# 2021 Georgia Medical School Graduate Survey Report



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

State of Georgia

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#### **Executive Summary**

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce (GBHCW) has conducted an annual survey of graduating medical students from each of Georgia's medical schools since 2008. The purpose of this survey is to inform policy makers, medical school administrators, graduate medical education administrators, and other government and non-government agencies about the medical school pipeline. Also, it serves to give insight on why medical students chose a specialty and residency site and how many intend to ultimately practice in Georgia when their training is complete. The data in this report are aggregated from responses collected from each of Georgia's five medical schools. The medical schools that contributed to this year's report are as follows

Medical School	Total Graduates	Survey Completions	Completion Rate
Emory University School of Medicine	128	113	88.3%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	232	168	72.4%
Mercer University School of Medicine	130	94	72.3%
Morehouse School of Medicine	80	67	83.8%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	129	61	47.3%
Total	699	503	72.0%

Table 1: Number of Responses by Medical School

This year's MSG survey had slightly more responses than in 2020. In 2020, the MSG survey had 488 completions, or 69.4% of medical school graduates.

#### Methodology

Each year in April, the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce (GBHCW) data team creates a Survey Monkey form of the Medical School Graduate survey and sends the link to four of the five medical schools' program directors via email. Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University collects and compiles their responses in their own manner. The GBHCW data team then sends periodic reminders and status update emails to each school until the completion deadline of May 31st. At this point, Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University sends their compiled dataset to GBHCW and the data team downloads the complete Survey Monkey responses online. Analyses presented here were conducted using Microsoft Excel.

#### Key Findings from the 2021 Survey

Demographics

- This year, more people identifying as female than male completed the MSG survey; 53.0% of survey completers are female. The medical school with the highest percentage of female respondents is Morehouse (69.8%), while the school with the lowest percentage of female respondents is PCOM-Georgia (44.3%).
- The average age of all respondents is 27.4 years old. The youngest respondent is 24 years old, while the oldest respondent is 43. PCOM-Georgia has the oldest average age of respondents at 28.5 years old, compared to MCG whose average age of respondents is 26.4 years old.
- A comparable percentage of respondents this year identified as native born or naturalized U.S. citizens (98.2% of respondents last year versus 98.2% this year). Five respondents identified as permanent residents and four have an "other" citizenship status.
- In 2021, 57.4% of respondents identify as white. This is slightly higher than that percentage last year (57.2% year). Overall, 42.6% of respondents identified as a non-white race/ethnicity (14.7% Black/African American; 20.7% Asian/Pacific Islander; 4.4% multi-race; and 2.89% "other"). Morehouse School of Medicine has the highest percentage of respondents identifying as non-white (88.1%) while the school with the lowest percentage of non-white respondents is Mercer University (26.9%).
- Overall, 7.4% of respondents identify as Hispanic. Morehouse has the highest percentage of respondents (9.0%) who identify as Hispanic, while Mercer has the lowest percentage of respondents (5.4%) who identify as Hispanic.

Intended Practice Location After Residency

- 60.0% of respondents (277) intend to locate their practice in an underserved area. The school with the highest rate of respondents planning to locate in an underserved area is Morehouse (83.6%); the school with the lowest percentage is MCG (51.2%)
- Of those who plan to locate their practice in an underserved area, 61.0% (169) plan to practice in an inner-city community. The remaining 39.0% of respondents (108) plan to locate in a rural community.
- 44.2% of respondents (222) answered that Georgia is the likely state for their practice after residency. Of those, 46.8% (104) listed Atlanta as the likely city.

Specialty

- 57.2% of respondents (265) will enter a primary care/core specialty. Mercer University's respondents were most likely to say
  they would enter a primary care/core specialty for their PGY-1 year (86.7%), while Medical College of Georgia respondents were
  least likely (62.8%).
- Of the 473 respondents who answered questions on both PGY-1 specialty choice and ultimate practice specialty, 72.5% plan to ultimately practice in a primary care/core specialty.
- More than half of respondents (55.0%) made the decision about what specialty to pursue during their third year of medical school.

Choice of and Match to Georgia Residency Programs

- 51.8% of respondents listed a Georgia residency program among their top three choices during the Match. This is a slightly lower percentage than last year (54.3%).
- Respondents from Morehouse School of Medicine are those most likely to have a Georgia GME program among their top three choices during the Match (61.9%). Respondents from MCG are the least likely to have a Georgia GME program in their top three choices (49.1%).
- 25.2% of respondents who responded that they had a Georgia GME program among their top three choices in the Match listed two or three Georgia GME programs. This is slightly higher than that figure last year, when 22.2% of respondents ranked more than one Georgia GME program in their top three choices.
- The top four Georgia GME programs ranked by survey respondents are Emory (115 respondents); Medical College of Georgia (47); WellStar Kennestone (34); and Memorial Health University Medical Center (25).

