

CAPER RCEP

Findings of the National International Medical Graduate (IMG) Database

Researchers

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Objectives

To describe and highlight findings of the National IMG Database which is a compilation of record level information on IMGs from the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), the Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry (CAPER), and Scott's Medical Directories (MD Select).

To examine aggregate findings related to the completion of assessment, postgraduate training and practice milestones reached by IMGs.

Results

Passing MCC Exams

Many IMGs write MCC exams as the initial steps toward medical practice in Canada. The three main exams are MCCEE, MCCQE1 and MCCQEII. In 2015, a total of 2,667 IMGs passed the MCCEE with the representation being highest from Saudi Arabia (241), Ireland (197) and Iran (180). The country with the most IMGs who passed the MCCQE1 (119) and the MCCQEII (63) in 2015 was Ireland. The proportion of IMGs that have passed exams within two years of their medical degree has increased between 2011 and 2015 for the MCCEE (3%), MCCQE1 (11%) and MCCQEII (10%). In 2015, 15% of IMGs who passed the MCCEE did so prior to earning their medical degree.

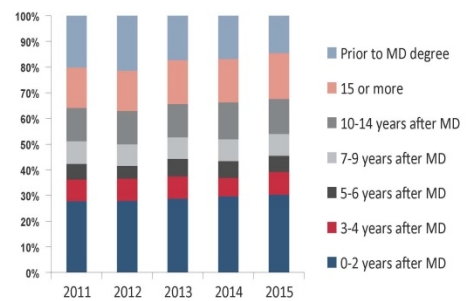
Postgraduate training

In the past decade, there has been a gradual decline in the proportion of visa trainees relative to all IMGs in Canadian postgraduate training resulting in roughly equal numbers of visa trainees (2,270) and Canadian citizen/permanent resident IMGs (2,262) in 2015. The number of Canadian citizens/ permanent residents more than doubled between 2007 and 2015 at NOSM, McGill and UBC and most frequently graduated from Irish, Australian and Iranian medical schools. During this time frame, there was over a 3-fold increase of Canadian citizen/ permanent resident IMGs in postgraduate training who graduated from Saba, Ireland, and Australia. For visa trainees in postgraduate training, by far the largest single country of MD degree was Saudi Arabia (756) representing a third of all visa trainees in 2015.

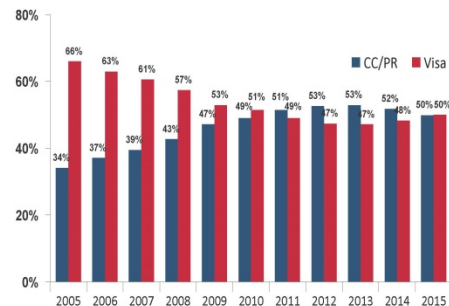
Physicians in practice

Approximately 20,000 IMGs were practising in Canada in 2016 with the top two source countries of MD graduation being South Africa and India. Ontario was the province with the largest number of IMGs in practice followed by Alberta and British Columbia. IMGs contributed to a sizable proportion of the total Canadian physician workforce in Newfoundland (35%) and Saskatchewan (52%).

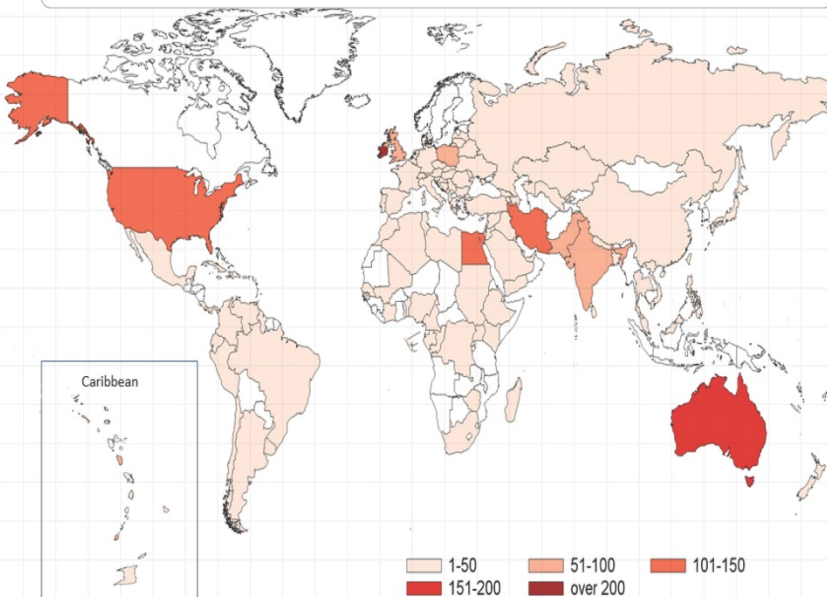
Distribution of IMGs who passed MCCEE by years since MD degree - Report Years 2011 to 2015



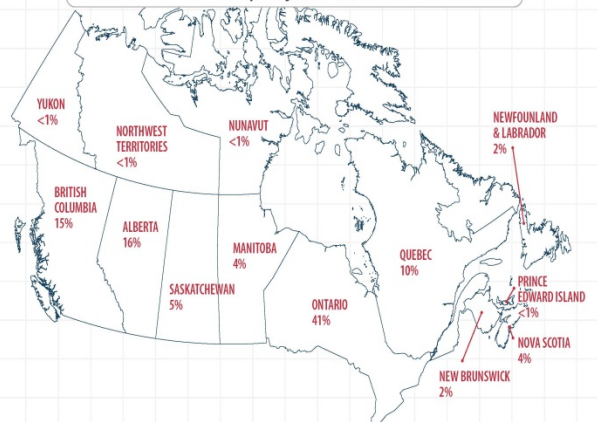
Legal status of IMGs in Post-M.D. Training - Report Years 2005 to 2015



IMG trainees by country of MD degree (excluding visa trainees) - Report Year 2015



Distribution of IMGs practising in Canada by province Report year 2016



Conclusions

The proportion of IMGs passing MCC exams within two years of their medical degree is increasing.

There has been a decline in the proportion of visa trainees relative to all IMGs in Canadian postgraduate training.

Source countries differ for IMGs in postgraduate training versus those in practice.

Most IMGs tend to practice in heavily populated areas such as Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, but proportionally contribute notably to the physician workforce in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan.

Contact Information

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