



# Honors Ever After: An evaluation of the BSPH Honors Practicum

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## Background

- Selective 9-month capstone program for UCSD Bachelors of Science in Public Health (BSPH) majors
- Rigorous course designed to reinforce understanding of core public health concepts through practical application
- Evaluation requested by program director in 2021

### Key Objectives

- Describe current activities and most valued skills of graduates
- Identify influence of the practicum on career trajectories
- Determine how the program can be further improved

## Methods

### Mixed Methods Survey

- Anonymous mixed-methods Qualtrics survey sent out in October 2021 to cohorts enrolled between 2017 and 2020 (N = 61)
- Response rate of 74% (45/61)
- Quantitative analysis using SPSS
- Qualitative analysis through coding and identifying common themes of short response data

## Results

### Current activities:

- 62% (18) currently working; 34% (10) attending graduate school
  - Most common jobs: public health research (24%), health care (20%), government/health department (16%), and NGOs (8%)
  - Most common fields of study graduates pursued or are currently pursuing: MPH (58%), MD/DO (11%), MHA (11%), PhD/DrPH (11%)
- Overall 91% of alumni have received, are pursuing, or have plans to pursue postgraduate training
- 51% of BSPH honors graduates are first generation students
  - 91% of first generation honors graduates found career planning assignments useful compared to 77% of non-first generation graduates
- Plans in the next 5 years
  - 71% Pursue/finish advanced degree
  - 64% Work in public health/related field

### Most valuable skills:

- Collaboration and negotiating conflict (58%)
- Analyzing data (42%)
- Oral presentation (36%)
- Writing reports (33%)

### Impact (qualitative):

- Reaffirmation/influence on career path
- Valuable knowledge and soft skills
- Helped get internship or job

### Areas for improvement (qualitative):

- More software skills
- Additional career advice and networking opportunities
- Better coordination of mentoring

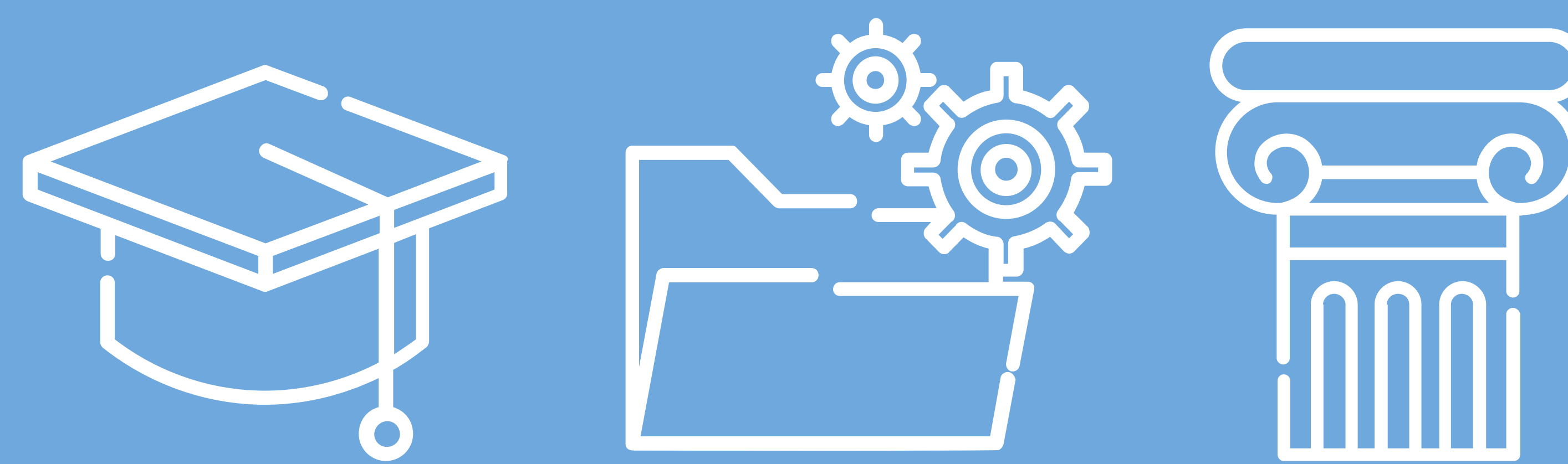
## Conclusions

- Most BSPH honors graduates remained in public health and sought additional public health training
- The practicum strengthened skills and influenced future trajectories positively through mentorship and preparation
- Improvements in software training, career counseling/networking, and mentoring coordination would strengthen the program

Overall, respondents reported high satisfaction with the practicum, and it positively impacted career trajectories.