Table 2: Gender Distribution by Medical School

Medical School	Ferr	nale	Ма	ale	Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	62	54.9%	51	45.1%	113	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	81	48.2%	87	51.8%	168	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	56	60.2%	37	39.8%	93	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	40	59.7%	27	40.3%	67	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	27	44.3%	34	55.7%	61	100.0%
Total	266	53.0%	236	47.0%	502	100.0%

Table 3: Average Age by Medical School

Medical Cabaal					
Medical School	24-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40	Average Age
Emory University School of Medicine	97	16	0	0	27.5
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	155	8	1	0	26.4
Mercer University School of Medicine	79	9	1	1	27.6
Morehouse School of Medicine	53	13	0	0	28.0
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	38	22	1	0	28.5
Total Respondents	422	68	3	1	27.4
Total (Percentage)	85.4%	13.8%	0.6%	0.2%	100.0%

Note: 9 respondents did not answer the age question. Averages and total percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (494).

Figure 1: Aggregated Age Distribution

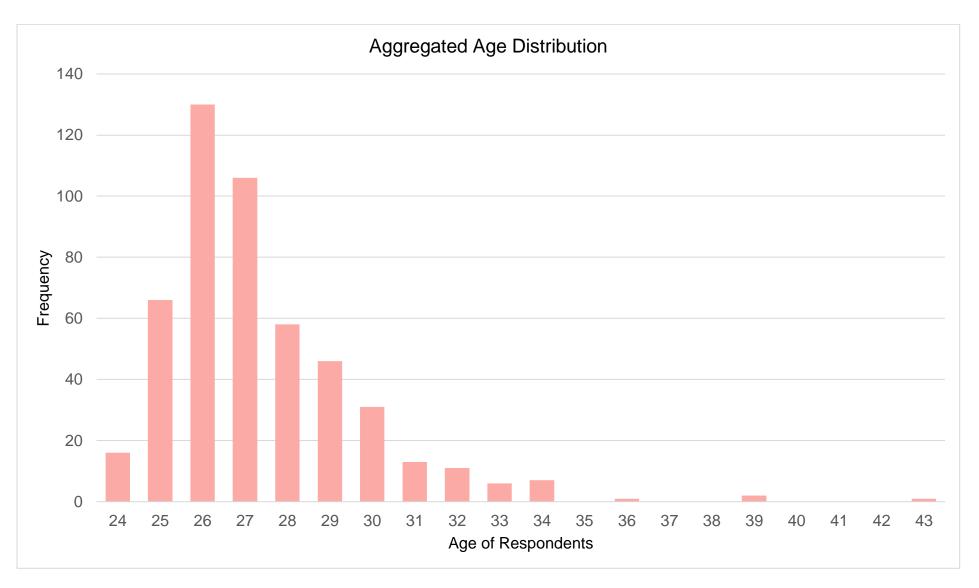


Table 4: Citizenship Status

Citizenship Status	Number	Percent
Citizen (Naturalized or Native-Born)	493	98.2%
Permanent Resident	5	0.1%
Other	4	0.8%
Total	502	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (502).

Table 5: Race/Ethnicity by Medical School

Medical School	White Medical School		Asian		Black		Multi-Race		Other		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	80	70.8%	20	17.7%	7	6.2%	5	4.4%	1	0.9%	113	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	103	61.3%	36	21.4%	16	9.5%	7	4.2%	6	3.6%	168	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	68	73.1%	13	14.0%	6	6.5%	4	4.3%	2	2.2%	93	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	8	11.9%	16	23.9%	40	59.7%	0	0.0%	3	4.5%	67	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	29	47.5%	19	31.2%	5	8.2%	6	9.8%	2	3.3%	61	100.0%
Total	288	57.4%	104	20.7%	74	14.7%	22	4.4%	14	2.8%	502	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (502).

Table 6: Hispanic Ethnicity by Medical School

Medical School		es	N	0	Total		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Emory University School of Medicine	7	6.3%	105	93.8%	112	100.0%	
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	14	8.4%	153	91.6%	167	100.0%	
Mercer University School of Medicine	5	5.4%	88	94.6%	93	100.0%	
Morehouse School of Medicine	6	9.0%	61	91.0%	67	100.0%	
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	5	8.2%	56	91.8%	61	100.0%	
Total	37	7.4%	463	92.6%	500	100.0%	

Note: 3 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (500).

