



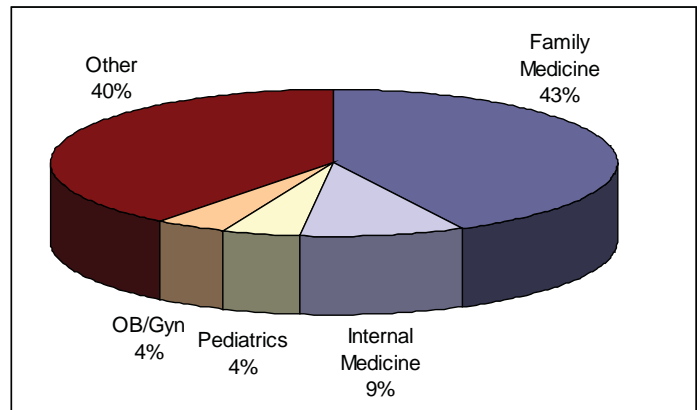
AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

What is the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)?

The AOA is a member association representing more than 67,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) and 16,000 osteopathic medical students. The AOA serves as the primary certifying body for D.O.s; is the accrediting agency for all osteopathic medical colleges; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities.

The AOA's mission is to advance the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine by promoting excellence in education, research, and the delivery of quality, cost-effective health care within a distinct, unified profession.

For more than 130 years the AOA and the osteopathic medical profession have been dedicated to educating and training the future physician workforce.



D.O.s by Specialty Area

What is an Osteopathic Physician (D.O.)?

There are two types of physicians in the United States, osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) and allopathic physicians (M.D.s).

D.O.s and M.D.s are alike in many ways:

- Both D.O.s and M.D.s are fully qualified physicians licensed to perform surgery and prescribe medication.
- Both D.O.s and M.D.s complete four years of basic medical education.
- After medical school, both D.O.s and M.D.s can choose to practice in a specialty area of medicine — such as surgery, family medicine or psychiatry — after completing a residency program (typically two to six years of additional training).
- Both D.O.s and M.D.s must pass comparable exams to obtain state licenses.
- D.O.s and M.D.s both practice in fully accredited and licensed health care facilities.

Some facts about osteopathic physicians:

- Between 2000-2005 there was an average of 66 million annual office and ambulatory visits to D.O.s.

- More than 60 percent of all D.O.s practice in the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, and pediatrics.
- D.O.s represent over 6 percent of the total United States physician population.
- Osteopathic medical students represent over 18 percent of the total United States medical student population.
- Many D.O.s meet a critical need by practicing in rural and medically underserved areas.

AOA Resources

- Learn more about the AOA and osteopathic medicine at www.osteopathic.org.

AOA Definitions

- **Osteopathic physician (D.O.)** and **Osteopathic Medicine** are the preferred terminology over **osteopath** and **osteopathy**.

The terms **osteopath** and **osteopathy** refer to non-physician osteopaths or those trained outside the United States.

The Growing Osteopathic Medical Profession



Locations of the 25 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) and 3 branch campuses.

Some facts about osteopathic medical education:

- In the fall of 2009, colleges of osteopathic medicine will offer instruction at 25 main campuses, 3 ancillary main campus locations, and 3 branch campuses..
- One in five medical students in the United States is enrolled in a college of osteopathic medicine.
- 49.4 percent of students enrolled in colleges of osteopathic medicine are women.¹
- 9 percent of students enrolled in colleges of osteopathic medicine are underrepresented minorities.¹

Meeting Future Physician Workforce Needs

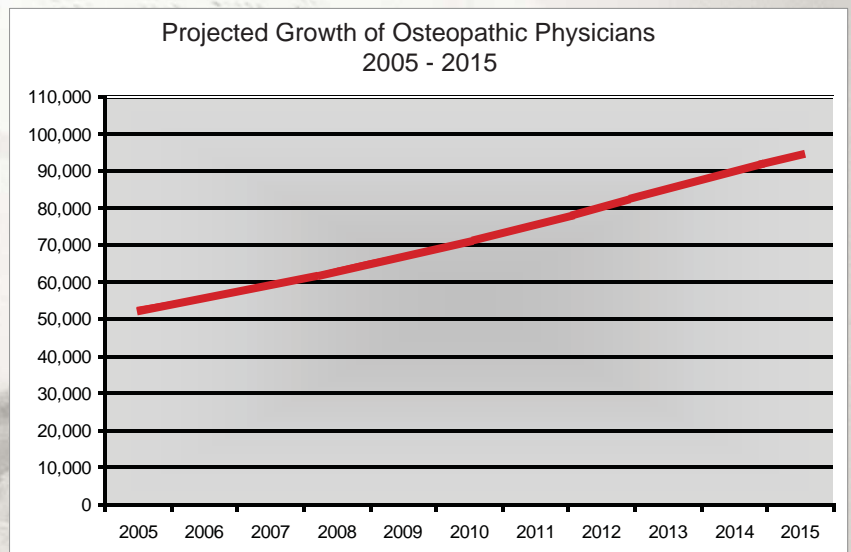
Projecting future growth of the profession:

- The 25 colleges of osteopathic medicine currently graduate approximately 3,500 new osteopathic physicians annually.
- By 2013, the number of graduates is projected to be greater than 4,700.
- Currently, there are over 67,000 osteopathic physicians in the United States. By 2015, there are projected to be over 90,000.

- Currently, 744,000 doctors practice medicine in the United States. But 250,000 are older than 55 and are likely to retire during the next 20 years.²
- The time it takes to educate and train a physician is, at minimum, seven years. This means that a student accepted in the matriculating class of 2009 will not enter the physician workforce until at least 2016.

Physician workforce projections:

- By 2030, the number of Medicare beneficiaries will double from 35 million to 71 million.
- Approximately 30 million people are living in a federally designated shortage area where there is an inadequate supply of health care providers.²
- More than 20 percent of osteopathic physicians practice in a designated medically underserved area.



The number of D.O.s in the United States has increased 108 percent between 1990 and 2007.

¹ Source American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

² Source Association of American Medical Colleges