



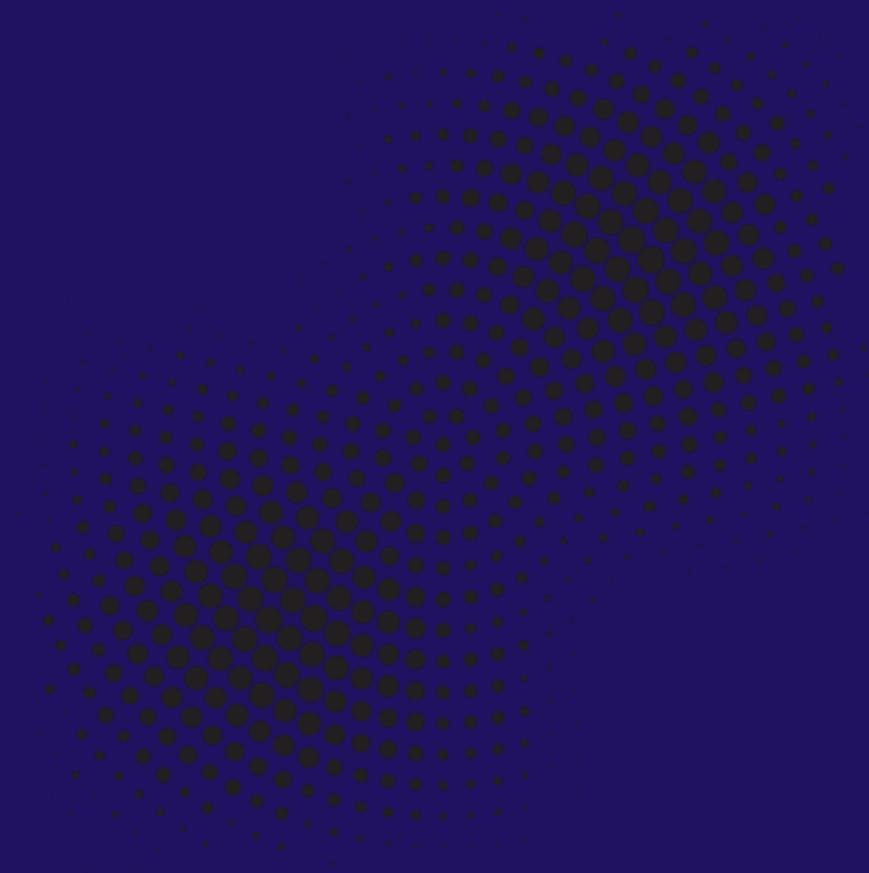
Shaping Care Across Communities

Insights from the
2025 OME Impact Report





The Vision



Why needed? Why now?

- Understanding the DO contribution to the US Healthcare System
 - What would be missing if OME didn't exist?
 - What would be hard to replace?
 - Who would care?

AACOM Publications

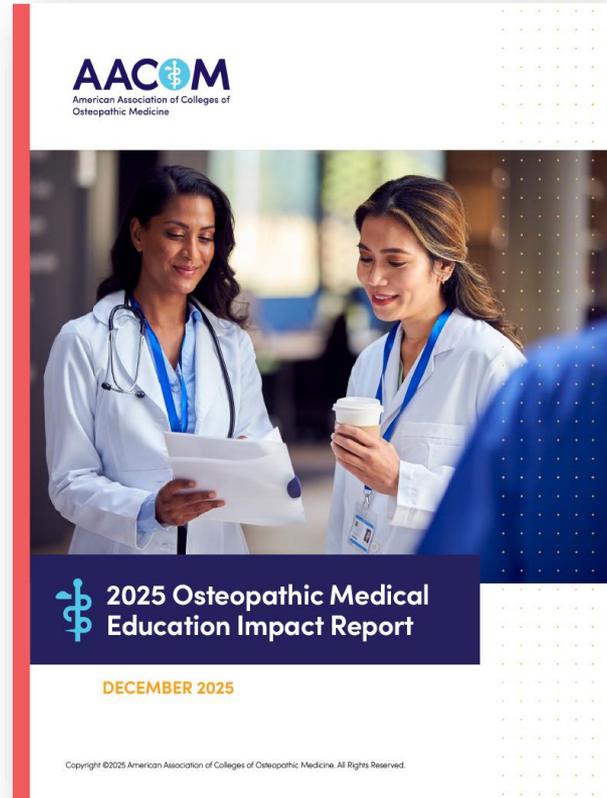
- **Two companion reports that showcase the impact and value of osteopathic medical education.**
- **These foundational publications will provide a comprehensive look at COM research and the impact of OME nationally.**



2025 OME Impact Report

Highlights how graduates of AACOM member colleges are supporting communities with the greatest health needs, by serving in primary care, rural medicine and medically underserved areas.

