Training Physicians for Careers in Public Health

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About ACPM

1. National professional society for preventive medicine physicians established in 1954.
2. Represents 2,000 physicians certified in preventive medicine and other specialties (e.g., internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, etc.)
3. Members have been engaged in preventive medicine practice, teaching, and research for past 50 years.
ACPM Position

1. Preventive medicine residency training and certification is the Gold Standard for public health physicians.

2. Dedicated federal funding is needed to ensure a steady supply of these physicians.

3. Newly developed needs assessment model identifies a shortage of PM physicians.
Framework of ACPM Model
Model Parameters

1 Model was developed based on:
   1 literature review of public health workforce studies
   1 review and query of ACPM and ABPM membership databases
   1 expert opinion survey’s of select ACPM members

1 Process was guided by a subcommittee of ACPM Graduate Medical Education Committee and Policy Committee members
Model Parameters cont’d

1. Three broad categories of model
   1. Public Health
   1. Academic
   1. Clinical and Population Health
What does the model look like?
## Public Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Current Estimate</th>
<th>Projected Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Health Agency</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1092 - 1538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Health Agency</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Health Agency</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>527 - 1,482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Estimates based on:

1. An extrapolation of ACPM membership profiles and survey of ABPM diplomates to total number of diplomates
Projected Need based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Health Agency</td>
<td>ACPM database and extrapolation of expert opinion from 5 federal agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Health Agency</td>
<td>Extrapolation of ACPM state survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Health Agency</td>
<td>Estimated from population-based approach enumerating local health departments that serve over 100,000 and calculating number of preventive medicine physicians needed per 200,000 for the total US population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Academic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Current Estimate</th>
<th>Projected Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current estimates and projected need:

1. Current estimate from AAMC data; minimum need based on equitable distribution of 5 preventive medicine faculty per medical school
# Clinical and Population Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Current Estimate</th>
<th>Projected Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Centers</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1,000 - 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare system/plan</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Medicine</td>
<td>1,134 - 1,466</td>
<td>5,951 - 7,151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current estimate and projected need:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Health Centers</td>
<td>Current estimate based on expert opinion; need based on number of Federally Qualified Health Centers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare system/ plan</td>
<td>Current estimate based on extrapolation of ACPM and ABPM membership profiles to number of ABPM diplomates; need estimated from number of integrated health systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Medicine</td>
<td>Current estimate based on modified ABPM data; need based on literature as well as estimates from ACOEM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preventive Medicine: State of the Specialty
AAMC Workforce Study:

1. Preventive Medicine among the specialties with the lowest number of active physicians

1. With 7,190 PM physicians in the country, ranks well below specialties such as Dermatology (9,961) and only slightly above Plastic Surgery (6,104)

Source: AMA Masterfile, January 2006
AAMC Workforce Study:

1. Preventive Medicine ranks on the top as the specialty with the highest proportion of active physicians aged 55 or older.

2. Close to 50% of PM physicians are in that range which suggests a severe future shortage as these physicians reach retirement.

Source: AMA Masterfile, January 2006
As of 2004, Preventive Medicine ranked third, after Urology and Ophthalmology, as the specialty with the lowest production rate of physicians.

Source: AMA Masterfile, January 2006
Supply Shrinking

1. Decreasing percentage of PM doctors of total physician workforce (2.3% 0.8%)

1. PM residency programs closing (89 76)

1. From 434 residents in 1996 to 350 today
Annual Number of Preventive Medicine Residents

- 2001-2002: 427 residents
- 2002-2003: 398 residents
- 2003-2004: 357 residents
- 2004-2005: 351 residents
- 2005-2006: 346 residents
Supply Barriers:

1. Funding
   1. Only specialty not supported by Medicare, Medicaid, or other third-party payers
   1. Title VII (HRSA) on the ropes
   1. Residencies must cobble together funds
   1. Many residents must subsidize their own training

1. Medical student recruitment
   1. Awareness, matching, available slots
Demand:

1. High demand despite low supply:
   1. COGME recommended increase in PM physicians as a national goal
   1. IOM calls for more public health leaders
   1. Organizations across spectrum conclude demand for public health professionals is skyrocketing
   1. Payers, policy makers, and health insurers increasingly recognize the need for prevention
   1. Growing public health threats (emerging infectious diseases, bioterrorism, natural disasters)
ACPM Recommendations:

1. Validate preventive medicine GME training and board certification as the gold standard of competency for public health physicians

2. Identify and promote models for quantifying the need for public health physicians

3. Recognize the need to grow the pipeline of Preventive Medicine physicians by calling for a dedicated federal funding stream for residency training
Acknowledgements

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Thank you