Table 7: Specialty Matched to in Post Graduate Year 1

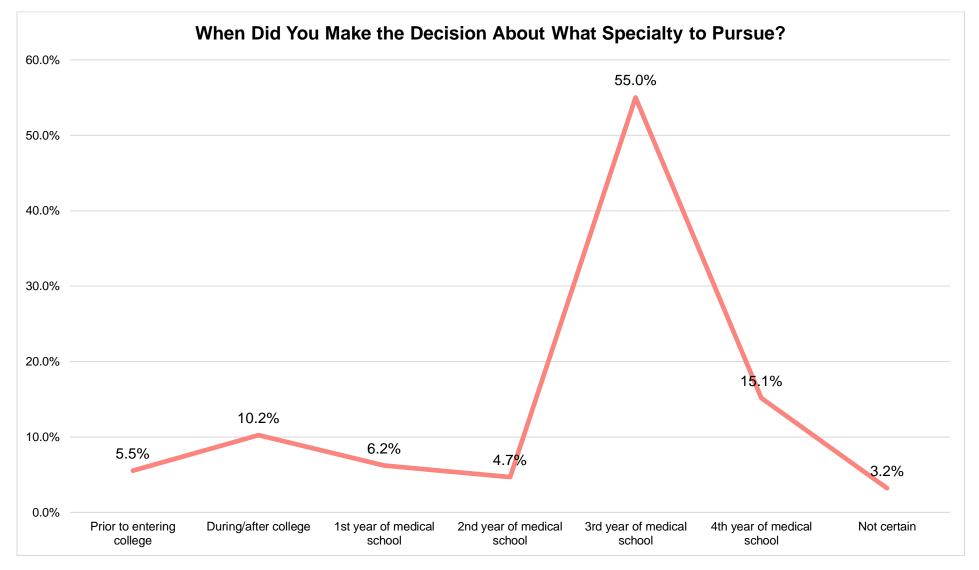
PGY-1 Specialty	Frequency	% of Total Respondents
Internal Medicine	108	22.8%
Family Medicine	46	9.7%
Pediatrics	44	9.3%
Emergency Medicine	39	8.2%
General Surgery	39	8.2%
OB/GYN	39	8.2%
Psychiatry	28	5.9%
Primary Care/Core Total	343	72.5%
Transitional Year	27	5.7%
Anesthesiology	17	3.6%
Orthopaedic Surgery	15	3.2%
Internal Medicine Preliminary	8	1.7%
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	7	1.5%
Urology	7	1.5%
Neurosurgery	6	1.3%
Other Specialties	43	9.1%
Non-Primary Care/Core Total	130	27.5%

Note: 30 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (473). Table 8: Intended Career Specialty

Practice Specialty	Frequency	% of Total Respondents
Internal Medicine	60	13.0%
Family Medicine	44	9.5%
Emergency Medicine	38	8.2%
OB/GYN	38	8.2%
Pediatrics	33	7.1%
Psychiatry	27	5.8%
General Surgery	25	5.4%
Primary Care/Core Total	265	57.2%
Anesthesiology	21	4.5%
Ophthalmology	13	2.8%
Orthopaedic Surgery	13	2.8%
Cardiology	10	2.2%
Neurology	10	2.2%
Radiology	10	2.2%
Other Specialties	112	24.2%
Unsure or non-medicine field	9	1.9%
Non-Primary Care/Core Total	198	42.8%

Note: 40 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (463).

Figure 2: Year Specialty Decision Made



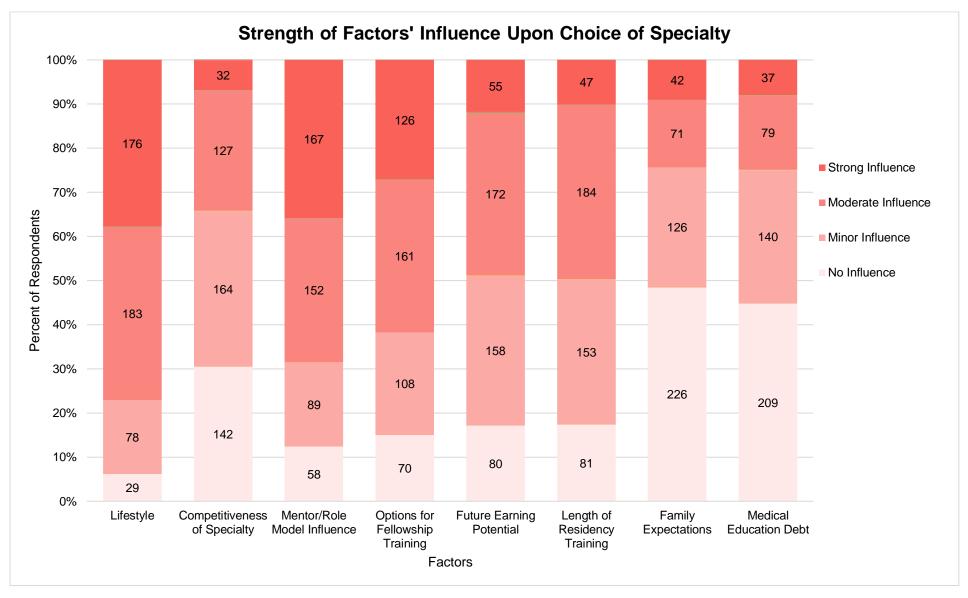
Note: 34 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (469).

Table 9: Factors Important in Determining Specialty

	Strength of Factor's Influence									
Factor	No Inf	No Influence		Minor		Moderate		ong	Total Responses	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Lifestyle	29	6.2%	78	16.7%	183	39.3%	176	37.8%	466	
Competitiveness of Specialty	142	30.5%	164	35.3%	127	27.3%	32	6.9%	465	
Mentor/Role Model Influence	58	12.4%	89	19.1%	152	32.6%	167	35.8%	465	
Options for Fellowship Training	70	15.1%	108	23.2%	161	34.6%	126	27.1%	465	
Future Earning Potential	80	17.2%	158	34.0%	172	37.0%	55	11.8%	465	
Length of Residency Training	81	17.4%	153	32.9%	184	39.6%	47	10.1%	465	
Family Expectations	226	48.6%	126	27.1%	71	15.3%	42	9.0%	465	
Medical Education Debt	209	44.9%	140	30.1%	79	17.0%	37	8.0%	465	

Note: Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (Total Responses column) for each factor.