Provides the reader with an opportunity to learn more about how osteopathic medicine is strengthening the physician pipeline and fueling economic growth in communities across the country.



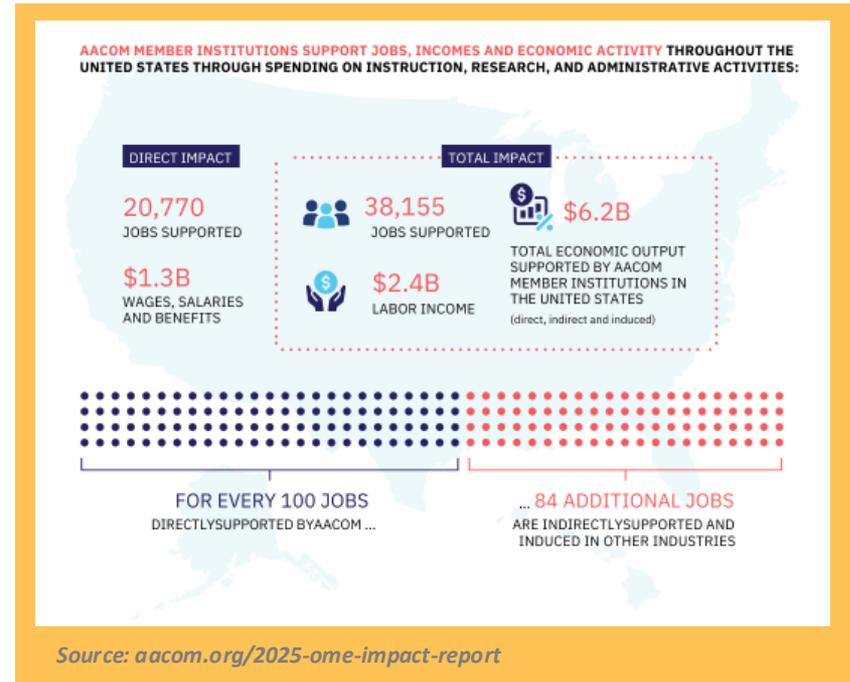
Publications Goals

- Strengthen AACOM's thought leadership demonstrating the importance of osteopathic medicine
- Lead a national narrative that showcases the value of OME and the DO pathway
- Equip key audiences with assets to advance opportunities for OME
- Enhance relationships with COMs, students, researchers
- Create a demand for AACOM research and information from key audiences
- Create a pipeline of contacts and data points for future reports

