



Master of Public Health (MPH) Alumni
Survey
2016-2019 Classes
MPH, MS-MPH, DVM-MPH



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES

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Executive Summary

Survey Objectives

The objectives of the Alumni Survey are to collect and analyze information from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Master of Public Health (MPH) program graduates from calendar years 2016-2019. The survey was designed to secure satisfaction ratings, information, and recommendations from alumni, to guide and assist the faculty and the Academic Program Committee in their quest to continually improve the MPH program.

Survey and Methodology

The Alumni Survey is an anonymous, web survey that utilizes QuestionPro to format the survey, distribute the survey, and capture the responses. The data was analyzed using QuestionPro analytics and Excel.

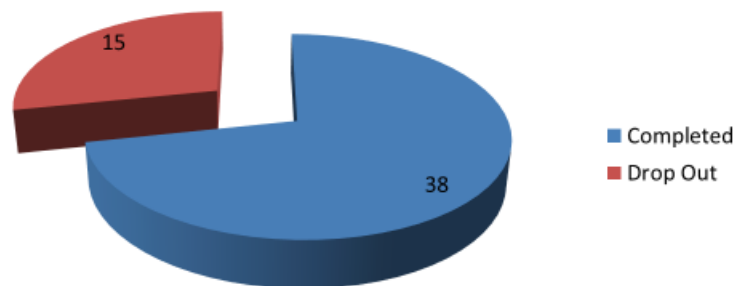
A total of 66 alumni emails that matched the required graduation dates were obtained from administrative records and input into QuestionPro. The survey was administered online during the summer of 2020. An initial email was sent on June 2, 2020, that provided information regarding the survey and a link. Reminder emails with the survey link were sent June 10, 2020 and July 6, 2020.

Of the 66 graduated students, 53 received all emails. Of the 53 who received all emails, 38 completed the survey, 15 dropped out at some point for a completion rate of 71.7%.



Survey Overview

Completion / Dropout

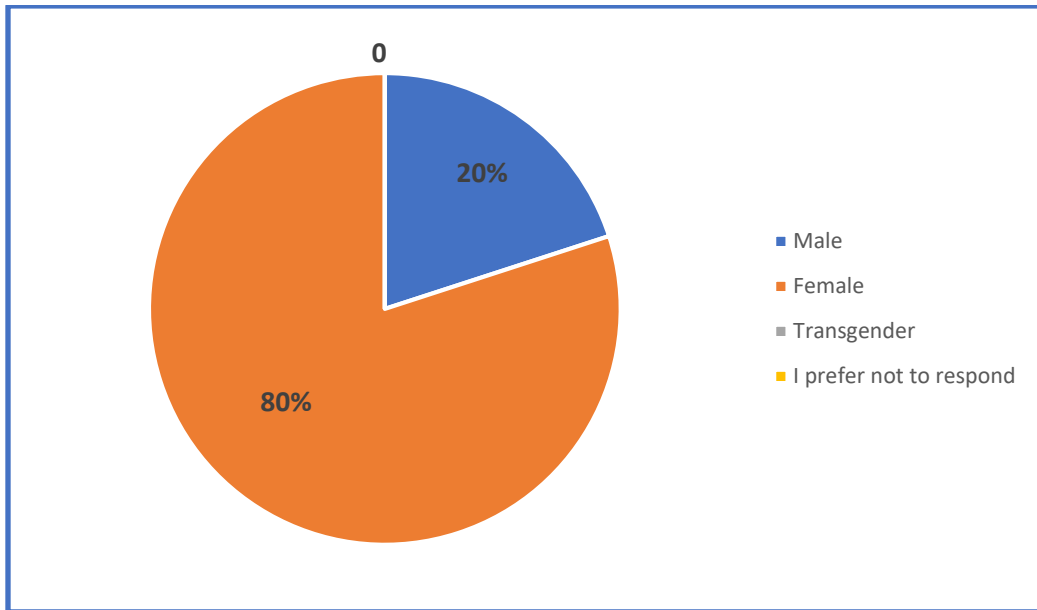


Results

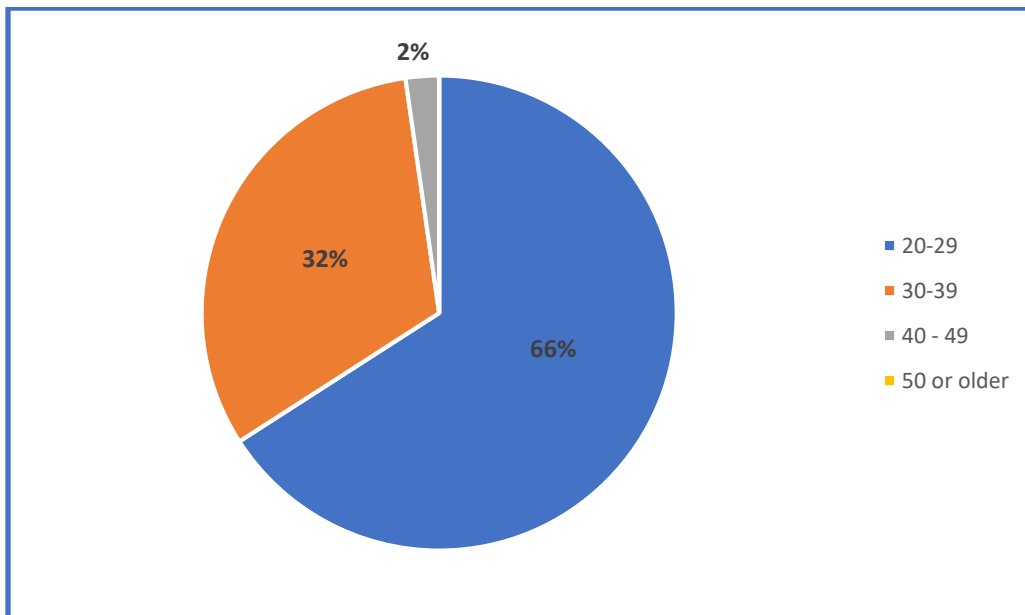
Demographics

From the responses (n=27), 80% reported identifying as female, and 20% reported identifying as male. No respondent reported identifying as transgender. Of the respondents (n=44), 66% reported being in the age range of 20-29, 32% in the 30-39 age range, and 2% reported being in the age range of 40-49. No respondents reported being 50 or older. The respondent's self-identification description percentage were: white (72%). Asian or Asian American (14%), Black or African American (9%), and other (5%). One respondent identified as Hispanic.

