

2014 Osteopathic Medical Profession Report

Introduction

DOs (osteopathic physicians) are fully licensed to prescribe medicine and practice in all specialty areas, including surgery. DOs embody a high-touch, high-empathy approach to patient care. They focus on holistic, preventive health care and receive extra training in the musculoskeletal system and the interrelationship of the body's nerves, muscles, bones and organs.

92,028

DOs in the U.S.
(Figure includes 2014
graduates of osteopathic
medical schools)

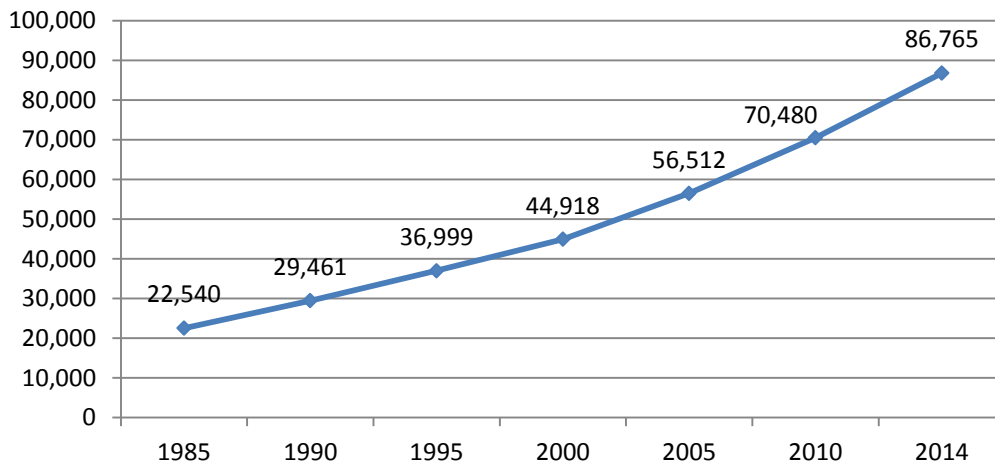
Osteopathic Medicine is Growing

DOs are one of the fastest-growing segments of health care professionals in the U.S. At the current rate of growth, it is estimated that there will be more than 100,000 total osteopathic physicians in the U.S. by 2016. The graph below shows the growth in the number of DOs since 1985. One in four medical students in the U.S. today attends an osteopathic medical school.

109,836

Total DOs and
osteopathic medical
students
(As of May 31, 2014)

Total DOs, 1985-2014



Source: AOA Physician Masterfile, May 31, 2014.

NOTE: Chart above excludes same-year new graduates each year.

24%

Average growth every 5 years
in # of DOs since 1985

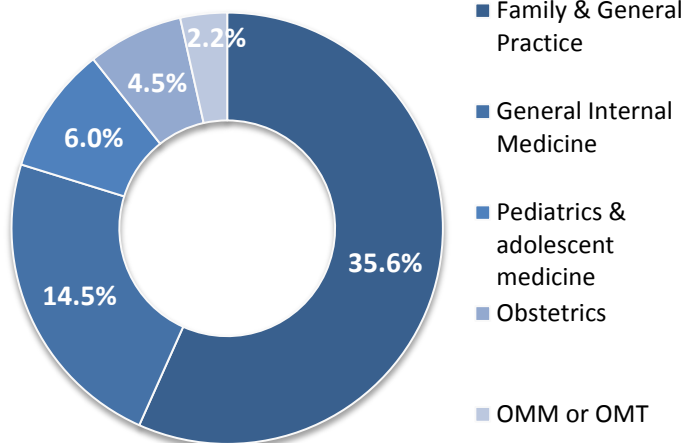
Strength in Primary Care

More than 60% of DOs in active practice are primary care physicians, helping to mitigate the nation's primary care physician shortage and improving access to care in rural and underserved areas.

Expanding In Specialties

The number of DOs practicing in specialties outside of primary care has steadily risen over the last 30 years. The percentage of DO specialists has grown from 23.7% in 1984 to 37.2% in 2014.

