



Fact Sheet #2

2008 Preceptor Survey

Age & Generational Data, All Respondents

Summary

We are pleased to report new information about the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network's survey of community based medical student preceptors. We sent 210 surveys to preceptors who had trained third- and fourth-year medical students in at least 2 rotations, and by October 2008, 75% of the surveys were returned to us. In general, the preceptors are happy with mentoring future physicians, and expect to continue doing so for the next 5 years.

Community-based Faculty (CBF) by Age Group

Statistically speaking, there were very few differences by age category as to the reasons community-based faculty decided to precept students, how they believe students impact their practice, how satisfied they are with their professional life, and the value they place on various incentives.

The table below gives us an overall picture of our CBFs by age. The percent of survey responders who are female is higher in the 30s and 40s age categories, and reflects the trend of women entering the field of medicine in ever increasing numbers. The change in racial/ethnicity mix from the older groups to the younger groups likewise mirrors the world at large.

The percent of those who practice in a rural as opposed to an urban location, and those who have precepted 2 to 3 rotations compared to those completing 4 or more rotations are similar across age groups. We think it's worth noting that 7 CBFs reported precepting 10 or more rotations. A few surveys did not have an age category selected and are not included in the table.

Age	% Female	Race/Ethnicity	% Rural	Rotations
30–39 (n=34)	24%	White	68%	2-3 68%
		Black	21%	4+ 43%
		Asian	8%	
		Hispanic	3%	
40–49 (n=56)	25%	White	66%	2-3 60%
		Black	20%	4+ 40%
		Asian	5%	
		Hispanic	9%	
50–59 (n=47)	11%	White	83%	2-3 67%
		Black	4%	4+ 33%
		Asian	9%	
		Hispanic	4%	
60+ (n=18)	6%	White	94%	2-3 66%
		Black	6%	4+ 34%
		Asian	0%	
		Hispanic	0%	

Is There a Generation Gap?

Responses to the survey questions were similar across age groups, so we decided to see if the proverbial generation gap existed among our preceptors. We chose the group of 30-year-olds to represent Generation X and preceptors who are at least 50 years old to represent Baby Boomers. In the US, the 80 million Baby Boomers far outnumber the 46 million GenXers.¹ Boomers are known to work longer hours and to see medicine as a “tireless vocation” whereas GenXers are seen as a tech savvy bunch that seeks a life balance.²

This comparison revealed only a few differences of opinion: the importance of receiving a stipend, the importance of receiving other incentives not listed in the survey, the value of free access to online resources, and the value placed on financial compensation, were more important to GenXers, and satisfaction with personal time was higher among GenXers.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, we will be releasing additional fact sheets as we continue to analyze the data by discipline of the preceptor and by geographic region. Please watch our website for these fact sheets as they are released (www.mcg.edu/ahec).

¹ Stephey MJ. Gen-X: the ignored generation? Time.com 16 Apr 2008. Accessed at <http://www.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1731528,00.html> on 17 Mar 2009.

² Mitchell DA. Generation Z: striking the balance: healthy doctors for a healthy community. Australian Family Physician Aug 2008;37(8):665-667.