

# 14 Length of Residency Program and Gender Distribution in Academic Emergency Medicine Departments

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**Background:** Although there has been an increasing participation of women in medicine in the past decades, women remain less likely to be faculty and departmental leaders in emergency medicine (EM).

**Objectives:** To determine the association between the length of EM residency programs (3-year versus 4-year) and the gender distribution of faculty and residents in emergency medicine. We hypothesized that the length of the residency program would not influence the gender distribution of departmental leaders, faculty or residents.

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study of 157 academic EM departments conducted between June 1-30, 2013. Using a data abstraction tool, we visited the website of all 157 EM residency programs to extract data on the following variables: length of program, number and gender distribution of residents, PDs, faculty and titled faculty. We defined titled faculty (TF) as a faculty member with a title distinguishing them from other faculty, a proxy for departmental leadership. Sixteen out of twenty programs that did not have the information on their website were contacted by phone using a script to collect the same information. Data were analyzed using T-test and chi-square tests. A p-value of  $<0.05$  was considered significant.

**Results:** 120 (76%) programs were three-year and 37 (24%) were four-year. Women chaired 10% ( $n=15$ ) of departments and comprised 27% ( $n=43$ ) of all PDs, 24% of TF, 31% of all faculty, and 37% of residents. 4-year programs had a significantly higher percentage of female TF, female faculty and residents compared with the 3-year programs [(0.30 versus 0.23;  $p=0.05$ ), (0.36 versus 0.29;  $p=0.001$ )&(0.45 versus 0.35;  $p=0.0001$ ) respectively]. There was no significant relationship between the length of the training program and gender of the chairperson ( $p=0.7$ ) or gender of the PD ( $p=0.5$ ).

**Conclusion:** EM 4-year residencies are more likely to have a higher proportion of female titled faculty, female faculty members and female residents.