DIVERSITY OF GENERAL PRACTICE WITHIN WALES

Kerrigan J, Bhatt S, Taneja S, Kahrobaei S, Evans TJ, Siripurapu S, Fitchett JM

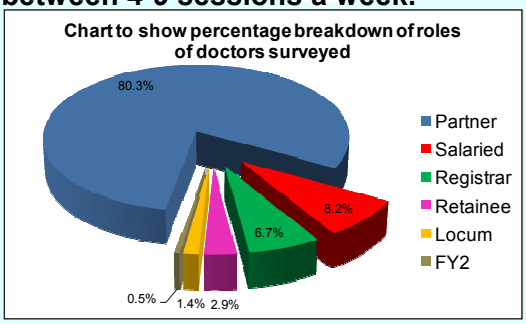
Swansea Bay GP Training Scheme, Swansea, South Wales

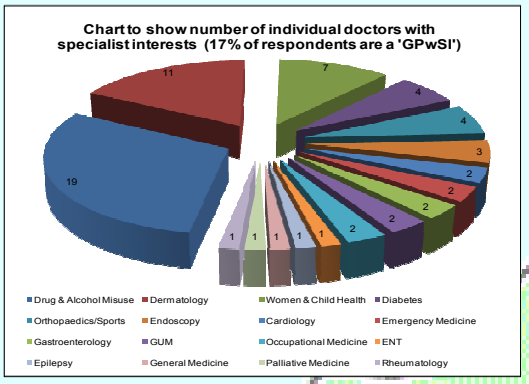
AIM: To demonstrate the diversity of general practitioners within Wales.

METHOD: Emails were sent to 1700 general practitioners across 7 health boards on the Welsh NHS email system, inviting them to participate in a secure confidential, anonymous multiple-choice survey. A range of questions were asked relating to personal demographics, employment and other activities, both medical and non-medical. This work has the support of the Deanery, Local Medical Committee and Trainers. Over 400 email responses were received and analysed.

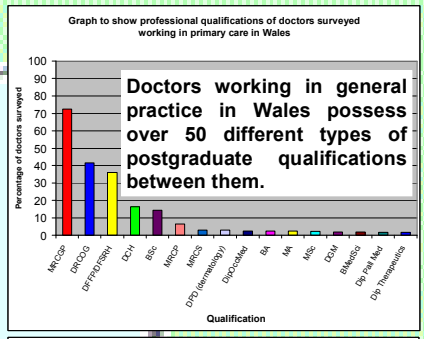
WORK ENVIRONMENT

Most practices seem to have between 4-8 doctors in their surgery (over half of responses) with a maximum 17 doctors working together as a practice. Respondents mainly work between 4-9 sessions a week.

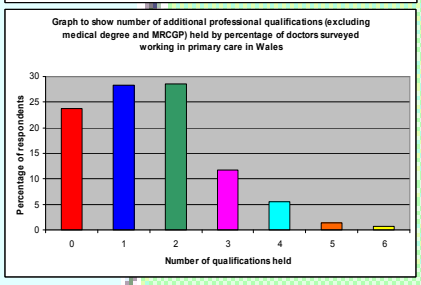




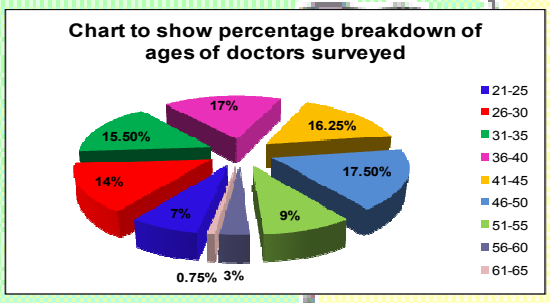
QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS

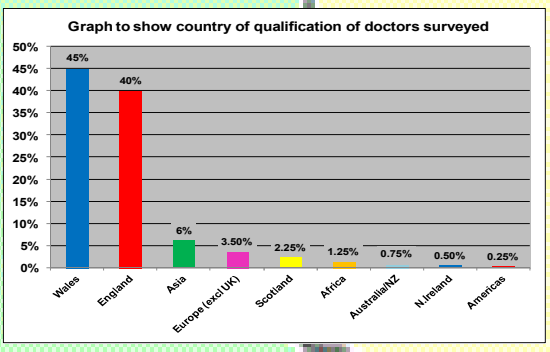


Doctors working in general practice in Wales possess over 50 different types of postgraduate qualifications between them.

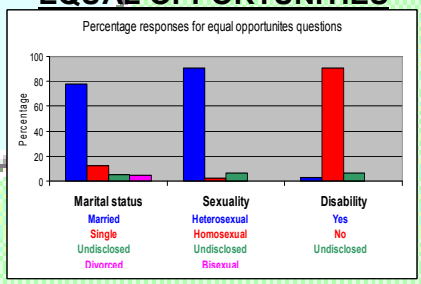


DEMOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION





EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

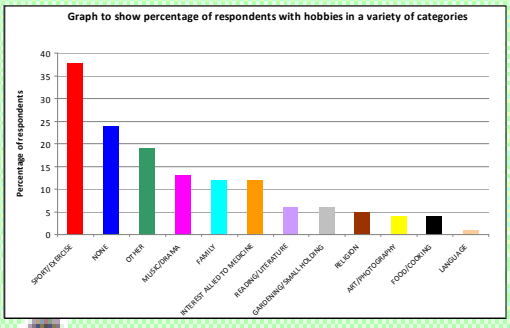


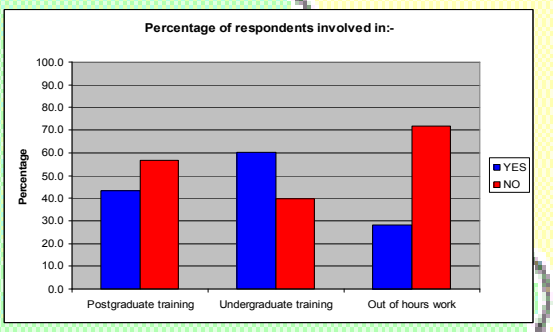
TEACHING AND OUT OF HOURS WORK

The majority of positive responses came from partners with a slightly higher proportion being male. Swansea LHB had the highest out of hours involvement.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

The most popular hobby reported was 'sport and exercise' at 38%. Interestingly 24% of responses reported 'no' hobbies. Other report hobbies related to their occupation or medicine, common themes included training, education, medical politics and health journalism.





To celebrate the diversity of responses received, we hope some of the quotes below give you a pleasant insight into the diversity of interests reported by GPs in Wales:

"I teach dog obedience .... the obvious answer is this helps me control my patients and partners!!!!"

"Creativity is a very therapeutic pastime & helps patients with chronic ill health to have a different focus"

"Skiing teaches me about the thrill of taking risks and lets me see why others take risks that seem stupid to me, but not to them"

"Golf. Keeps me sane"

"Horse riding - requires calm"

"This morning I shared my love of Eminem with a septuagenarian!"

"Chasing my 1 year old son!"

CONCLUSIONS: A large number of general practitioners have shown, through differing responses, qualities that prove workforce diversity in Wales and we believe that this can only be a benefit to the Welsh population now and in times to come.

RCGP Annual Conference – October 2011