = very well)" before and after implementation of the checklist. Created with BioRender.com.

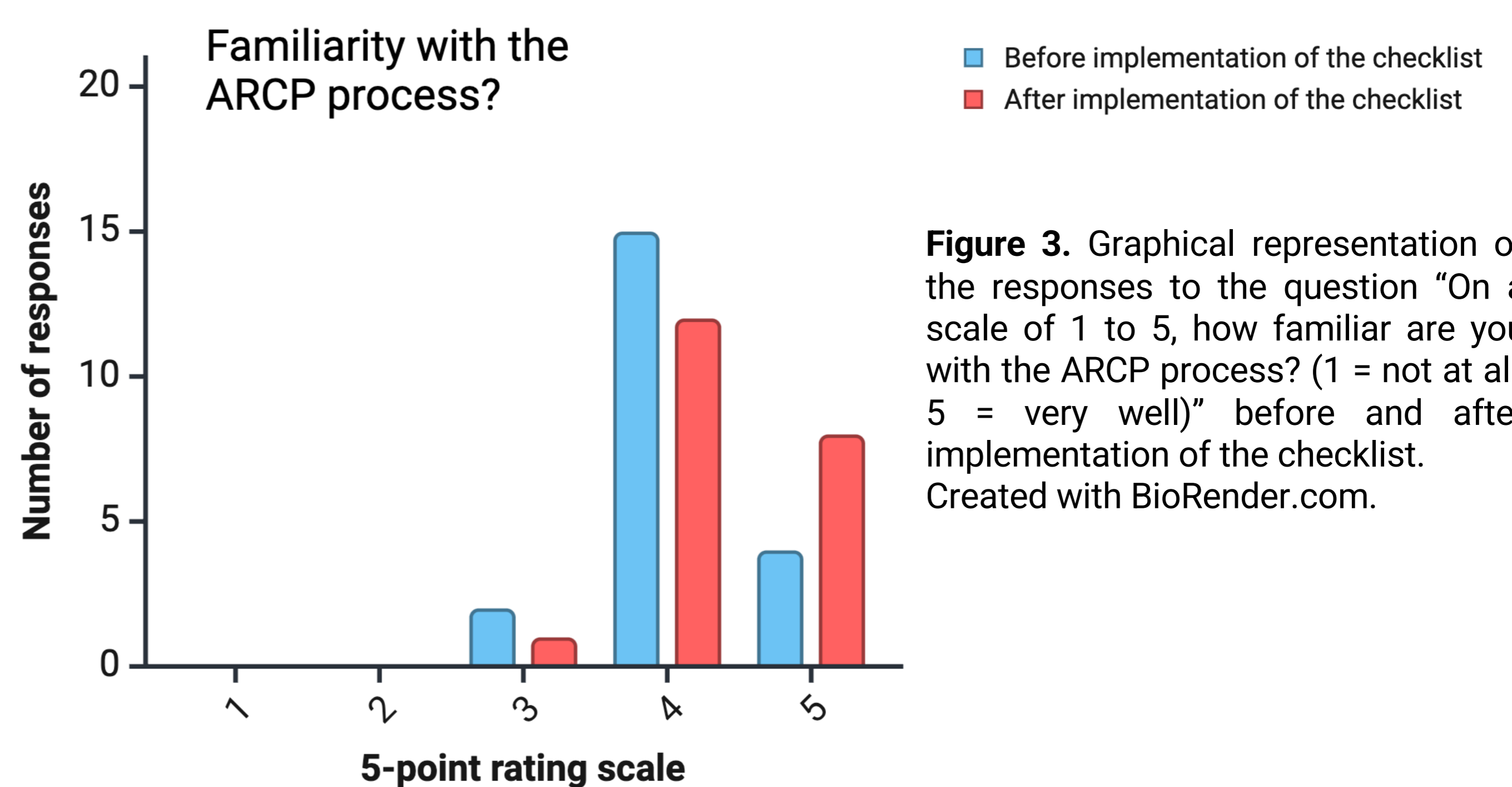


Figure 3. Graphical representation of the responses to the question "On a scale of 1 to 5, how familiar are you with the ARCP process? (1 = not at all, 5 = very well)" before and after implementation of the checklist. Created with BioRender.com.

RESULTS

- We received 21 responses from ES/CS.
- We found that 19% reported not receiving formal training nor having the resources and tools to supervise effectively.
- Over 90% found the checklist user-friendly and 81% would recommend it to colleagues.
- There was no significant difference in supervisors' understanding of their role (95% CI, -0.29 to 0.10; $P = 0.3293$) after the implementation of the checklist.
- There was no significant difference in familiarity with the ARCP process (95% CI, -0.48 to 0.01; $P = 0.0565$) after the implementation of the checklist.

CONCLUSIONS

- We need better training and resources for ES/CS to provide high-quality training for FDs.
- Positive feedback on our checklist is a promising initial step.
- Future plans include improving the checklist's content using the qualitative feedback collected.
- We aim to transform the checklist into an app. Our goal is to provide supervisors with a modern, user-friendly solution that meets their needs now and in the future.