



Implementation of resolutions and decisions

Fellowships programme and policy

INTRODUCTION

1. This statistical presentation is based on information supplied directly for this purpose by the regional offices. For some analyses other sources had to be used; this was the case in particular for reporting on fellowships awarded by the Regional Office for Africa, which has unfortunately not had access to all its data.

GENERAL FEATURES

2. The slight downward drift in the total number of awards between 1990 and 1995 appears to have continued in 1996 (Figure 1). Expenditure also declined (Table 1), the real effect becoming more apparent when the rapid worldwide increase in education costs is taken into account. Awards and expenditures in the Americas and Europe suffered most from the general downward trend (Figure 2 and Table 1); these two regions handle a large number of fellowships awarded by the other regions. European fellows, for example, account for only 10% of the total number of fellows placed in Europe.

TABLE 1. EXPENDITURE BY REGION OF ORIGIN 1990-1996
(in US\$ thousand)

Biennium/year	Region						Total by period
	Africa	The Americas	South-East Asia	Europe	Eastern Mediterranean	Western Pacific	
1990-1991	11 728*	4 741	12 232	832	6 374*	10 138	46 045
1992-1993	13 755*	3 613	13 707	1 258	6 259	8 057	46 649
1994-1995	10 002	2 700	15 378	426	6 370	10 294	45 170
1996	8 239	1 017	3 385	144	2 610	4 574	19 969
Total by region	43 724	12 071	44 702	2 660	21 613	33 063	157 833
As percentage of overall total	27.7	7.6	28.3	1.7	13.7	21.0	100.0

* Amount estimated.

3. The geographical distribution of fellowship awards displayed in Figure 2 is broken down further in Table 2, which shows the top three countries of origin (“countries sending fellows”) in each region.

TABLE 2. AWARDS BY MAJOR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN 1990-1996

Country	Region					
	Africa	The Americas	South-East Asia	Europe	Eastern Mediterranean	Western Pacific
India			1 018			
Nepal			774			
Sri Lanka			725			
Egypt					685	
China						576
Viet Nam						497
Jamaica		456				
Islamic Republic of Iran					450	
Syrian Arab Republic					374	
Malaysia						244
Chile		222				
Nicaragua		188				
Albania				123		
Niger	83					
Democratic Republic of the Congo	81					
Turkey				50		
Togo	47					
Malta				31		
	211	866	2 517	204	1 509	1 317
Overall total	6 624					

4. Table 3 shows the 10 major countries of study, the South-East Asia Region being the principal host for WHO fellows. It should be pointed out that since 1992 the share of most of the major host countries has either declined (as in the United Kingdom) or remained stable (as in the United States of America, Thailand, India).

TABLE 3. AWARDS BY MAJOR COUNTRY OF STUDY 1992-1996*
(as percentage of overall total)

Country	Region					Total for top 10 countries	Remarks
	The Americas	South-East Asia	Europe	Eastern Mediterranean	Western Pacific		
1. United States of America	10.0						Africa has no countries represented among the top 10 host countries for WHO fellows. The top three countries in Africa are Benin (87 fellows), Kenya (74) and Senegal (65), totalling 1.8% of all awards.
2. Thailand		10.0					
3. India		8.5					
4. United Kingdom			7.5				
5. Egypt				6.2			
6. Indonesia		5.2					
7. Australia					4.7		
8. Jamaica	3.4						
9. France			2.7				
10. Philippines					2.6		
Regional share of top 10 countries	13.4	23.7	10.2	6.2	7.3	60.8	
All others (121 countries)	39.2					100.0	

* Source: Global database.
No data available for years prior to 1992.
All figures include intraregional fellowships.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES

5. The most frequent subject of training programmes followed by fellows is clearly on public health sciences, followed by postgraduate studies in a number of disciplines, including clinical studies (Table 4). During 1994-1996, increases have been most notable in postbasic nursing and midwifery studies and public health sciences. The proportion of study tours, i.e., studies in several centres lasting one month or less, is particularly high for fellows from the European and Western Pacific Regions (Figure 3).