DOs in Primary Care



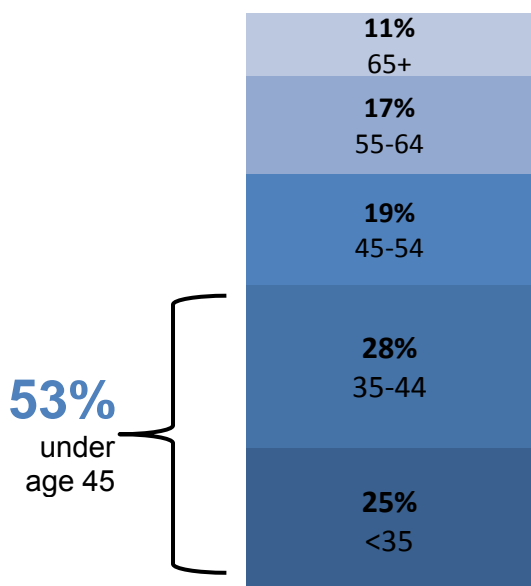
Source: AOA Physician Masterfile, May 31, 2014.

Demographics

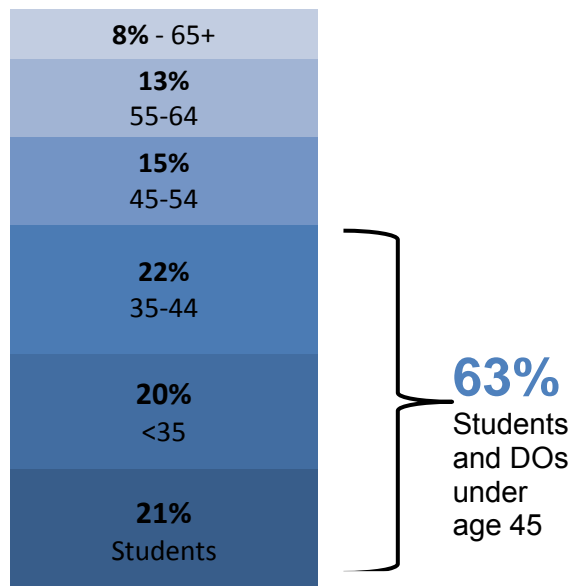
A Young Profession

The osteopathic medical profession is young and growing. More than half of all DOs in the U.S. are under the age of 45. If the 23,071 osteopathic medical students enrolled in the 2013-14 school year are included, the percentage increases to 63%.

DO Age Distribution



DO + Student Age Distribution



Source: AOA Physician Masterfile, May 31, 2014.

