

2025 Osteopathic Medical Profession Report

Growing to meet our nation's
healthcare needs



AMERICAN
OSTEOPATHIC
ASSOCIATION

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Growing to meet our nation's healthcare needs

In this 2025 report, we are proud to showcase the continued growth of the osteopathic profession and how Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, are meeting the needs of patients across the U.S. and beyond.

The profession has experienced continuous growth since 1874, when frontier physician A.T. Still, DO, established the founding principles and shortly thereafter started the first school of osteopathic medicine.

The total number of DOs has increased by 158,000 (1,721%) since the AOA began keeping records in 1935.

207,158*

— Total osteopathic physicians & medical students in the U.S. in 2025 —

Today, the osteopathic profession represents approximately 11% of all physicians and more than 25% of all medical students in the U.S. More prospective physicians than ever before are choosing to become DOs, with nearly 40,000 medical students attending 44 colleges of osteopathic medicine across 71 campuses.

DOs hold some of the most distinguished positions in medicine today, caring for the U.S. President, overseeing the NASA medical team and leading some of the nation's top-ranked hospitals and health systems. DOs are in demand and they are practicing in every medical field and specialty available today. 38% of military physicians are DOs.**

In this 2025 AOA Osteopathic Medical Profession (OMP) Report, you'll find the latest updates on how the osteopathic profession is growing and addressing our nation's healthcare needs. Read further for an overview of demographics and trends that are shaping how DOs contribute to the practice of medicine and medical education, across the U.S.

Osteopathic medicine is truly a profession on the rise!

DOs and osteopathic medical students amplify 150-year growth trend



The osteopathic profession achieved a significant milestone in 2025, surpassing the 200,000 mark of DOs and osteopathic medical students—solidifying its status as one of the fastest growing sectors of the healthcare profession in the U.S. Approximately 207,000 DOs and osteopathic medical students are making an impact across U.S. healthcare and within the broad spectrum of medical specialties—a significant milestone.

The profession continues to expand in 2025, bolstered by the growing number of medical students pursuing careers as DOs. 44% of recipients of the military Health Professions Scholarship Program are attending osteopathic medical schools.¹

This spring, the profession welcomed nearly 9,000 new DO graduates.² This fall, more than 40,000 osteopathic medical students are expected to matriculate in the 2025-26 academic year.³

Total DOs by the numbers

167,216

Osteopathic physicians
in the U.S.⁴

**11% of all U.S.
physicians**

+

39,942

Osteopathic medical
students in the U.S.⁵

**More than
25% of all U.S.
medical students**

207,158

Total osteopathic physicians
& medical students in the U.S.

¹The Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, October 2025

²AOA Masterfile May 31, 2025

³American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)

⁴All living DOs, including an estimated 8,978 new graduates. AOA Masterfile May 31, 2025.

⁵All osteopathic medical students matriculated during 2024-25 academic year, based on latest information.

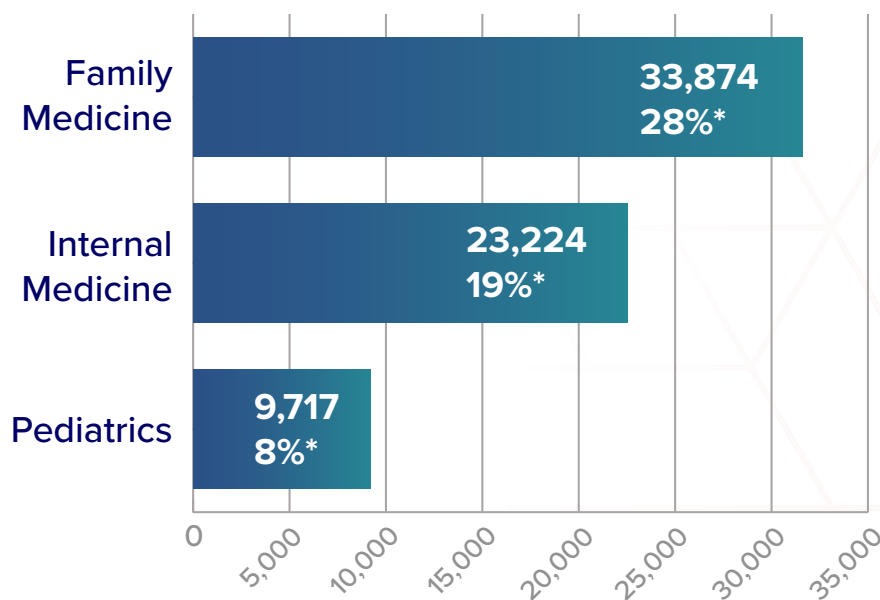
Committed to meeting the demand for primary care

