



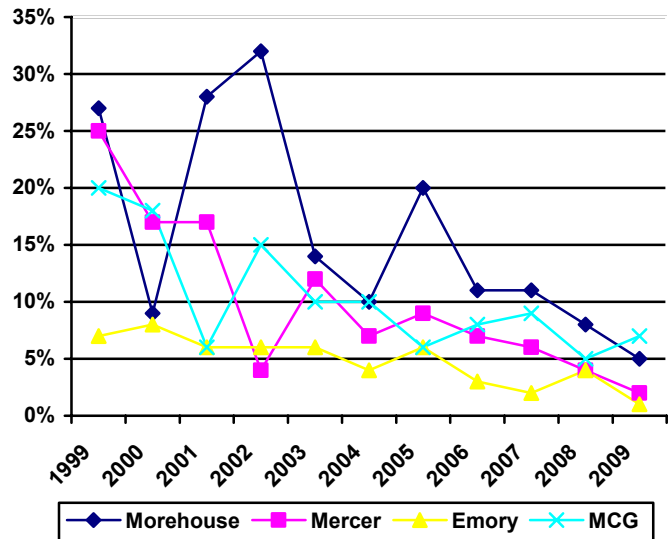
**GEORGIA MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES:  
TRENDS IN GRADUATES ENTERING PRIMARY CARE &  
OTHER NEEDED CORE SPECIALTY RESIDENCY PROGRAMS\* 1999-2009  
GEORGIA BOARD FOR PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE  
September 2009**

According to surveys conducted by the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce (GBPW), medical students tend to make the decision about what specialty to pursue during their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school. This fact sheet examines trends in the percentage of medical school graduates entering family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and general surgery.

**Family Medicine**

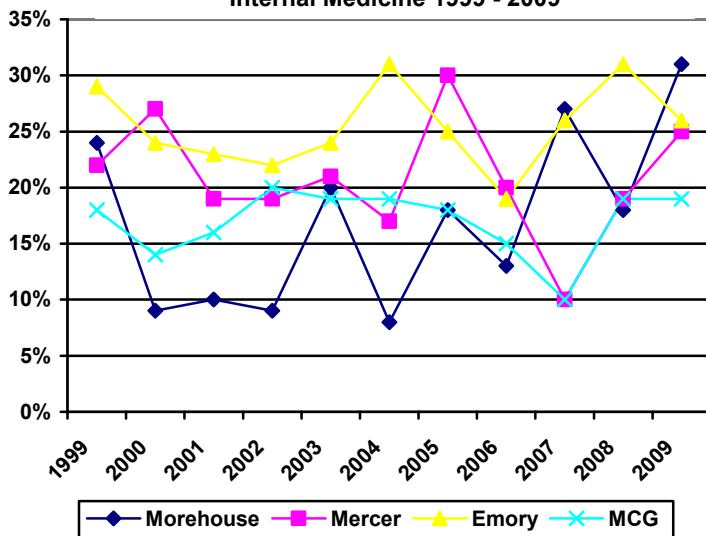
- The rate of Georgia medical school graduates entering family medicine has significantly declined from an average of 20% in 1999 (for all schools combined) to an average of 4% in 2009.
- Morehouse had the highest percentage of graduates entering family medicine for all but two years. The lowest rate was 5% and the highest was 32%.
- Mercer's rate ranged from a low of 2% to a high of 25%.
- Emory had the lowest overall percentage of graduates entering family medicine. The rate ranged from a low of 1% to a high of 8%.
- MCG's rate ranged from 5% to 20% of graduates entering family medicine.

**Medical School Graduates Entering  
Family Medicine 1999 - 2009**



**Internal Medicine\***

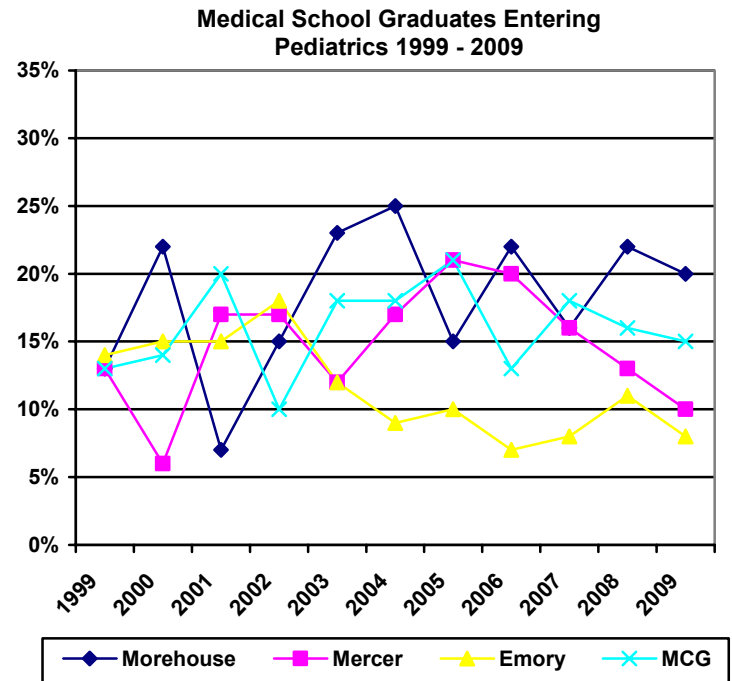
**Medical School Graduates Entering  
Internal Medicine 1999 - 2009**