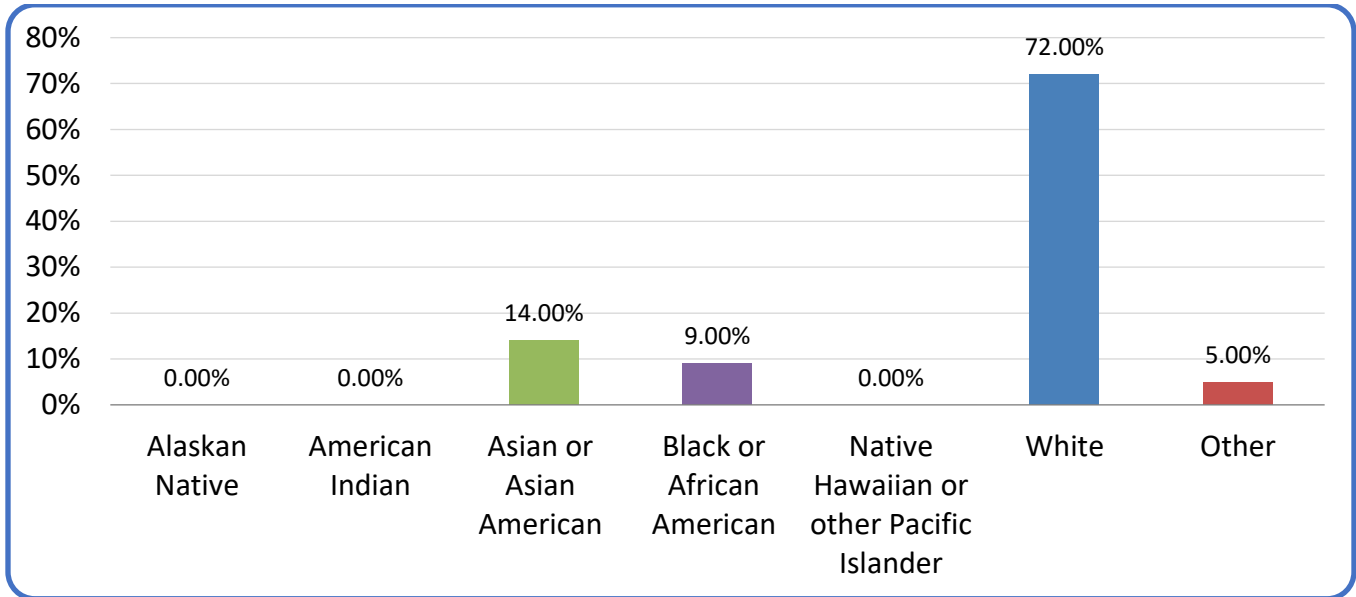
Gender



Age Range



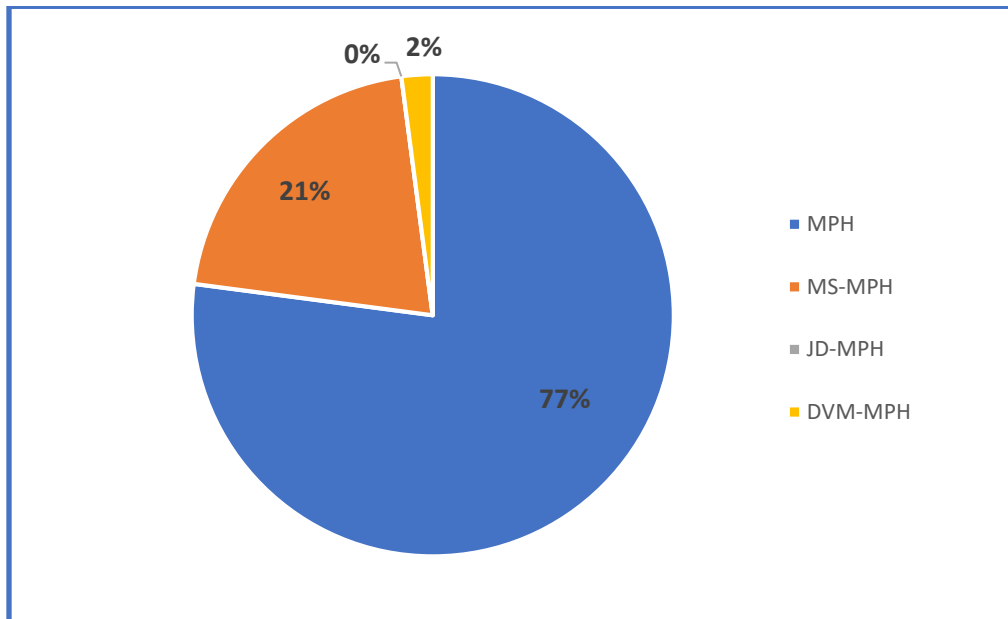
Race and Ethnicity



Degree

A total of three degrees were listed: Master of Public Health (MPH), Masters Science -Master of Public Health (MS-MPH), Juris Doctorate Master of Public Health (JD-MPH), and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine-Master of Public Health (DVM-MPH). Of the respondents (n=48), 37 identified as MPH graduates, ten as MS-MPH, one as DVM-MPH, and no one identified as JD-MPH. The majority of respondents identified as full-time students, and two identified as part-time students. In 2016, 31% of respondents graduated, respectively in 2017, 2018 and 2019, the percentages were, 16% , 35%, and 16%.

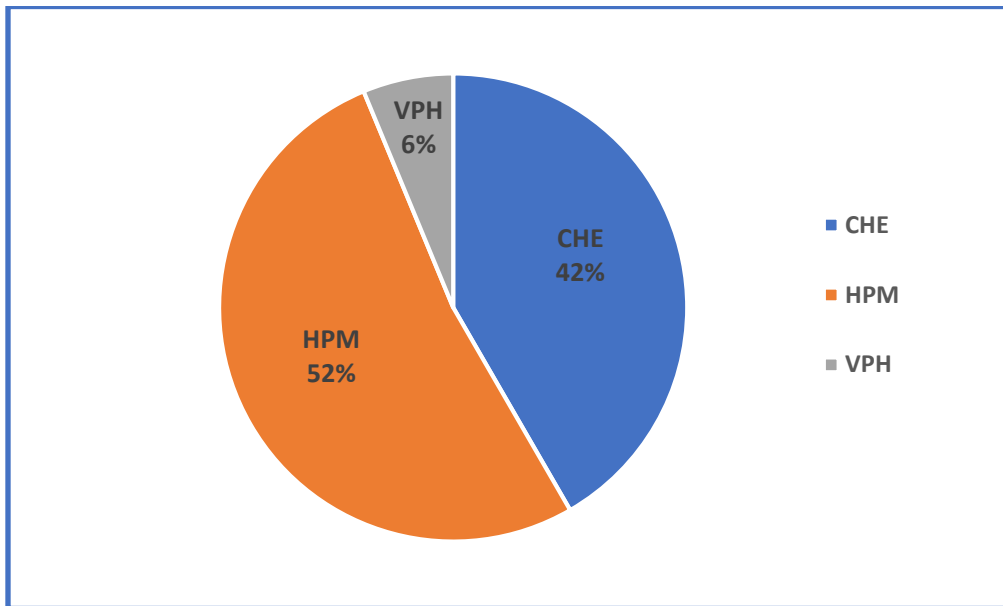
Degree Completed



Concentration of Study

A total of three concentrations of the study were listed: Community Health Education (CHE), Health Policy and Management (HPM), and Veterinary Public Health (VPH). 42% identified as CHE, 52% identified as HPM, and 6% identified as VPH.

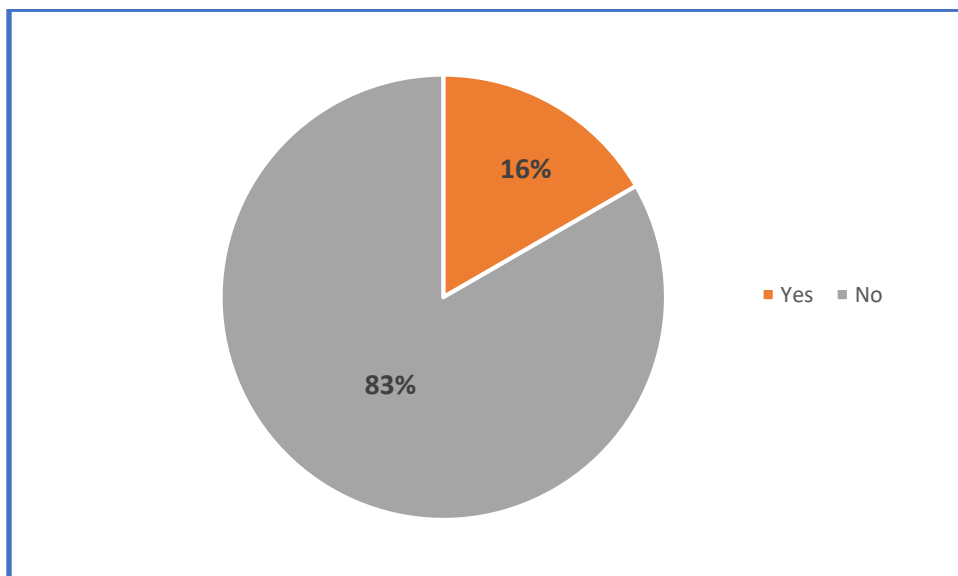
Concentration of study



Certifications

Respondents were asked if they had taken any exams for professional certifications, including the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam and the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam. No respondents indicated that they had taken the CHES exam. Eight respondents indicated that they had taken the CPH exam.

