INTRODUCTION

- The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on graduate medical education (GME) in the US.
- This study explores COVID-19's effect on the job market for new physicians by examining 5 job market indicators between the years 2018-2022.

METHODS

- Primary data source: New York Resident Exit Survey
  - Annual survey of physicians completing residency or fellowship training in New York State
  - Conducted in collaboration with teaching hospitals in the state since 1998
  - New York annually trains >18,000 physicians and >5,000 physicians complete a training program each year
  - Annual response rate is approximately 60%
  - Survey was not conducted in 2020 due to pandemic disruptions
- Survey collects extensive information on new physicians' demographic and education characteristics, post-training plans, and job market experiences
- Survey data from 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022 were included in the analysis
- Survey was not conducted in 2020 due to pandemic disruptions
- Only physicians who had actively searched for a job were included in the analysis
- International medical graduates (IMGs) on temporary visas were also excluded due to practice restrictions
- Study compares the responses to 5 questions about the job market across the last 4 years of data:
  - Difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position
  - Main reason for difficulty
  - Having to change plans due to limited practice opportunities
  - Number of job offers received
  - Assessment of the regional job market
  - Assessment of the national job market
- A series of multivariate regression models were run on the 5 job market indicators
- Explanatory variables for the regression analysis included physician specialty, demographic characteristics, education debt, and location of training.

RESULTS

Thirty-five percent of physicians reported they had difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position in 2021

- FIGURE 1. Percent of Physicians Having Difficulty Finding a Satisfactory Practice Position

Twenty-one percent of physicians reported that they had to change plans due to limited practice opportunities in 2021

- FIGURE 2. Main Reason for Difficulty Finding a Satisfactory Practice Position

Overall lack of jobs and lack of jobs in desired locations were main reasons for difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position in 2021

- FIGURE 3. Percentage of Physicians Having to Change Plans Due to Limited Practice Opportunities

Physicians had less than 3 job offers on average in 2021

- FIGURE 4. Mean Number of Offers for Employment/Practice Opportunities

Half (50%) of physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians had to change plans due to limited practice opportunities in 2021

- FIGURE 5. Mean Likert Score for Assessment of the Regional Job Market

CONCLUSIONS

- In 2021, physicians had more difficulty finding a satisfactory practice position compared to other years, mainly due to an overall lack of jobs and a lack of jobs in desired locations.
- Physicians were more likely to change plans due to limited practice opportunities and had a fewer number of job offers in 2021 compared to other years.
- The regional and national job markets for new physicians were less favorable in 2021.
- Job market indicators in 2022 for new physicians were comparable to the job market indicators in 2018 and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

REFERENCE


LINK TO REPORT

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