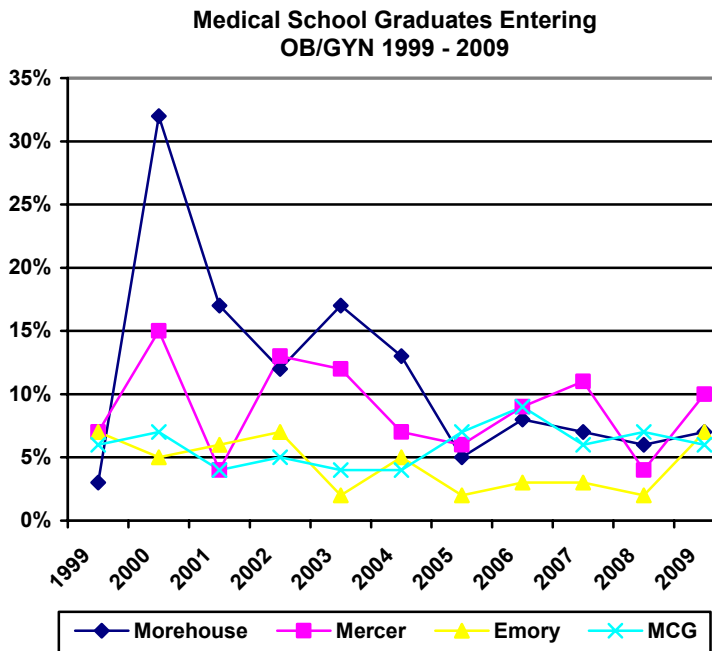
- The rate of Georgia medical school graduates entering internal medicine has increased slightly from an average of 23% in 1999 (for all schools combined) to an average of 25% in 2009.
- Since the figures are a snapshot of graduates' plans for the first year of residency training, it's unknown whether these graduates went on to practice general internal medicine or if they sub-specialized.
- In 2004, Morehouse had the fewest graduates entering internal medicine at 8%, but was among the highest in 2009 at 31%.
- Mercer's rate ranged from 10% to 30%.
- Emory's rate ranged from 19% to 31%.
- MCG's percentages ranged from 10% to 20%.

## Pediatrics

- The rate of Georgia medical school graduates entering pediatrics has remained the same with an average of 13% in 1999 and 2009 (for all schools combined).
- Since the figures are based on graduates' plans for the first year of residency, it's unknown whether these graduates went on to practice general pediatrics or if they sub-specialized.
- Between 2000 and 2001, Morehouse graduates entering pediatrics declined from 22% to 7%, representing the most significant change. Since then, the percentage of Morehouse graduates entering pediatrics has stayed at 15% or higher.
- Mercer's percentages ranged from 6% to 21%.
- Emory's percentage peaked at 18% in 2002. Since then, the percentage has been 10% or less.
- MCG's percentages ranged from 10% to 21%.