TABLE 4. AWARDS BY FIELD OF STUDY 1994-1996*
(as percentage of regional totals)

Field of study	Region						Total
	Africa	The Americas	South-East Asia	Europe	Eastern Mediterranean	Western Pacific	
Undergraduate studies	13.1	0.2	2.9	-	-	6.9	3.6
Postgraduate studies	13.2	11.4	28.7	10.8	23.6	18.3	21.5
Postbasic nursing/midwifery studies	5.7	9.8	3.6	1.9	3.4	10.2	5.8
Public health sciences	45.4	58.4	39.2	75.5	45.7	38.5	44.2
Diagnostic and laboratory sciences	5.6	10.6	9.2	11.8	9.8	5.0	8.3
Education, communication and research	10.9	5.1	9.1	-	11.1	6.2	8.6
Environmental sciences	6.1	4.5	7.3	-	6.4	8.4	6.7
Others/undefined	-	-	-	-	-	6.5	1.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Comparable data for previous years are not available owing to a change in the classification of fields of study.

6. The overall duration of studies has consistently dropped in recent years, with programmes of less than three months' duration accounting for almost 60% and those of more than 12 months reaching not even 10% of total awards (Figure 4). Exceptions are programmes awarded by the African Region where more than one third of fellows are engaged in studies lasting more than one year.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FELLOWS

7. The sex distribution of fellowships shows consistently high percentages of female fellows in the Region of the Americas and European Region (Figure 5), with the overall average oscillating around 36%. The vast majority of fellows are between 31 and 50 years old, the lowest proportion in that age group being for South-East Asia fellows (67.7%) and the highest for African fellows (83.3%) (Figure 6).

8. A breakdown by occupational background of fellows shows that physicians, with almost 40%, lead by far, followed by nurses and midwives, totalling almost 10% (Figure 7). There is, however, a downward trend discernible in study awards for the major occupational groups, including physicians, nurses, midwives and sanitary engineers (Figure 8).

FIGURE 1. TREND IN AWARDS 1990-1996
(all regions)

