

Interprofessional career trends post-international clinical education in Belize

Julia Schlosser, BS, SPT; Jeff Hartman, PT, DPT, MPH; Nadine Intering, PT, MPH
 Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, School of Medicine and Public Health
 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI



Background

International clinical education (ICE) participation has increased significantly in health professional education.¹ Current research has mostly focused on the impact of ICE on knowledge, skill, and generic ability acquisition by the student.^{2,3} Little is known regarding career trends of ICE alumni.

Purpose

To determine the rates of employment and volunteerism in low- or middle-income countries (LMIC) or low-resourced communities (LRC) of health professionals who participated in ICE through Hillside Health Care Intl. (HHCI), a non-profit health clinic in Belize, Central America.

Methods

A 24-question survey was used to gather data. Frequencies for nominal and categorical data were calculated. Two-way cross-tabulation was performed to determine relationships between variables.

Results

101 alumni from 18 different schools participated with representation from all 7 professions. 50.5% of participants were aged 21-29. Prior to the ICE experience, 69.3% intended to work or volunteer in LMIC or LRC sometime during their career and 80.2% planned to do so after. 64.4% fulfilled their intentions at some point in their career, with 39.6% and 41.6% employed and volunteered, respectively.

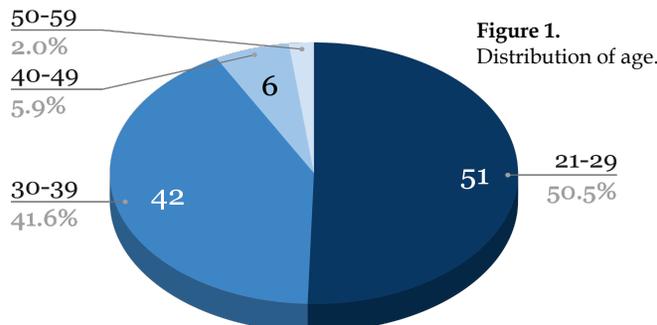


Figure 1. Distribution of age.

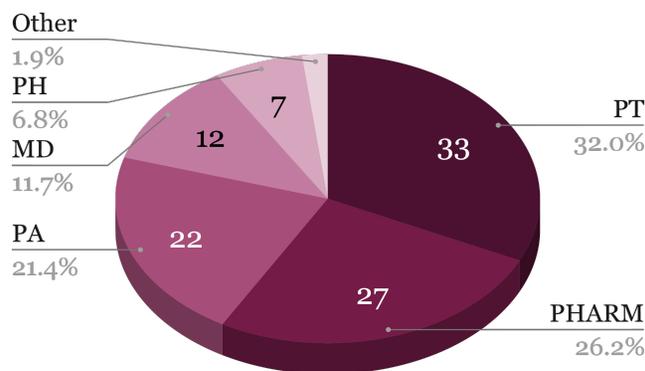


Figure 2. Distribution of professions. Physical Therapy (PT), Pharmacy (PHARM), Physician Assistant (PA), Medicine (MD), Public Health (PH), Other (Social Work, Nurse Practitioner).

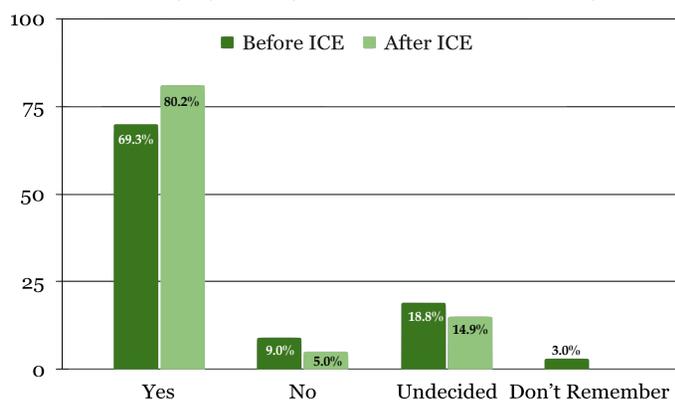


Figure 3. Desire to work or volunteer in LMIC or LRC before and after ICE experience.

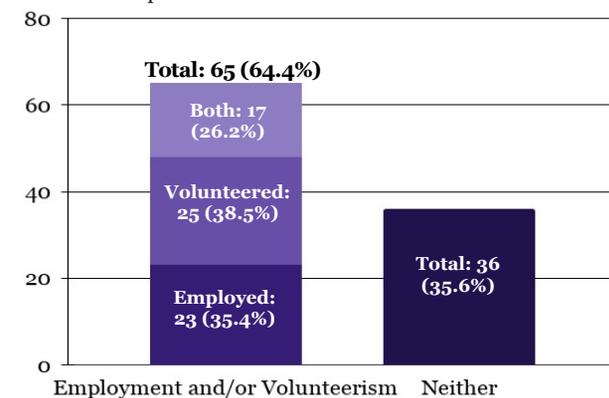


Figure 4. Frequency of employment and/or volunteerism or neither.

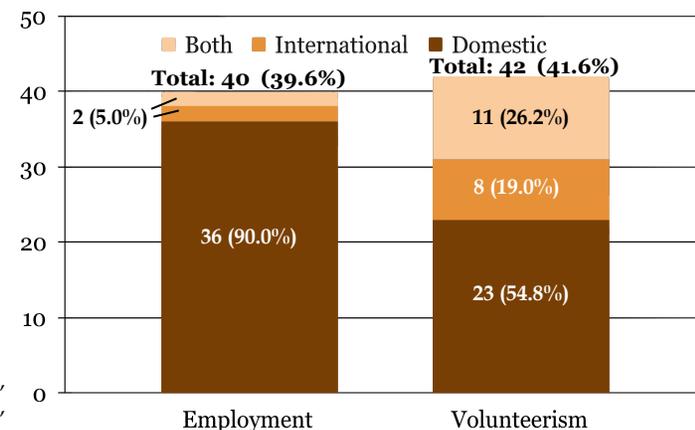


Figure 5. Breakdown of location of employment and volunteerism.

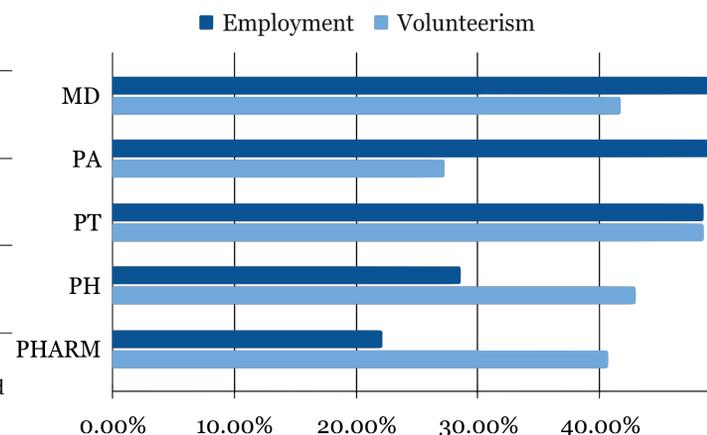


Figure 6. Employment and volunteerism frequencies across professions.

Conclusions

Most students who choose to participate in ICE through HHCI have a desire to work or volunteer in LMIC or LRC after graduation and, regardless of profession, most do. More research is needed to determine if these findings are consistent with ICE opportunities around the world.

Julia Schlosser
 jschlosser@wisc.edu

