Health professionals are expected to work together effectively in the hospital, yet little is known about how much formal interprofessional team training resident physicians receive.

ACGME’s Common Requirements state that resident physicians are expected to communicate effectively with other health professionals and to work together on health care teams. Apart from occasional isolated reports, however, little is known about the prevalence of interprofessional team training across the broad range of residency training programs.

Since the early 1990s, AMA-FREIDA Online has made available detailed information from over 8,000 accredited residency programs to assist senior medical students in making residency selections. Included in this database is a listing by programs of special educational benefits which they offer in addition to basic required elements. Among the 24 listed supplemental learning experiences is “Formal Program to Foster Interdisciplinary Teamwork”. This paper will provide previously unexamined and unreported data on the prevalence of this offering by specialty, program, state and region for the year 2007-8.

The mean figure for all specialties was 25.9%. As expected, there were significant differences by specialty, with the highest percentages being reported by geriatric medicine (64.8%) and developmental pediatrics (62.2%), followed by internal medicine (45.3%), sleep medicine (44.8%), and family medicine (40.4%). The lowest figures were found for hand surgery (8.9%), pathology (10.1%), and dermatology (11.8%). There were significant regional differences as well. The highest percentages were found in the New England States (57%), the Mid-Atlantic States (54%), and the West North Central States (53%). The lowest percentages were found in the East South Central States (20%) and the West South Central States (25%).

Interprofessional team training varies greatly among residency programs and may reflect social values.