

DISCOVER NORTH DAKOTA

Impact Assessment of ND SEARCH on Attitudes and Practice Location: Follow-Up Survey of All Program Participants

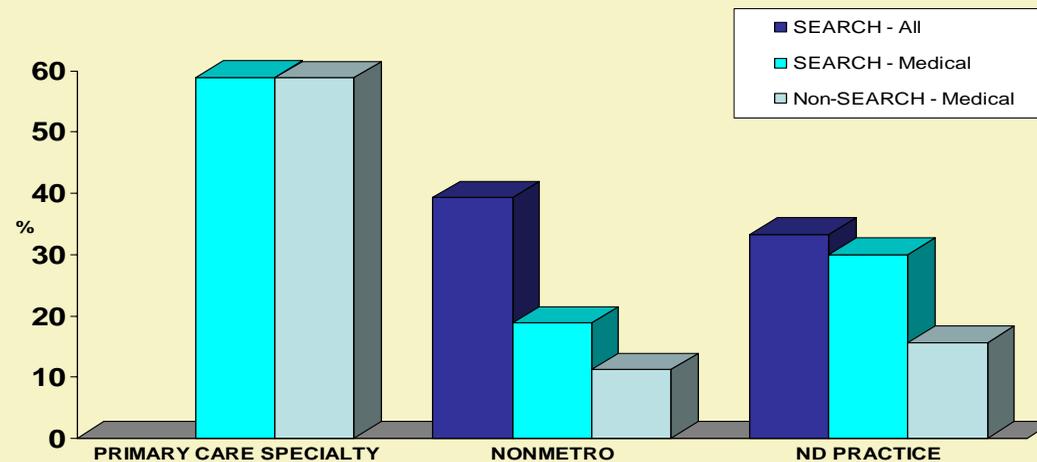
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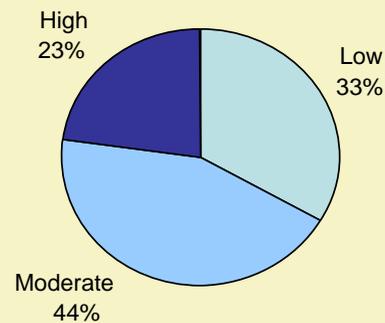
Comparison of SEARCH/Non-SEARCH Participants

UND STUDENTS WITH NONMETRO, IN-STATE, HPSA COUNTY PRACTICE

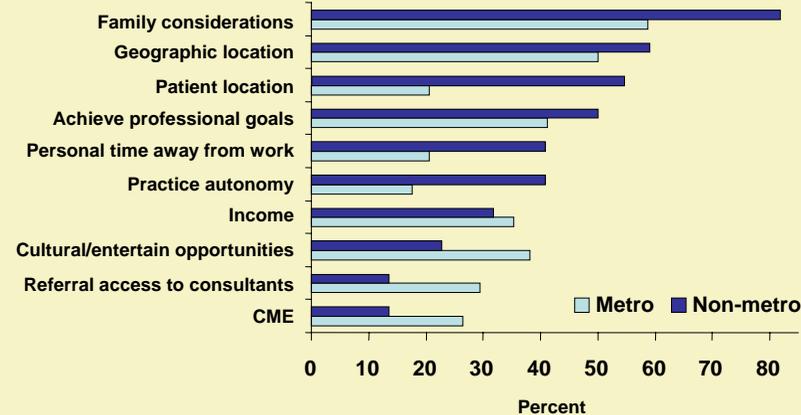


SEARCH Follow-Up Survey Results (N=57)

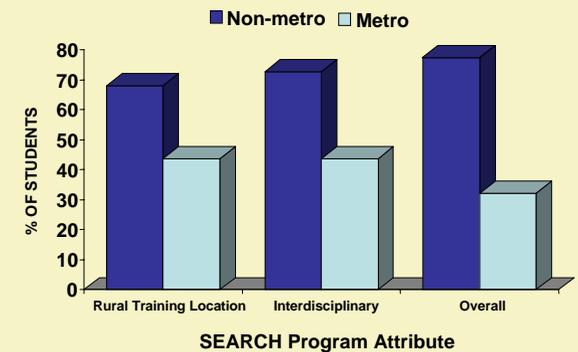
PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF SEARCH EXPERIENCE ON PRACTICE LOCATION