Figure 3: Strength of Factors' Influence Upon Choice of Specialty



Other Factors Important in Determining Specialty

Sixty-six respondents answered the open-ended question citing other factors for choosing their specialty. Four factors emerged as important considerations when choosing their specialties and are described below.

- **Personal enjoyment and interest (29):** This is by far the most common theme. Respondents mentioned "love," "enjoyment," "a spiritual calling," "passion," fit with their own personality and experiences, and "sense of purpose."
- **Specialty attributes (16):** Respondents mentioned attributes of the specialty such as diverse practice options, the culture of the specialty, ability to have diverse training experiences, commitment to science and innovation, and values of the specialty.
- Other (12): These comments include other topics that influenced their specialty decision, such as work-life balance, stress, scheduling, family, and mentorship.
- **Patients (9):** Respondents mentioned the ability to impact patients, enjoying working with the patient population, patient interaction, and diverse patient cases.

Table 10: Successfully Matched to GME Program

Medical School	Y	es	N	0	Total	
Medical School	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	109	96.5%	4	3.5%	113	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	164	97.6%	4	2.4%	168	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	90	96.8%	3	3.2%	93	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	67	100.0%	0	0.0%	67	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	59	96.7%	2	3.3%	61	100.0%
Total	489	97.4%	13	2.6%	502	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses for each school.

Table 11: In-State (Georgia) or Out-of-State Match

	Lo	cation of Ma	Total			
Medical School	Geo	rgia	Out-of	-State	TOLAI	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	30	27.5%	79	72.5%	109	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	46	28.0%	118	72.0%	164	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	31	37.3%	52	62.7%	83	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	20	31.7%	43	68.3%	63	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	12	23.1%	40	76.9%	52	100.0%
Total	139	29.5%	332	70.5%	471	100.0%

Note: 32 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses for each school.

