NRMP and Obstetrics and Gynecology Matches: History, 2024 Match Outcomes, and Trend Analyses for Residency and Fellowship
**Figure 1: About the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®)**

**National Resident Matching Program®**

*The Match®*

- Independent, not-for-profit organization created in 1952 (incorp. 1953) in response to a call from medical schools, students, and other organizations to establish an orderly and uniform process for medical students and graduates to obtain Graduate Medical Education positions in U.S. teaching hospitals.

- Utilizes proprietary matching algorithm to pair the preferences of medical students and residents with the preferences of residency and fellowship training programs based on long established economic principles of market design to ensure:
  - Efficiency of the recruitment and appointment processes
  - Stability of the matching market ensuring that no participant could achieve a more desirable outcome outside of the market.

- Establishes and enforce policies that:
  - Protects all participants against coercion and persuasion
  - Protects the confidentiality of true preferences for all participants
  - Establishes standardized timelines and processes to reduce bias and gaming of recruitment activities
  - Enforces a binding commitment ensuring that all parties act in good faith

[www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org)

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**Figure 2: Mission and Principles of Market Design**

**National Resident Matching Program®**

*The Match®*

**Mission**

To match healthcare professionals to graduate medical education and advanced training programs through a process that is fair, equitable, efficient, transparent, and reliable. To provide meaningful and accessible match data and analysis to stakeholders.

**Principles of Market Design**

- Low Congest
  - No applicant and organization matched to each other who did not wish to be
- Thick Market
  - Many positions available and many individuals applying for those positions
- Stable Match
  - Safely stated through submission of a confidential Rank Order List
- True Preferences
  - Sufficient time for participants to process applications, offers, and acceptances

[Diagram of principles of market design: Low Congest, Thick Market, Stable Match, True Preferences]
In addition to running the largest physician matching market in the world, NRMP provides matching services through two subsidiaries:

**National Resident Matching Program International®**  
(physician matching services outside U.S. and Canada)

**National Matching Program℠**  
(matching services for U.S. government, higher education, and non-profit organizations)
The 2024 Main Residency Match included 44,853 applicants who certified a rank order list (“active applicants”) and 41,503 certified positions in 6,395 residency training programs.

**Record High Applicant Participation.** A total of 50,413 applicants registered in the 2024 Main Residency Match, an all-time high and increase of 2,257 or 4.7 percent over last year. The rise in applicants was driven largely by an increase of 1,986 non-U.S. citizen international medical graduates (IMGs) and 623 osteopathic (DO) seniors over last year.

Among all registrants, 44,853 certified a rank order list of training preferences, the highest number on record and an increase of 1,901 or 4.4 percent over last year. Of the applicants who certified a rank order list, 35,984 matched to a post-graduate year 1 (PGY-1) position, an increase of 1,162 applicants from last year. The PGY-1 match rate was 80.2 percent.

U.S. MD seniors remain the largest applicant group participating in the Match, and in 2024 numbered 20,296. This represents a decrease of 21 applicants compared to the 2023 Match; however, the number of U.S. MD seniors certifying a rank order list increased slightly to 19,755, seven more than last year.

**Applicant Match Rates Remain Steady.** Match rates remained steady among each of the four main applicant types with less than a one percentage point difference compared to the 2023 Main Residency Match.

- U.S. DO seniors achieved a 92.3 percent match rate, an all-time high and an increase of 0.7 percentage points over last year. Since 2019, the DO senior match rate has increased 4.2 percentage points.
- U.S. MD seniors realized a 93.5 percent match rate, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from last year. The U.S. MD senior match rate remains within the historic 92 – 95 percent range that has been steady since 1982.

- U.S. citizen IMGs realized a 67.0 percent match rate, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points from last year.

- Non-U.S. citizen IMGs realized a 58.5 percent match rate, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points since last year.

**Increased Program and Position Participation.** The 2024 Main Residency Match included 6,395 certified programs offering 41,503 PGY-1 and PGY-2 training positions, the largest number in the NRMP’s 72-year history. Increases afforded applicants access to 125 more programs and 1,128 positions which is 2.8 percent more than the 2023 Main Residency Match.

- Of all positions offered, 38,941 filled for a rate of 93.8 percent, a 0.5 percentage point increase over last year.

- Of the 6,395 total certified programs, 5,608 filled at a rate of 87.7 percent, an increase of 1.1 percentage points over last year.

**Fluctuation in Primary Care.** Concerns remain about a shortage of primary care physicians across the U.S., and NRMP data offer insights into trends.

The 2024 Match offered 19,423 primary care positions, the largest number on record and 46.8 percent of all the positions offered in the Match. Primary care specialties are defined as categorical PGY-1 positions that provide the full training required for board certification in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine-Pediatrics, and Pediatrics. There were 719 more primary care positions offered in 2024, and the fill rate for the specialties combined was 92.9 percent.

While strong, the primary care fill rate fell slightly in 2024 by 1.4 percentage points, largely due to changes in Pediatrics.

In the 2024 Match, Pediatrics offered 3,139 categorical and primary positions, an increase of 93 over 2023, and filled 2,887 resulting in a fill rate of 92 percent compared to 97.1 percent in 2023. After the algorithm was processed, 252 Pediatrics positions were unfilled, an increase of 164 over last year. Notably, the percentage of U.S. MD seniors that matched to Pediatrics categorical positions in 2024 was 47.6 percent, a decrease of 7.2 percentage points from last year.

