

POSTER #6

Performance, Success, and Challenges—Experiences of IMG residents in the Department of Psychiatry

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Purpose: International medical graduates (IMGs) represent 25% of the Canadian physician workforce. They bring unique cultural and linguistic skills to our academic and healthcare settings. Unfortunately many IMGs experience discrimination during their training including perceptions that IMGs do not perform as well as Canadian Medical Graduate (CMGs). The following study is the first phase of a mixed-methods study. In this first phase, we aimed to compare IMG and CMG psychiatry residents' exam performance given these perceptions related to IMG performance.

Methods: A convenience sample of IMG (n= 120) and CMG (n=986) residents' scores on the Coordinators of Psychiatric Education exam (COPE) from 2011 – 2018 was collected, compared and analyzed. Residents were included in the study if they had COPE exam scores between 2011-2018. Exam scores for any non-CaRMS matched IMG psychiatry resident in our program were excluded. Descriptive statistical analysis was applied to aggregated exam data results between the two groups.

Results: Aggregated COPE exam data from 2011-2018 showed that both IMG and CMG residents generally improve their exam performance as they progress through training. In addition, descriptive statistics of exam data from 2011-2018 demonstrate that there is not a significant difference in COPE performance between CaRMS-matched IMG and CMG residents.

Conclusions: This phase of the study suggests that there is no significant difference between CMGs' and IMGs' COPE exam performances. However, despite equal performance on exams, their experience of being a resident is different from CMGs according to the literature. This result indicates that there are likely additional factors that need to be understood about IMG resident experiences. Using qualitative methodology, we will aim to explore IMG trainee experiences in Phase 2 of this study.