



GEORGIA BOARD FOR PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS IN TRAINING DURING 1996 & 2006 FALL 2009

RESIDENT PHYSICIANS BY NUMBER AND SPECIALTY

A resident is a physician who has finished medical school and is receiving training in a specialized area such as: family medicine, internal medicine, radiology, etc. Approximately 2,000 resident physicians are training in Georgia each year. Residents are issued a resident physician training permit by the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) and actively see patients at teaching sites under the supervision of a faculty physician. A resident may not practice independently outside of the training site unless they have an unrestricted license from the GCMB. Certain requirements must be met to obtain an unrestricted physician license. Resident physicians, who graduated from a U.S. medical school, may apply for an unrestricted license after one year of graduate medical education (residency) training. Resident physicians who graduated from an international medical school must complete three years of graduate medical education to be eligible for an unrestricted license.

The figures contained in this fact sheet are reflective of resident physicians who had an unrestricted license to practice medicine in 1996 and 2006. There were a total of 772 licensed resident physicians in 1996 and 355 in 2006.

Specialty Breakdown of Resident Physicians*
(Number and Percent)
1996 & 2006

Specialty	Number/Percentage in Specialty 1996	Number/Percentage in Specialty 2006
Family Medicine	95 (12.3)	17 (4.8)
General Surgery	57 (7.4)	40 (11.3)
Internal Medicine	121 (15.7)	21 (5.9)
OB/GYN	54 (7.0)	12 (3.4)
Pediatrics	24 (3.1)	7 (2.0)
Other Specialties	421 (54.5)	258 (72.6)
TOTAL	772 (100.0)	355 (100.0)

*Georgia Board for Physician Workforce physician licensure survey; 1996 & 2006
Note: Each number and percent calculated looking at all residents, how many are in each specialty.

- General Surgery was the only core specialty with an overall increase between 1996 and 2006. In 1996, 7.4% of licensed resident physicians were training in General Surgery. That percentage increased to 11.3% in 2006.
- Internal Medicine and Family Medicine saw the largest declines. (The change in Internal Medicine may be reflective of more residents going into sub-specialties.)
 - In 1996, 15.7% of the resident physicians were in Internal Medicine. The percentage decreased to 5.9% in 2006.
 - In 1996, 12.3% of licensed resident physicians were training in Family Medicine. The percentage decreased to 4.8% in 2006.

The tables show there were fewer licensed resident physicians in 2006 than in 1996. There are several potential reasons for the notable difference. One answer may be an increase in the number of international medical school graduates filling Georgia's residency programs, particularly in the core specialties. International medical graduates cannot obtain an unrestricted license until completion of three years of graduate medical education. This means the international medical school graduate would be done with residency training at the time of obtaining an unrestricted license.

Another possibility may be generational differences among resident physicians. In years past, it was not uncommon for a U.S. medical school graduate to obtain an unrestricted license after one year in order to “moonlight” or work outside the training site for additional money. Today’s generation of new physicians seems to be more interested in family time.

The table below looks at the core specialties and what proportion of the licensed physicians are residents.