Figure 4: Percentage of Total In-State Matches by Medical School

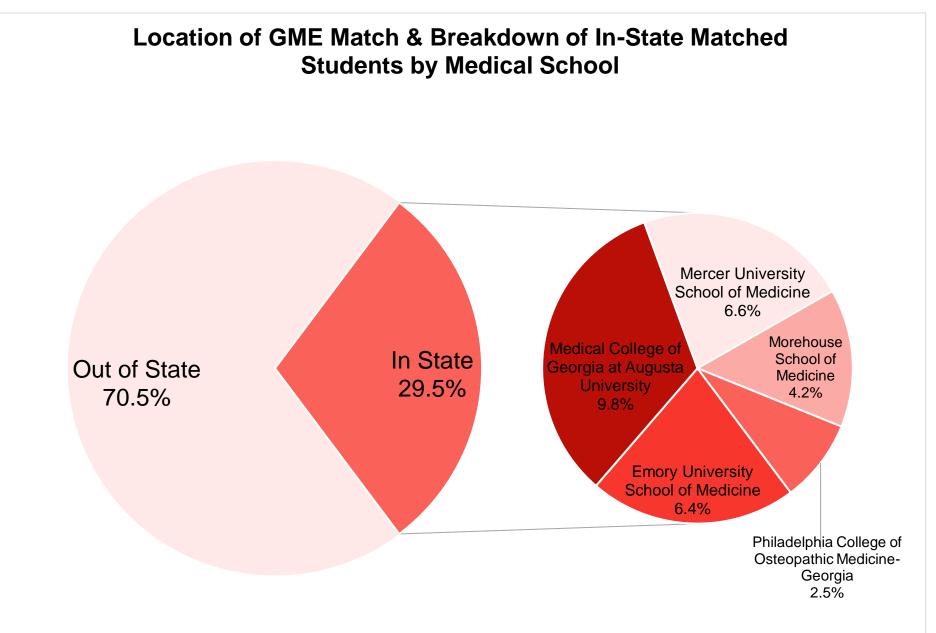


Figure 5: Matched to GME Program & Match to First-Choice Program

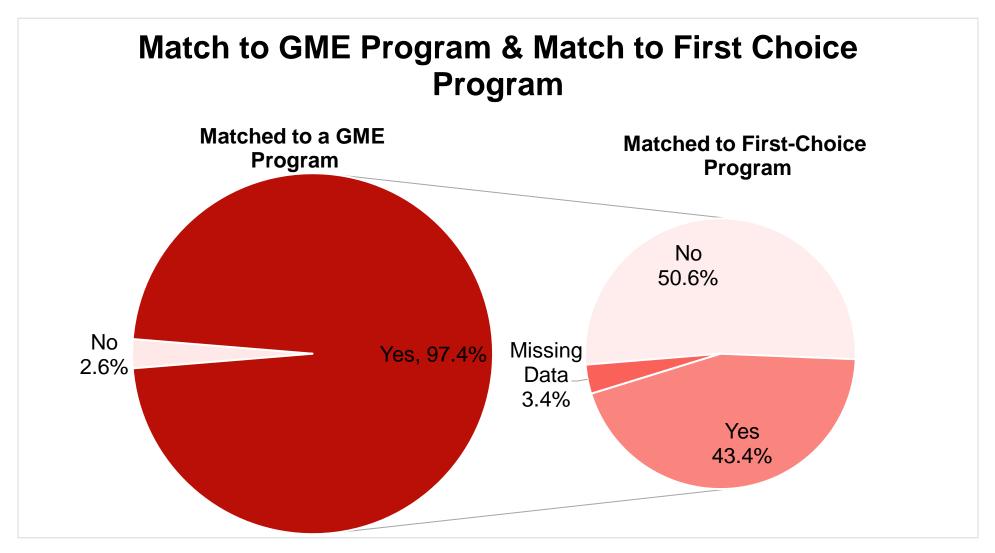


Table 12: Any Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices

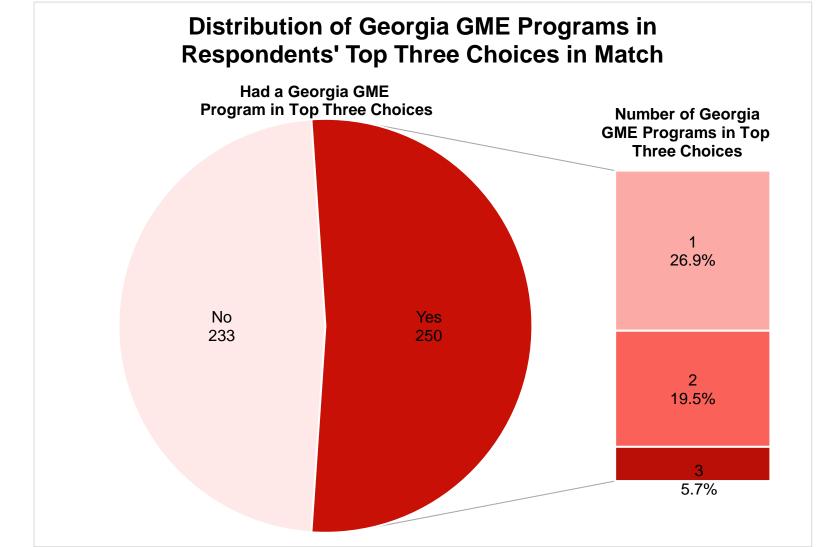
Medical School	N	0	Ye	es	Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	58	51.3%	55	48.7%	113	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	85	50.9%	82	49.1%	167	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	39	45.9%	46	54.1%	85	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	24	38.1%	39	61.9%	63	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	27	49.1%	28	50.9%	55	100.0%
Total	233	48.2%	250	51.8%	483	100.0%

Note: 20 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (483).

Table 13: Number of Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices by Medical School

	Number of Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices								
Medical School	One		Тwo		Three		Total		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Emory University School of Medicine	46	86.8%	6	11.3%	1	1.9%	53	100.0%	
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	20	21.1%	67	70.5%	8	8.4%	95	100.0%	
Mercer University School of Medicine	32	72.7%	4	9.1%	8	18.2%	44	100.0%	
Morehouse School of Medicine	17	48.6%	12	34.3%	6	17.1%	35	100.0%	
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	16	59.3%	6	22.2%	5	18.5%	27	100.0%	
Total	131	51.6%	95	37.4%	28	11.0	254	100.0%	

Figure 6: Georgia GME Programs in Respondents' Top Three Choices in Match

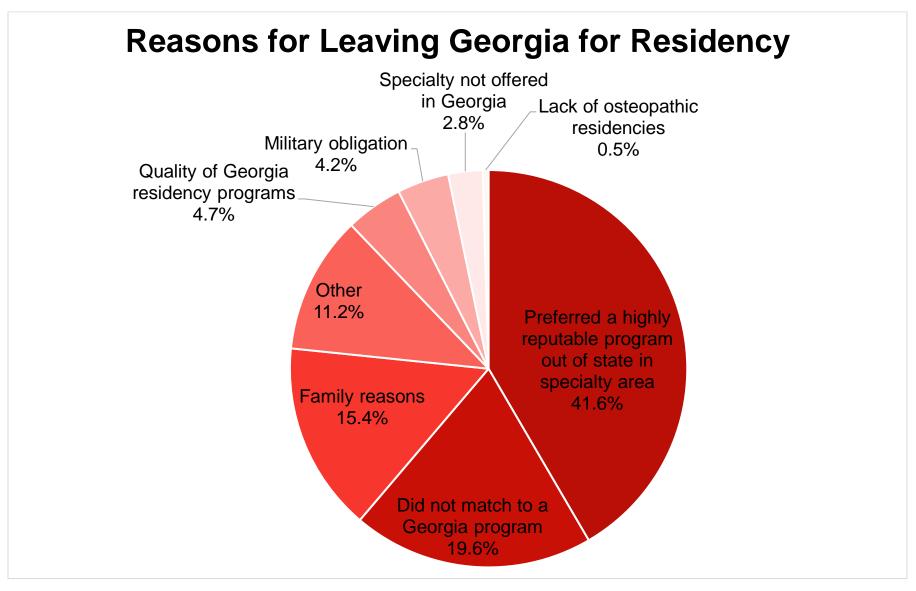


Note: 4 respondents who answered they did have a Georgia GME program in their top three choices did not specify the number of programs.

