



Bixby Certificate Alumni Survey - Final Report

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February 2019

Background

This report summarizes findings from the Bixby Certificate Alumni Survey, an online survey that The Bixby Center on Population and Reproductive Health administered to all alumni of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health (FSPH) who had completed the Bixby Certificate in Population and Reproductive Health since its inception in 2005. An interdisciplinary team of faculty and graduate students had created the Bixby Certificate program to assist public health students who wished to specialize in sexual and reproductive health. The Certificate is comprised of ten competency areas that pertain to reproductive health policy, social and behavioral sciences, program design and evaluation, health education, cultural competency, ethics and advocacy. It is a non-degree credential demonstrating students' advanced qualifications to future employers. The goals of the survey were to determine if the Bixby Certificate had any impact on students' subsequent professional and academic pursuits, what aspects they found most valuable, and whether they were willing to mentor current students at FSPH.

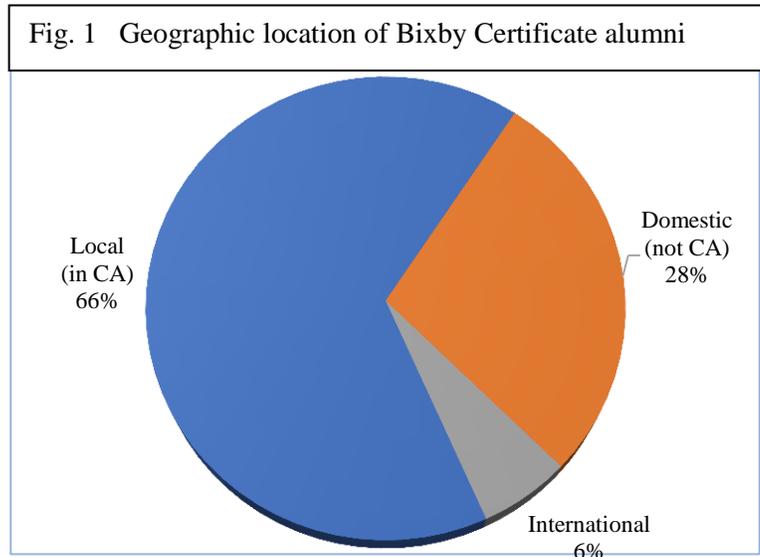
Methods

In April-May 2018, the survey was sent via e-mail to all 61 Bixby Certificate alumni who were awarded the Bixby Certificate from 2005 to 2017 and were still alive. The survey took about 10 minutes to complete online using SurveyMonkey. It asked alumni to report their current employer (if any), their role, their year of graduation, their major department as an FSPH graduate student, their minor if they had one, and their involvement in student organizations (e.g., the Reproductive Health Interest Group (RHIG) or Sex & Cookies) while attending FSPH. It also asked alumni which courses for the Bixby Certificate were most valuable to them, if the Certificate had an impact on their career, and if they would be willing to be more involved with the Bixby Center in the future (such as giving a lecture as part of the Bixby Lecture Series, providing internship opportunities, and/or mentoring current public health graduate students).

Results

Of the 62 Bixby Certificates awarded, one alumna had died and two could not be traced. Of the 59 alumni who were sent the survey, 50 responded (an 85% response rate.)

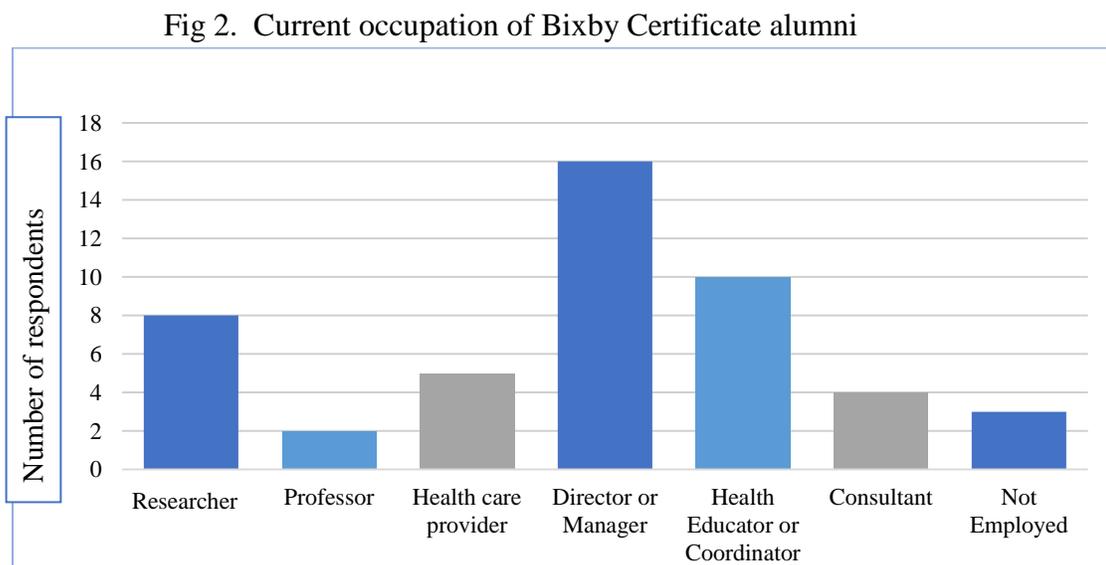
As shown in Figure 1, at the time of the survey, two-thirds of the respondents lived in California. Only 6% lived outside the U.S.