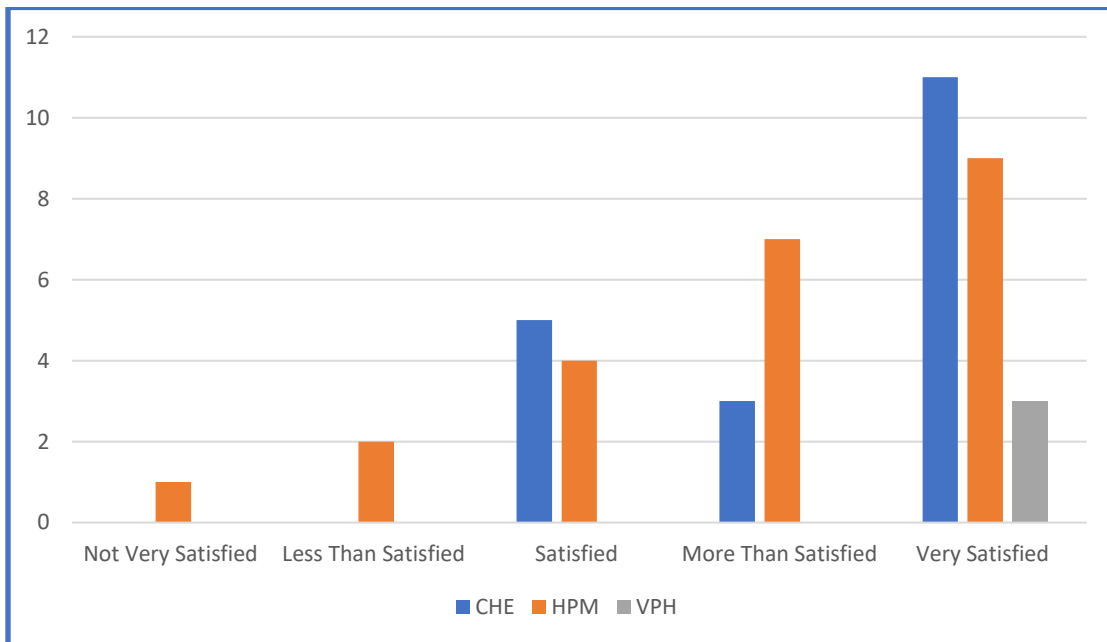
CPH Exam



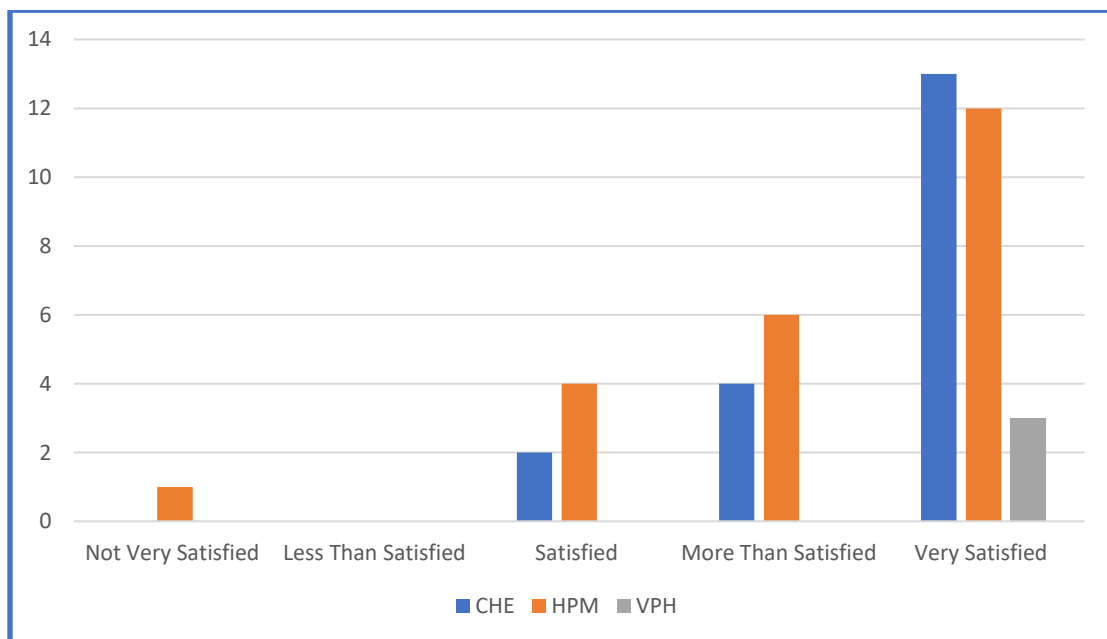
Student Experience

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with their overall experience in the UTK MPH program. Respondents were asked to rate their experiences in six areas as either “not very satisfied,” “less than satisfied,” “satisfied,” “more than satisfied,” or “very satisfied.” Respondents (n=45) rated timely communications with faculty the highest, with 73% indicating that they were more than satisfied or very satisfied. Effectiveness of career guidance received the lowest rating, with 23% of respondents indicating that they were less than satisfied or not very satisfied. Complete student satisfaction ratings are shown below, broken down by each of the three concentrations.

