



AAMC

Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

2016 Physician Specialty Data Report

Executive Summary

Association of
American Medical Colleges

This publication provides detailed statistics about active physicians and physicians in training in the specialty groups with the largest number of active physicians in the United States (i.e., specialty groups with more than 2,500 active physicians). The *2016 Physician Specialty Data Report*, updated from the 2014 edition, provides the most current data available about the physician workforce across specialties in a series of figures and tables.

The *Data Report* is divided into two sections:

Section 1: Active Physicians. This section provides data on active U.S. physicians who are in the 43 largest specialty groups. Data include the number of physicians by specialty group; the number of people per active physician by specialty group; age, sex, and type of medical degree by specialty group; in-state graduate medical education (GME) retention by specialty group; and percentage change in the number of active physicians by specialty group (2010–2015).

Section 2: Residents and Fellows. This section presents data on physicians in Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) residency and fellowship programs for the 43 largest specialty groups. Data include the number of residents and fellows by specialty, sex and type of medical degree by specialty, and percentage change in the number of residents and fellows by specialty (2010–2015).

Primary data sources:

- The American Medical Association (AMA) 2016 Physician Masterfile (data as of December 31, 2015) provided the data on active physicians. The AMA Physician Masterfile is updated annually from a variety of sources including a survey of physicians.
- U.S. Census Bureau population estimates were used in calculations of the number of people per active physician (Figure 1.2 and Table 1.2).
- GME Track, a resident database and tracking system, provided the data on residents and fellows. The Resident Survey in GME Track is an annual survey sponsored by the AMA and the AAMC and typically receives a response rate of about 94 percent.

Key Findings—Active Physicians

- In 2015, the specialties with the largest numbers of active physicians were the primary care specialties of internal medicine (114,089), family medicine/general practice (111,295), and pediatrics (57,543). (See Table 1.1.)

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- In 2015, more than one-third (34.0 percent) of the active physician workforce in the United States was female. Percentages of females in the top specialties ranged from a high of 61.9 percent in pediatrics to a low of 5.0 percent in orthopedic surgery. (See Table 1.3.)
- In 2015, 43.2 percent of active physicians in the United States were age 55 or older. Percentages in individual specialties ranged from 85.0 percent in pulmonary disease to 7.1 percent in internal medicine/pediatrics. (See Table 1.4.)
- The specialties with the highest percentages of active physicians practicing in the same state where they trained were child and adolescent psychiatry (57.8 percent), family medicine/general practice (56.0 percent), and psychiatry (56.0 percent). The specialties with the lowest percentages of active physicians practicing in the same state where they trained were thoracic surgery (30.4 percent), neurological surgery (33.6 percent), and plastic surgery (33.6 percent). (See Table 1.8.)
- The five-year period from 2010 to 2015 saw remarkable growth in some specialties, particularly interventional cardiology, which grew 69.3 percent, from 1,923 to 3,255. Other specialties decreased in number, including anatomic/clinical pathology (–11.3 percent) and pulmonary disease (–9.8 percent). (See Table 1.9.)

Key Findings—Residents and Fellows

- In 2015, the specialties with the largest number of first-year ACGME residents and fellows were the primary care specialties of internal medicine (9,076), family medicine/general practice (3,419), and pediatrics (2,849). (See Table 2.1.)
- In 2015, 46.0 percent of the residents and fellows in ACGME-accredited programs were female. Percentages of females in the largest specialties ranged from a high of 83.1 percent in obstetrics and gynecology residencies to a low of 8.4 percent in interventional cardiology residencies. (See Table 2.2.)
- In 2015, the largest proportion of residents and fellows in ACGME-accredited programs were U.S. MDs (65.9 percent), while international medical graduates (IMGs) comprised 24.9 percent, and DOs made up 9.0 percent. (See Tables 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5.)
- Between 2010 and 2015, vascular and interventional radiology (27.3 percent), critical care medicine (23.9 percent), and thoracic surgery (21.8 percent) saw the most growth in the number of first-year ACGME residents and fellows. Geriatric medicine (–21.1 percent), anesthesiology (–14.4 percent), and pulmonary disease (–12.8 percent) saw the biggest decreases. (See Table 2.6.)