BACKGROUND

Trainees with interest and exposure to global health (GH) bring their passion for improving child health globally to their future fellowship and these offerings influence choice and ranking of programs.

While programs are responding to this demand for GH opportunities in pediatric fellowship programs in the United States (US) are poorly described.

OBJECTIVE

Evaluate the landscape of GH offerings among pediatric fellowship programs and identify barriers to implementation.

METHODS

Survey content:
- Demographic information
- GH program characteristics
- GH educational opportunities
- GH scholarly projects
- GH supervision/mentorship
- GH funding
- GH mechanisms for evaluation
- Approach to certification/accreditation

Based on responses programs were grouped into 3 mutually exclusive categories for statistical analysis:
- No GH Opportunities, GH Electives and GH Tracks

RESULTS

Those offering GH opportunities were more likely to report that GH training improves fellow education (81.9% vs. 38.3%, p<0.001) and recruitment (76.8% vs. 35.9%, p<0.001).

Scholarship

Since 2005, 10 fellowships with GH Tracks have graduated 46 fellows and nearly all still work in GH.

71% of GH Tracks believe that national accreditation of GH fellowships would define minimum programmatic standards and 64% believe it would improve recruitment and legitimize GH as a subspecialty.

CONCLUSIONS

- GH experiences are a prevalent part of many US pediatric fellowship programs.
- Programs offering GH training perceive that these opportunities improve the overall education of fellows and recruitment of fellows to their program, but there are gaps in operationalization of these training experiences.
- Areas of need include pre-travel preparation, supervision and mentorship.