DOs bring a distinctive approach to caring for patients across the full spectrum of medicine, with a significant number pursuing careers as frontline physicians in primary care including family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

Underscoring the profession's continued commitment to building the future of primary care, osteopathic medical schools make up nine of the top 20 schools producing the most graduates in primary care in the U.S. News & World Report 2025 Best Medical Schools Rankings. Osteopathic medical schools landed six of the top 10 spots on the list: A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, William Cary University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine of California, A.T. University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Reflecting the profession's ongoing commitment to primary care, 53% of osteopathic candidates matched into primary care residency programs in 2025. These physicians—and those who will join the workforce in coming years—will play a critical role in helping to alleviate a shortage of up to 86,000 U.S. physicians by 2036, as projected by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Primary care by the numbers



Specialty care growth continues

Even though the osteopathic medical profession has strong roots in primary care, more DOs than ever before are choosing non-primary care specialties. These DOs practice across a wide range of medical disciplines. Top non-primary care specialties for DOs in 2025 include emergency medicine, anesthesiology, OB-GYN, psychiatry and surgery.

Approximately 45% of DOs currently practice in non-primary care specialties, a 1% increase over the past decade. As the demand for highly-qualified physicians continues to grow, DOs are playing an increasingly critical role in both primary care and specialized fields. The whole-person approach to care, combined with rigorous medical training, positions DOs well to meet the complex needs of today's patients.

Representing the future of the profession, approximately 47% of graduating DO students matched into non-primary care residency programs across a variety of specialties through the 2025 NRMP Match. The number of graduating DO placements increased significantly from the prior year in internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery and physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Top 5 osteopathic specialty fields

Emergency medicine	12,408 10%*
Anesthesiology	5,152 4%*
OB-GYN	4,838 4%*
Psychiatry	4,718 4%*
General surgery	4,387 4%*



47%

Graduating DO students
matched into
specialty care programs

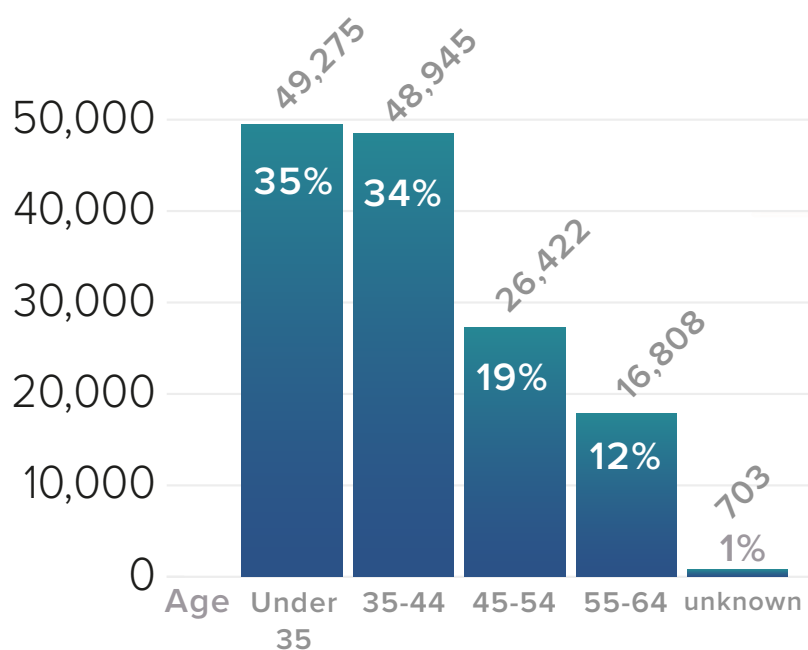
DO demographics: Age and gender trends

With each passing year, the number of future physicians who choose careers in osteopathic medicine continues to increase. Reflecting significant growth in the number of new graduates entering the profession during the past decade, nearly 70% of DOs in active practice today are under age 45.*

The number of female osteopathic physicians continues to rise, accounting for 45%* of all DOs in active practice. Women now make up more than 55% of all osteopathic medical students, an increase of 5% over 2024, according to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM).



