E. Williamson¹, E. Shoemaker², A. Kim³, S. Vandekar³, S. Joshi⁴, A.L. Lewis⁵, I. Zalpuri⁴, A. Kerlec⁶

Perspectives on the recruitment of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry residents into training programs

Departments of ¹Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and ²Biostatistics, VUMC ³University of Southern California ⁴Stanford University ⁵Medical University of South Carolina ⁶The Ohio State University

Objective. Recruitment of the next generation of child and adolescent psychiatrists is an important mission of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) and the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). A review of the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) CAP Match data will inform current and future practices. Methods. The NRMP, American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and Association of American Medical College (AAMC) databases were queried from 1996-2021. A key word literature search of Medline via PubMed and Google Scholar of psychiatric and medical education was reviewed for the same time period. Results. The NRMP data show that the number of programs in the Match has increased and the percentage of programs that fill all of their positions in the Match is increasing. However, the numbers indicate a surplus of positions for the number of applicants, and the surplus appears to be increasing. Conclusions: One concerning trend is the surplus of positions compared to applicants while there is a great need for child psychiatrists. More research is needed on the incentives and disincentives for programs and applicants to participate in the Match and how to increase interest in Child & Adolescent psychiatry.

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