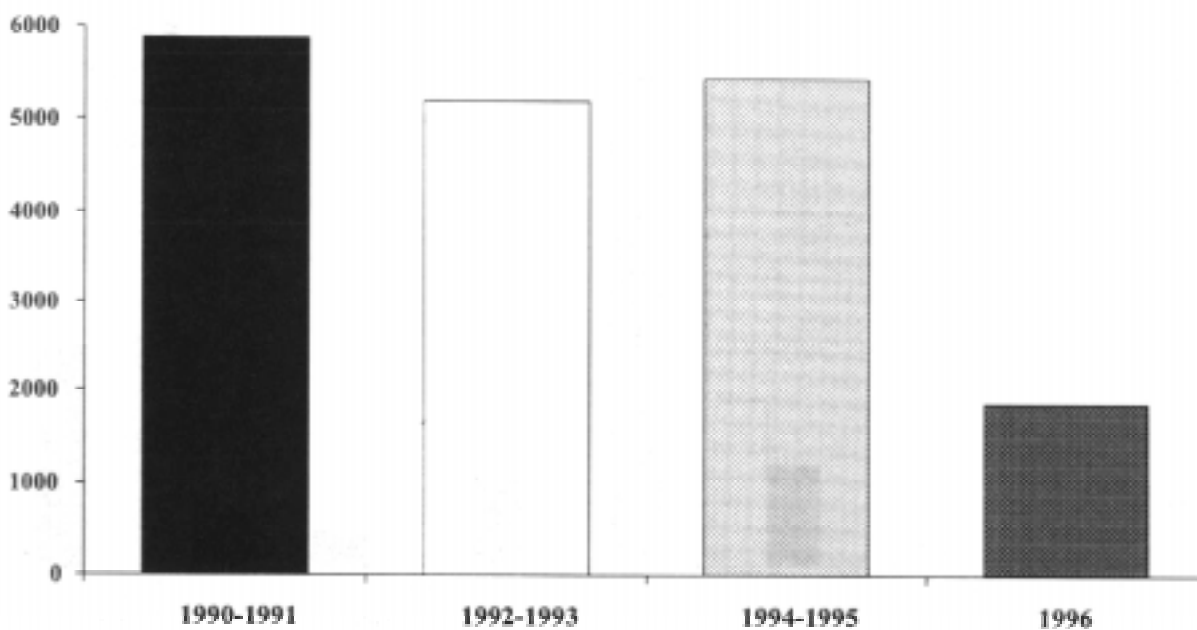


FIGURE 2. TREND IN AWARDS 1990-1996
(by region)

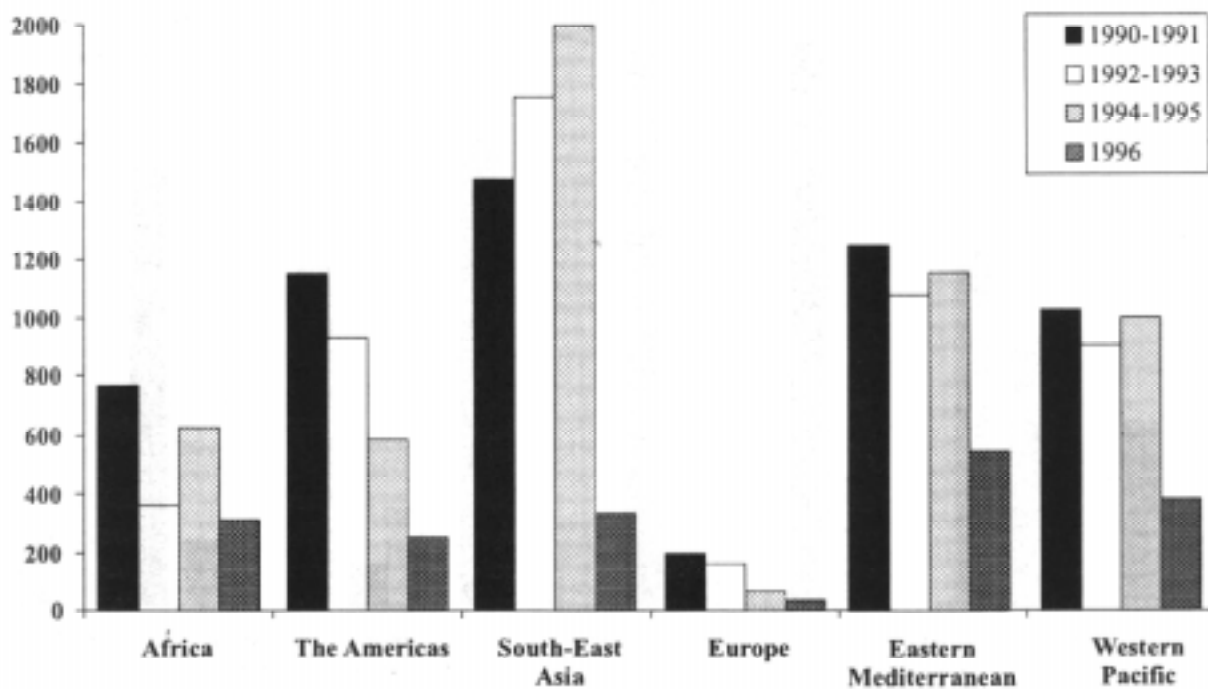
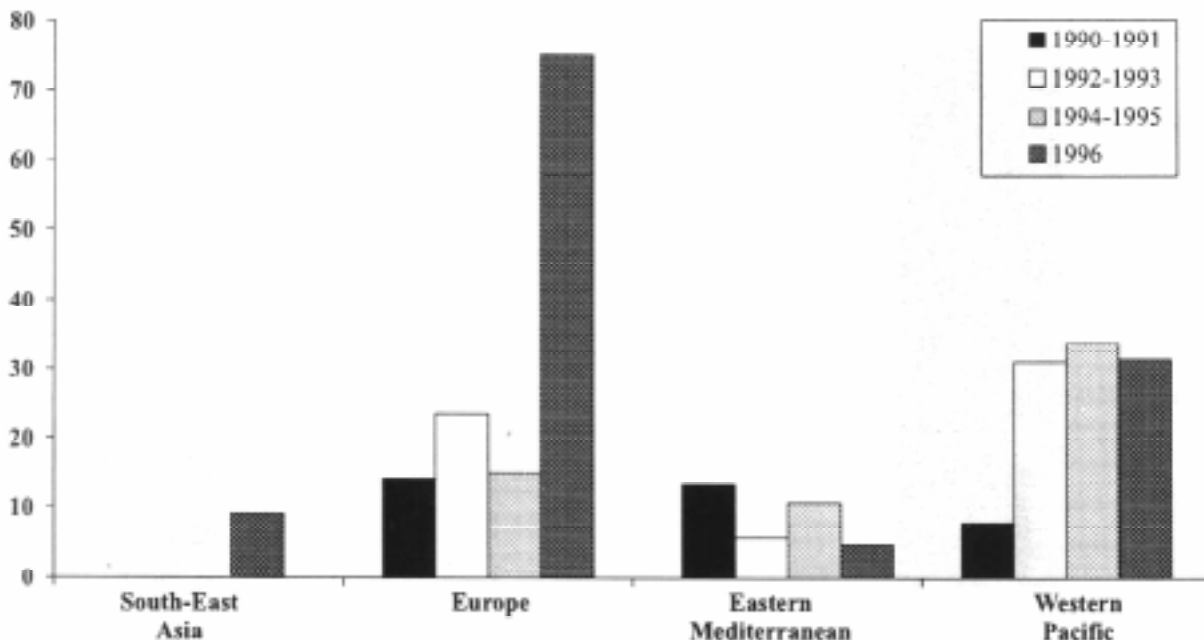