Concerning their careers and the Bixby Certificate's impact, the main findings were:

- 68% of respondents said that the Bixby Certificate had an impact on their career. (20% did not know.)
- 90% were currently employed (mainly in public health) or were full-time students.
- 14% went on to obtain their PhD.

Of those who are not currently students, their current occupations are shown below.



Respondents were currently working predominantly in universities, health services settings, and for non-profit organizations. Many of the universities and organizations are leaders in the reproductive health field. The complete list appears in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Current employer of Bixby Certificate alumni

University settings	Drexel School of Public Health
	Emory University
	Georgia State University
	San Francisco State University
	UCLA
	UCSF
	University of Washington
For-profit organizations	Sentient Research
Non-profit organizations and the UN	AIDS Healthcare Foundation
	Berkley Media Studies Group
	Beyond Borders
	Essential Access Health
	Good Shepherd Services
	Ipas
	Planned Parenthood
	United Nations – Economic Commissions for Europe
Government agencies (local, state, federal)	California Department of Public Health
	LA County Department of Health Services
Health service settings	Brigham and Women’s Hospital
	Cedar Sinai Medical Center
	Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
	Clinicas del Camino Real
	Kaiser Permanente
	La Clinica de la Raza
	Providence Holy Cross
	Regal Medical Group
	Seattle Children’s Hospital
	St. Joseph Hospital
	UW Health
	United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley

Of those respondents who could recall courses they took for the Bixby Certificate, the top eight courses mentioned appear in Table 2. The courses with an asterisk are funded or were initiated by the Bixby Center. Only 14% of the respondents reported that they had been a member of the Reproductive Health Interest Group (RHIG) while at the FSPH.

Table 2. Most valuable classes from the Bixby Certificate matrix (n=49)

FSPH Course		
CHS 427*	Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa	29%
CHS M430*	Building Advocacy Skills: A Reproductive Health Focus	14%
CHS 432	Perinatal Health	12%
CHS 431*	Foundations of Reproductive Health	10%
CHS 247	Population Change and Public Policy	10%
EPI 230	Epidemiology of STDs	8%
CHS 246*	Women's Roles and Family Health	4%
EPI 232	Methods in Research of Marginalized and Hidden Populations	4%

When queried about whether they would like to stay engaged with the Bixby Center, nearly half said they would be willing to provide a lecture, about one-third could potentially offer an internship, and nearly two-thirds would be willing to mentor current students (see Table 3).

Table 3. Bixby alumni interested in providing support to current FSPH students (n=50)

Support type	
Could give a lecture in Bixby Lecture Series	48%
Could provide an internship	30%
* International Internship	8%
* Domestic Internship	22%
Willing to be a mentor	62%

In the survey comments section, many respondents explained why they felt that acquiring the Bixby Certificate had been useful to them. Selected comments and the year of graduation appear in Table 4 below in chronological order. All of the comments were positive.

Table 4. Selected comments from respondents on usefulness of the Bixby Certificate

Comment	Year of Graduation
<i>"Helped [me] get hired in reproductive health related positions...[and] understand reproductive health inequities globally and locally."</i>	2007
<i>"Helped me get a leg up on competing applicants, no doubt. Thank you for that!"</i>	2008

<i>"I found that the educational requirements of the Bixby Certificate helped to shape my worldview and helped me become a champion for reproductive health and rights both in my work and in my personal life."</i>	2009
<i>"Provided me a framework to help navigate my MPH training (only 2 years so this is important) as well as provided funding for me over the summer that was instrumental in my career."</i>	2009
<i>"Provided me with the skills and content expertise to develop a research career in sex worker health and human rights."</i>	2012
<i>"The certificate is a useful way to guide class choices without being too limiting that it inhibits exploration."</i>	2013
<i>"I feel that the Bixby Certificate let potential employers know the competencies reached in reproductive health more than a CHS MPH on its own."</i>	2015
<i>"Provided a foundation of knowledge and skills that can be applied in every setting I work."</i>	2016

Conclusion

Overall, the majority of the Bixby Certificate alumni are still employed in public health, mostly in California, but also nationally and even internationally. More than two-thirds felt that attaining the Certificate had a positive impact on their career. About one-seventh went on to complete a doctorate in public health or a related discipline. They report that they applied the training they gained through the certificate to multiple work settings, including government agencies, hospitals and health services providers, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations.

In addition, the Bixby Certificate alumni have a strong willingness to stay engaged with FSPH students, through providing lectures, internships, or mentoring.