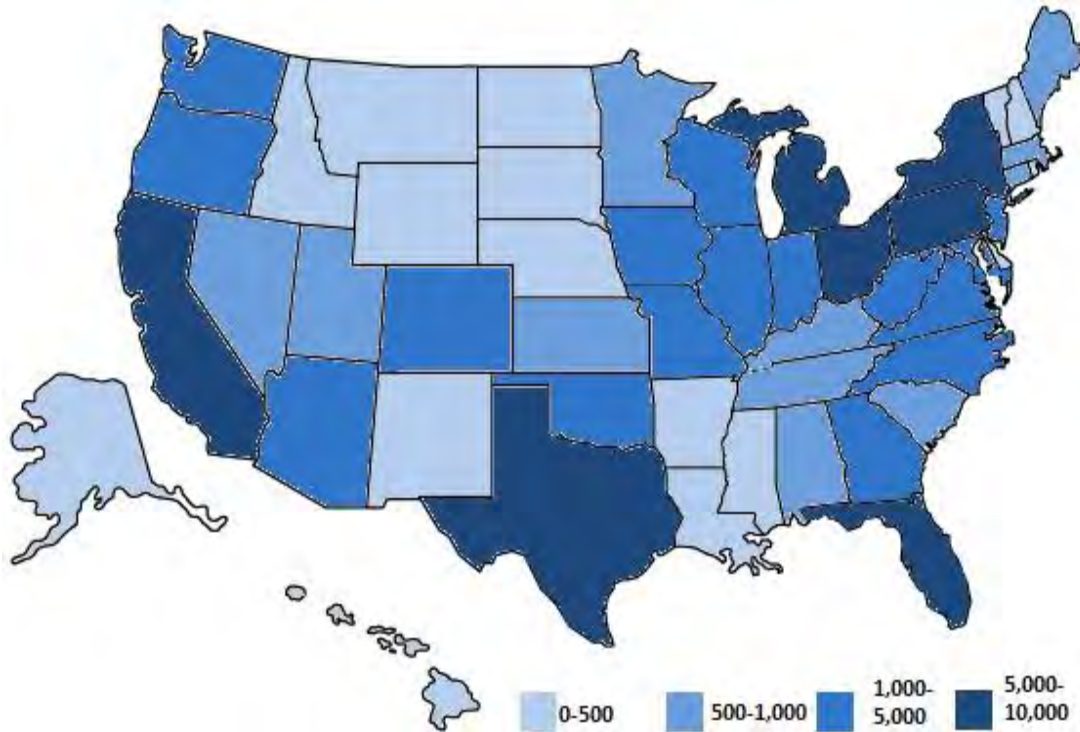
10 states

Experienced greater than 45% growth in the number of DOs between 2009 and 2014:

Where We Practice

DOs historically have been concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest. In recent years this pattern has changed, and DO populations are increasing distribution throughout all 50 states.

The map below shows the number of DOs in each state.



Virginia
South Dakota
Wyoming
North Carolina
Utah
Minnesota
Oregon
Louisiana
Tennessee
Idaho

Source: AOA Physician Masterfile, May 31, 2014.

NOTE: Counts based on preferred mailing address, which can be either home or business. Does not include 358 DOs whose address is unknown or outside the U.S.

Women in Osteopathic Medicine

35.3%

of all DOs are women

48%

of DOs in active practice under nine years are female

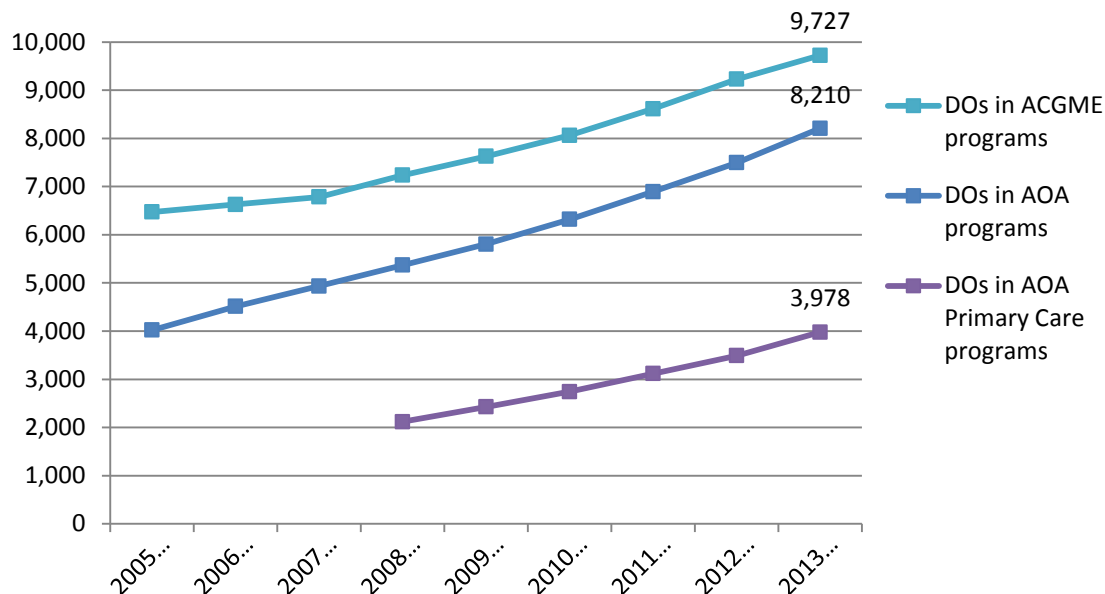
Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training

How We Train Future Physicians

Osteopathic graduates currently choose between two training pathways: AOA-accredited programs and programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). AOA-accredited postdoctoral training takes place in Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions, or OPTIs, composed of medical education entities, including hospitals, colleges of osteopathic medicine, clinics and teaching health centers.

In 2015, the AOA and the ACGME will begin transitioning to a single accreditation system for all graduate medical education. When fully implemented in July 2020, the new system will allow MD and DO graduates to complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common milestones and competencies.

DO Enrollment in Postdoctoral Training



Source: AOA Intern/Resident contracts received by AOA Department of Education and AOA's Trainee Information, Verification, and Registration Audit System for academic year shown.

