



Better Information for Better Outcomes

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International Medical Graduate Physician Workforce in New York

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Highlights

- More than one-third of New York's physician workforce are international medical graduates (IMGs).
- Foreign-born IMGs are more likely to be older, female, and Asian compared to other physicians practicing in New York.
- IMGs are more likely to report a principal specialty in primary care compared to other physicians.
- Foreign-born IMGs are more likely to practice in federally designated primary care shortage areas and serve Medicaid patients compared to all other physicians.

Background

New York's physician workforce has one of the highest proportions of international medical graduates (IMGs) in the country. This research brief compares the demographic and practice characteristics of IMGs and U.S. medical graduates practicing in New York. Specifically three groups of physicians were compared: U.S. medical school graduates (USMGs); U.S. high school students who were international medical school graduates (USIMGs); and foreign high school students who were international medical school graduates (foreign-born IMGs). Only active patient care physicians practicing in New York were included in the analysis. Data on the physician workforce were drawn from the New York physician re-registration survey (2009-2010).

Key Findings

More than one-third of New York's physician workforce attended international medical schools.

Thirty-five percent of all physicians practicing in New York were IMGs. Of the IMGs, 26% were foreign-born and 9% were USIMGs. The majority of USIMGs in the state attended New York high schools.

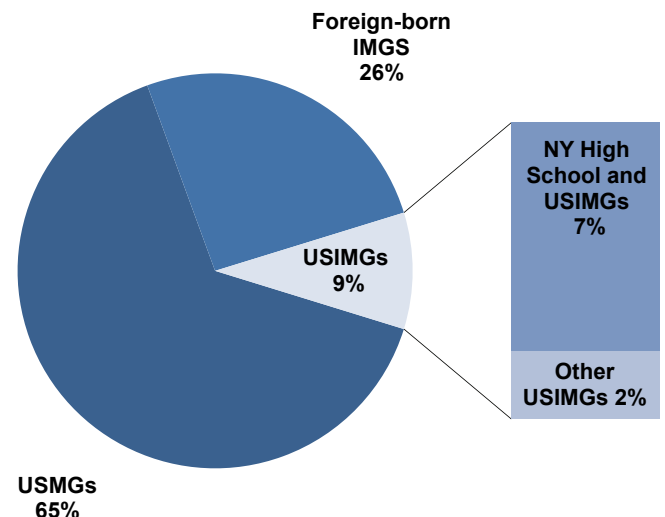
Physician Characteristics, 2010

	Age	Female	URM	Asian	White
USMGs	50	32%	9%	9%	82%
USIMGs	54	22%	11%	12%	77%
Foreign-born IMGs	55	36%	14%	53%	33%
Total	52	32%	11%	20%	69%

Foreign-born IMGs are more likely to be older, female, and Asian compared to other physicians practicing in New York.

The median age of foreign-born IMGs was 55. In comparison, the median age for all physicians practicing in New York was 52. Foreign-born IMGs were also more likely to be female (36% compared to 32% for all physicians). The majority of foreign-born IMGs were Asian (53%), while the majority of all physicians in New York were White (69%).

New York's Physicians by Medical School and High School Location, 2010



IMGs are more likely to report a principal specialty in primary care compared to other physicians.

USIMGs (42%) were the most likely to report a principal specialty in primary care (family medicine, general practice, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics), followed by foreign-born IMGs (37%) and USMGs (26%).