Table 14: Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices

Georgia GME Program	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total Survey Respondents (503) Having this Program in their Top Three Choices
Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta)	115	22.9%
Medical College of Georgia (Augusta)	47	9.3%
WellStar Kennestone Regional Medical Center (Marietta)	34	6.8%
Memorial Health University Medical Center (Savannah)	25	5.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta)	23	4.6%
Navicent Health-Central GA (Macon)	21	4.2%
Gateway Behavioral Health (Savannah)	10	2.0%
Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Gainesville)	9	1.8%
Northside Gwinnett Medical Center (Lawrenceville)	9	1.8%
Coliseum Medical Center (Macon)	8	1.6%
WellStar Atlanta Medical Center (Atlanta)	7	1.4%
AU/UGA Medical Partnership-St. Mary's Healthcare (Athens)	5	1.0%
Floyd Medical Center (Rome)	3	0.6%
Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center (Athens)	3	0.6%
Redmond Regional Medical Center (Rome)	2	0.4%
Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown (Columbus)	1	0.2%

Figure 7: Primary Reason for Leaving Georgia



Other Factors Important to Leaving Georgia for Residency

Forty-five respondents gave an open-ended answer on other factors that influenced their choice to leave Georgia for residency. Note: many responses to this question included indicators of multiple categories.

- Location (17): These comments indicate location-based reasons for wanting to leave Georgia or wanting to go elsewhere for residency. Examples include wanting a change of scenery, cheaper cost of living, or wanting to be near geographical features like mountains or beaches.
- **Program Factors (10):** The second-most prevalent theme among comments reveals program-related factors that influenced respondents' decisions to leave Georgia. These included favoring programs in other states because of better fellowship and training opportunities; wanting to pursue a program that is not available in Georgia; wanting a residency that has affiliation with certain hospitals; or not favoring the program-related factors at their medical school institution.
- Match (7): These comments indicated a practical concern that prohibited respondents' ability to stay in Georgia for residency training. These include not being accepted into a Georgia program or being accepted elsewhere.
- Family (6): These responses mentioned the influence of significant others, couple's matching, and going to residency programs close to family.
- Returning after Residency (3): Three respondents said that they would be returning to Georgia after their residency training.

Table 15: Overall Perception of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty

Response	Number	Percent
Very Negative	5	1.1%
2	2	0.4%
3	11	2.4%
4	22	4.7%
5	58	12.5%
6	49	10.6%
7	114	24.6%
8	97	20.9%
9	42	9.1%
Very Positive	64	13.8%
Total	464	100.0%

Note: 39 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (464).

Figure 8: Overall Perception of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty

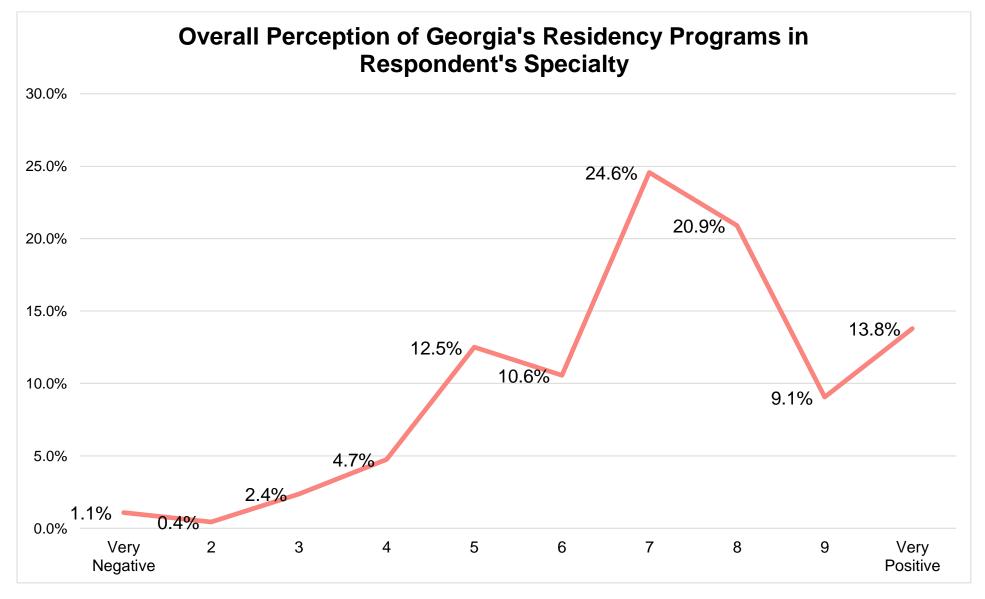


Table 16: Perception of Quality of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty

Responses	Number	Percent
Low Quality	4	0.9%
2	3	0.6%
3	11	2.4%
4	16	3.4%
5	54	11.6%
6	50	10.7%
7	104	22.3%
8	100	21.5%
9	59	12.7%
High Quality	65	13.9%
Total	466	100.0%

Note: 37 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (466).