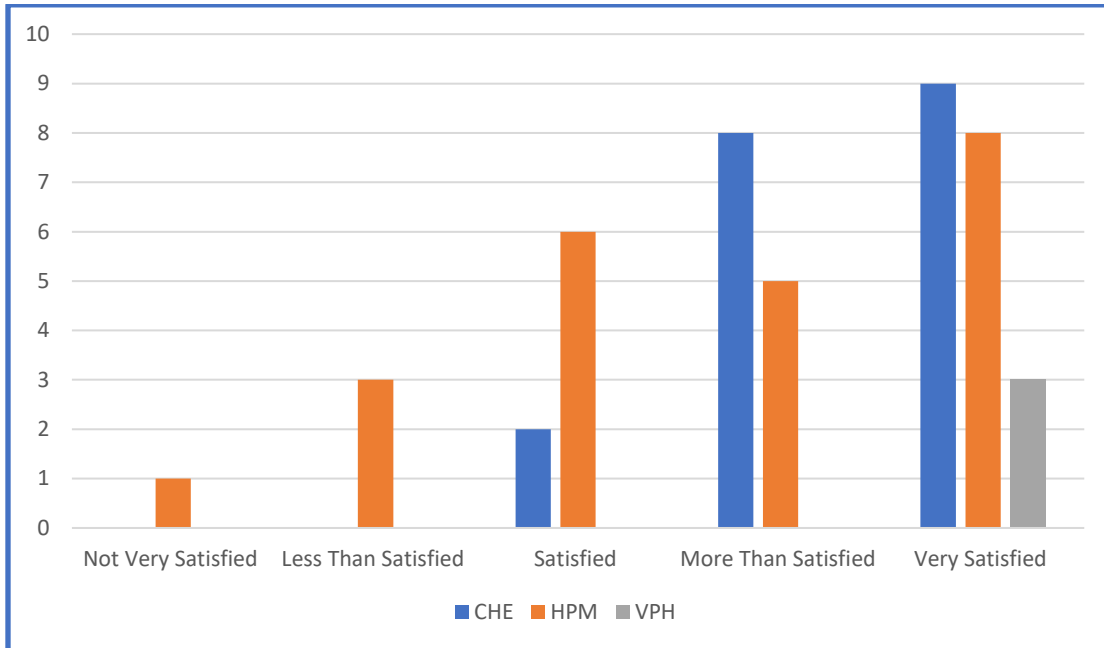
Quality of faculty advising



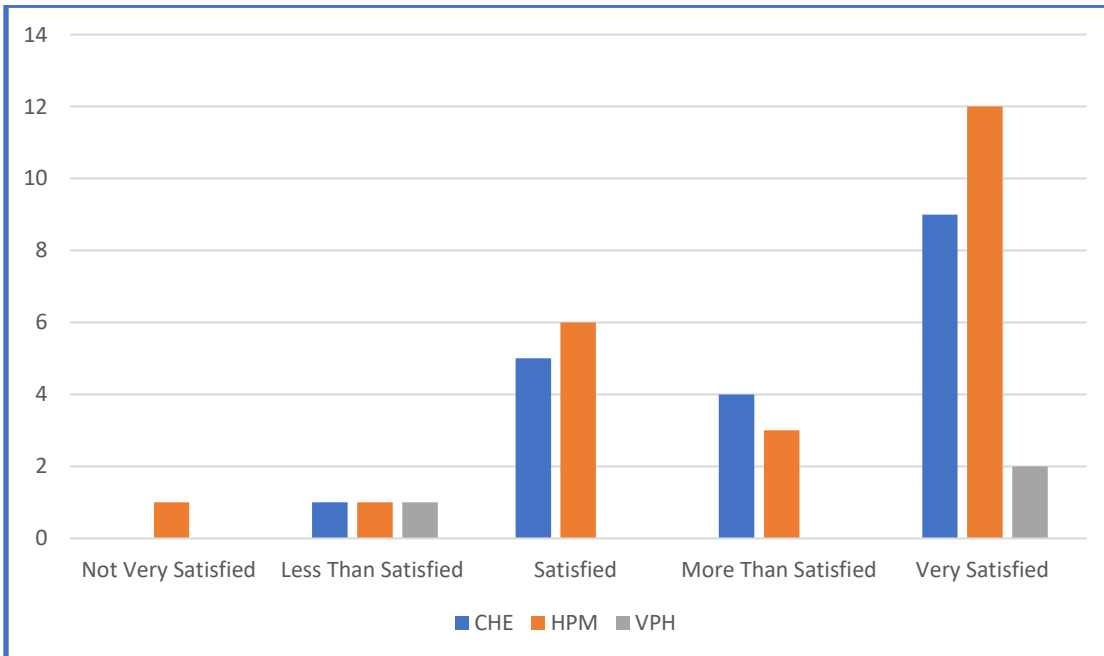
Timely communications with faculty



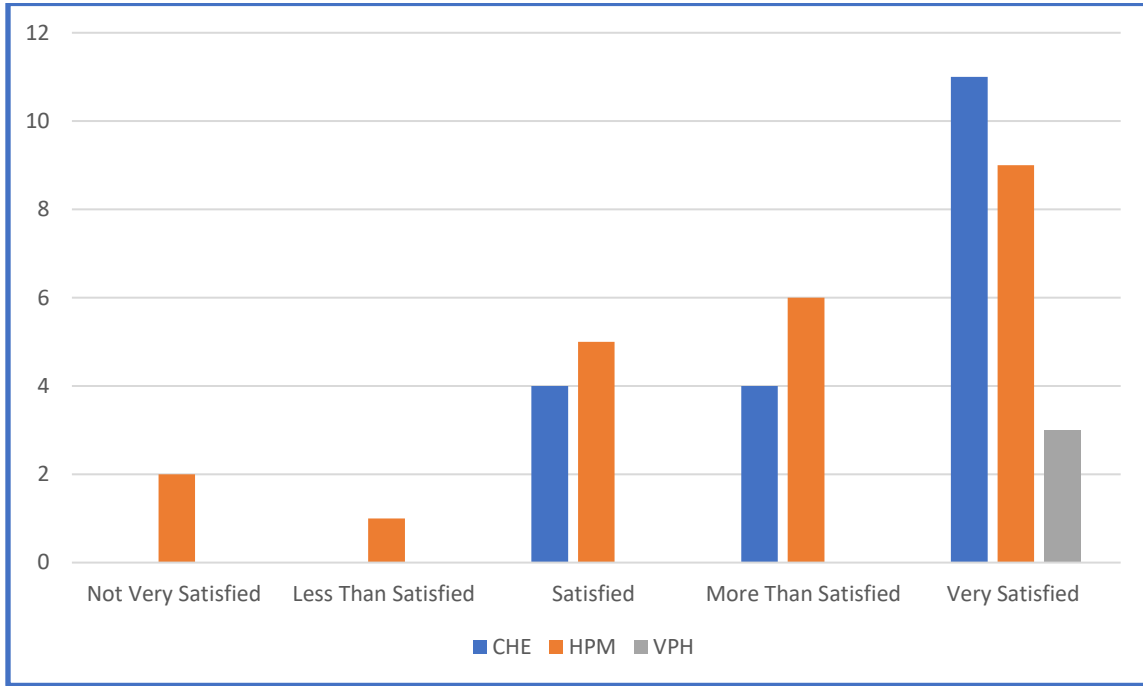
Quality of instruction



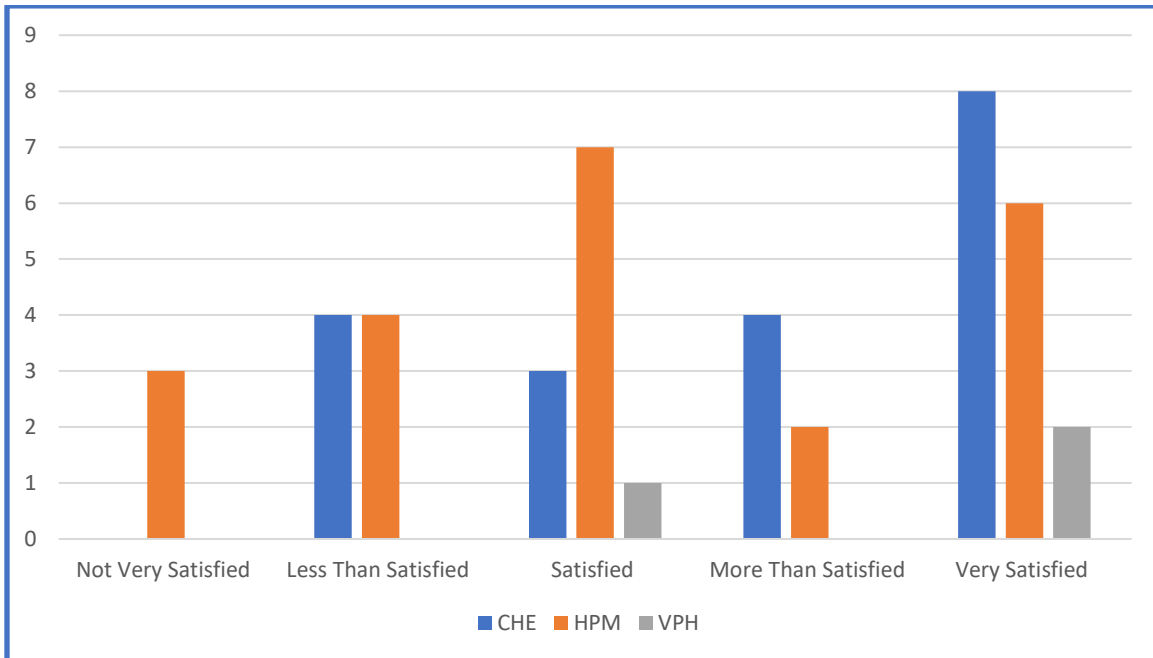
Support of peer group



Overall quality of MPH program



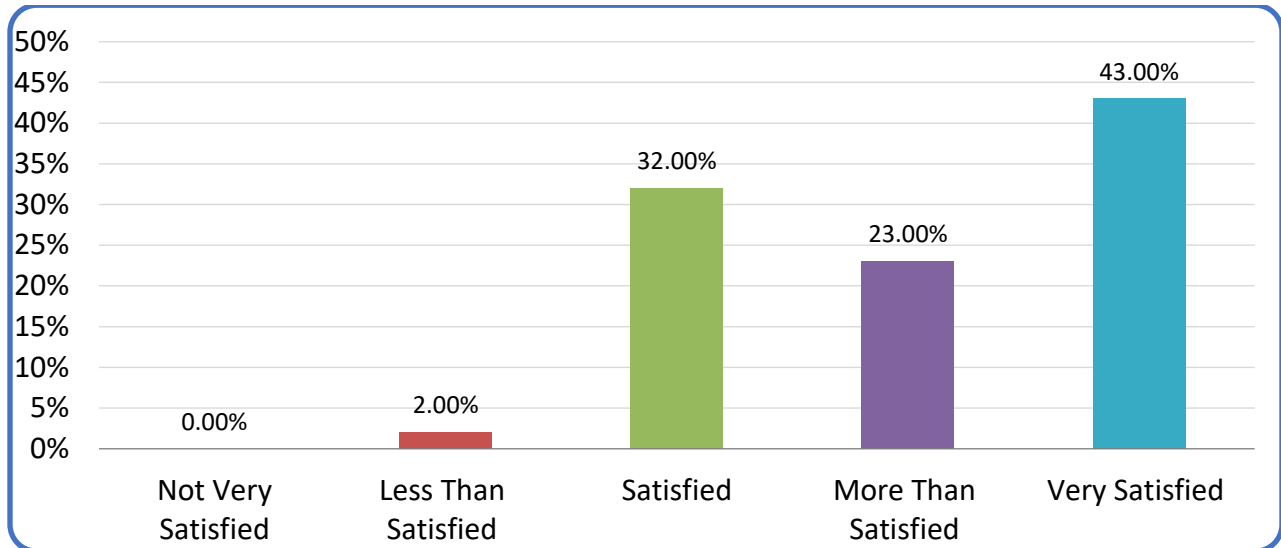
Effectiveness of career guidance



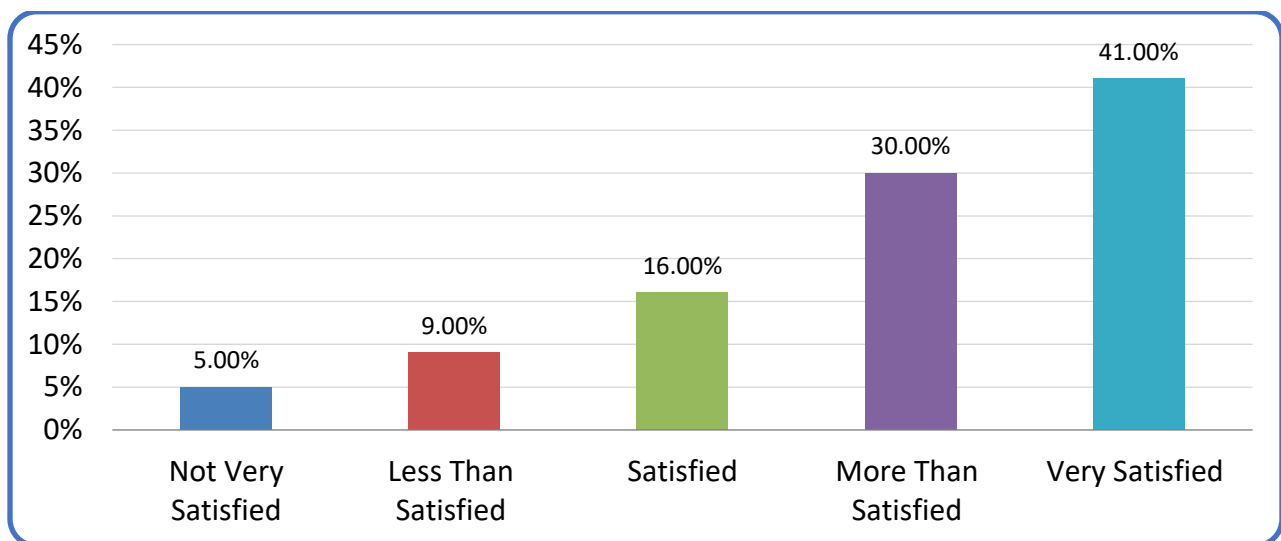
Professional Skills

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with UTK's MPH program in helping them increase their professional skill levels. Respondents were asked to rate their experiences in twelve areas as either "not very satisfied," "less than satisfied," "satisfied," "more than satisfied," or "very satisfied." Respondents (n=44) rated communicating clearly in written form, the highest with 82% indicating that they were more than satisfied or very satisfied. Using data to make relevant inferences, collaborating with community partners, managing programs and projects, evaluating health programs or projects, and providing effective presentations had at least 75% of respondents indicating that they were more than satisfied or very satisfied. Engaging in advocacy of policy and obtaining grant funding received the lowest ratings, with 23% of respondents indicating that they were less than satisfied or not very satisfied.

