

The Perceived Intersection of Parenting and PA Training Among Current PA Students



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Background

- In 2023, the AAPA Policy Manual added statement that encourages PA programs to make parental leave and parenting-related policies both publicly available and inclusive of adoption, surrogacy, and diverse family compositions.
- The purpose of this study was to explore the perceptions of support for, and impact on, family planning and parenting, including lactation, among PA students.

Methods

- Current PA students were recruited through an optional survey at the end of the 2023 AAPA Salary Survey
- Yale University IRB #2000034293

Results

- 41.2% (557/1353) of students completed the survey
- Average age: 27.0 years (4.4)
- Number of children: 1.9(1.3)
- 81.5% (454/557) Female
- 74.0% (412/557) White
- 29.1% (162/557) Married
- 52.1% (290/557) Clinical Year

47%
of PA-S believe there is a negative stigma attached to being pregnant during training

Less than 30%
of PA-S are comfortable discussing school-parenting integration with program leadership

PA students (PA-S) are overwhelmingly unaware of available resources for the integration of parenting and PA school

52%
of PA-S are unsure whether parental leave support or resources exist

21%
of PA-S believe their program is not supportive of time off for parental leave

Additional Results

- 12.5% (69/551) of PA students are at least somewhat familiar with program resources for lactation support
- 4.7% (26/554) of PA students believe they were asked inappropriate parenting or pregnancy related questions during program interviews
- Females (47.2%, 214/453) are more likely than males (31.6%, 30/95) to state that parenting impacted their decision to pursue PA over another profession ($p < .01$)

Conclusions and Implications

- Students are seeking information on parental leave policies as well as parenting and pregnancy-related policies such as lactation support, medical appointment scheduling.
- Programs should have zero-tolerance policies for parenting and pregnancy related discrimination during program interviews or throughout training
- Details regarding the effects of the clinical year [e.g., schedule variability, required travel for rotations] on parents remains unknown

Key References

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Disclosure Information

none