Key Findings

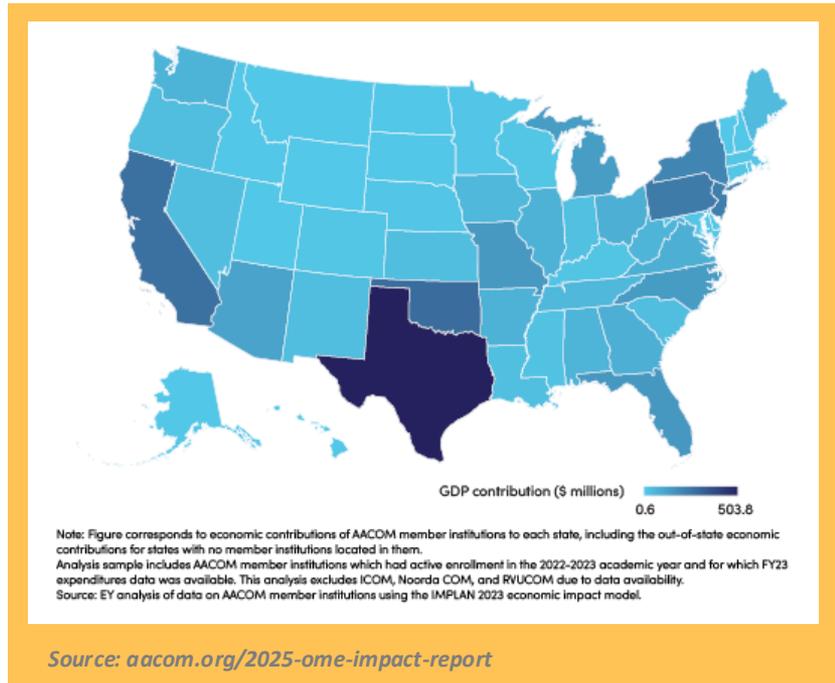
Economic Impact

- **COMs are investing in the communities they serve—through education, healthcare, community programming, jobs, economic development and more.**
- **COMs contribute to employment and GDP through spending on activities such as instruction, research and other functional operations—all of which make an impact, within and beyond their communities.**



Key Findings

Economic Impact



- COMs generated economic activity in all 31 states with member medical colleges analyzed.
- Additionally, COMs supported economic development in 19 states through supplier and household spending.

Key Findings

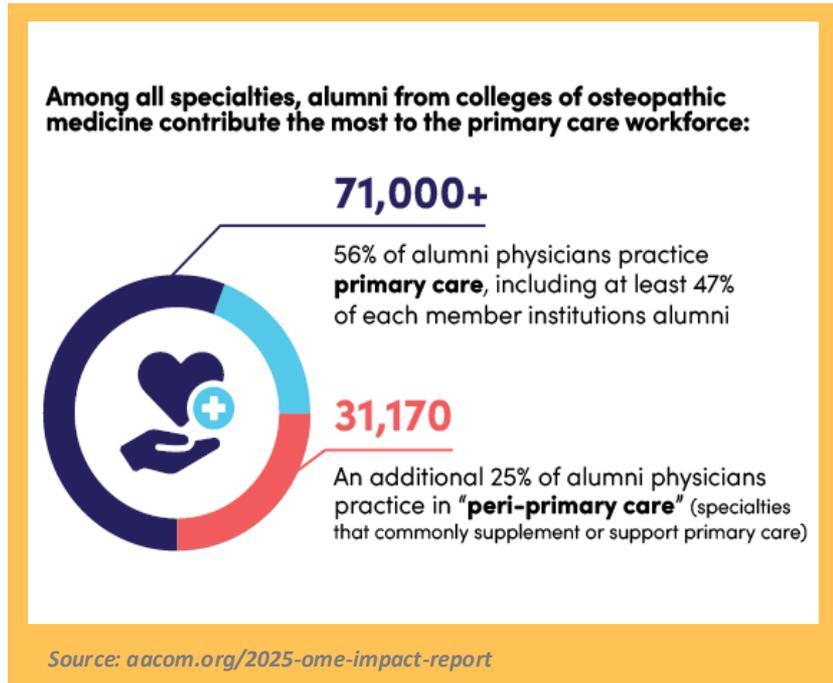
Workforce Impact

- **The U.S. healthcare system is facing a physician shortage expected to intensify over the coming years, leading to a shortage of more than 187,000 physicians by 2037, preventing Americans from accessing timely, affordable and high-quality care.**
 - Osteopathic medicine is one of the fastest growing segments of healthcare, representing nearly 30 percent of the nation's medical students today.
 - Since 1990, the number of practicing DOs has more than quintupled, from 30,000 to 160,000 in 2025.



Key Findings

Workforce Impact



- **COMs are fueling a strong pipeline of physicians that are ready to train and serve in the specialties and locations where they are most needed.**
- **Of all the COMs analyzed in the study, every school had more than 45 percent of its graduates practicing in primary care.**

Key Findings – Workforce Impact

- **COMs are consistently recognized for producing high numbers of graduates serving in primary care, rural medicine and in underserved areas, despite accounting for just 22 percent of all accredited medical schools.**
- Osteopathic medicine has long valued service in rural and underserved communities. Fifty-six percent of COMs are located in HPSAs and 64 percent require clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas.
- Twelve percent of COM alumni serve in rural areas and 16 percent in Medically Underserved Areas.
- Thirty-eight percent of COM graduates practice in the same state that they received their medical training in.

Additional Resources

- Learn more about this work on our website and navigate all our resources:
 - The 2025 OME Impact Report
 - National Brief
 - Stories and videos from our community
 - Promotional materials



“Every new COM, every graduating class and every new physician represents healthier patients, stronger communities and real hope for the future of healthcare.”

