

Variations in MFM Fellowship Clinical Competency through Curriculum Requirements Surpassing ACGME/ABOG Minimums by Geographic Region



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BACKGROUND

- ACGME and ABOG mandates a minimum number of time spent on core rotations in MFM fellowship: supervisory L&D (2 months), outpatient MFM (2 months), genetics/genomics (2 months), ultrasound (3 months), and research (12 months). 1, 2
- There is no minimum for inpatient/antepartum service.
- No published study to date has evaluated the variation in rotation schedules among MFM fellowship programs.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate curricular differences across geographic regions for MFM fellowship programs by assessing variations in the distribution of specific types of rotations above the minimum requirements as defined by ACGME and ABOG.

STUDY DESIGN

- Cross-sectional analysis of MFM fellowship curricula conducted in July 2024 for the 109 ACGME-accredited programs.
- All fellowship program websites were evaluated for rotation schedules. If not available online, programs were contacted via email for this information.
- The total number of mandated months by rotation for each program were tallied across the three years of fellowship.
- For each rotation, the percentage of programs that exceeded ACGME/ABOG minimum duration requirements were compared across geographic regions (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West).
- Chi-square and Fisher's exact analyses were performed with a p-value < 0.05 considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

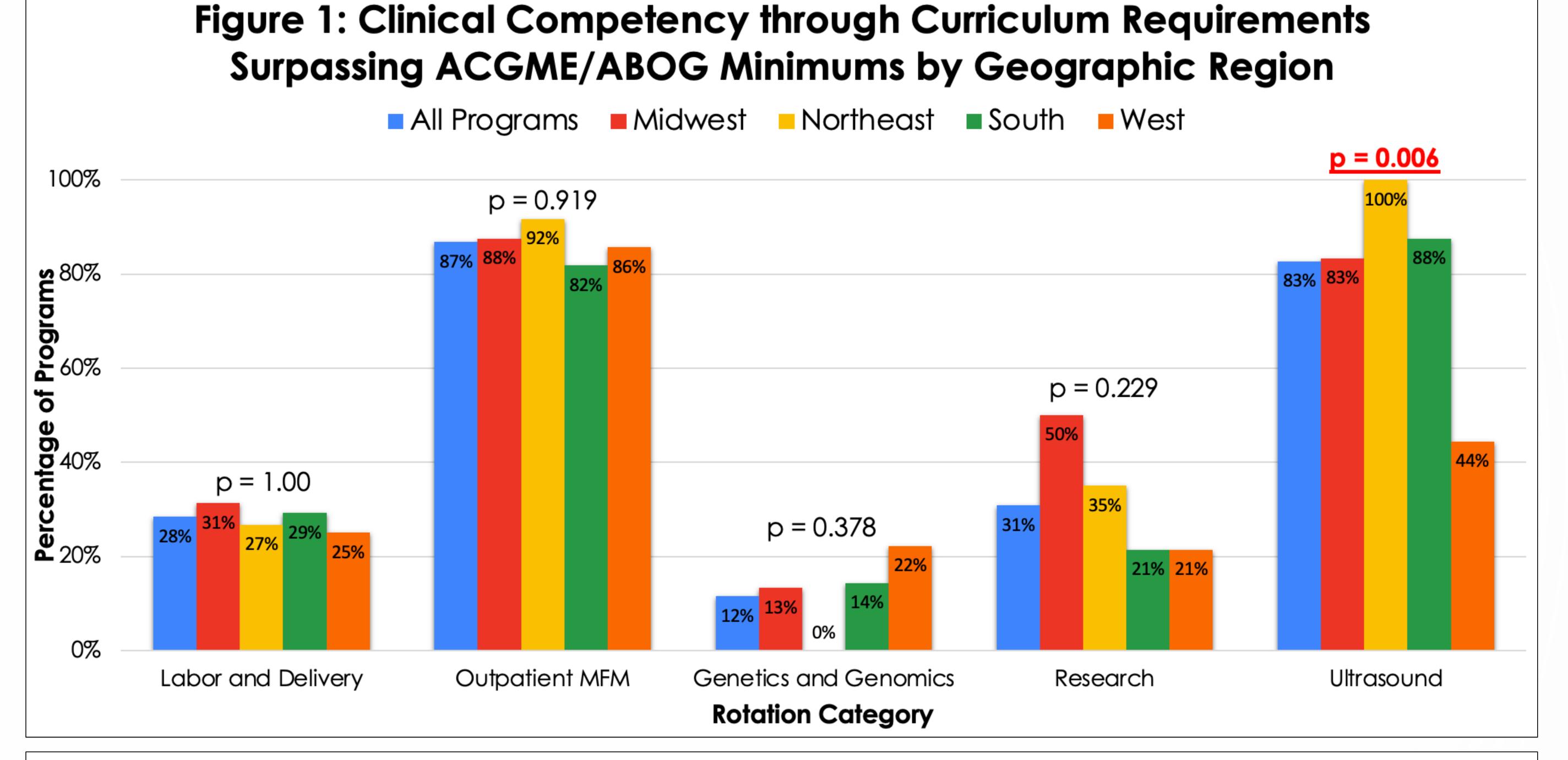


Table 1: Clinical Competency through Program-Specific Mandated Rotations by Geographic Region

Rotation	All Programs	Midwest	Northeast	South	West	p value
Program-Specific Mandated Rotations	20 (53%)	5 (50%)	3 (30%)	9 (64%)	3 (75%)	0.322
Anesthesia	6 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	4 (100%)	1 (50%)	<u>0.013</u>
NICU	10 (83%)	2 (50%)	2 (100%)	4 (100%)	2 (100%)	0.273
Pathology	3 (25%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	1 (25%)	1 (50%)	0.491
Other Required Rotations	5 (42%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (50%)	1 (50%)	0.758
Data are represented as n (%	5)					

- Rotation schedules were available for 59% (64) of programs.
- The percentage of total programs that exceeded minimums were 87% for outpatient, 83% for ultrasound, 28% for labor and delivery, 31% for research, and 12% for genetics and genomics.
- Only ultrasound requirements differed across regions (Figure 1).
- 100% of Northeast programs exceeded ultrasound requirements versus 44% in the West (p=0.006).
- 31% (20) of programs specified requirements for non-OB, non-ACGME/ABOG required rotations, most frequently NICU, anesthesia, and pathology (Table 1).

CONCLUSION

While there are curricular differences among individual MFM fellowship programs, variability above minimum requirements was only noted for ultrasound and non-obstetric rotations across geographic regions.

REFERENCES

- ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Accessed December 23, 2024. Available at: https://www.acgme.org/globalassets/pfassets/ programrequirements/230 maternalfetalmedicine 2023.pdf
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