Figure 9: Perception of Quality of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty

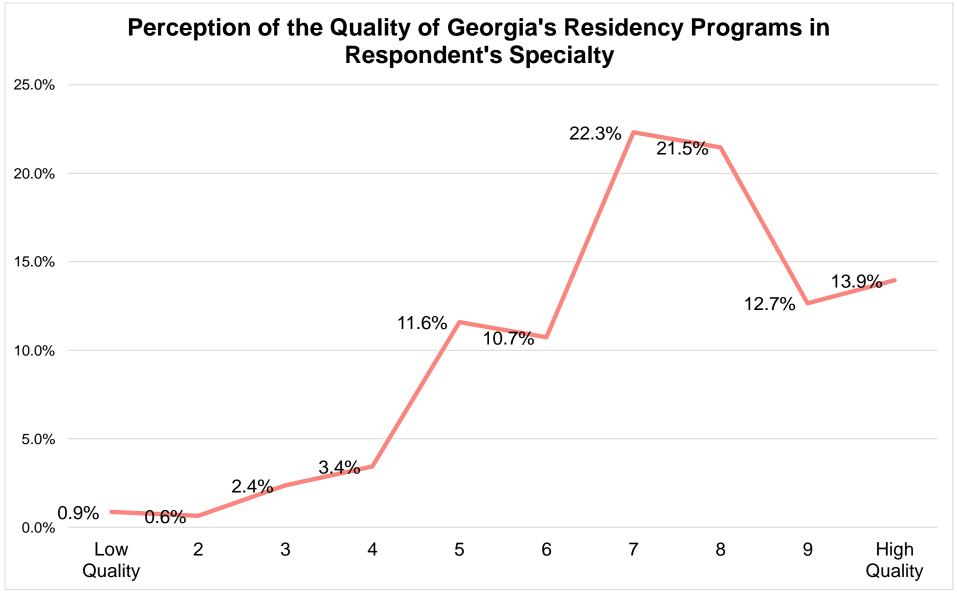


Table 17: Factors Important in Choosing Residency Program

	Strength of Factor's Influence								
Factor	No Influence		Minor		Moderate		Strong		Total Responses
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Family	58	12.4%	77	16.5%	141	30.3%	190	40.8%	466
Location	27	5.8%	55	11.8%	145	31.2%	238	51.2%	465
Reputation of Residency Program	33	7.1%	73	15.7%	185	39.7%	175	37.6%	466
Fellowship Opportunities	44	9.5%	92	19.8%	155	33.3%	174	37.4%	465
Availability of Residency Positions in Desired Specialty	100	21.5%	85	18.2%	148	31.8%	133	28.5%	466
Resident Salary	182	39.3%	164	35.4%	98	21.2%	19	4.1	463

Note: Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (Total Responses column) for each factor.

Figure 10: Strength of Factors' Influence Upon Choice of Residency Program

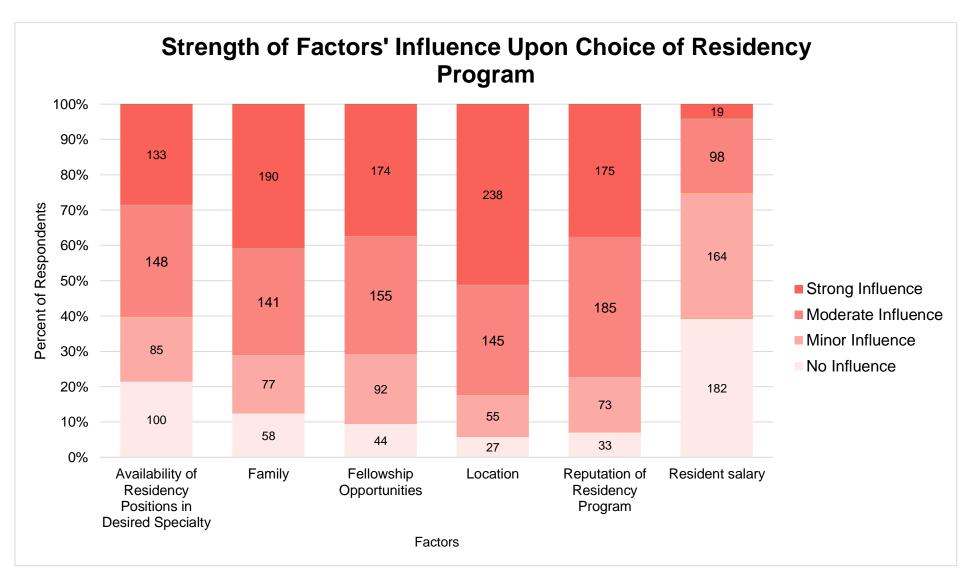


Table 18: Other Factors Cited as Important in Choosing a Georgia Residency Program

Respondents entered open-answered text to further explain the factors that contributed to their choice of a Georgia residency program. The responses are broken down into those offer positive and negative feedback about programs.