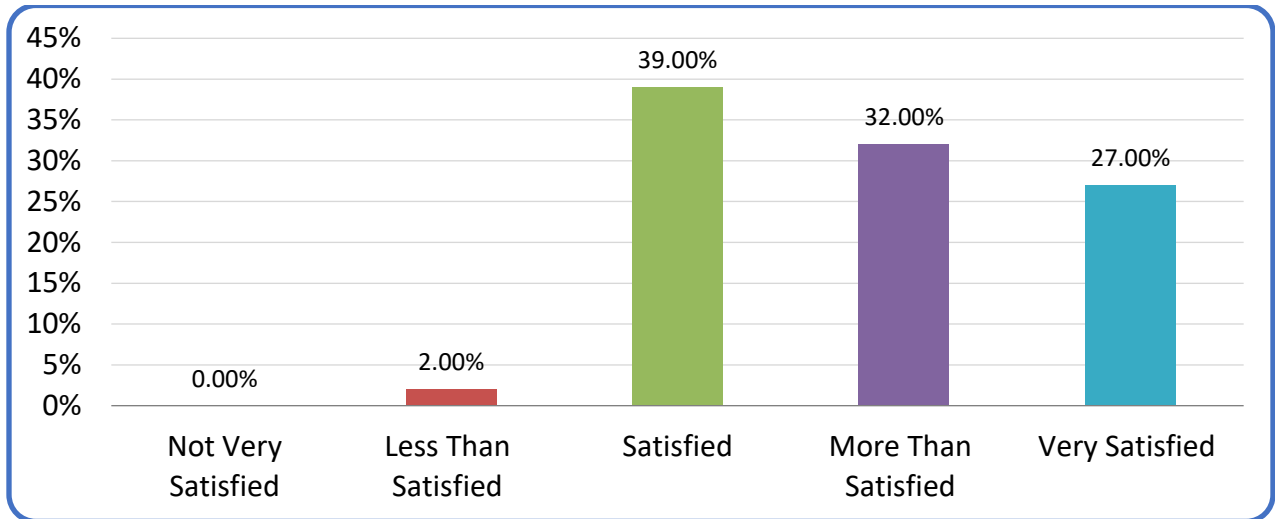
Articulating prevention approaches of public health, n = 44



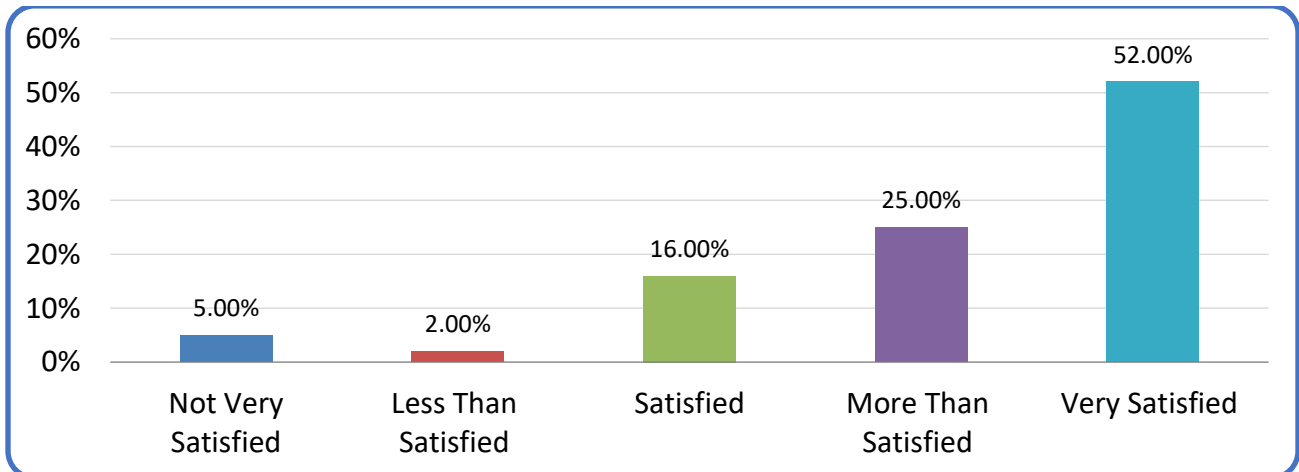
Interacting with persons of diverse cultural, racial/ethnic, and SES backgrounds, n = 44



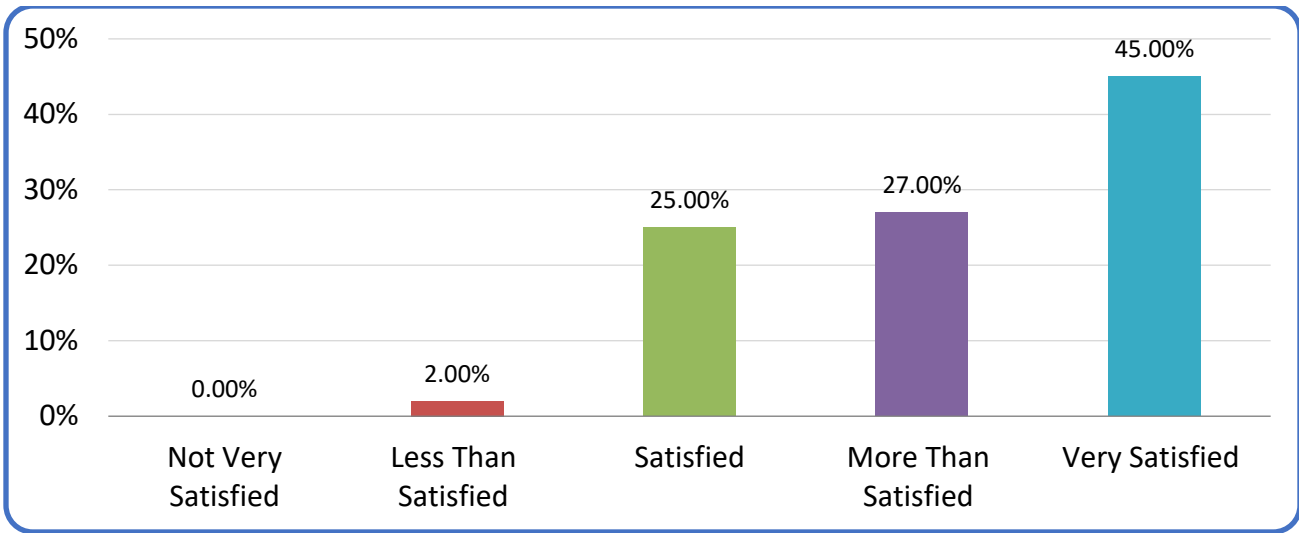
Conducting needs assessments for planning purposes



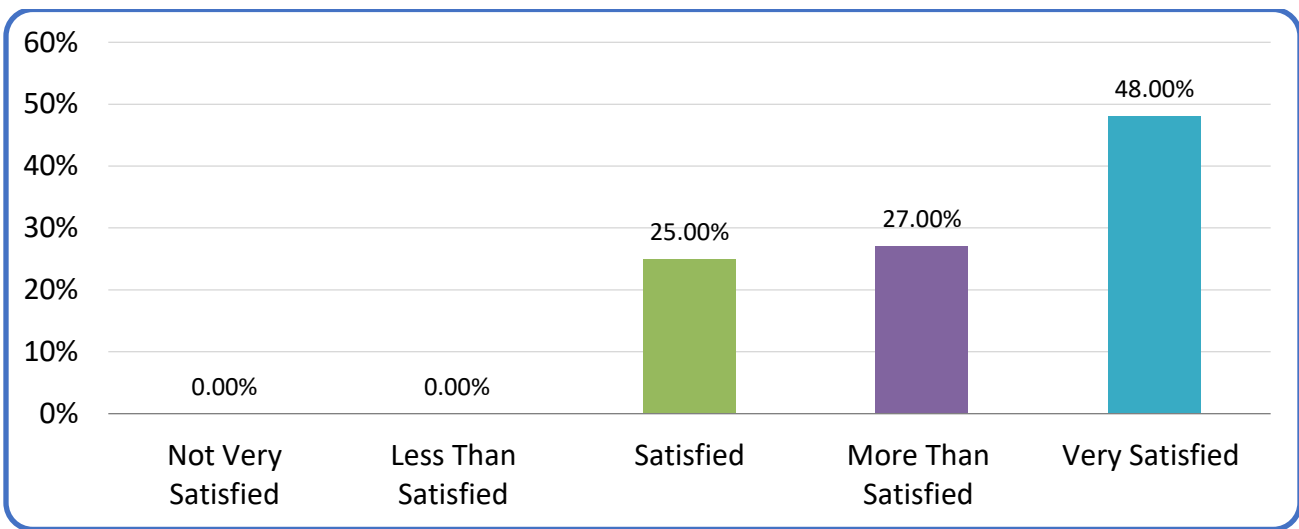
Using data to make relevant inferences, n = 44



