

Global and Local Service Connection: Global Health Experiences and Local Community Engagement in Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Alumni

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INTRODUCTION

- The Global Health Scholars Program (GHSP) at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine (BSOM) has been in place for 18 years and continues to grow, giving medical students the opportunity to learn in clinical settings locally and globally.
- Global health participants are often criticized for neglecting their home countries' health disparities while seeking to serve elsewhere in the world.¹
- A survey assessed global health involvement among US physicians in 2013 found 53% of participants with "high global health experiences" agreed that their global work had inspired them to "become more involved in [their] local community."² However, this study did not quantify or investigate the nature of community participation.

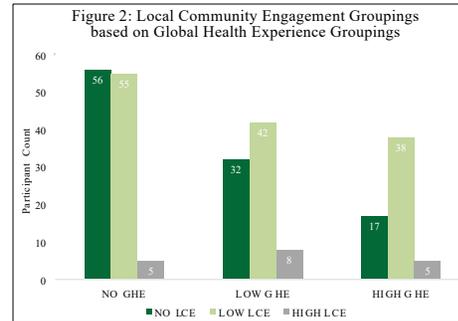
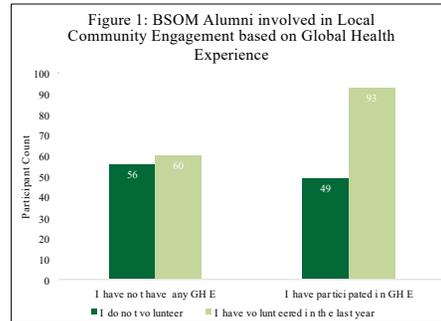
OBJECTIVES

- The goal of this study is to assess the relationship between global health experiences (GHE) and local community engagement (LCE) in BSOM alumni.
- The overall participation in GHE and LCE, type of global and local activity, and participation based on medical specialty will be explored in order to determine a possible link.

METHODS

- A brief 25-question survey was emailed to BSOM alumni that graduated between 2004-2018, the length of time the GHSP has been at BSOM. We had a 16% response rate.
- Participants were divided into three groups based on their responses: No, Low, and High for both GHE and LCE (Figure 2).
 - No GHE and LCE is defined as no self-reported lifetime global health experiences and no local volunteering in the past 12 months.
 - Low GHE is defined as 1-2 lifetime experiences, based on the mean GHE of 1.54.
 - High GHE is defined as 3 or more lifetime experiences, with 2 participants who have full time careers in global health.
 - Low LCE is defined as 1-60 hours in the past 12 months.
 - High LCE is defined as greater than 60 hours in the past 12 months.

RESULTS



- 57% of participants (n=285) reported being involved in GHE. 82% of those with GHE were also a part of the GHSP.
- 59% of participants reported volunteering in their local community in the past 12 months.
- There is a statistically significant link χ^2 ((1, N=285)= 5.5, p=0.025) between physicians who reported both GHE and LCE, demonstrating that physicians with any lifetime GHE were more likely to participate in LCE (Figure 1).
- When participants were divided into low and high groups, there was not a statistically significant link χ^2 ((4, N=285)=8.1, p=0.08) (Figure 2).
- The medical specialty with the most GHE was OB/GYN and the most LCE was Family Medicine (Figure 4).

Figure 3A: Type of Global Health Experience

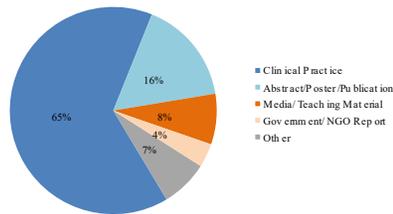


Figure 3B: Type of Local Community Engagement

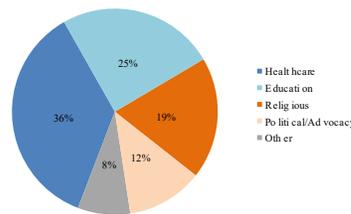
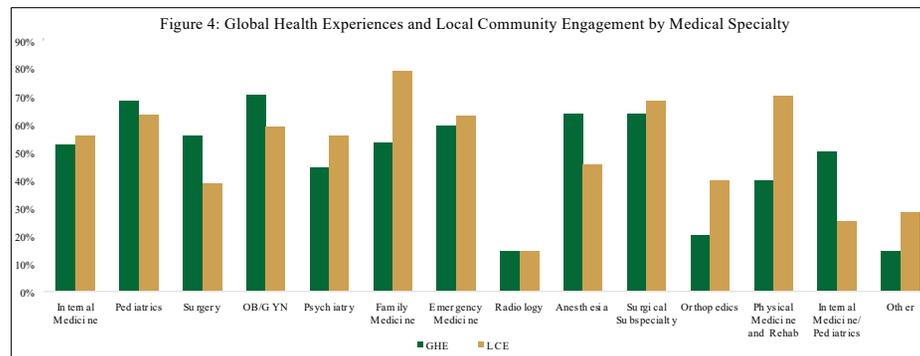


Figure 4: Global Health Experiences and Local Community Engagement by Medical Specialty



CONCLUSIONS

- BSOM alumni who participated in global health were more likely to have reported volunteering in their local communities in the past year.
- However, this connection did not hold true when the amount of GHE and LCE were compared. The more global health experiences a physician had did not show a statistically significant increase in the amount of local community engagement.
- It is interesting to note that 82% of physicians with GHE participated in the GHSP during their time at BSOM. Most participants completed GHE during medical school, demonstrating the value of an established global health curriculum.
- The relationship between GHE and LCE among medical specialty was that Radiology ranked lowest in both.
- The connection between the products of GHE and LCE differed. When BSOM alumni participated in global health, most were in a clinical setting, in comparison to LCE which was mostly nonclinical activities.
- Further study is warranted to investigate barriers to GHE and LCE in physicians, as well as compare this data to other medical schools with and without a global health curriculum.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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RESOURCES

- 1 Bauer, Irmgard. More harm than good? The questionable ethics of medical volunteering and international student placements. *Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines*. 6 March 2017. <https://tdtmjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40794-017-0048-y>.
- 2 Greysen, Ryan, et al. Global Health Experiences of U.S. Physicians: A Mixed Methods Survey of Clinician-Researchers and Health Policy Leaders. *Globalization and Health*, BioMed Central, 11 May 2013. globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/144-8603-9-19.