



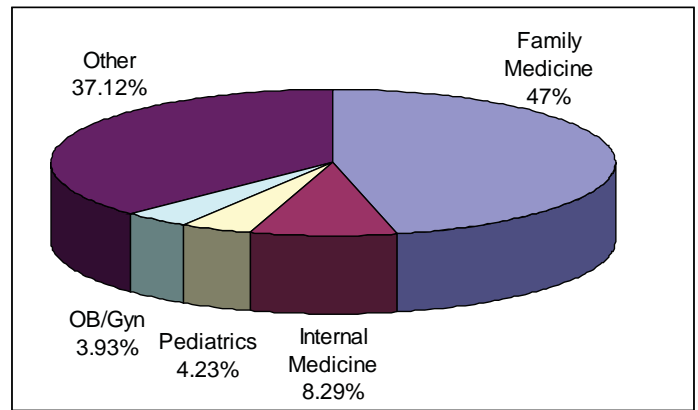
AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

What is the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)?

The AOA is a member association representing more than 59,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) and 12,000 osteopathic medical students. The AOA serves as the primary certifying body for D.O.s, and is the accrediting agency for all osteopathic medical colleges and 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 healthcare within a distinct, unified profession.

For more than 130 years the AOA and the osteopathic 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 1999-2003 there was an average of 59 million annual patient visits to D.O.s.

- More than 65 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 6 percent of total United States physicians.
- Many D.O.s meet a critical need by practicing in rural and medically underserved areas.

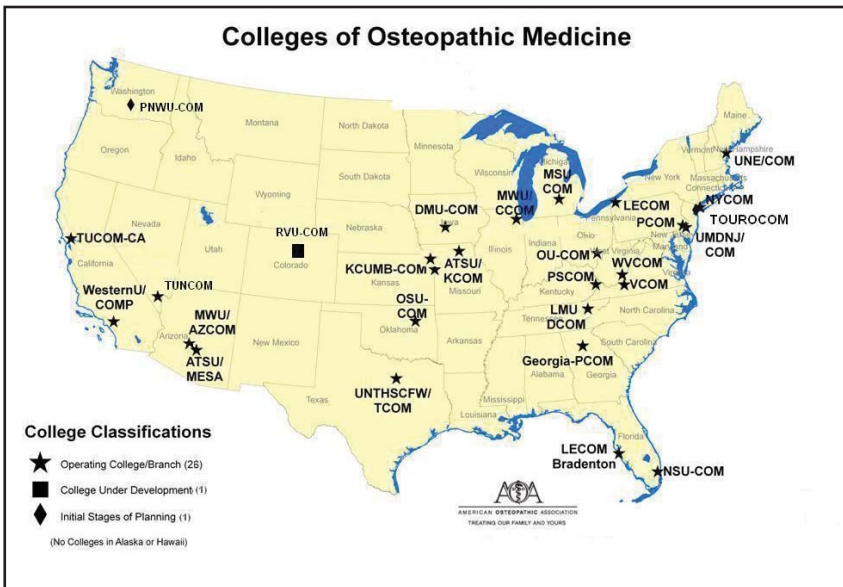
AOA Resources

- Learn more about the AOA and osteopathic medicine at www.osteopathic.org.
- Find the AOA's policy statements at www.policycouncil.nationaljournal.com/aoa.

AOA Definitions

- **Osteopathic physician** (D.O.) is the preferred terminology over “osteopath.” This reflects the fact that osteopathic physicians are licensed by state as complete physicians to prescribe medication, perform surgery, and practice in all recognized medical specialties.
- **Osteopathic medicine** is preferred to “osteopathy.”

The Growing Osteopathic Medical Profession



Locations of the 23 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), 3 branch campuses and 2 future COMs.

Some facts about osteopathic medical education:

- In the fall of 2007 there will be 23 colleges of osteopathic medicine offering instruction at 26 sites.
- One in five medical students in the United States is enrolled in a college of osteopathic medicine.
- 50 percent of first-year students enrolled in colleges of osteopathic medicine are women.¹
- 8.6 percent of first-year students enrolled in colleges of osteopathic medicine are underrepresented minorities.¹

Meeting Future Physician Workforce Needs

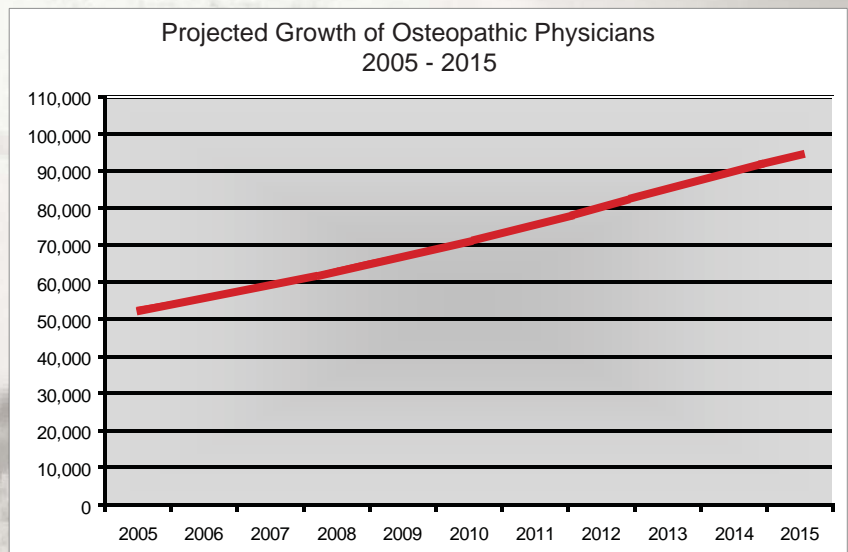
Projecting future growth of the profession:

- The 23 colleges of osteopathic medicine currently graduate approximately 3,000 new osteopathic physicians annually.
- In 2008, the number of graduates will increase to approximately 3,500. By 2013, the number of graduates is projected to be greater than 4,500.
- Currently, there are 59,000 osteopathic physicians in the United States. By 2015 there are projected to be over 90,000.

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.

- 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 2007 will not enter the physician workforce until at least 2014.



The number of D.O.s in the United States has increased 67 percent between 1990 and 2006.

¹ Source American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

² Source Association of American Medical Colleges