Actively practicing DOs by age**



By the numbers

47,623

Female DOs in active practice
under age 45

70%

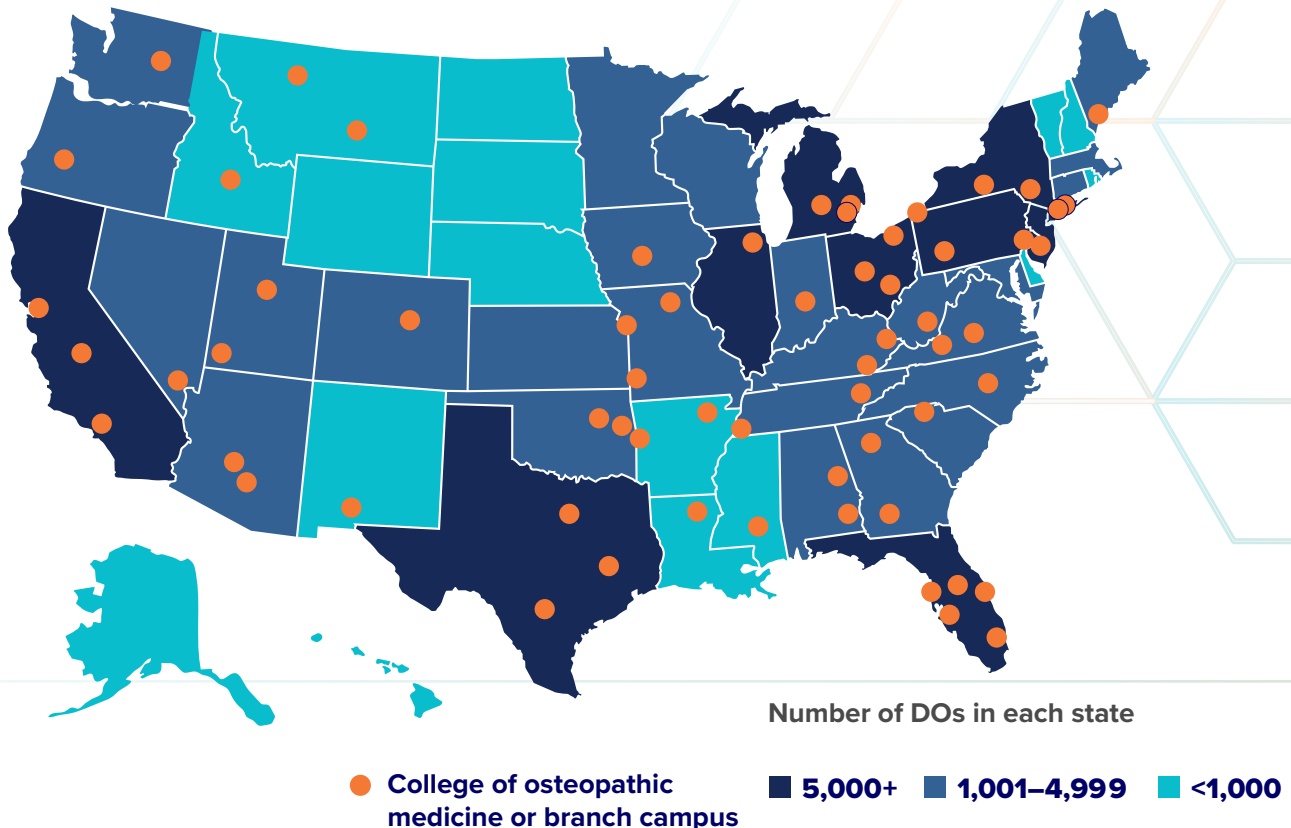
of female DOs actively
practicing in 2025 have
graduated in the last 14 years

DO demographics: Medical schools by state

In 2025, there are approximately 40,000 medical students attending 44 colleges of osteopathic medicine across 71 campuses.* This reflects an increase of one new school and three new campuses since 2024. This growth in educational capacity will continue to strengthen the healthcare workforce and address America's urgent physician shortage.