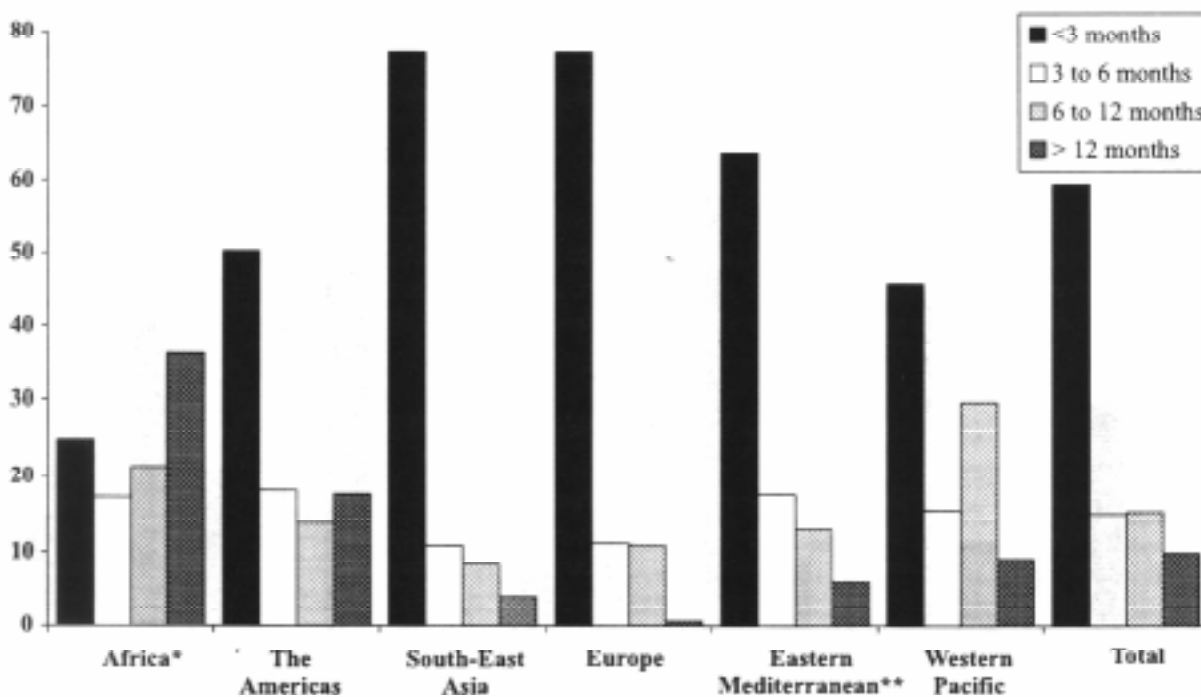
FIGURE 3. PROPORTION OF STUDY TOURS 1990-1996
(as percentage of regional totals*)



