Assessing the Impact of Post-Doctoral Public Health Training on Dentists

Authors

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

COLUMBIA MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

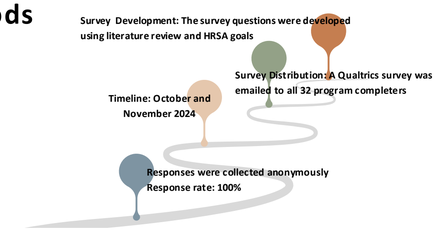
Introduction

- Since 2007, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine has received HRSA grants to **expand workforce capacity, increase diversity, improve oral health in under-resourced areas, and educate trainees on new care models.** These grants fund postdoctoral programs offering MPH or MHA degrees.

Objective

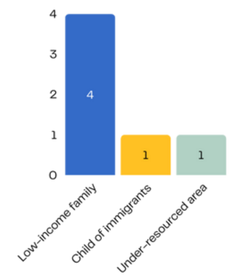
- Evaluate the **career impact** of HRSA-sponsored public health training (MPH/MPA) on primary care dentists graduating from Mailman School of Public Health (2008-2024).

Methods

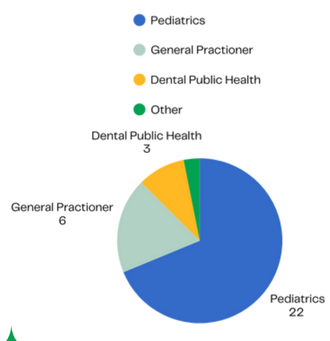


Results

Trainees from Under-resourced Background, n=6



Dental Specialty of Trainees, n=32



Program completers from an under-resourced background reported more likely to serve under-resourced populations as a primary focus of their practice (chi-square=10.79, p=0.001).

Public Health Training

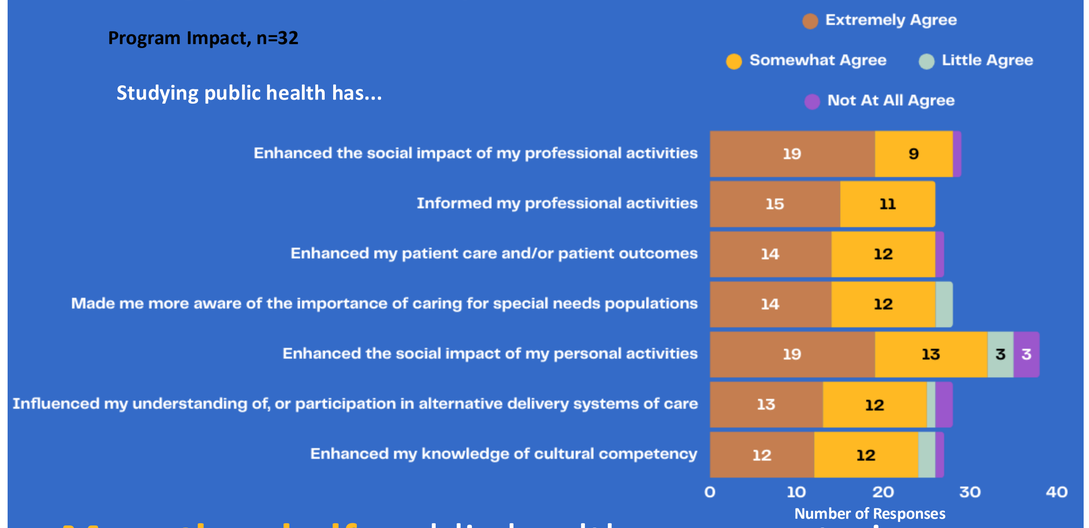
IMPACTS

on Primary Care Dentists

- **Majority** of trainees reported that public health training positively impacted their career

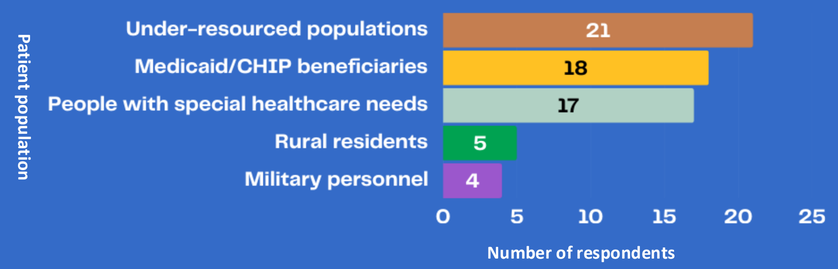
Program Impact, n=32

Studying public health has...



- **More than half** public health program trainees reported **primarily** serving under-resourced patient populations

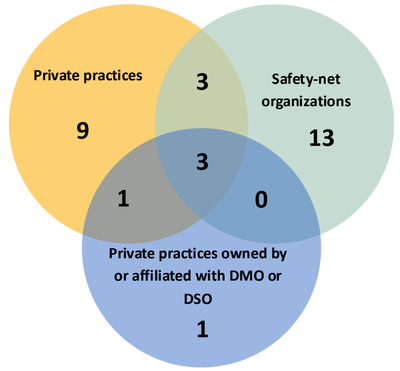
Primary Focus of the Practice, n=32



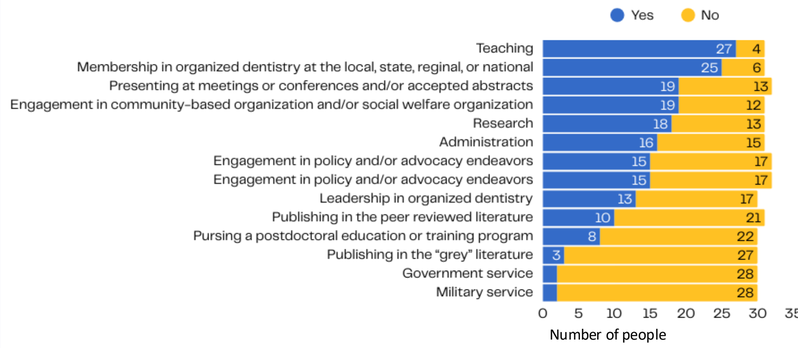
Results Cont.

Post-program Activity

Employment Distribution in Different Practice Settings, n=31



Non-Clinical Activity Involvement, n=32



Discussion & Conclusion

- Nationally, it's estimated that 3% of dentists work in safety-net organizations, whereas 59% of program completers work in safety-net organizations.
- Columbia's public health training program for primary care dentists positively impacted trainees' dental careers, clinical care, personal activities, and knowledge of key public health and clinical care concepts.
- The program met funder's goals by building primary care capacity, advancing diversity, and improving the oral health of under-resourced populations.

Acknowledgement

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References

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