



Research Update



A program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Study compares experiences of U.S., international medical school graduates from the AAP Department of Research

New research from the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (PLACES) shows that pediatricians who graduated from international medical schools play important roles in workforce diversity but also report unique challenges (Katakam SK, et al. *Pediatrics*. 2018;143:e20181953, <https://bit.ly/2XdIbJL>).

Among the PLACES participants, who were four to 13 years past residency when surveyed in 2015, 19% graduated from a medical school outside the United States and Canada (international school). The results highlight differences in demographic characteristics, job and financial characteristics, and satisfaction between physicians who graduated from an international school and grew up outside the

U.S. (international graduates) and those from U.S. medical schools (U.S. graduates).

Three-quarters of international graduates and 29% of U.S. graduates are non-white (see figure). International graduates were more likely than U.S. graduates to report proficiency communicating with patients in languages other than English (73% vs. 31%).

Strong majorities of both groups reported overall job satisfaction. International graduates were less likely than U.S. graduates to report satisfaction (71% vs. 88%). Other differences between the two groups also were found:

- 58% of international graduates and 41% of U.S. graduates reported at least half of their patients are covered by public insurance;
- 79% of international graduates and 91% of U.S. graduates agree their physician colleagues value their work; and
- 58% of international graduates and 70% of U.S. graduates agree their physician colleagues are an important source of personal support.

International graduates are far less likely than U.S. graduates to have educational debt at residency graduation (17% vs. 83%). They also are less likely to own rather than rent their home (76% vs. 86%).

The two groups report similar salaries;

33% of international and 38% of U.S. graduates reported earning \$200,000 or more in 2015.

“International graduates bring diverse backgrounds and experiences to the pediatric workforce,” said Rana Chakraborty, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D., FAAP, co-author of the study and chair of the AAP Section on International Medical Graduates Executive Committee. “They also face many challenges in the workplace and may feel less connected to their colleagues and to organized medicine.”

Launched in 2012, PLACES is an ongoing study of early to mid-career pediatricians who completed residency in 2002-’04 and 2009-’11. The project includes both AAP members and nonmembers and general pediatricians, subspecialists and hospitalists. A new cohort is being recruited in 2019 (graduated residency in 2016-’18), so the AAP can continue to gather the perspectives of pediatricians starting their career.

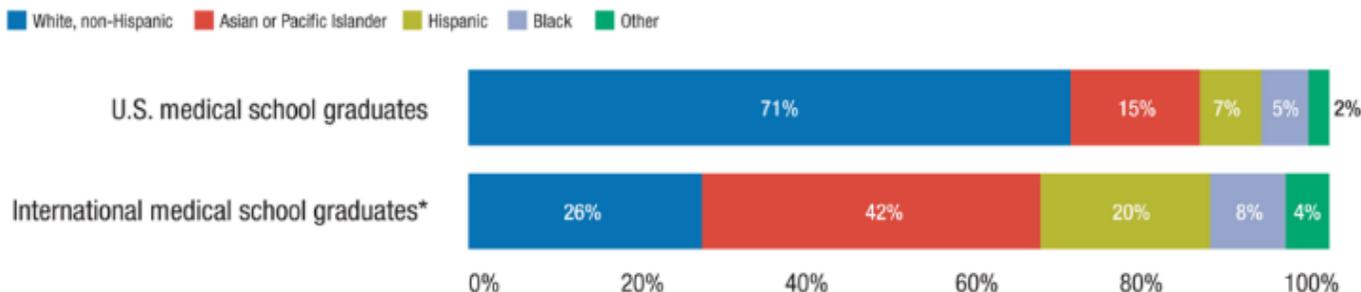


Dr. Chakraborty

RESOURCES

- The AAP Section on International Medical Graduates promotes the interests of physicians who graduated from medical schools outside of the United States and Canada, and subsequently attended a residency or fellowship training program in the U.S. The mission is to improve the health and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults by uniting U.S. and international medical graduates to be stronger advocates for children. For information, contact Vayram Nydroh, in the AAP Division of Global Child Health Initiatives, at 630-626-6298 or soimg@aap.org.
- For more information on the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study, visit www.aap.org/research or contact Mary Pat Frintner, in the AAP Division of Health Services Research, at 630-626-6664 or places@aap.org.

Race and ethnic background of early and mid-career pediatricians (average age=40), n=1,375



*Graduated from a medical school outside the U.S. and Canada and grew up outside the U.S.

Source: AAP PLACES, Annual Survey, 2015. Data are weighted to adjust for differences between PLACES pediatricians and the target sample of pediatricians.