

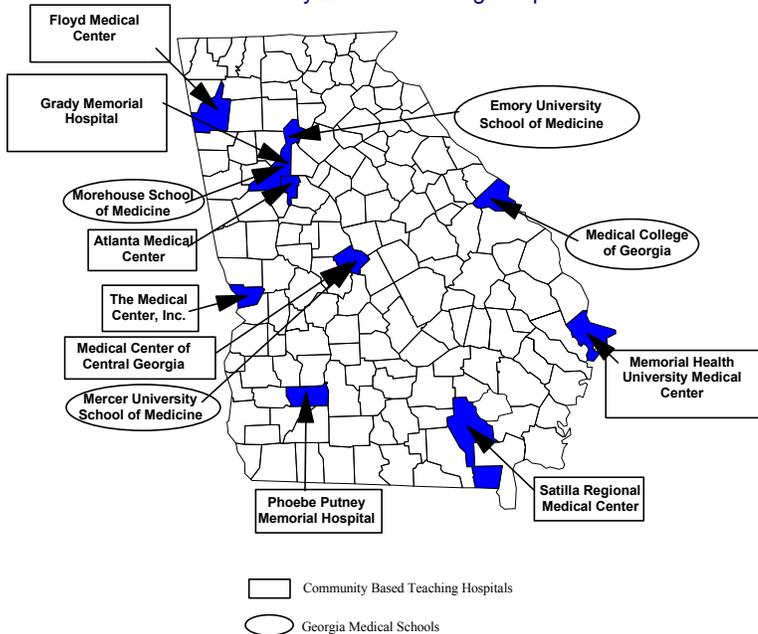


Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

Fact Sheet on Georgia's Physician Training Programs

February 2005

Georgia's Medical Schools and
Community Based Teaching Hospitals



Graduate Medical Education Overview

Graduate medical education, or residency training, prepares a physician to practice a specific specialty. Residency training takes a minimum of three years to complete and follows graduation from medical school. Research has shown that graduates tend to establish practice within a 50-mile radius of where they completed residency training.

In terms of structure, most residency programs are sponsored by teaching hospitals; however, other health care institutions such as a medical school may also sponsor programs. Teaching hospitals in Georgia range from hospitals with a single residency program to large academic medical centers sponsoring more than 50 residency programs.

Graduate Medical Education Funding Sources

The largest source of funding for graduate medical education is the federal government, which provides funding to pay for Medicare and Medicaid's share of medical education costs. Other major sources of funding include: state government, teaching hospitals, medical schools, research and education grants, and fees generated by teaching physicians who see patients. The GBPW's FY 2005 budget for graduate medical education totals **\$6,112,400**.

Physician Training Capacity

Teaching Institution	Total Number of Filled Residency Positions (2004-2005 Academic Year)	Total Graduates in 2004*
Emory	974	304
Medical College of Georgia	405	139
Morehouse School of Medicine	126	26
Memorial Health University Medical Center	99	26
Medical Center of Central Georgia	86	20
Atlanta Medical Center	91	23
The Medical Center, Inc.	38	12
Floyd Medical Center	21	4
Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital	18	7
Satilla Regional Medical Center	1	1
Total	1,859	562

* Figures do not include off-cycle graduates.

- A GBPW survey of residency graduates found **54%** with confirmed plans are **remaining in Georgia**. This rate falls between California at 79% and New York at 51% retention. The **retention rate increases to an average of 70%** for Georgia's **Family Practice graduates**.

How does Georgia compare to other states in terms of the number of resident physician per capita?

- Georgia ranks 34th among the 50 states that have residency programs in the number of resident physicians per 100,000 population. (Source: Health Resources and Services Administration)
- Georgia's resident physician to population ratio of 22 per 100,000 is significantly below the national average of 35.9 per 100,000. (Source: Health Resources and Services Administration)

Why is it important to sustain Georgia's medical education infrastructure?

Challenges Related to Physician Supply and Distribution

- Residency training programs prepare a physician to practice a specific specialty. While in training, physicians also become members of the surrounding community, increasing the likelihood they will stay in Georgia to practice.
- Indicators suggest an impending physician shortage. According to the American Medical Association, Georgia ranks 38th in its ratio of physicians to population. Consequently, any reductions in funding for Georgia's medical education programs will have an adverse impact on physician supply.
- Georgia has always relied heavily on physician migration from other states and on international medical graduates to meet workforce needs. Increasing competition from other states, visa delays and restrictions, as well as other factors such as the medical liability climate, are influencing whether doctors practice in Georgia.
- Teaching hospitals face the same competitive pressures of other health care institutions and have the added financial responsibility of mission-related programs such as medical education, research, and medical care to the indigent.
- Limits on resident work hours, reduced reimbursement rates, and the medical liability climate are forcing teaching hospitals to re-examine the financial viability of their commitment to medical education.

Access to Quality Health Care And Economic Impact Considerations

- Teaching hospitals and large academic medical centers are an integral part of the state's health care delivery system, with more than 20% of the licensed physicians in the state involved in medical education.
- Teaching hospitals provide the majority of care to the medically indigent and Medicaid beneficiaries, often serving as the sole source of care for patients without insurance.
- Teaching hospitals provide the majority of specialty care, trauma and emergency care, high-risk maternal/infant care, and other advanced medical services.
- Research shows that teaching hospitals, in general, provide better quality of care than other institutions according to a report from the Association of American Medical Colleges.
- Teaching hospitals and medical schools are major employers and economic contributors in Georgia communities. In rural settings, each rural physician contributes 17 jobs and has a total economic impact of \$2 million to the local economy.

For more information, please contact the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce at (404) 206-5420 or 1718 Peachtree St, NW, Suite 683, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.