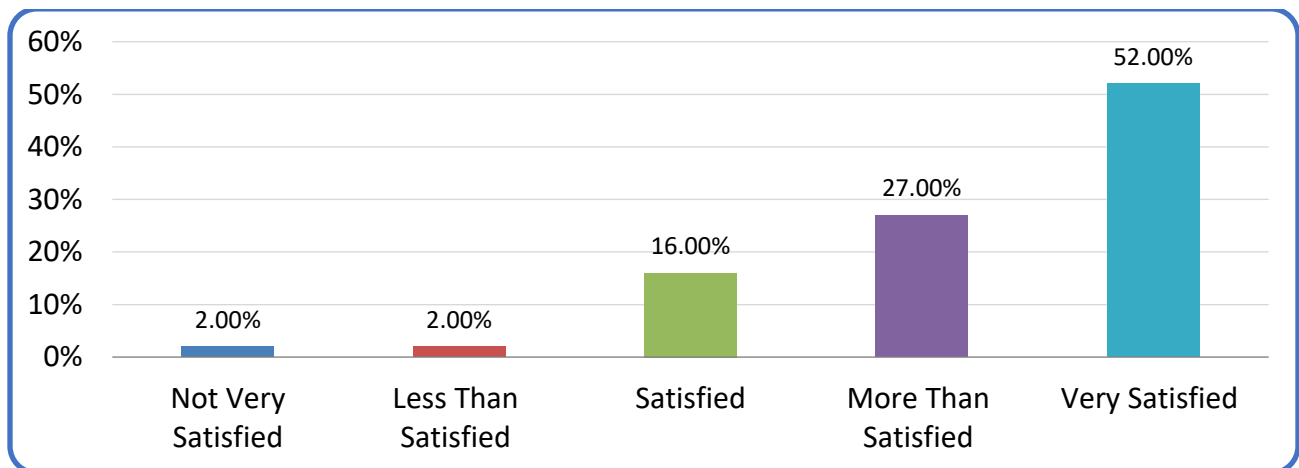
Leading professional work groups, n= 44



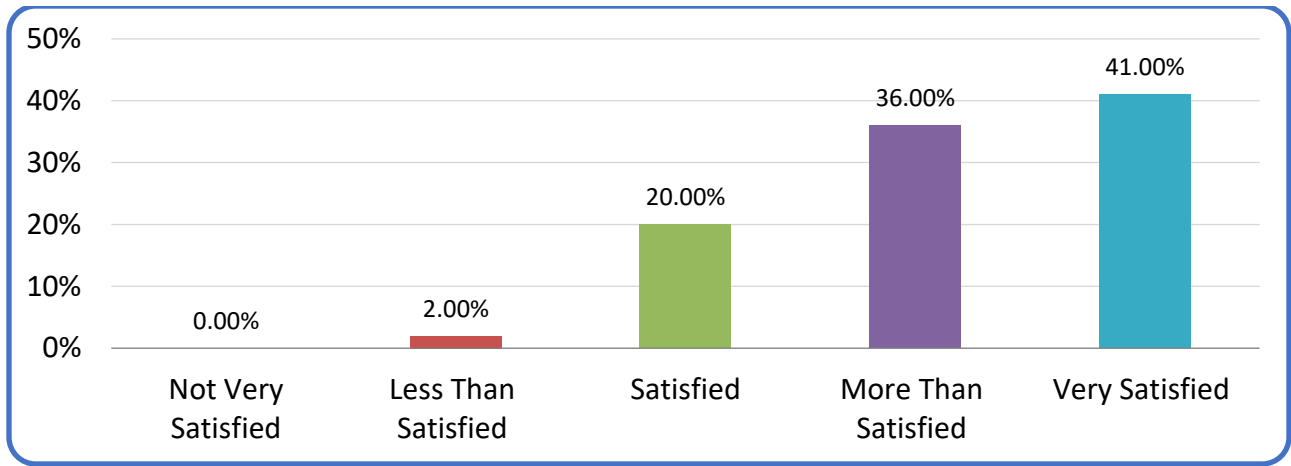
Collaborating with community partners, n= 44



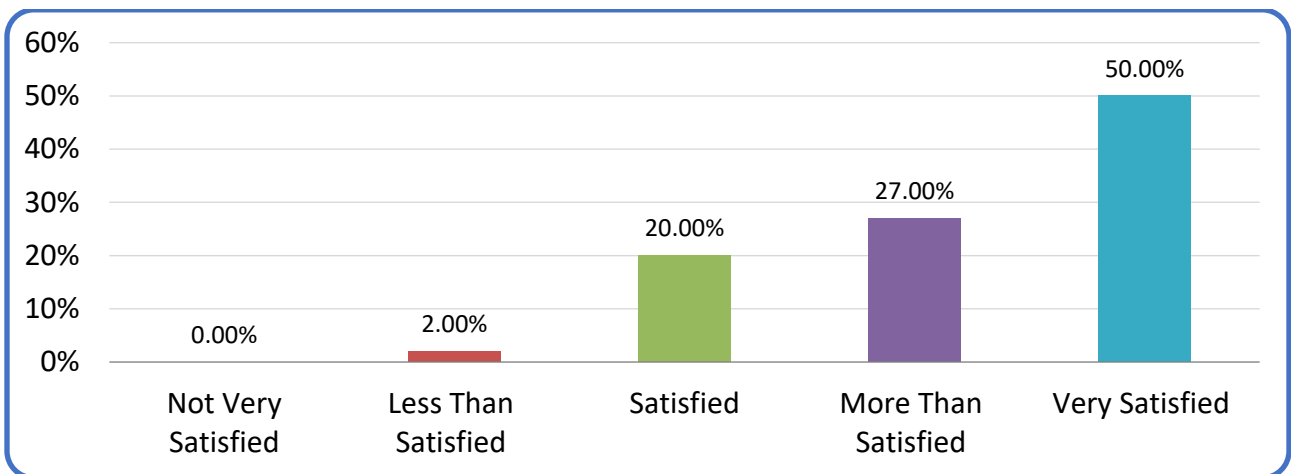
Managing programs and projects, n= 44



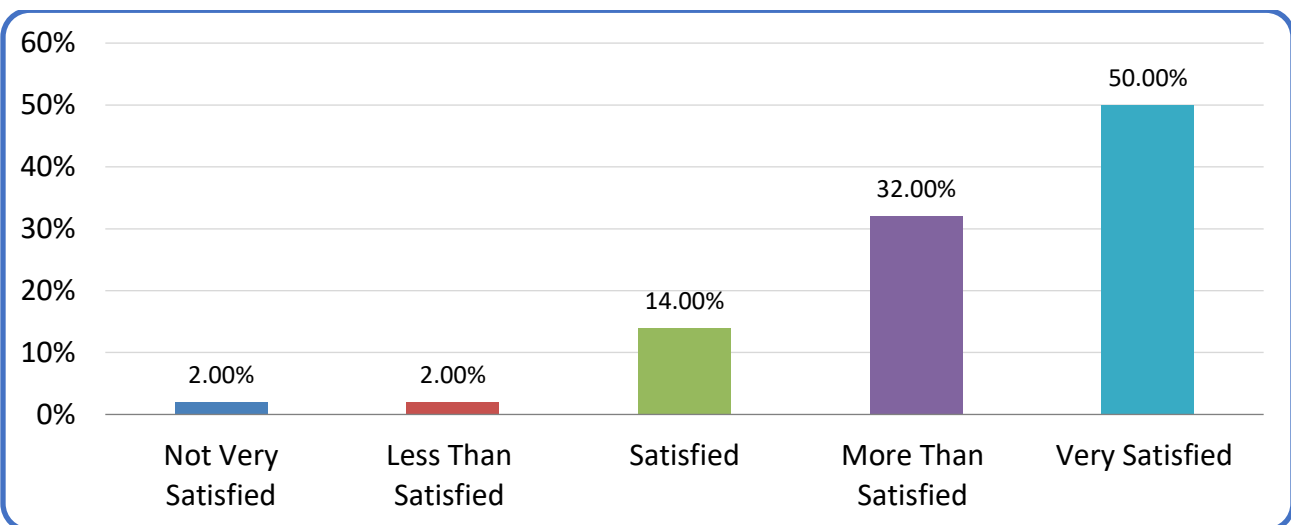
Evaluating health programs or projects, n= 44



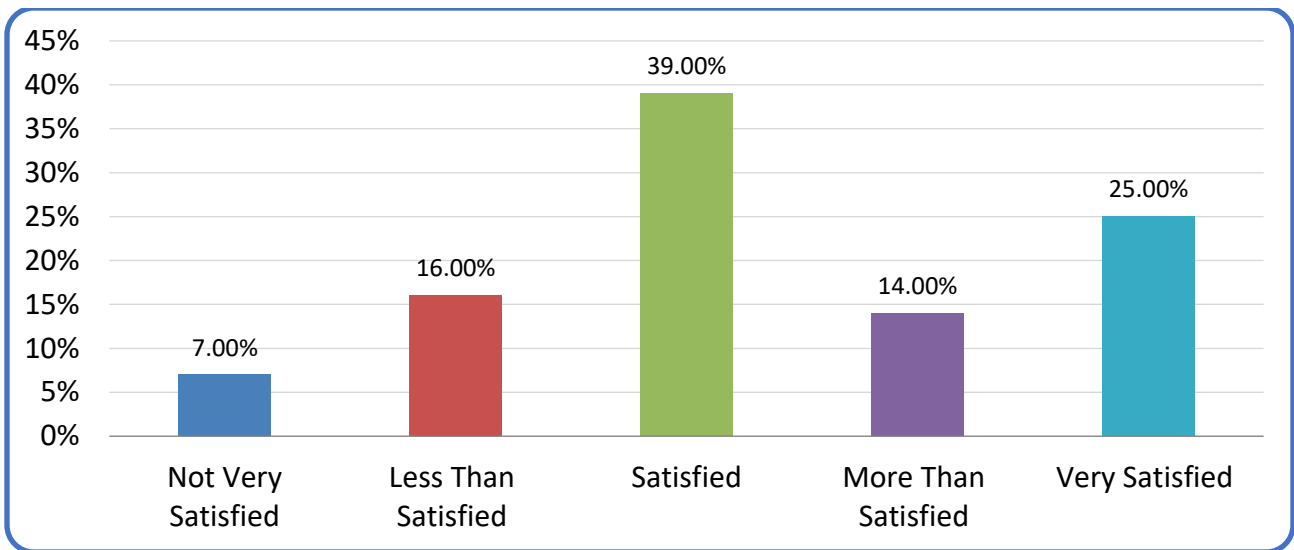
Providing effective presentations, n= 44



