

## Background

Exposure to medical toxicology (MT) early in training is important to educate medical students in caring for poisoned patients and may encourage interest in the specialty. The availability of MT education in US medical schools has not previously been described.

## Objectives

To describe the prevalence of MT rotations, MT faculty, and poison center (PC) access in US medical schools.

## Methods

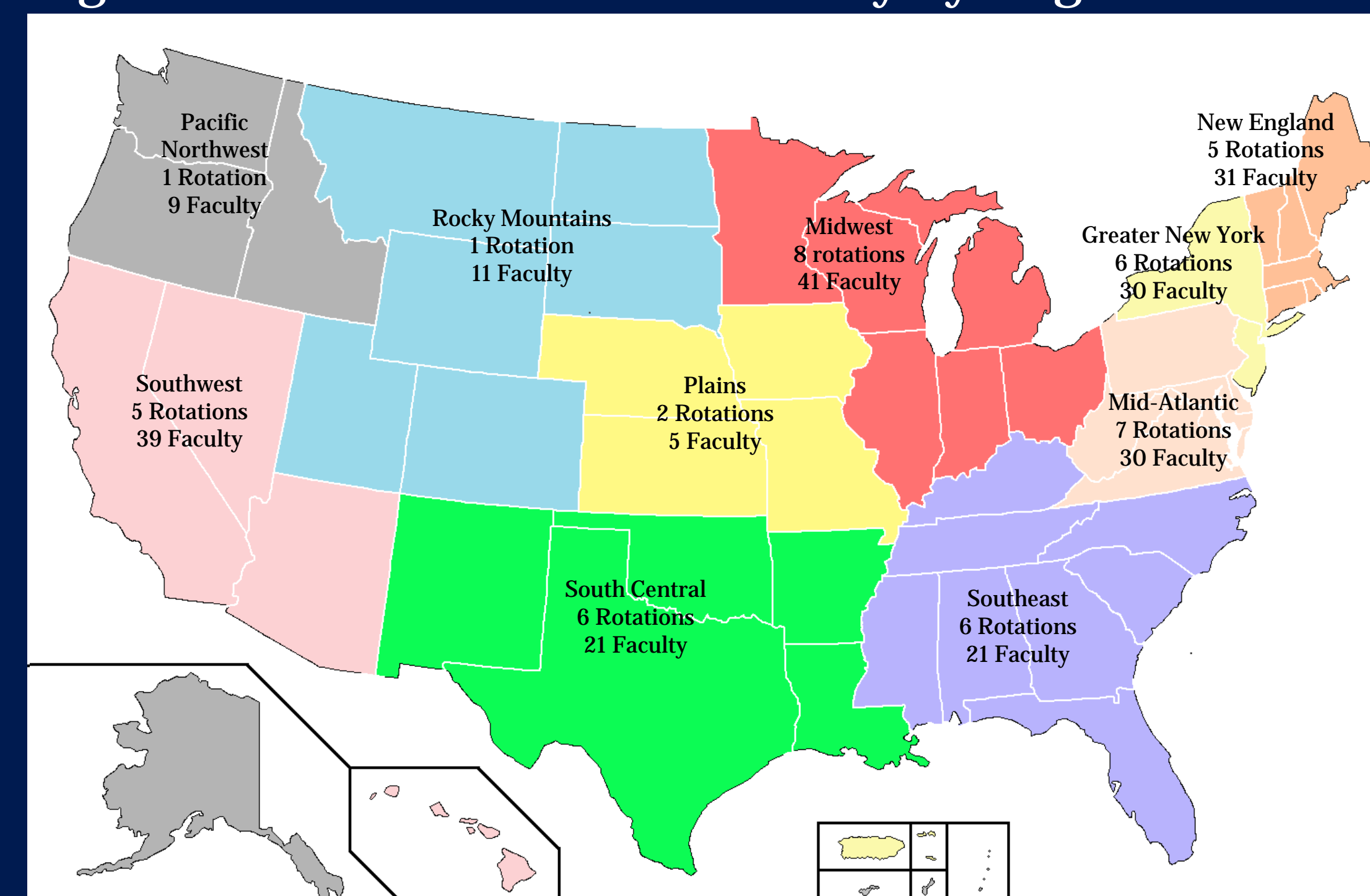
- A listing of allopathic US medical schools was obtained from the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) website.
- MT clerkship offerings were determined through the AAMC website, clerkship websites, and communications with MT faculty.
- Medical toxicologists' affiliations were identified through the ACMT database, MT websites, and the AAMC online faculty database.
- Medical school's affiliation with PCs were identified through the American Association of Poison Control Center's (AAPCC) website; individual PC links were examined for listed affiliation or medical director.

## Results

Table 1. Rotations, Faculty and PC Access

MT clerkship	47/141 (33%)
MT faculty	89/141 (63%)
>3 MT faculty	34/141 (24%)
PC affiliation	48/141 (34%)
PC affiliation with MT clerkship	31/48(65%)
MT fellowship	32/141(23%)
MT fellowship and MT clerkship	29/32(91%)

Figure 1. MT Rotations and Faculty by Region



## Discussion

- Identifying the status of formal MT education and/or faculty at US medical schools:
  - Highlights the geographical dispersion of existing programs and students
  - Allow targeting of future MT educational efforts for regions without MT services.
- This will improve education about poisoning and awareness of the specialty at the medical student level.
- Finding ways to improve medical student education and assessing the impact is an important next step.

## Limitations

- Data derived from databases, which may not be complete or accurate
  - Could not confirm each finding, particularly MT academic affiliations.
  - MT affiliations may change

## Conclusion

Nearly 2/3 of US allopathic medical schools have MT faculty, only 1/3 have MT clerkships.