17,937
DOs enrolled in
Postdoctoral training

46%
In AOA
programs

54%
In ACGME
programs

1,152
Total AOA training programs

8,000
Total ACGME training programs

Certification

After completing a postdoctoral program, many physicians pursue board certification to demonstrate proficiency and excellence in their chosen field of practice.

DOs may be eligible for certification by one of the AOA's 18 osteopathic certifying boards and/or the American Board of Medical Specialties' (ABMS) 24 depending upon their residency training.

The AOA certifying boards issued 2,115 new certifications in 2014, bringing the total number of active certifications to 31,150. Approximately 33% of active DOs hold AOA board certification. (This number does not include DOs with ABMS certification; the AOA does not have this data.)

Osteopathic Medical Schools and Students

New Schools Opening Across the Country

During the 2013-14 academic year, the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation accredited 30 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) offering instruction at 38 teaching locations in 28 states. The locations of these COMs and branch campuses or locations are shown with stars on the map below. COMs, branch campuses or additional locations that have opened within the last five years are denoted with red stars.



Source:
AACOM's [2015 Osteopathic Medical College Information Book](#). All osteopathic medical student statistics are used with permission from AACOM.

Growth in Student Enrollment

In addition to the DO population growth, the osteopathic medical student population is increasing at a rapid pace. Since 2007, the average increase in osteopathic medical school enrollment has been +6.9% per year. The 2013-14 year followed this trend, with a 6.1% increase over 2012-13 enrollment.

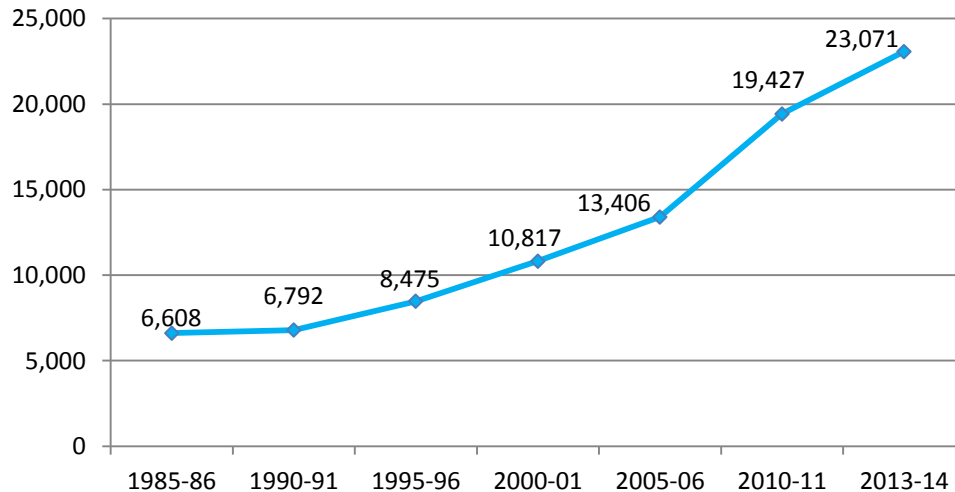
23,071*

Total osteopathic medical students

5,263**

of the 23,071 students graduated 2014

Total COM Enrollment, 1985-2014



257%**

Increase in number of COM graduates since 1985

* [AACOM Fast Facts on Osteopathic Medical Education](#). All osteopathic medical student statistics are used with permission from AACOM.

**AOA Masterfile. Data is based upon expected graduation date of May 31 for each reported year.

Source: [Trends in Osteopathic Medical School Applicants, Enrollment, and Graduates 2014](#), AACOM. All osteopathic medical student statistics are used with permission from AACOM.

Becoming More Diverse

The COMs are experiencing growth in enrollment of minority students.

Ethnicity	Average annual growth rate over five years	Five-Year Change
Overall all enrollment growth	6.4%	27%
White, non-Hispanic	5.5%	25%
Asian-American, non-Hispanic	10.0%	27% (four-year)
Black/African American, non-Hispanic	2.2%	20%
Hispanic/Latino	7.9%	45%

Source: AACOM Annual Osteopathic Medical School Questionnaires, 2000-01 through 2013-14 academic years. All osteopathic medical student statistics are used with permission from AACOM.