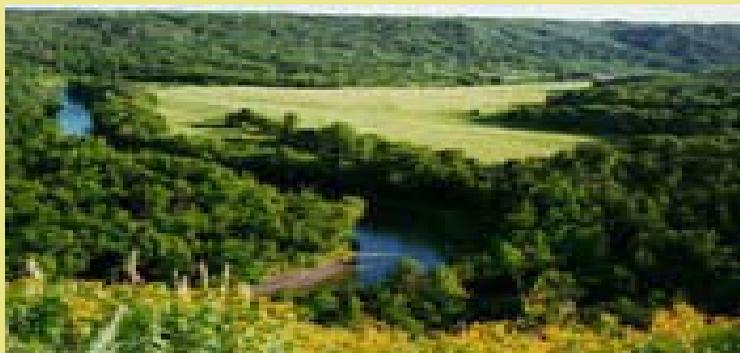
INFLUENTIAL FACTORS IN SELECTING CURRENT PRACTICE SETTING, BY METRO/NON-METRO PRACTICE LOCATION



PERCENT OF SEARCH PARTICIPANTS INDICATING PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES HAD A MODERATE/HIGH INFLUENCE ON CURRENT PRACTICE LOCATION



"I had a great experience with UND in several rural areas and these experiences had a GREAT influence on my decision to become an internist. I could not have had the same experience in a larger setting."
Former SEARCH student



"The greatest impact on my SEARCH experience was through a mentor that I met. I learned a great deal from her and kept in touch. Also, the opportunity to share my discipline with another students was eye-opening."
Former SEARCH student



"There are so many factors that shape your career. I think my (SEARCH) experience was extremely important in my overall career and the way I relate to patients. I would hope this would be available to others."
Former SEARCH student





What is SEARCH?

- A National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program funded by the U.S. DHHS, Health Resources & Services Admin., Bureau of Primary Health Care
- Designed to facilitate/strengthen community-academic links & increase the recruitment/retention of health care professionals in underserved areas
- The ND program includes students in the disciplines of medicine, nursing, mental health and dentistry
- **Networking**
 - Form interdisciplinary, statewide partnerships
 - Share and coordinate resources
 - Develop new, creative strategies for providing primary care to medically underserved populations
- **Community Experiences**
 - Train health care professionals who understand rural communities
 - Provide service-linked educational community experiences in underserved areas
- **Mentoring**
 - Link individuals throughout the educational continuum to support primary care to medically underserved populations
- **Faculty Development**
 - Promote programs to provide opportunities for primary care providers to hone teaching skills
 - Train community-based faculty who are involved in teaching students, residents & other health providers
- **Clinical Experiences**
 - Providing a variety of primary care clinical learning experiences in medically underserved areas
 - Training culturally competent health care providers
- **Benefits for communities**
 - Gaining access to academic resources
 - Networking with state/regional organizations
 - Assistance to develop and perform health promotion/ disease prevention activities
 - Recruitment of future health clinicians
 - Preceptorship opportunities for medical staff



"Great experience! Rural health/small community setting immersion helped me to make my decision to stay in a small community vs. metro area."
Former SEARCH student

"Overall, my SEARCH experience was very positive. Although my chosen specialty (EM) is not primary care, I have chosen to work in a more rural setting than is typical for most EM graduates. I'm sure the SEARCH program had some influence into my decision."
Former SEARCH student



Past Evaluations of SEARCH

- The ND SEARCH program has:
 - (1) had an educational function with the students
 - (2) Increased students' positive image of practitioners within their chosen professions
 - (3) Increased students' level of confidence regarding some professional tasks and abilities
 - (4) Not increased or decreased students' commitment to future rural practice
 - (5) Been a very positive experience, as perceived by students & preceptors
- **Method in this Study**
 - Linked data from the UND Medical Student file and 2002 Area Resource File (ARF)
 - Survey of former SEARCH students
- **Questions to be Addressed**
 - 1997-2001 SEARCH/Non-SEARCH Student Comparisons (N=80 & 258): % in primary care; % practicing in nonmetro areas; % practicing in ND
 - Among SEARCH participants:
 - Perceived influence of program participation on current practice
 - View of overall SEARCH experience
- **Findings**
 - SEARCH participants were more likely (than Non-SEARCH) to be practicing in nonmetro areas & ND
 - Among SEARCH participants, those practicing in rural areas (versus urban) provided higher ratings of the SEARCH program's impact and attributes
- **Future Directions**
 - Improve measurement of attitudes toward rural/ underserved practice prior to entry into program
 - Track changes in practice locations

"My experience with the NHSC Fellowship...did have an impact on my personal/professional growth. When working with individuals from rural areas, I have a better understanding of the obstacles they face accessing services and getting their medical and mental health needs met. A professional can't fully understand these obstacles without having spent time working in a rural setting."
Former SEARCH student

