

Department of Research Abstracts

GRADUATING PEDIATRIC RESIDENTS – A CLOSER LOOK AT ASIAN WOMEN Mary Pat Frintner, William L. Cull, Lynn M. Olson.. Research, American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village, IL. Presented at the May 2009 Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting.

BACKGROUND: The demographics of pediatrics have changed substantially, with many more women now entering the profession. A particularly fast growing subgroup of women identifies themselves as Asian, yet little is known about this group.

OBJECTIVE: Compare graduating pediatric resident career directions and job search difficulty of Asian-US graduate women to those of non-Asian-US graduate and International graduate women.

DESIGN/METHODS: As part of the AAP Graduating Residency Survey, national random samples of up to 1,000 graduating categorical pediatric residents were surveyed. Responses from 2005 to 2007 were pooled to examine characteristics, career paths and job search factors for women who identify themselves as Asian or Pacific Islander. Following four mailings, conducted May to August each year, a total of 1524 (60%) completed the survey. Analyses were limited to women (n=1,111). Difficulty in job search was categorized: none, some and moderate-considerable difficulty. Chi square tests were used to compare Asian-US graduate women with non-Asian-US graduate women and International graduate women.

RESULTS: 134 (12%) graduating residents were Asian-US graduates, 207 (19%) were International graduates, and 754 (68%) were non-Asian-US graduates. 41% of International graduate women were also Asian. Asian-US graduates and International graduates selected primary care practice as their future clinical practice goal less often than non-Asian US graduates and reported more difficulty in their job search (Table 1). Asian-US graduates were the least likely to apply for jobs in multiple states and multiple cities/areas.

Table 1 – Future Career Goals and Job Search Factors

	% Asian-US Grad Women	% Non-Asian-US Grad Women	% International Graduate Women	P
Future career goal: Primary care practice	41	51	42	<.05
Difficulty in job search (moderate-considerable)	21	14	25	<.001
Applied for jobs in > 1 state	26	33	49	<.001
Applied for jobs in > 1 city/area	47	49	65	<.01
Educational debt	74	90	23	<.001

CONCLUSIONS: Asian-US-graduate women are less likely to have primary care practice as their career goal and more likely to apply for jobs in a single region of the country. The unique career search profile of Asian-US-graduate women may have implications for the primary care pediatric work force.

