

MMC Cohort Study – Main findings and key messages - Part 1 (2008)

Response rate

- The on-line survey was sent to a total of 440 ST1 and FTSTA1 trainees. A total of 352 (80%) responded by the closing date. 294 were ST1 trainees representing 87% of those contacted and 50 were FTSTA1 (49% of those contacted).

Demographics of the cohort

- 75% are Female, compared to 44.2% of consultants (2007 RCPCH Census)
- 73.3% of ST1s are UK Graduates, compared to 72.2% of current consultants
- 41% have relatives who are medics. 15.6% had parents who were medics, compared to the BMA 2006 Cohort of medical graduates which found 21.1% had parents who were medical doctors
- 39% are married and 20.4% have children or dependents.

Choices, Influences and reservations

- The 3 most popular answers as to why they chose paediatrics as a specialty were;
 - 73.5% Regard my personal attributes more suitable to paediatrics
 - 70.1% Rewarding
 - 69.4% Enjoyed it as an undergraduate
- 68% of all trainees said experience of paediatrics in medical school influenced choice of specialty training
- 96% of trainees who did paediatrics in foundation or have held other paediatric posts said previous experience encouraged them to apply for paediatric specialty training
- 27.9% of ST1s had reservations about choosing paediatrics
- 130 Reservations (82 ST1 doctors)
 - 37 Work-life balance
 - 18 On-call commitments
 - 14 Limited experience

Appointment to current post and Application Process

- 70.8% ST1 and 60% FTSTA1 trainees have their current placement in the deanery they wanted

Career Intentions – Decision

- 29.8% of ST1s felt forced to make a decision about specialty training
- Most (73.5%) ST1s did not prefer to have F1 followed by 3 years core as proposed by Tooke

Career Intentions - Type of Job

- Only 22% of ST1s want to be a sub specialist (including neonates) compared to 31% in the current consultant workforce
- Only 4% want to work in community paediatrics and 5% in academic paediatrics

- The 3 most popular ST1 sub-specialties in order of preference are as follows;
 - 11.0% Paediatric Cardiology
 - 10.4% Infectious Disease, Allergy and Immunology
 - 7.1% Respiratory Medicine

Confidence

- 73.8% ST1s are confident or reasonably confident about obtaining a consultant post, 23% not at all confident

How would trainees like to work in future?

- 24% of ST1s (31% of women) would like to work flexibly/PT as a trainee
- 46% of ST1s (57.7% of women) would like to work flexibly/PT as a trained paediatrician. Currently only 17.5% of Consultants work fewer than 10 PAs

Geographic Preferences

- 77% of ST1s have a geographic preference for where they would want to work after they have completed their training.
- 92% of this group would prefer to work in the UK.
- When those preferring to work in the UK were asked what deanery they want to work in, there was a fairly even balance between preferences and the current breakdown of consultants in post, apart from London where 31.2% of ST1s wanted to work and where 21.1% of consultant jobs are based.

Key Messages from the data

- Women are likely to make up a significantly higher proportion of the future consultant workforce.
- Trainees' plans to work part-time once they qualify will have implications for the future organisation of services.
- Around 70% of ST1s chose paediatrics because they found it rewarding and enjoyed it as an undergraduate.
- Effects on work-life balance and on-call commitments are common reservations about choosing paediatrics.
- Nearly 30% of ST1s felt forced to make their specialty choice early.
- Only 4% of the current cohort intend to be 100% community paediatricians when they complete their training.
- Over 90% of ST1s intend to work in the UK when they complete their training.