* No data available for Africa and the Americas.

Data for South-East Asia are for 1996 only, as no typical study tours had been implemented in previous years.

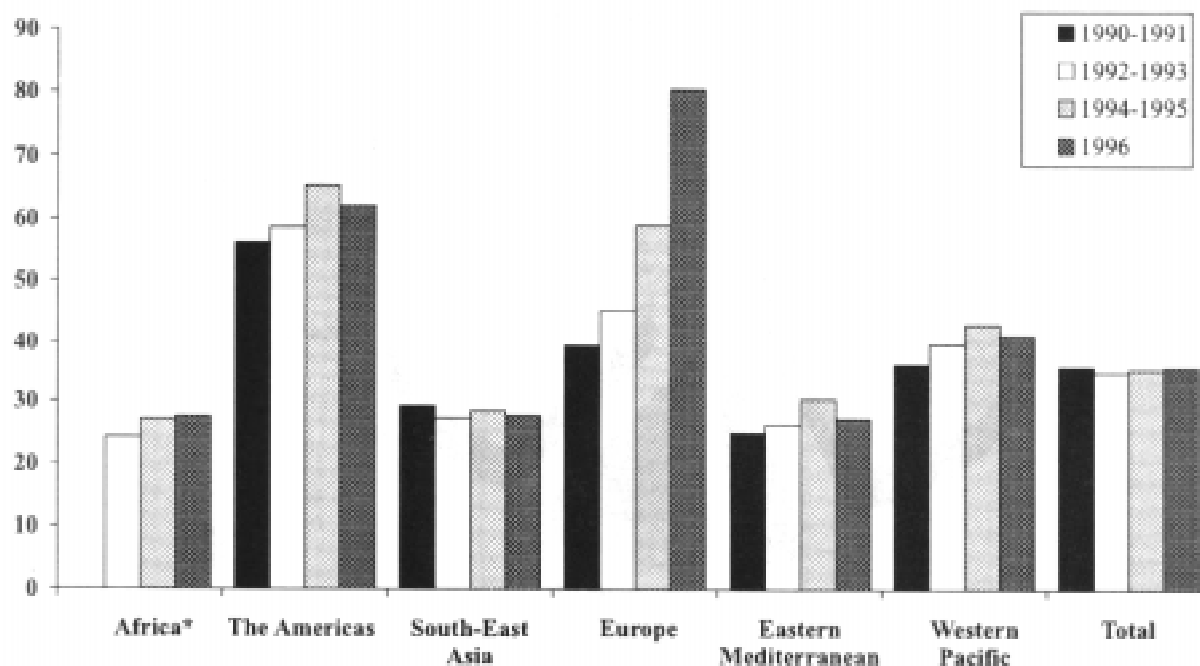
FIGURE 4. AWARDS BY DURATION 1990-1996
(as percentage of total by region)



* 1992-1996 data only.