71

osteopathic
campuses



DOs by state*

In addition to applying their distinctive philosophy to all medical specialties, DOs practice in communities across every state in the nation. Data shows that DOs tend to practice in or near the communities where they complete their education and training. Coupled with the fact that many osteopathic medical schools are located in medically underserved regions,** DOs are more likely to practice in communities with limited access to care.



State	5,000+
CA	13,354
FL	12,835
PA	12,113
NY	10,086
MI	9,891
TX	9,841
OH	7,835
NJ	6,704
IL	5,474

State	1,000-4,999
AZ	4,655
MO	4,404
VA	3,905
OK	3,368
NC	3,325
CO	3,262
WA	3,025
GA	2,700
IA	2,575
IN	2,486
TN	2,355
SC	2,156
WI	2,096
OR	2,005

State	1,000-4,999
WV	2,005
KY	1,996
AL	1,760
MA	1,727
UT	1,657
MD	1,632
NV	1,580
MN	1,576
KS	1,439
ME	1,395
CT	1,118
ID	1,069
AR	1,007

State	<1,000
MS	973
NM	649
NH	608
LA	594
DE	591
HI	573
NE	521
MT	473
RI	425
AK	391
SD	336
WY	220
DC	189
VT	179
ND	143



Care in rural and medically underserved areas



According to the National Rural Healthcare Association, rural areas average 1.3 physicians per 100,000 people, compared with 3.1 in urban areas.* The disparity in the number of specialists is even more alarming: 30 per 100,000 people in rural areas, compared to 263 in urban areas.

Osteopathic medical schools landed four of the top 10 spots for schools with the most graduates practicing in underserved areas on U.S. News and World Report's 2025 list of the best medical schools in the nation.

8,190
DO residency matches
in 2025**



The next generation of DOs: Growing in impact

For more than 150 years, the osteopathic medical profession has answered the call of patients who seek a distinctive body, mind and spirit approach to managing their health and wellness.

In 2025, graduate medical education training programs have actively sought this approach across the full spectrum of specialties and geographic locations. **As a result, DO seniors achieved a 99% final residency placement rate; the highest for all applicant types.***

The next generation of osteopathic medical students and residents continue to be in high demand with their unique ability to embrace new technologies such as digital health and AI, while preserving the osteopathic philosophy's dedication to human connection and whole-person health.

As the profession grows, DOs will have a greater influence on the healthcare systems of the United States and other countries. DOs will increasingly shape healthcare policy, improve access to care and expand into additional countries.

These osteopathic physicians—and the generation that follows—will play a critical role in ensuring a robust and talented health care system. **The osteopathic profession is in demand and on the rise.**

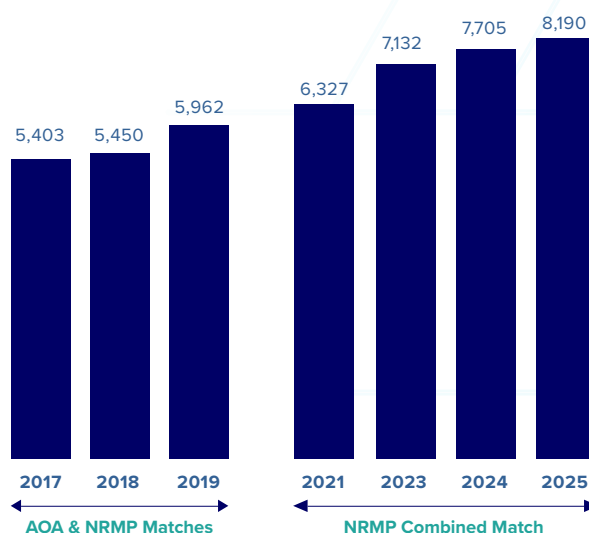
99%

DO seniors residency placement rate



DO residency matches

Year over year, matches for osteopathic medical students and graduates continue to rise, breaking all previous placement records for the NRMP Match.



Sources: NRMP Match, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.



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