Retaining Physicians Educated in Georgia

Understanding what goes into a physician’s choice as to where to train and practice, can help Georgia maximize the return on their investment. Physicians have a choice in where they practice, but external factors, such as medical school admissions and the National Resident Matching Program, can influence where a physician ultimately practices.

Data published by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), based on data maintained by the American Medical Association (AMA), give evidence that where physicians attend medical school and complete their residency, have influence where physicians practice. The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce (GBPW), through the Medical School Graduate Survey and Graduate Medical Education Exit Survey, have found that where students graduated from high school (ie, in state), and proximity to family also influence practice location. Through these surveys, the GBPW, has also documented that Georgia has been quite successful in retaining physicians that complete their residencies in Georgia whether they are from Georgia or another state or country.

⇒ 82.2% of the residents responding graduated from a Georgia residency program in 2011, and went to high school in Georgia, had confirmed practice plans to stay in Georgia.

⇒ 14.6% of the 2011 graduates from Georgia residency programs, who responded, graduated from international medical schools.

Physician Retention Rates by Education Location

- Physicians active in the U.S. who did both medical school and residency in GA (Georgia Ranked 19th in the nation)
  - 71.8% Practicing in GA
  - 28.2% Practicing Elsewhere

- Physicians active in the U.S. who completed residency training in GA (Georgia ranked 17th in the nation)
  - 49.0% Practicing in GA
  - 51.0% Practicing Elsewhere

- Physicians active in the U.S. who graduated from medical school in GA (Georgia ranked 13th in the nation)
  - 46.3% Practicing in GA
  - 53.7% Practicing Elsewhere
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The average retention rate based on where physicians completed their residency training was 47.8% in 2010 in the United States. Georgia was above the average rate with 49.0% of its residency graduates practicing in Georgia, and ranking 17th out of 50 when compared to other states.

Of all the physicians in active practice in the United States in 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number who did both medical school and residency training in GA</th>
<th>Number of physicians in the U.S.</th>
<th>Number Practicing in Georgia</th>
<th>U.S. Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,179</td>
<td>3,002</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number who attended medical school in GA</td>
<td>11,545</td>
<td>5,343</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number who did their residency training in GA</td>
<td>13,881</td>
<td>6,796</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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