

Table 84. Doctors of medicine, by place of medical education and activity: United States and outlying U.S. areas, selected years 1975–2015

[Data are based on reporting by physicians]

| Place of medical education and activity | 1975 | 1985 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | Number of doctors of medicine | | | | | | | |
| Total doctors of medicine | 393,742 | 552,716 | 720,325 | 813,770 | 902,053 | 985,375 | 1,066,524 | 1,085,783 |
| Active doctors of medicine ¹ | 340,280 | 497,140 | 625,443 | 692,368 | 762,438 | 794,862 | 864,719 | 870,900 |
| Place of medical education: | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. medical graduates | --- | 392,007 | 481,137 | 527,931 | 571,798 | 595,908 | 643,558 | 647,979 |
| International medical graduates ² | --- | 105,133 | 144,306 | 164,437 | 190,640 | 198,954 | 221,161 | 222,921 |
| Activity: | | | | | | | | |
| Patient care ^{3,4} | 287,837 | 431,527 | 564,074 | 631,431 | 718,473 | 752,572 | 820,251 | 827,261 |
| Office-based practice | 213,334 | 329,041 | 427,275 | 490,398 | 563,225 | 565,024 | 597,684 | 594,306 |
| General and family practice | 46,347 | 53,862 | 59,932 | 67,534 | 74,999 | 77,098 | 80,289 | 80,315 |
| Cardiovascular diseases | 5,046 | 9,054 | 13,739 | 16,300 | 17,519 | 17,454 | 17,186 | 16,723 |
| Dermatology | 3,442 | 5,325 | 6,959 | 7,969 | 8,795 | 9,272 | 9,978 | 10,021 |
| Gastroenterology | 1,696 | 4,135 | 7,300 | 8,515 | 9,742 | 10,466 | 11,330 | 11,274 |
| Internal medicine | 28,188 | 52,712 | 72,612 | 88,699 | 107,028 | 110,612 | 120,546 | 120,252 |
| Pediatrics | 12,687 | 22,392 | 33,890 | 42,215 | 51,854 | 53,054 | 58,705 | 58,522 |
| Pulmonary diseases | 1,166 | 3,035 | 4,964 | 6,095 | 7,321 | 7,846 | 8,896 | 8,977 |
| General surgery | 19,710 | 24,708 | 24,086 | 24,475 | 26,079 | 24,327 | 24,661 | 24,242 |
| Obstetrics and gynecology | 15,613 | 23,525 | 29,111 | 31,726 | 34,659 | 34,083 | 34,488 | 34,091 |
| Ophthalmology | 8,795 | 12,212 | 14,596 | 15,598 | 16,580 | 15,723 | 16,235 | 16,009 |
| Orthopedic surgery | 8,148 | 13,033 | 17,136 | 17,367 | 19,115 | 19,325 | 19,886 | 19,723 |
| Otolaryngology | 4,297 | 5,751 | 7,139 | 7,581 | 8,206 | 7,964 | 8,042 | 7,808 |
| Plastic surgery | 1,706 | 3,299 | 4,612 | 5,308 | 6,011 | 6,180 | 6,356 | 6,288 |
| Urological surgery | 5,025 | 7,081 | 7,991 | 8,460 | 8,955 | 8,606 | 8,430 | 8,314 |
| Anesthesiology | 8,970 | 15,285 | 23,770 | 27,624 | 31,887 | 31,819 | 32,690 | 32,368 |
| Diagnostic radiology | 1,978 | 7,735 | 12,751 | 14,622 | 17,618 | 17,503 | 17,555 | 17,136 |
| Emergency medicine | --- | --- | 11,700 | 14,541 | 20,173 | 20,654 | 23,260 | 23,458 |
| Neurology | 1,862 | 4,691 | 7,623 | 8,559 | 10,400 | 10,547 | 11,749 | 11,632 |
| Pathology, anatomical or clinical | 4,195 | 6,877 | 9,031 | 10,267 | 11,747 | 10,688 | 10,003 | 9,636 |
| Psychiatry | 12,173 | 18,521 | 23,334 | 24,955 | 27,638 | 25,690 | 26,580 | 26,546 |
| Radiology | 6,970 | 7,355 | 5,994 | 6,674 | 7,049 | 7,032 | 7,485 | 7,458 |
| Other specialty | 15,320 | 28,453 | 29,005 | 35,314 | 39,850 | 39,081 | 2,934 | 3,144 |
| Hospital-based practice | 74,503 | 102,486 | 136,799 | 141,033 | 155,248 | 187,548 | 222,567 | 232,955 |
| Residents and interns ⁵ | 53,527 | 72,159 | 93,650 | 95,125 | 95,391 | 108,142 | 119,318 | 119,895 |
| Full-time hospital staff | 20,976 | 30,327 | 43,149 | 45,908 | 59,857 | 79,406 | 103,249 | 113,060 |
| Other professional activity ⁶ | 24,252 | 44,046 | 40,290 | 41,556 | 43,965 | 42,290 | 44,468 | 43,639 |
| Inactive | 21,449 | 38,646 | 72,326 | 75,168 | 99,823 | 125,928 | 153,259 | 160,363 |
| Not classified | 26,145 | 13,950 | 20,579 | 45,136 | 39,304 | 64,153 | 48,546 | 54,520 |
| Unknown address | 5,868 | 2,980 | 1,977 | 1,098 | 488 | 432 | --- | --- |

--- Data not available.

¹Doctors of medicine who are inactive, have unknown address, or primary specialty not classified are excluded. See Appendix II, Physician.

²International medical graduates received their medical education in schools outside of the United States and Canada.

³Specialty information is based on the physician's self-designated major area of practice. Categories include generalists and specialists. See Appendix II, Physician specialty.

⁴Starting with 2003 data, federal and nonfederal doctors of medicine are included. Data prior to 2003 included nonfederal doctors of medicine only.

⁵Starting with 1990 data, clinical fellows are included in this category. In prior years, clinical fellows were included in the Other professional activity category.

⁶Includes doctors of medicine in medical teaching, administration, research, and other nonpatient care activities. Prior to 1990, this category also included clinical fellows.

NOTES: Data for doctors of medicine are as of December 31. Outlying areas include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific islands.

SOURCE: American Medical Association (AMA), Physician distribution and medical licensure in the U.S., 1975; Physician characteristics and distribution in the U.S., 1986, 1996–1997, 2002–2003, 2007, and 2012 editions, Department of Physician Practice and Communications Information, Division of Survey and Data Resources, AMA and unpublished data for 2014 and 2015 (copyright 1976, 1986, 1997, 2003, 2007, 2012, 2016, and 2017; used with permission of AMA.). See Appendix I, American Medical Association (AMA) Physician Masterfile.