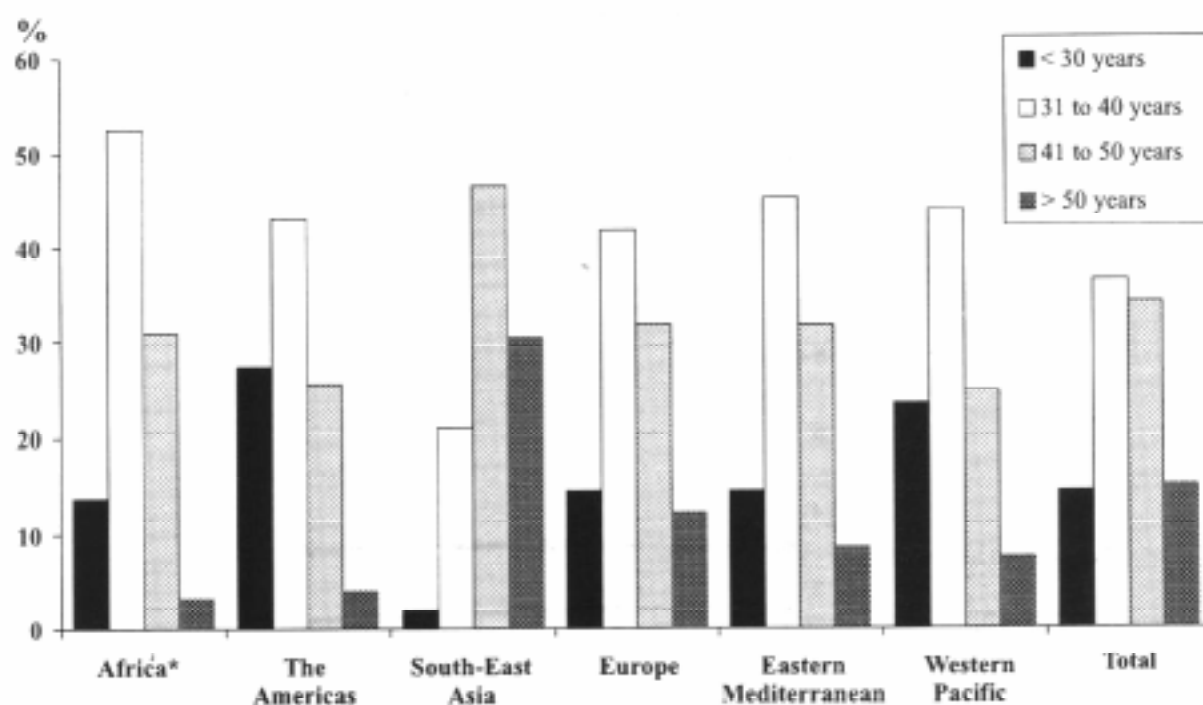
**Difference in duration: < 2 months and 2-6 months (instead of < 3 months and 3-6 months).

FIGURE 5. AWARDS BY SEX 1990-1996
(female fellows as percentage of regional totals)