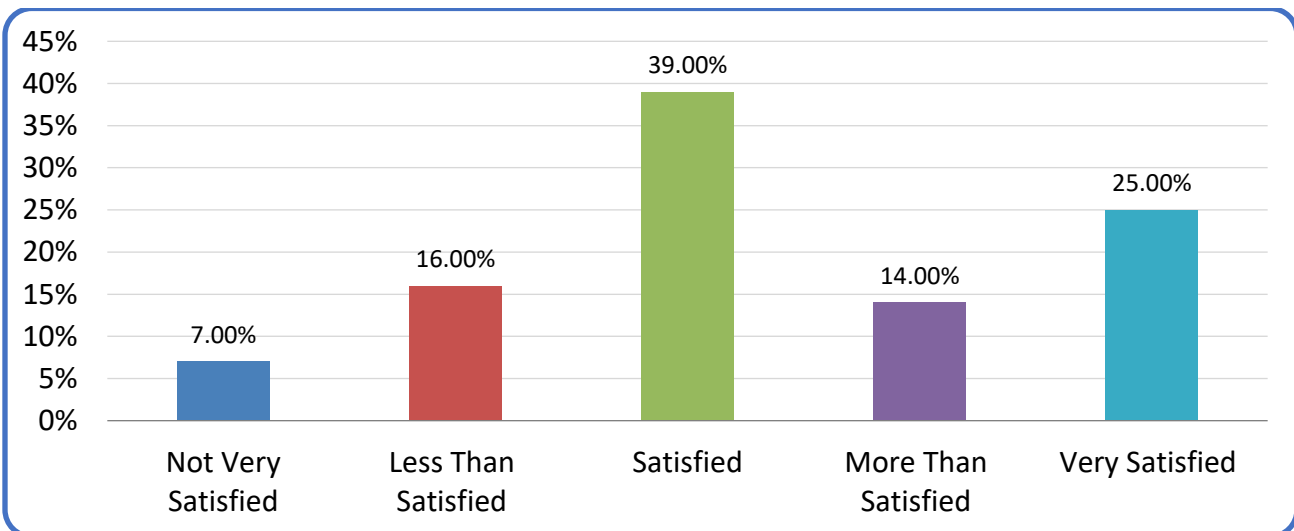
Communicating clearly in written form, n= 44



Engaging in advocacy of policy, n= 44



Obtaining grant funding, n= 44

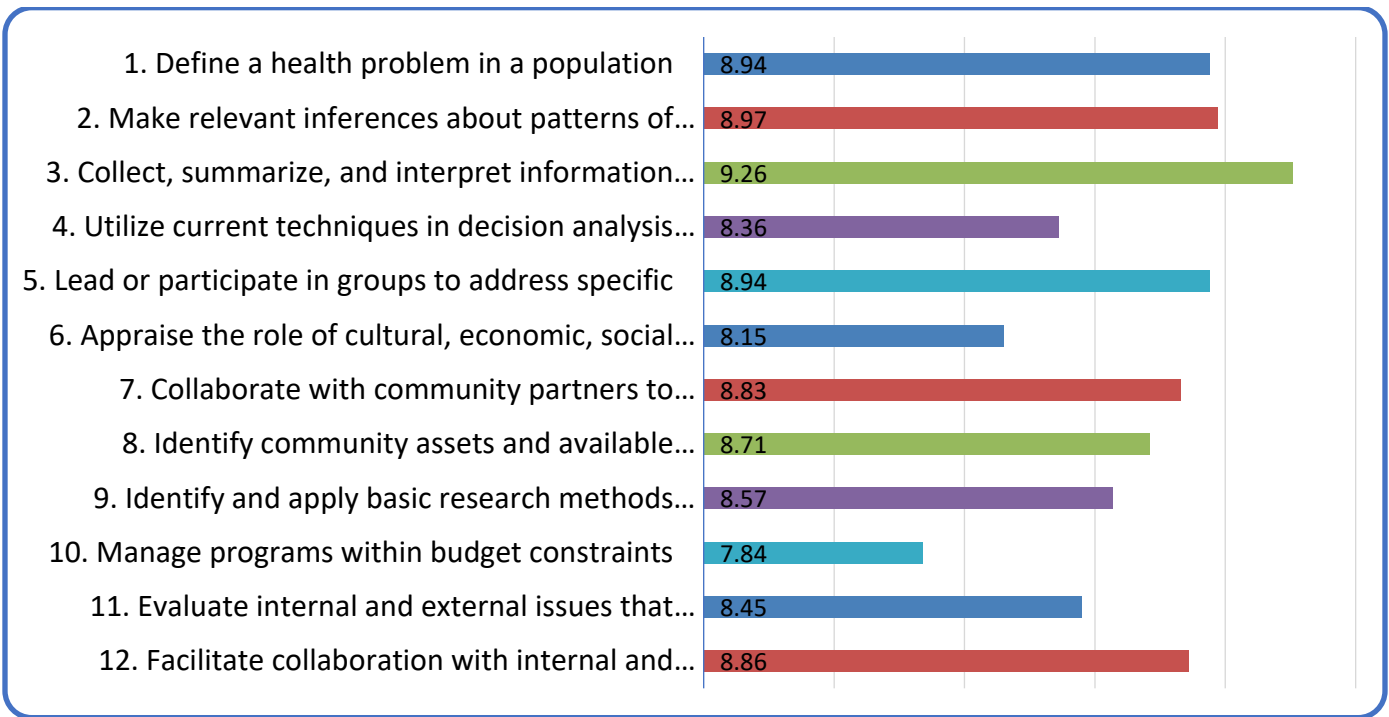


MPH Competencies

Respondents were asked to rate their ability to perform twelve MPH competencies in their work setting. The number of respondents varied for each question. Respondents were asked to rate their ability from 1-10. A rating of one indicated that they could not perform the competency without significant assistance. A rating of 10 indicated that they could perform the competency without any assistance. The MPH competencies are listed below:

- Define a health problem in a population
- Make relevant inferences about patterns of health and potential causes from quantitative and qualitative data
- Collect, summarize, and interpret information relevant to an issue
- Utilize current techniques in decision analysis and health planning
- Lead or participate in groups to address specific issues
- Appraise the role of cultural, social, and behavioral factors in determining the delivery of public health and health services
- Collaborate with community partners to promote the health of the population
- Identify community assets and available resources
- Identify and apply basic research methods used in public health
- Manage programs within budget constraints

- Evaluate internal and external issues that may impact delivery of essential public health services or other health-related service
- Facilitate collaboration with internal and external groups to ensure participation of key stakeholders



Value of the MPH degree

Alumni were asked to characterize the value (or potential value) of their MPH degree in helping them achieve their professional goals. Respondents (n=37) could select “low value”, “neither low nor high value”, or “high value”. The majority of respondents, 84% indicated high value for their degree, 14% reported neither a low or high value, and only one respondent indicated a low value. Respondents wrote a variety of reasons for choosing the selected value of their degree. A few quotes from responses are shown below.

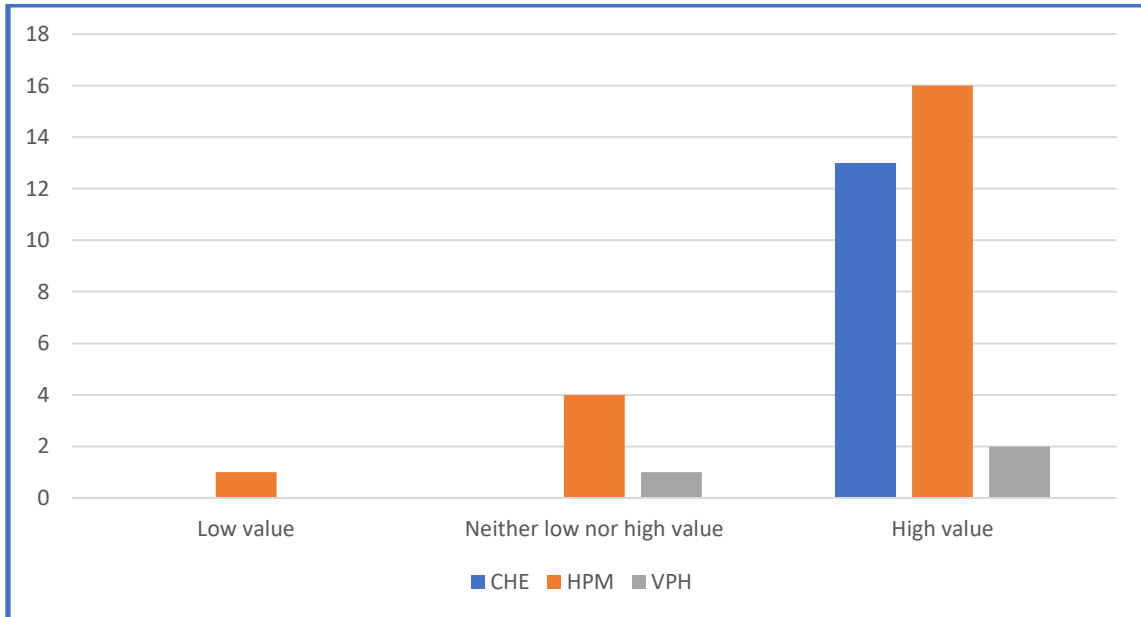
“I learned from my professors and gained new insight into issues in public health. My critical thinking skills were challenged in a way that added to my growth as a professional.”

