An overview of Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program characteristics in the US

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BACKGROUND
There is a lack of information regarding Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency programs and curricular design. Currently it is very difficult to compare curriculum and outcomes for programs. Literature review has a paucity of data with no other research studies having been completed discussing the characteristics of Obstetric and Gynecology Residency Programs. The lack of centralized information inhibits collaboration and improvement of residency rotational curriculum and evaluation of diversity.

OBJECTIVE
The objective of the study is to describe US OB/GYN residency programs based of national trends.

METHODS
Data for all OB/GYN residency programs with at least one graduated resident class was collected from the following sources: FREIDA, an AMA-hosted, publicly available residency database, the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics, and individual residency program websites, and for those with missing data a survey was emailed to program leadership. Descriptive analyses, linear regression and Wilcoxon testing was completed.

RESULTS
Information was collected for 266 eligible programs.

CONCLUSIONS
There is variability in publicly available information about residency training. This makes it difficult to identify program-specific information and allow research to help improve curriculum and track outcomes. Transparency is lacking on program surgical numbers, and board pass rates. The release of that information is dependent upon the program. Based on the data that was evaluated we have the following recommendations.

- Programs are recommended to post their 3-year average board pass rate to a public source to allow transparency.
- Programs are recommended to post their average graduating class surgical procedure numbers to allow transparency.
- Programs are recommended to participate in the APGO Residency Directory and Update FREIDA regularly.
- Programs should ensure that their online information is up to date and include specific rotation information.

Future Directions:
- Development of a publicly available database with information for residency candidates and programs to allow transparency and improvement of OB/GYN education.
- Further investigation on Termination Training and possible impacts of regional law changes on termination numbers.
- Guidelines for new OB/GYN programs in development of rotations and time spent on rotation.

We hope programs will make more of their data public for applicants, and that our database of their information will be used to support programs as they evaluate their training programs.