Most pursue further training and public health careers

## Areas for improvement

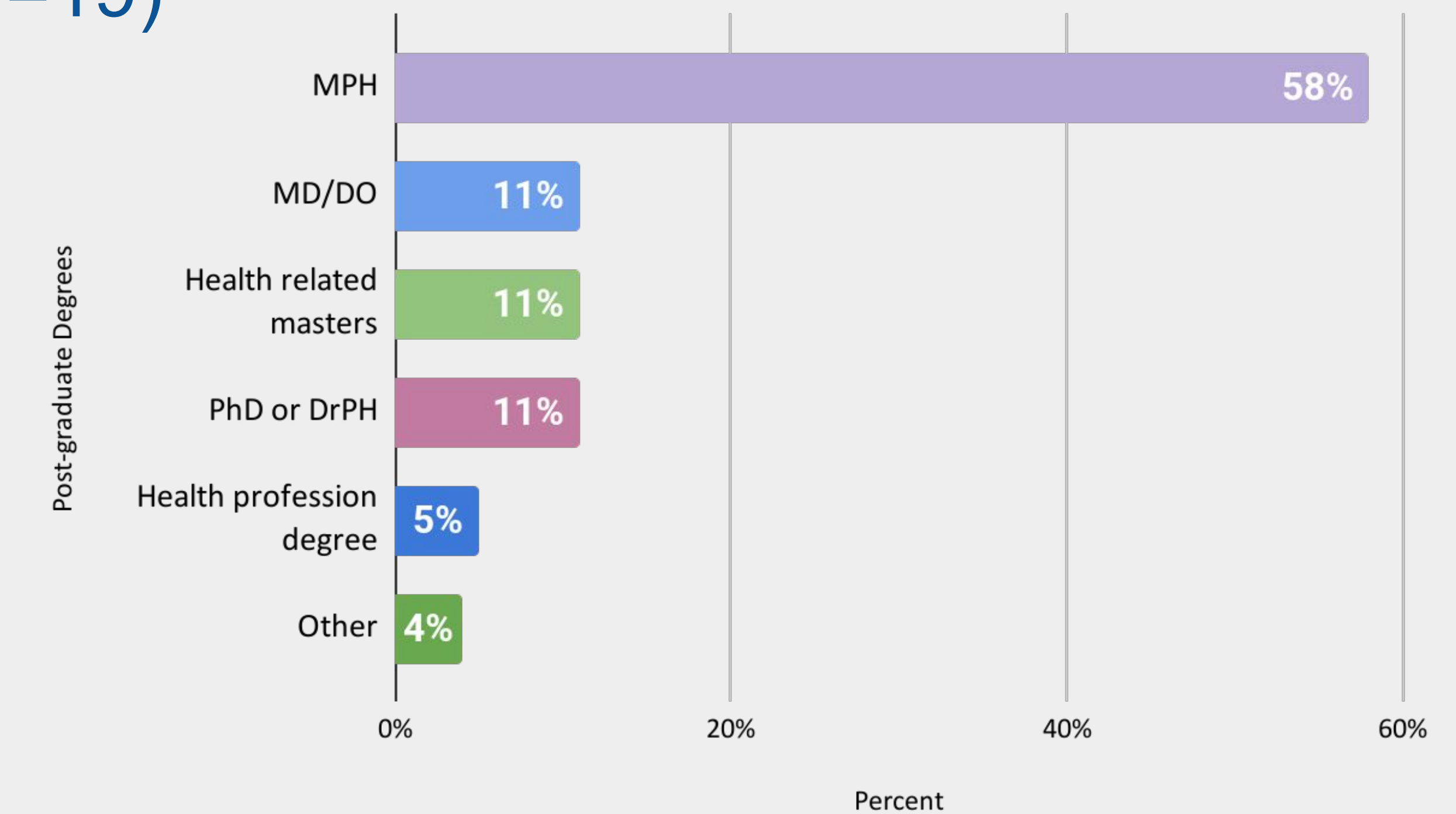


Career preparation      Hard skills      Mentor coordination

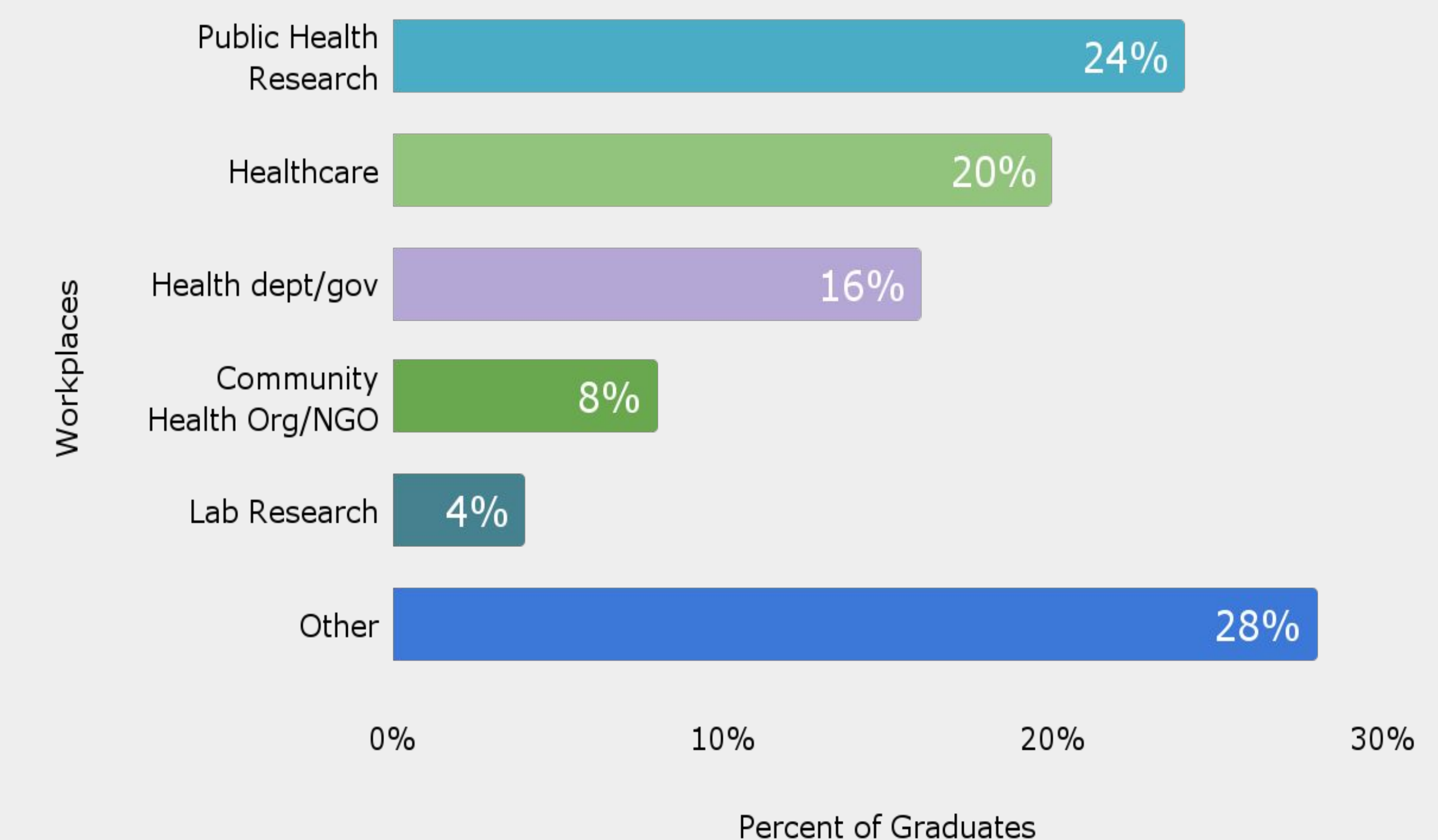


## Figures

What postgraduate degrees have 2018-21 graduates received or are currently pursuing? (N=19)



Current workplaces of 2018-21 cohorts (N=25)



Useful skills in different workplaces (N = 48)

