



Support Increased Graduate Medical Education

In 2022, 14% of US adults were not able to get care when they needed it. That is more than 36 million people who could not get care they needed — in just one year.

There are not enough physicians to care for the American people, including the 26% of Americans that live with a chronic disability. Physiologists are unique physician specialists. We diagnose and prescribe treatments for neurologic and musculoskeletal disease and work with persons with disabilities in a multidisciplinary team of health professionals to maximize the restoration of physical and cognitive function.

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Training a physician takes a college degree, 4 years of medical school, and 3-7 years of residency (graduate medical education): additional experience-based training providing patient care in a supervised setting. Subspecialists complete additional supervised fellowship training. There is a total physician shortage of 86-202K physicians, accounting for US healthcare demand, health equity, long COVID, cancer survivorship, the aging population and physician retirement and burnout. This need disproportionately affects urban and rural communities.

One of the greatest barriers to increasing the number of physicians in the United States is the cap on federally-funded post Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency positions. Despite a small increase in residency positions in 2020 (1000 positions nationwide over 5 years), after a quarter century freeze on Medicare support for GME, the national shortage remains profound. Enrollment in the nation's medical schools is increasing, but there are not enough residency programs for students to train to become licensed physicians. Training the next generation of physicians will require both expansion of existing programs and the creation of new teaching centers and new residency programs.

An adequate number of physicians is crucial to the health of all Americans.

SUPPORT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

- ✓ The AAP supports legislation (S.1302/HR2389) that increases the number of residency slots nationally by 14,000 over seven years.
- ✓ Because residents train in a variety of health care settings, the AAP recommends that there is a balanced fiscal mechanism so residents and/or facilities can receive funding for training at all practice settings.

Residency Training Beyond the Hospital

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