



ND Student/Resident Experiences And Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) Program Assessment

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What is SEARCH?

- A National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program funded by the U.S. DHHS, Health Resources & Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care.
- Designed to facilitate/strengthen community-academic linkages, and increase the recruitment/retention of health care professionals in underserved areas
- Students participating in the ND program include the disciplines of medicine, nursing, mental health and dentistry.

Networking

- Forming interdisciplinary, statewide partnerships
- Sharing and coordinating resources
- Developing new, creative strategies for providing primary care services for medically underserved population

Community Experiences

- Training health care professionals who understand rural communities
- Providing service-linked educational community experiences in underserved areas

Mentoring

- Linking individuals throughout the educational continuum to support primary care to medically underserved populations

Faculty Development

- Promoting programs to provide opportunities for primary care providers to develop their teaching skills
- Training of community-based faculty who are involved in teaching students, residents and other health professionals

Clinical Experiences

- Providing a variety of primary care clinical learning experiences in medically underserved areas
- Training culturally competent health care professionals

Benefits for communities

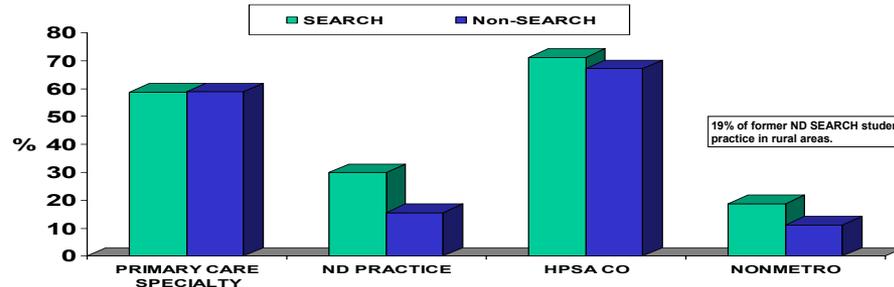
- Gaining access to academic resources
- Networking with state/regional organizations
- Assistance to develop and perform health promotion/disease prevention activities
- Recruitment of future health clinicians
- Preceptorship opportunities for medical staff

"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



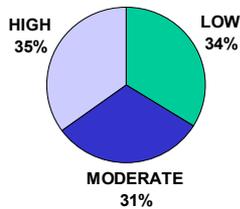
Comparison of SEARCH/Non-SEARCH Participants

UND MEDICAL STUDENTS WITH PRIMARY CARE SPECIALTY, IN-STATE, HPSA COUNTY & NONMETRO PRACTICE

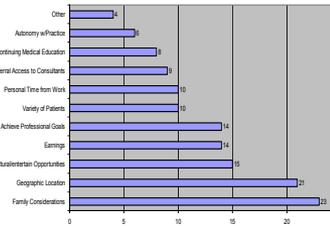


SEARCH Follow-Up Survey Results (N=34)

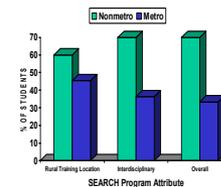
PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF SEARCH EXPERIENCE ON PRACTICE LOCATION



Factors Influencing the Decision To Work in Current Setting



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



"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



Past Evaluations of SEARCH

The ND SEARCH program has:

- Clearly had an educational function with the students
- Increased students' positive image of practitioners within their chosen professions
- Increased students' level of confidence regarding some professional tasks and abilities
- Not increased or decreased students' commitment to future rural practice
- 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 PC field
 - % practicing in ND
 - % practicing in PC HPSA county
 - % practicing in rural area
- Among SEARCH participants:
 - Perceived influence of program participation on current practice
 - View of overall SEARCH experience

Findings

- No significant differences regarding practice in: PC fields; HPSA; rural
- SEARCH participants more likely to be practicing in ND
- SEARCH survey: Those practicing in rural areas provided higher ratings of the SEARCH program's impact and attributes

Future Directions

- Improve measurement of predisposition toward rural/underserved practice prior to entry into the program
- Track changes in practice locations

"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