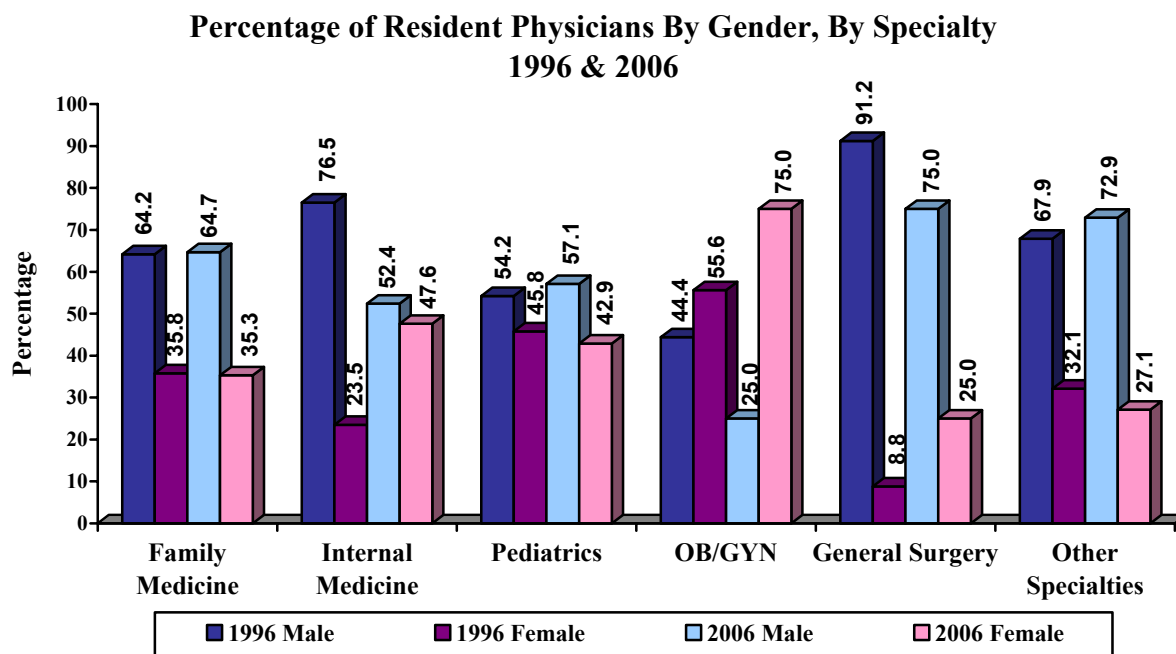
Proportion of Residents* by Specialty (Number and Percent) 1996 & 2006		
Specialty	Percentage of Residents in Specialty 1996	Percentage of Residents in Specialty 2006
Family Medicine	95 (5.0)	17 (0.8)
General Surgery	57 (8.2)	40 (6.2)
Internal Medicine	121 (7.0)	21 (0.9)
OB/GYN	54 (6.1)	12 (1.2)
Pediatrics	24 (2.5)	7 (0.5)
Other Specialties	421 (3.0)	258 (1.5)
TOTAL	772 (5.6)	355 (2.0)

*Georgia Board for Physician Workforce physician licensure survey; 1996 & 2006
 Note: Number and percentage were calculated by determining how many licensed physicians in each specialty were residents.

- The decrease in the number of resident physicians translates into residents representing a smaller proportion of the licensed physicians in their specialty.
- For example: In 1996, 5% (95) of physicians licensed in Family Medicine were residents. That percentage and corresponding number decreased to .8% (17) in 2006.
- As shown in the previous table, General Surgery was the only core specialty with an increase in resident physicians. However, the overall proportion of General Surgeons in a residency setting followed the same pattern of decline as other core specialties between 1996 and 2006.

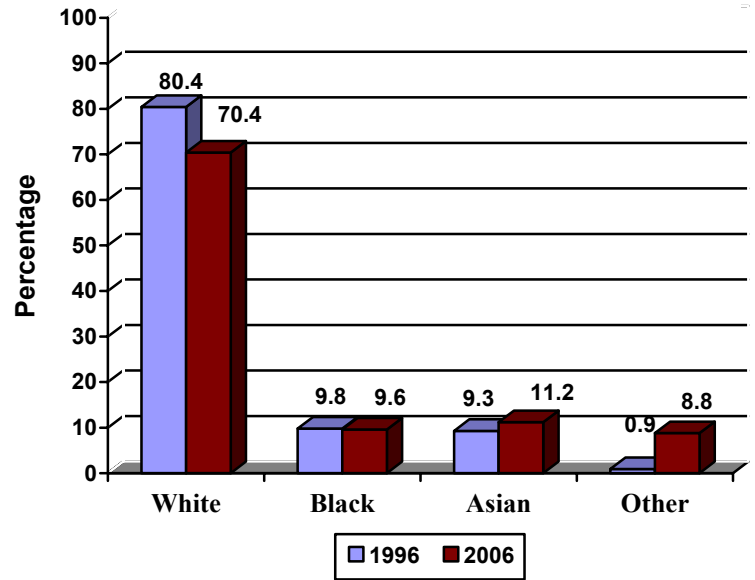
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS

The following table compares the percentage of male and female resident physicians, by specialty, for 1996 and 2006.

