

Training Physicians for Careers in Public Health

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(ASTHO)

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Physicians for Careers in Public Health

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Questions to Address

1. Background on ASTHO and current state health officials training.
2. What areas require the combination of an MD and public health skills?
3. What might attract physicians to public health?
4. Recommendations/considerations.

About ASTHO

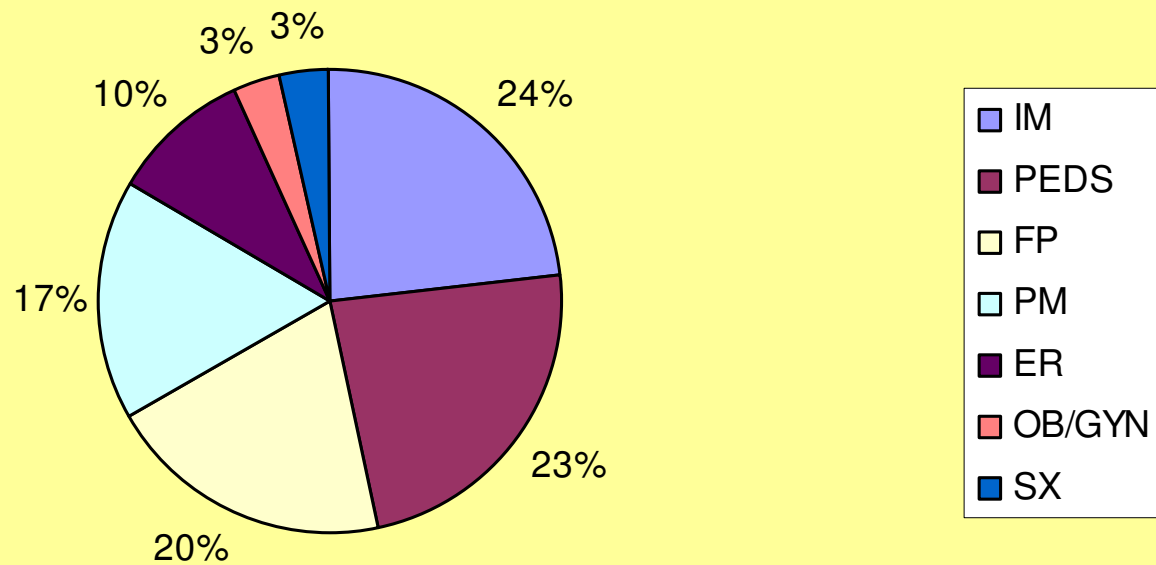
The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia.

ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

Current Statistics: State Health Officials

- Among the 57 Current State Health Officials, 30 have a MD.
- Included in the 30 Current State Health Officials with a MD, 17 have additional public health academic training:
 - 15 have MPH
 - 1 has MSPH
 - 1 has DrPH.

Current State Health Official Specialties



3 SHOs have additional PM certification

Take away from current MD SHO backgrounds

- Primary care specialties and careers paths contribute the greatest number of MD state health officials followed by preventative medicine.
- ? Overall State Health workforce

Physician Engagement Opportunities

- Employment
- Retainer/contract
- Consulting
- Grants
- Practice/ teaching/ research contributions
- Other?

What areas require the combination of an MD and public health skills in a state or territorial health agency?

Public Health and MD

- Statutory requirements
- Knowledge and decision making benefiting from a physician's educational and clinical background
- Knowledge of the health care delivery system
- “Professional stature” of a physician

Physician Required (examples)

- Educational Requirements established by statute
 - State Health Official
 - State Dental Director
 - State Epidemiologist
- Educational requirements required in position
 - State Medical Examiner

MD Can Enhance Leadership in Public Health for the Following Areas:

- Preparedness
- Chronic Disease Prevention & Control
- Obesity Prevention & Control
- Tobacco Use Prevention & Control

MD Can Enhance Leadership in Public Health for the Following Areas:

- Adolescent Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Injury Prevention & Control
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse

MD Can Enhance Leadership in Public Health for the Following Areas

- Infectious Disease
- Environmental Health
- Primary Care
- Health Administration
- Medical Informatics

What might attract physicians to public health?

Attractions

- Intrinsic value of public health
 - Public good
 - Platform for change
- Lifestyle
 - Minimal on-call burden
 - Minimal night and weekends
- Compensation
 - Guaranteed salary and benefit package

Barriers to Public Health

- What is public health anyway?
- Separation of health care and Public health systems
- Limited role models in education and training
- Low status
- Largely non-clinical administrative roles
- Low compensation compared to private sector
- Government personnel systems often not designed with professionals in mind

ASTHO's Recommendations

- Create a compelling vision for a future public health career – intrinsic value, status
- Stress achievement and excellence
- Sell a balanced lifestyle
- Identify our “market” and strive for competitive salaries and benefits
- Broad based educational outreach into the clinical and health care sector
 - Meet them where they are
 - Undergraduate
 - Medical school
 - Primary care training
 - Practice settings and CME

ASTHO's Recommendations

- **Combined Training Programs***
 - Guidelines approved by both IM and PM boards in January 1993.
 - Updated June 1999 At least four years formal training
 - Eight programs approved by both boards
 - Must be accredited by both residency review committees
 - Requirements for practicum experience
 - Continuity of care requirements
 - Potential for similar combined training with other specialties
- **? FP, Peds, ER Medicine**

* Careers in Preventive Medicine in the 21st Century Cheryl S. Barbanel, MD, MBA, MPH, FACOEM Boston University School of Medicine

Expand Alternative Pathway to Certification ?

- Available only for medical school graduates prior to January 1, 1984
- Must document training and experience
- Academic: Four Core Courses Biostat., Epi., Admin./Mgmt., Env. Health
- Practice Experience

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