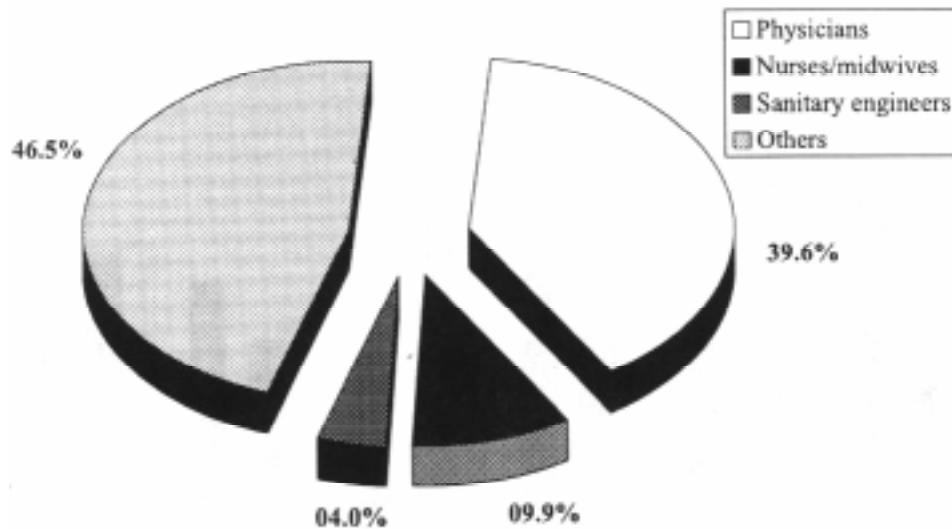
* Data for Africa for 1990-1991 not available. Source for 1992-1993 data: global data base.

FIGURE 6. AWARDS BY AGE GROUP 1990-1996
(as percentage of total awards by region)



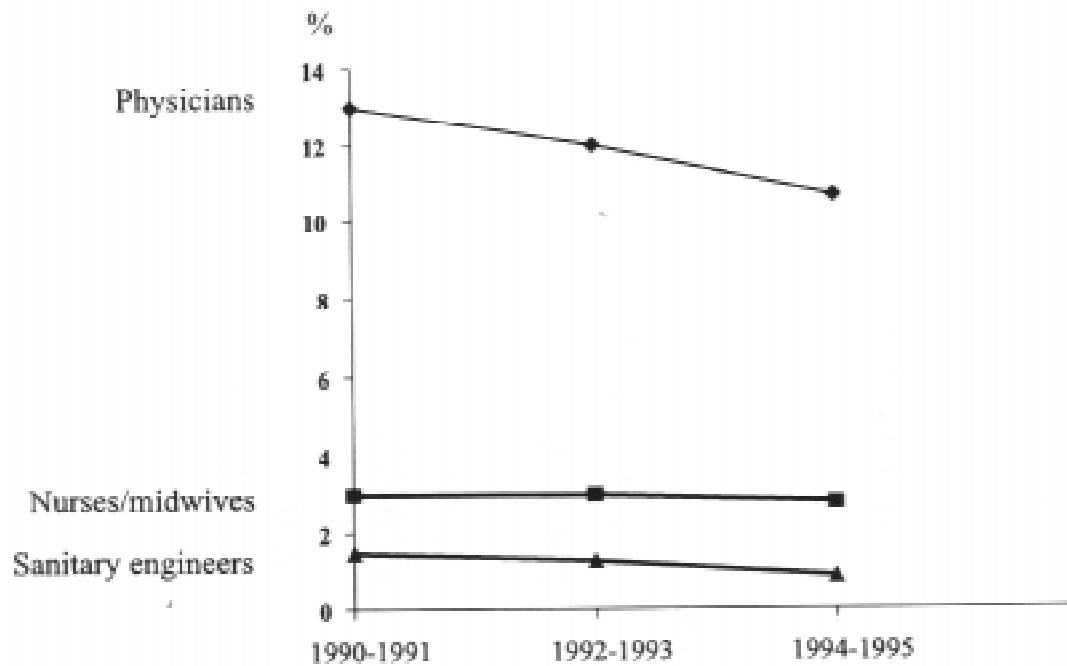
* Source: Global database (1996 data only).

FIGURE 7. AWARDS BY OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF FELLOWS 1990-1996
(all regions*)



* Data from Africa not available.

FIGURE 8. TREND IN AWARDS FOR MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS 1990-1995
(all regions*)



* Data from Africa not available.

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