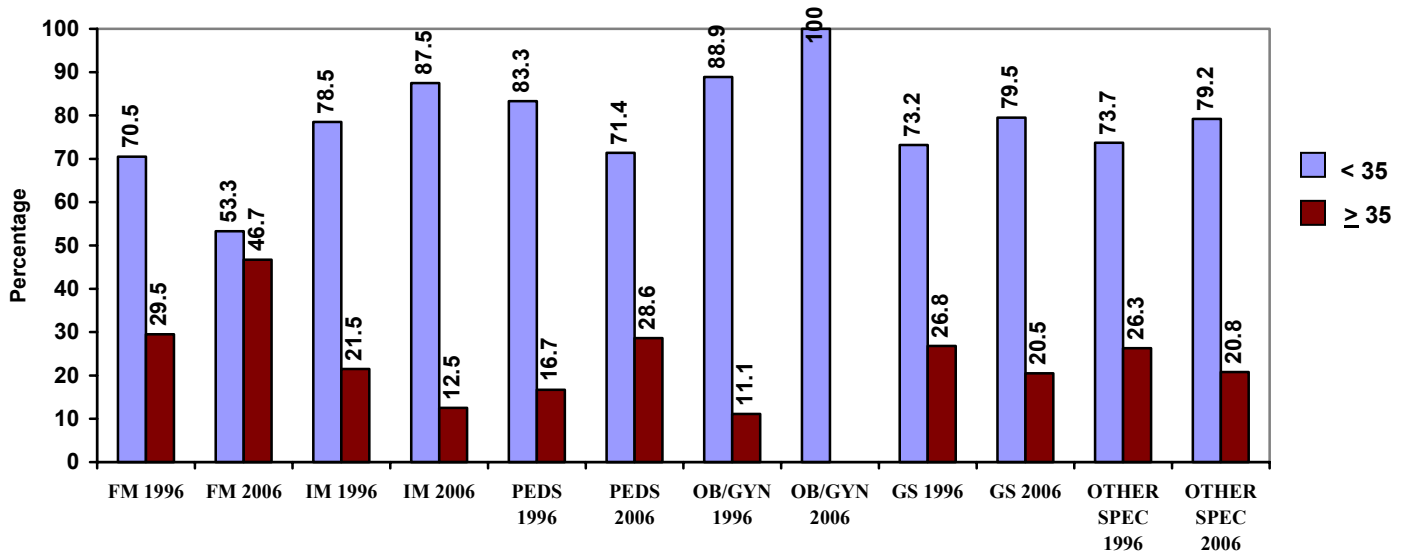


**Percentage of Resident Physicians by Race
All Specialties Combined
1996 & 2006**

- In 2006, thirty percent (30%) of resident physicians indicated they were black, Asian, or “other” race (up from 20% in 1996).
- The most significant increase was found in the “other” race category. The percentage increased by 7.9% between 1996 and 2006 (from 0.9% in 1996 to 8.8% in 2006).
- The percentage of black resident physicians remained consistent between 1996 and 2006.



**Percentage of Resident Physicians by Age and Specialty
1996 & 2006**



- The majority of resident physicians, regardless of specialty, were age 35 and under in 1996 and 2006.
- From 1996 to 2006, there was an increase in the percentage of residents age 35 and older in the specialties of Pediatrics and Family Medicine. The percentage of Pediatric residents age 35 and older increased from 16.7% to 28.6% and Family Medicine from 29.5% to 46.7%.
- The specialty of Family Medicine had the greatest percentage of residents age 35 or older in both 1996 and 2006.