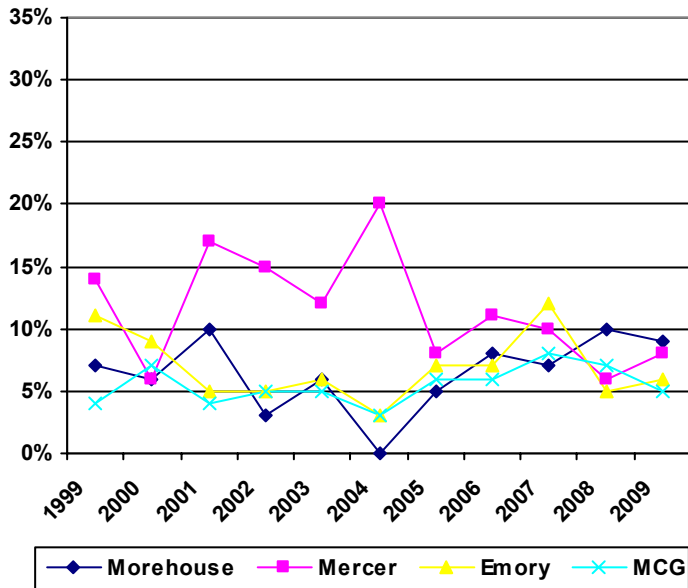
## Obstetrics and Gynecology



- The rate of Georgia medical school graduates entering OB/GYN has increased slightly from an average of 6% in 1999 (for all schools combined) to an average of nearly 8% in 2009.
- Morehouse had the greatest increase in medical school graduates entering OB/GYN when the rate went from 3% in 1999 to 32% in 2000. Morehouse also experienced the most significant decline of any schools when the rate dropped from 32% in 2000 to 17% in 2001.
- Mercer's percentages have ranged from a low of 4% to a high of 15%.
- During multiple years, Emory had the lowest percentage of graduates entering OB/GYN at 2%. The highest rate reached by Emory was 7%.
- MCG's rate of graduates entering OB/GYN has ranged between 4% and 9%.

## General Surgery

Medical School Graduates Entering General Surgery 1999 - 2009

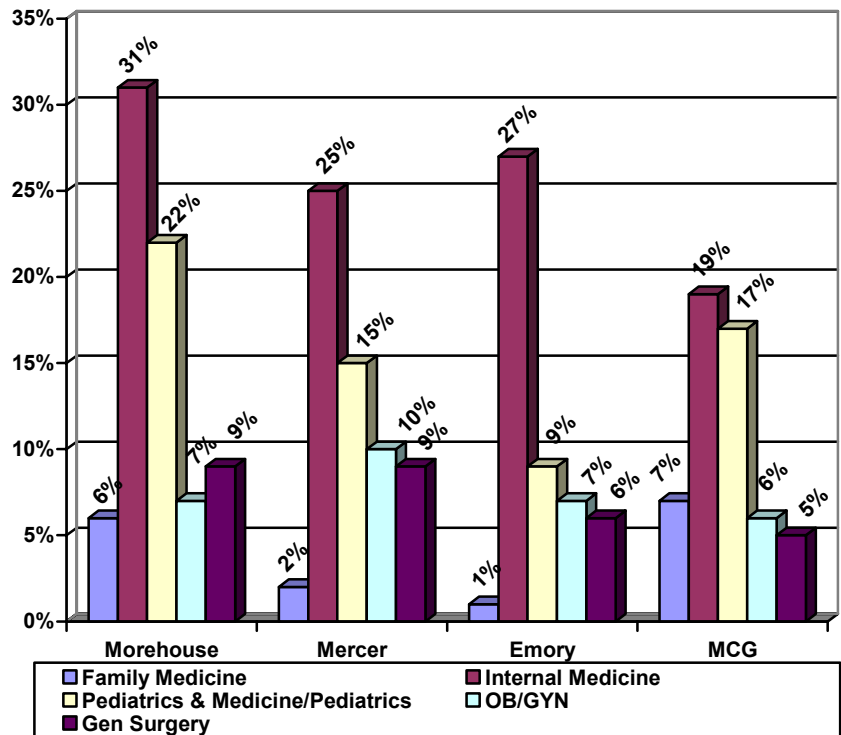


- The rate of Georgia medical school graduates entering general surgery has decreased slightly from an average of 9% in 1999 (for all schools combined) to an average of 7% in 2009.
- Morehouse, Emory, and MCG fell to their lowest percentage of graduates entering general surgery in 2004. However, Mercer had its highest rate in 2004 when 20% of graduates entering general surgery residency programs.
- Morehouse had no graduates enter general surgery in 2004 and reached the highest percentage of 10% in 2008.
- Mercer's rate of graduates entering general surgery ranged from a low of 6% to a high of 20%.
- Emory's rate ranged from a low of 3% to a high of 12% and MCG's rate was between 4% and 8% each year (with the exception of 2004 when the rate dropped to 3%).

## Summary - 2009 Graduates Entering Core Specialties

- First year residency selections for the most recent graduating class of medical students indicate internal medicine is the most popular primary care/core specialty, followed by pediatrics, OB/GYN, general surgery and family medicine.
- Morehouse and Mercer have maintained a primary care-oriented focus since their inception in the early 1980's. Accordingly, these two medical schools have the highest percentage of graduates entering primary care or core specialty residency programs.
- In 2009, 75% of Morehouse graduates entered core specialty residency programs. Mercer's rate was 61%, Emory's rate was 50% and MCG's rate was 54%.

Medical School Graduates Entering Core Specialties – 2009 Graduating Class



\* Data is provided by the medical schools after the NRMP Match results are announced in March of each year. Information provided to the GBPW denotes medical specialty for the graduates' first year of residency. Graduates were not counted under Internal Medicine if a preliminary year was noted and/or if the graduate had already matched to a second year sub-specialty residency program (e.g., Radiology).