“The program provided the foundation and experiences I needed to find the career path I am on now. This program also helped to shape my attitudes, perception, and approach to issues that help to bring a different perspective to my work team.”

“Having an MPH in combination with an MS shows that I have been educated about not only nutritional sciences, but public health fundamentals which I believe increases my value as an employee of public health nutrition organizations.”

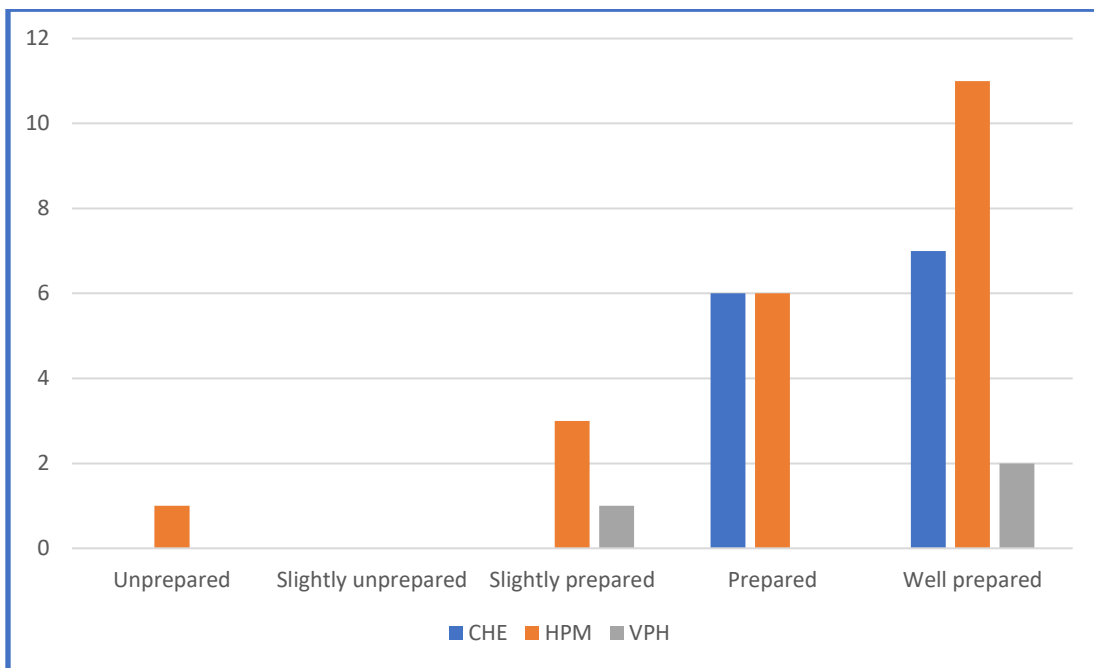
“The MPH has given me a unique perspective and critical understanding of how we interact with the healthcare system, barriers to health, and the regulatory environment that enables and hinders all of the above.”

Value of the MPH degree



Preparation for work performance

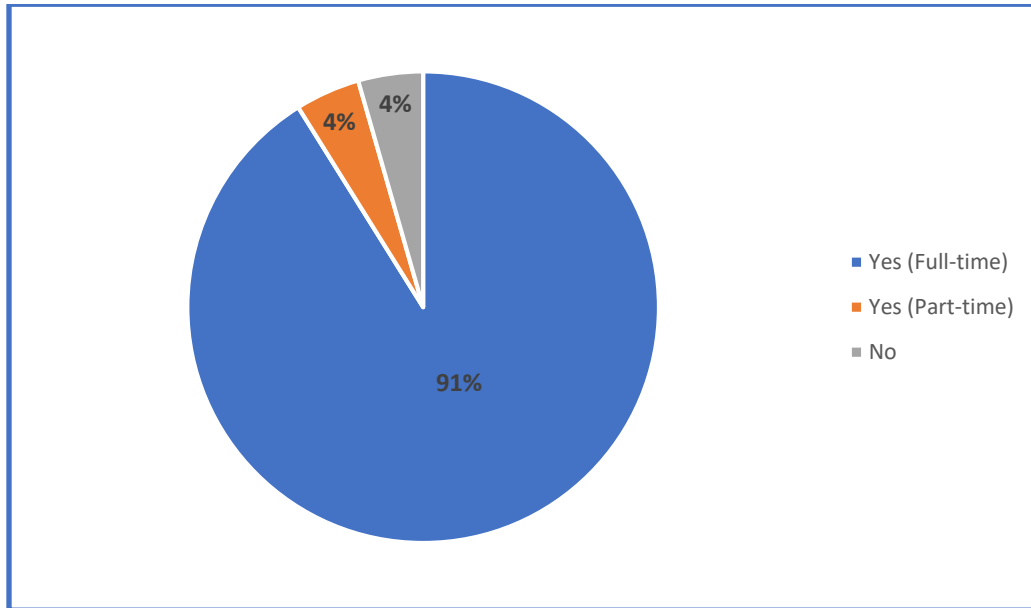
Respondents were asked how they feel about their preparation for effective work performance after completing the MPH degree. Respondents (n=37) were asked to rate their preparation as “well prepared”, “prepared”, “slightly prepared”, “slightly unprepared”, or “unprepared”. The majority of respondents, 86%, indicated that they were well prepared or prepared for effective work performance. Only one respondent indicated that they were unprepared.



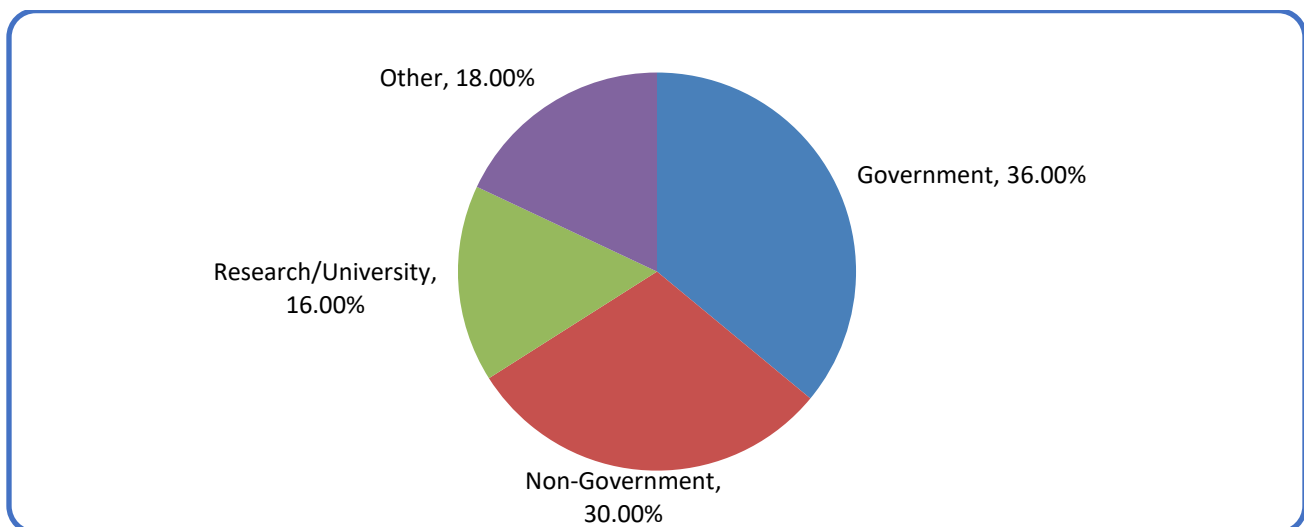
Post Graduate Employment

Respondents were asked a series of questions related to their current employment. Responses (n=45) indicated that 91% were employed full-time, 4% part-time, and 4% were unemployed. Respondents were also asked to identify their current employment sector. Government employment accounted for 36% of responses, respectively, non-government, research or university, and others accounted for 30%, 16% and 18%.

Employment



Type of organization



Respondents were asked to identify the type of organization they were employed for in each of the four categories (government, non-government, research/university, and other). Of respondents currently working for a government organization, 75% reported working for a public health agency. The majority indicated working for local government (38%), followed by federal (31%), state (25%), and regional (6%). Of respondents currently working for a non-government organization, 62% reported working for a non-profit and 38% for-profit.

