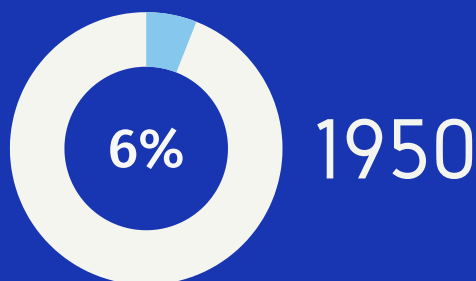
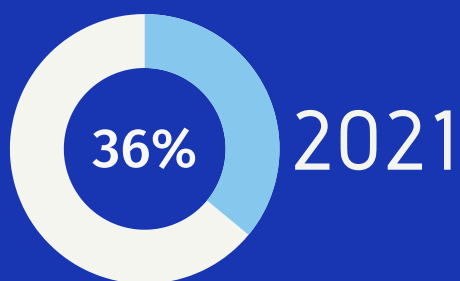




Laila Woc-Colburn, MD, DTM&H, FIDSA shares thoughts on Women in Medicine Month & National Hispanic Heritage month:



The month of September is a double celebration for me. First, we celebrate women in medicine, and second, the National Hispanic Heritage Month. The American Medical Association's (AMA) created Women in Medicine Month to recognize the influence and contributions of women in medicine. As a result, women now make up 36 percent of America's physician workforce, compared to just 6 percent in 1950. And for the first time in history, 2017 saw more women entering medical school than men.

Conversely, Hispanics represent only 4.9% of medical and health professionals, disproportionate representation in allied health professions.



In addition, Hispanic women represent less than 2% of health professions that require advanced degrees.

A review by Lautenberger et al. in 2016 showed that in 2015, 39% of full-time faculty are women; however, women faculty from some racial and ethnic minority groups continue to be underrepresented in academic medicine.



For example, only 4% of full-time faculty identify as female and either black or African American, Latino or Hispanic, Native American or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Of note, only 3% of department chairs in academic medicine are women of color.



Thus, September is not only a month of celebration but of reflection. More than ever during this pandemic, we have seen the struggles of women and women of color and their resilience. However, we cannot ignore the fact that women are leaving the workforce due to burnout. Numerous factors cause burnout at work, including the macro-inequities: salary and promotion, the impact of pregnancy, the unavailability of leave, the absence of role models, and a fear of repercussion. What can we do?

Numerous factors cause burnout at work, including the macro-inequities: salary and promotion, the impact of pregnancy, the unavailability of leave, the absence of role models, and a fear of repercussion. What can we do? Provide an inclusive, healthy, no-shame culture that fuels our passion and strengths so we can be there for future women and Latina doctors.

Antonia Novello, the first woman and Hispanic general surgeon said, "I want to be able to look back someday and say, "I did make a difference." Whether it was to open the minds of people to think that a woman can do a good job, or whether it's the fact that so many kids out there think that they could be like me."

Join us for the IDWeek Women in ID program “We Can't Beat the Pandemic Without Them: Women during COVID-19” on October 7 @ 8:00 p.m. ET.

[Register](#) for IDWeek 2021 to attend

