

The Rise of Females in the U.S. Physician Supply

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Purpose

- Measure the percentage of physicians who were issued their first medical license by gender and by where they graduated from medical school from 1990 to 2014.
- Over the past decades, female physicians have provided an increasing amount of care in the U.S. While past research has looked at the rise of female physicians in the U.S., less research has focused on female physicians' year of first medical license and the location of medical school graduation.

Data

- We used data from the Federation of State Medical Boards' Physician Data Center. There were 593,035 physicians who were issued their first medical license between 1990 and 2014 with a recorded gender and 584,291 physicians who had a recorded medical school graduation location: United States medical graduate (USMG) or international medical school graduate (IMG).²

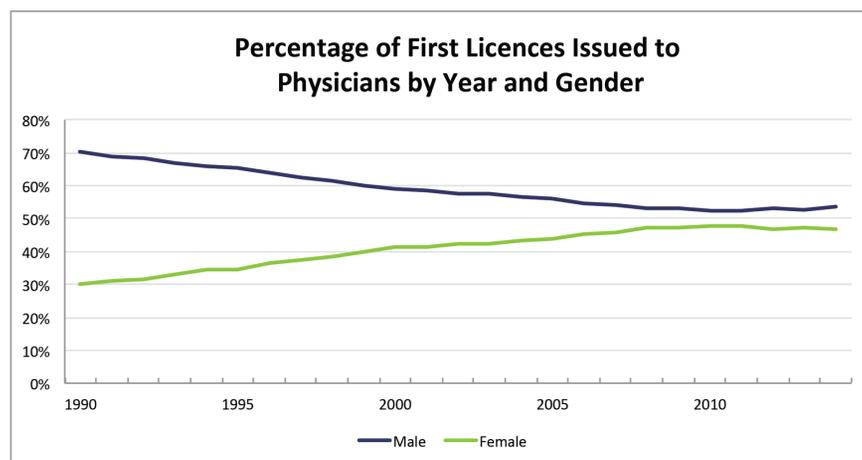


Figure 1. Percentage of First Licenses Issued to Physicians by Year and Gender

Results

- The percentage of first-time medical licenses issued to female physicians has increased from 30% in 1990 to 47% in 2014 (see Figure 1).
- Between 1990 and 2014, first-time medical licenses issued to USMG females have increased from 31% to 47% and 25% to 45% for IMG females (see Figure 2).
- The percentage of first-time medical licenses issued to female IMGs increased among international regions with the highest number of licensed physicians in the U.S., including India, the Caribbean, the Philippines, Pakistan and Mexico (see Figure 3).

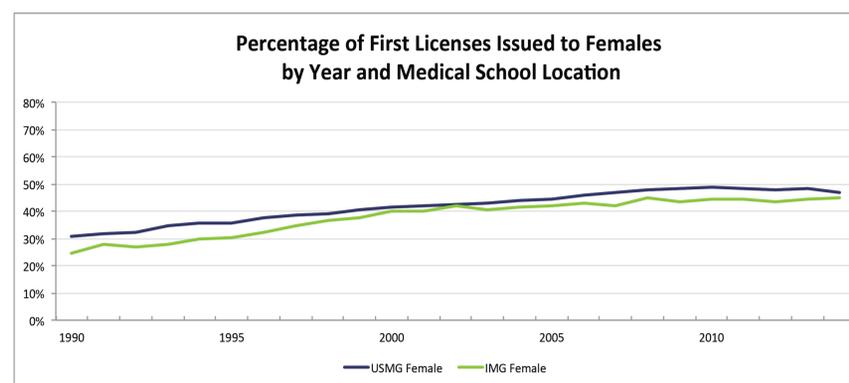


Figure 2. Percentage of First Licenses Issued to Females by Year and Medical School Location

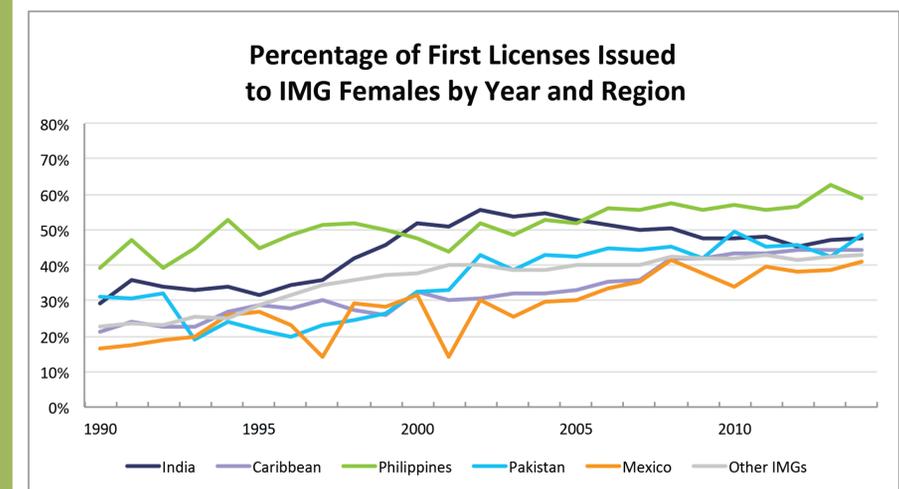


Figure 3. Percentage of First Licenses Issued to IMG Females by Year and Region

Implications

- Understanding the rise of female physicians by when they were first issued a medical license in the U.S. helps us better understand the physician pipeline in an integrated health system, physicians' transition from medical school to the practicing medical community in the U.S. and the care they can provide to a diverse population.

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² 605,424 physicians were issued their first license between 1990 and 2014. If physicians had licenses with missing issue dates, they were excluded from the analysis. It is estimated that 6% or less of physicians who were issued their first license between 1990 and 2014 were excluded.