Comparison of Clinical Diversity Seen at Rural versus Urban Training Sites

By Edward Simanton and Brooke Jensen
Conflict of Interest Declaration

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare
Introduction:

▪ Clinical experiences of students must be equivalent across clinical sites.

▪ There has been concern that small communities may not contain sufficient clinical diversity to support optimal student learning.
Purpose of the Study:

- Compare the variety of clinical experiences logged by students at the various clinical campuses (in various sized communities).
Methods:

- IRB permission was secured.
- Five students were randomly selected from each of the 5 clinical campuses.
- The total number of different diagnoses was calculated for each students’ inpatient and outpatient logged encounters.
- Mean numbers of unique diagnoses (inpatient and outpatient) were compared between campuses.
Inpatient Number of Unique diagnoses by Campus /Community Size

Number of unique inpatient diagnoses

- Pop 150,000 Grp A
- Pop 150,000 Grp B
- Pop 70000
- Pop 20000
- 5000
Outpatient Number of Unique diagnoses by Campus /Community Size

- Pop 150,000 Grp A: Number of unique outpatient diagnoses
- Pop 150,000 Grp B: Number of unique outpatient diagnoses
- Pop 70000: Number of unique outpatient diagnoses
- Pop 20000: Number of unique outpatient diagnoses
- Pop 5000: Number of unique outpatient diagnoses
Conclusions

• Students in smaller communities encounter a greater diversity of clinical cases compared with students in larger communities.
• The greatest clinical diversity is found in outpatient experiences in communities of all sizes.
Discussion – Possible Explanation

• While larger communities almost certainly contain more diversity of clinical pathology, medical students do not experience that diversity
Questions?????

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