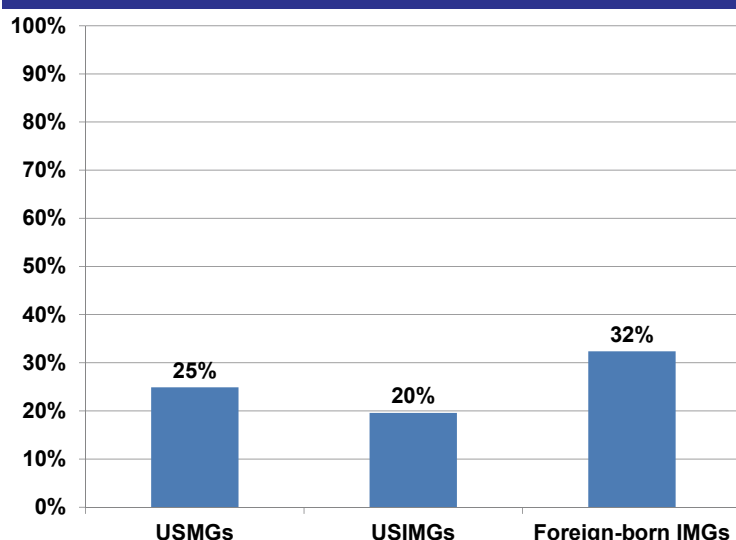
Physician Specialty and Setting, 2010

	Primary Care	Solo	Group	Hospital	Clinics
USMGs	26%	24%	37%	30%	4%
USIMGs	42%	34%	31%	25%	4%
Foreign-born IMGs	37%	29%	27%	32%	3%
Total	31%	26%	34%	30%	4%

IMGs are less likely to be certified in their principal specialty compared to USMGs.

Only 71% of USIMGs and 75% of foreign-born IMGs are certified in their principal specialty. In comparison, 86% of USMGs are certified.

Practicing in Federally Designated Primary Care Shortage Areas, 2009



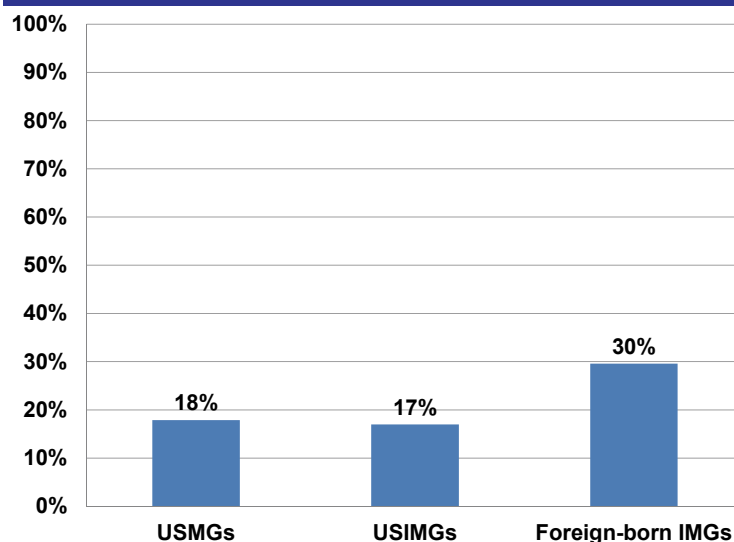
Foreign-born IMGs are more likely to serve Medicaid patients in their practices compared to all other physicians.

Thirty percent of foreign-born IMGs in New York reported case loads of at least 50% Medicaid patients compared to 18% for USMGs and 17% for USIMGs.

Foreign-born IMGs are more likely to practice in federally designated primary care shortage areas compared to all other physicians.

Thirty-two percent of foreign-born IMGs in New York practice in federally designated primary care shortage areas. Twenty-five percent of USMGs and 20% of USIMGs practice in shortage areas.

Physicians with Case Loads of at least 50% Medicaid Patients, 2010



Conclusion

More than one-third of New York's physicians are IMGs. IMGs are more likely to report a primary care specialty compared to all other physicians and foreign-born IMGs are more likely to practice in federally designated primary care shortage areas and serve Medicaid patients. This research was designed to inform policy makers and planners about the differences between IMGs and USMGs practicing in New York so they can make informed decisions about New York's physician workforce.

The Center for Health Workforce Studies

This brief was prepared by the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health, University at Albany, State University of New York. Center staff who worked on this brief included David Armstrong, Gaetano Forte, and Jean Moore. The New York physician re-registration survey is part of the Center's New York Health Workforce Data System, which is designed to support ongoing monitoring of the state's health workforce. Web site: <http://chws.albany.edu>