-AACOM President and CEO Robert A. Cain, DO

Visit our website: aacom.org/2025-ome-impact-report



Methodology

- **Workforce Data Sources:** AACOM Annual Survey Data, American Medical Association Physician Professional Dashboard
 - ~143,800 practicing DO physicians
 - Graduates of all member COMs with an inaugural class by 2017
 - Practice location, specialty
- **Economic Impact Data Sources:** AACOM Annual Survey Data, supplemented by the US Department of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
 - Spending on instruction, research, payroll

Methodology

	Employment	Labor income	Expenditures (Economic output)
IPEDS-matching institutions: ACOM, ARCOM, Burrell COM, KCU, KHSU-KansasCOM, OSU-COM, PCOM, PNWU-COM, UNTHSC/TCOM, VCOM	Employment data from AACOM annual survey	Obtained from IPEDS data	Obtained from IPEDS data
Remaining member institutions	Employment data from AACOM annual survey	Estimated using ratios of labor income to total expenditure from 10 member institutions available in IPEDS. This ratio is 51.8% of total expenditures.	Expenditure data from AACOM annual survey

Methodology – Understanding Our Economic Impact

- **What's behind the \$6.2B figure?**
- IMPLAN Economic Model - widely used economic impact model throughout the US for impact analyses by state and local development agencies, private-sector companies and trade associations
 - Direct - COM operations (e.g. jobs, wages, spending on instruction/research)
 - Indirect – Supplier activity (e.g. vendors, utilities, services)
 - Induced – Employee spending in local economies (e.g. housing, restaurants)
 - For every 100 COM jobs, an additional 84 are supported in other industries

Direct

AACOM Member institutions



Indirect

Due to AACOM member institutions' purchases from suppliers



Induced

Consumer expenditures



Total

All impacts supported by AACOM Member institutions

Methodology – How Data Decisions Shaped Findings

- Shortage Designations - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) definitions to align with federal policy and funding eligibility
 - Rural
 - Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs)
 - Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)
- Geocoded alumni practice locations to census tract level to assess rural and MUAs
 - Result: 12 percent of DO alumni practice in HRSA-defined rural areas; 16 percent in MUAs
- Each COM analyzed had \geq 45 percent of alumni in primary care; 56 percent overall in primary care, plus an additional 25 percent of alumni in peri-primary care (specialties that commonly supplement or support primary care).
- Conservative definitions mean findings likely understate—but never overstate—DO’s rural impact.

Shaping Health and Well-being

- Our profession is growing at a time when the healthcare field is in distress: the system is not producing affordable, accessible care aligned with the needs of our communities, especially true for vulnerable rural and underserved communities.
- Increasing opportunity for osteopathic medical education: cultivating compassionate, competent physicians with an interest in serving where they are most needed.
- Why?
 - Philosophical whole-person approach to care
 - Focus on rural health and serving the underserved
 - COM locations growing in number
 - Educational priorities in training in rural and medically underserved areas



44
ACCREDITED COMs IN
THE UNITED STATES
(as of September 2025)



71
TEACHING LOCATIONS
ACROSS 36 STATES
(as of September 2025)



8,428
DO DEGREES WERE
CONFERRED BY 36
AACOM MEMBERS
IN 2024



39,000+
OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN THE
FALL OF 2024

Inspired Work

10-year goals with a horizon ending in
2030

These represent areas of work
intended to transform OME by
the end of this decade

IG1

Reimagine Recruitment and Admissions

IG2

Strengthen Our Community of Role Models

IG3

Develop an Ecosystem Supportive of Osteopathic
Education

IG4

Strengthen osteopathic representation, voice and
influence



Cultivating a Supportive Landscape for Osteopathic Medicine



- AACOM is addressing priorities for the osteopathic profession to support our growing profession and transform the future of American healthcare, allowing our communities to live healthier lives filled with well-being.
- Community TEAMS Act – To establish a new HRSA grant program for medical schools (MD or DO) to increase clinical rotations through partnerships with healthcare facilities in medically underserved areas.
- Use your voice to help us advance this measure by visiting our website and participating in events like our annual Advocacy Day.



What's Next?

- 2025 OME Impact Report
 - Additional materials to help connect your storytelling and value
 - Additional community stories, policy brief, communications toolkits, thought leadership pieces
- 2026 COM Research Report – Spring
 - Analysis of COM Research
 - Database for active research and recent publications





Thank you



Scan for more

aacom.org/2025-ome-impact-report