Characteristics of U.S. Medical Graduates and International Medical Graduates in North Dakota

This fact sheet is Number 30B in a series of analyses regarding physicians in North Dakota. It was developed using 2015 data from the American Medical Association Physician Masterfile.

There are currently 1,614 direct care physicians practicing in North Dakota. Of these, 1,214 (75%) are graduates from medical schools in the United States and Canada (USMG), and 400 (25%) are from international medical schools (IMG).

- Almost three-fourths of USMG and IMG physicians are male (Figure 1).

- Slightly more IMGs work in urban areas than their USMG counterparts.

The average age of North Dakota IMGs is 47.3, which is significantly lower than the average of USMGs at 50.6. This is especially true in the northeast part of the state, where the average IMG age is 45.4, compared to 50.9 for USMGs.

USMGs are generally more likely to have graduated earlier than IMGs (before 1991), whereas IMGs are more likely to have graduated later (after 1999) (Figure 2).

- 74% of USMGs work in office-based practices as compared to 72% of IMGs.

- IMGs are slightly more likely to work in hospitals (28% vs. 25%) and other areas (1% vs. 0%) than USMGs. Other areas include practice settings such as administration, research, and medical teaching, among others.

Figure 2. Year of Graduation for USMG and IMG Physicians in North Dakota

Figure 3. Work Location for USMG and IMG Physicians in North Dakota
IMGs are more likely than USMGs to be in:
- Primary care (40% versus 37%)
- Internal medicine subspecialties (23% versus 7%)
- Psychiatry (7% versus 4%)

Conclusions
- In North Dakota there is little difference in the male/female mix of USMGs vs. IMGs.
- IMGs are slightly more likely to practice in urban areas.
- IMGs are significantly younger than USMGs, particularly in the northeast region of the state.
- Many of the IMGs graduated in the early 2000s, whereas USMGs are more likely to have graduated in the late 1980s.
- IMGs are a little less likely to practice in office settings than USMGs but more likely to practice in hospitals.
- Within primary care, practicing IMGs are less likely to practice in family practice and general pediatrics, but are much more likely to practice in general internal medicine (46% vs. 20%).

Data
The physician data are from the 2015 American Medical Association Physician Masterfile.