



A DBPNet Study of Academic Developmental-Behavioral Pediatricians (DBPs): Workforce Activity Survey

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Objective: With the shortage of DBPs, workforce data is needed. We sought to describe the types and frequency of clinics in Divisions of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP).

Methods: We conducted a survey of DBP/NDD faculty at 12 DB academic sites on provider (n=50) activities.

Results: Respondents were mostly DBPs (94%), female (84%) with a mean age of 50.15 years. Mostly they were >10 years post fellowship (60%), assistant professors (42%), and working full time (74%). About 60% of their average of a 50 hour week was clinical. They participated in 24 different types of clinics. When examined by site, all of the 12 sites had a general DBP Clinic with other common clinics being Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (9), syndrome specific (9), ADHD (6), and School-Aged (5). Syndrome specific clinics included 2 each for Down syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Fragile X, and Williams with one 22q11.2 minus. Four sites had 2 syndrome specific clinics and 5 had 1. Congenital heart disease follow-up was reported in 2 sites and other clinic types reported at 1 site included: foster care, hearing loss, and sleep. Two sites had DBPs providing clinical care on inpatient units. The 2 largest sites with 8 and 9 participating providers reported were distinguished by having age focused clinics: toddler, preschool, school aged, and adolescents. No providers reported working in eating disorders, elimination, teenage mothers, or school health clinics.

Conclusion: This unique data on types of clinics that comprise the clinical activity of DBPs in academic medical centers provides information for comparison and development of sections of DBP. It suggests that many academic medical centers do not have the manpower to cover all areas of DBP and that specialty clinics are mostly found in the largest sites. It is also notable that a number of areas assumed to be under the purview of DBP are not being serviced at all.

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