Positive Feedback	Negative Feedback
<ul> <li>Had a great elective experience</li> <li>High patient load and high patient diversity</li> <li>Ample fellowship opportunities</li> <li>Great program culture</li> <li>Opportunities for community work</li> <li>Desire to work at specific Georgia hospitals</li> <li>Attractive benefits and incentives such as childcare, high ratings as a place to work, resident wellness programs</li> <li>Great training in specialty</li> <li>Quality of life in the city of the residency program</li> <li>Autonomy in training</li> <li>Loved medical school/home institution</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Program too strenuous, competitive, or intense</li> <li>No program commitment to equity and diversity</li> <li>Program is male-dominated</li> <li>Georgia programs do not favor their own students</li> <li>Bad experiences with interviewing, residents, and faculty</li> <li>Programs are weak in desired specialty</li> <li>Undesirable location</li> <li>Programs do not accept D.O.s</li> <li>Complicated patient cases must be sent to other hospitals</li> <li>Poor program leadership</li> <li>Program seemed unresponsive to resident feedback</li> <li>Unfavorable experiences with program directors</li> </ul>

Figure 11: Plan to Practice in Underserved Area & Type of Underserved Area

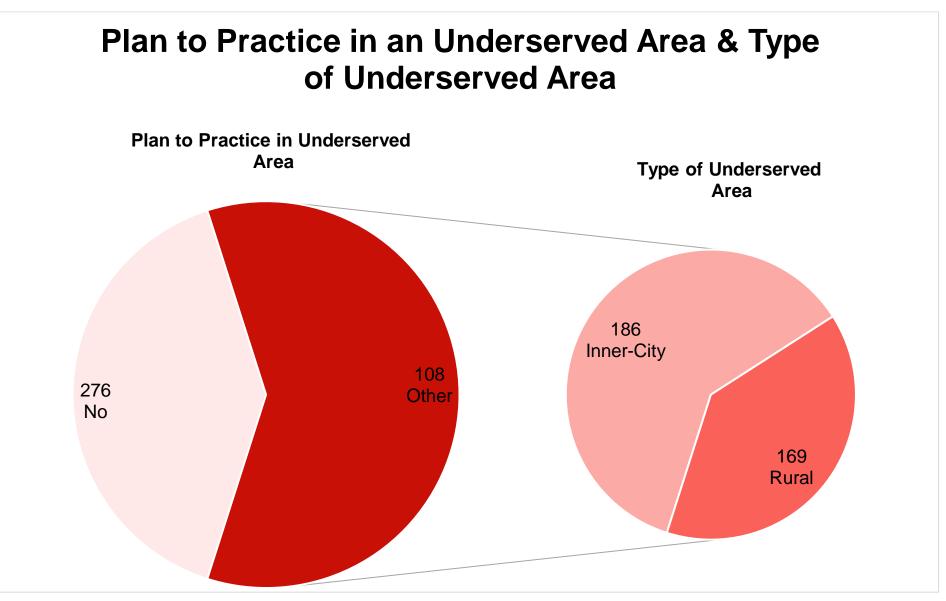
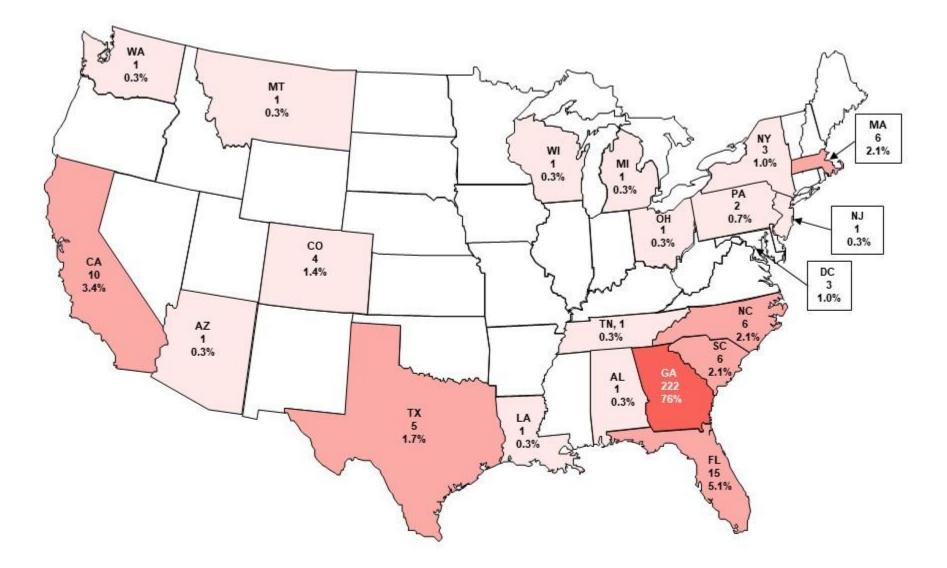


Table 19: Intent to Practice in an Underserved Area and Type of Underserved Area by Medical School

		Intend to Practice in Underserved Area & Type of Underserved Area				
Medical School	Yes				Total	
	No	Inner City	Rural	Percent Intending Underserved Practice	Responses	
Emory University School of Medicine	54	43	13	51.4%	109	
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	79	49	34	51.2%	162	
Mercer University School of Medicine	23	19	43	72.9%	85	
Morehouse School of Medicine	8	42	4	83.6%	55	
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	22	16	14	58.8%	51	
Total	186 169 108		-	462		
Total (Percentage)	40.3%	36.6%	23.4%	60.0%	100.0%	

Map: Other States Where Georgia Medical School Graduates Plan to Practice Following Residency



#### Acknowledgements

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- Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
- Mercer University School of Medicine
- Morehouse University School of Medicine
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia

The 2021 Georgia Medical School Graduate Survey report can be viewed and downloaded on the internet at <u>healthcareworkforce.georgia.gov</u>. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce welcomes comments and suggestions for future editions of this report. Please send comments to leanna.greenwood@dch.ga.gov.