**Rebound in Emergency Medicine.** After a two-year decline, Match data reflect a resurgence in Emergency Medicine fill rates. Emergency Medicine achieved its historically high fill rate of 98 – 99 percent in the 2017 – 2021 Matches. By 2023, the fill rate had dropped by 17.9 percentage points, driven in part by the strain the specialty experienced during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, Emergency Medicine offered 3,026 positions, an increase of 16 positions from 2023 and filled 2,891 to earn a 95.5 percent fill rate, an increase of 13.9 percentage points. There were 135 positions unfilled after the matching algorithm was processed compared to 554 unfilled positions in 2023.
Continued Strength in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The specialty had another very strong Match, even with the two-year anniversary of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization Supreme Court decision approaching this summer. Only six categorical positions remained unfilled after the matching algorithm was processed. OB/GYN achieved a 99.6 percent fill rate in the 2024 Match, continuing a strong trend of filling over 99 percent of positions offered every year for the past five years and filling at least 90 percent of positions with U.S. MD and DO seniors.

Specialty Highlights and Competitiveness. The results of the Match can indicate the competitiveness of specialties as measured by the percentage of positions filled overall and the percentage of positions filled by U.S. MD and DO seniors.

- The specialties with 30 positions or more that filled with the highest percentage of U.S. MD and DO seniors were Internal Medicine/Emergency Medicine (96.8 percent), Thoracic Surgery (95.8 percent), Otolaryngology (95.8 percent), Internal Medicine/Pediatrics (94.6 percent), Orthopedic Surgery (92.1 percent), Interventional Radiology – Integrated (91.4 percent), and Obstetrics and Gynecology (90.7 percent).

- The specialties with 30 positions or more that filled with the highest percentage of U.S. citizen IMGs and non-U.S. citizen IMGs were Internal Medicine (38.6 percent), Pathology – Anatomic and Clinical (37.4 percent), Family Medicine (31.8 percent), and Neurology (28.3 percent).

Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP). Eligible applicants who did not match to a residency position participated in the NRMP’s Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) to try to obtain the 2,562 positions in 787 programs that went unfilled after the matching algorithm was processed, 123 fewer positions than last year’s Match. A total of 2,575 positions were placed in SOAP, including positions in programs that did not participate in the algorithm phase of the process. There were 83 fewer positions in SOAP in 2024, a decrease of 3.1 percent compared to last year’s Match. Detailed SOAP results will be available in the 2024 Main Residency Match Results and Data Book, which is published in the Spring.
In looking at the geographic distribution of OB/GYN programs across the US, there are no residency training programs in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, N Dakota, S Dakota, or Alaska. The majority of programs are clustered in New York, Michigan, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois.
Figure 7: 10-Year Trend Obstetrics and Gynecology – Total Positions Offered/Filled, Active Applicants Ranking the Specialty, Preferred Applicants Ranking First on Rank Order List

NRMP Main Residency Match—2015 - 2024

The 10-year trend of OB/GYN Match data demonstrates year-over-year growth of Positions Offered and the majority of Positions Filled in each year.

The number of Active Applicants represents the number of individuals who identified OB/GYN as a specialty they are interested in and ranked the specialty on the Rank Order List. While there is a slight decrease in the number of Active Applicants in 2023, the 10-year trend shows previous cycles like 2022-2024. Regardless of intermittent declines in the number of Active Applicants, across any given year, there are 400+ more Active Applicants interested in the specialty than there are positions available.

Preferred applicants are those individuals who listed OB/GYN as the first specialty on their Rank Order List, meaning this is their specialty of choice. The number of preferred applicants follows a pattern similar to that of Active Applicants and there are an excess number of individuals who Prefer the specialty than the number of positions available.
There are six Applicant Types who participate in The Match: US Medical Doctor Seniors (MD Seniors), US Osteopathic Seniors (DO Seniors), Prior Graduates of either an allopathic or osteopathic medical school (MD Grads and DO Grads), US Citizen International Medical Graduates (US IMG), and Non-US Citizen International Medical Graduates (Non-US IMG).

Over the 10-year period, there has been a slight increase in the number of MD Seniors seeking an OB/GYN residency position. DO Seniors have seen increasing growth since the conclusion of the transition to a Single Accreditation System and a Single Match in 2020. International Medical Graduates have seen no substantive change.
Figure 9: Geographic Representation of U.S. Abortion Policies and Access After Roe and Distribution of Residency Programs for Obstetrics and Gynecology

NRMP Main Residency Match- 2024
Geographic Distribution of OB/GYN Residency Positions Offered

This map accessed from the Guttmacher Institute, represents the geographic distribution of “US Abortion Policies and Access After Roe” (https://states.guttmacher.org/policies/abortion-policies). Overlaid are the number of OB/GYN residency programs in each state where residency training programs are available.

For clarity, California is categorized as “most protective” and trains OB/GYN residents in 130 programs whereas Texas is considered “most restrictive” and trains OB/GYN residents in 126 programs.
NRMP provides matching services for sub-specialty Fellowship programs across a multitude of specialties. For the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NRMP provides Fellowship matches for Complex Family Planning, Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, and Reproductive Endocrinology.

The following figures will look at 5-year or 10-year data trends in each of these sub-specialties depending on how long the sub-specialty has participated in the NRMP’s Specialties Matching Service and will demonstrate patterns of applicant type. It is important to note that many of these fellowships are quite small causing trend lines to potential appear more substantial than they are.
Complex Family Planning can be found at the Society of Family Planning.
Figure 13: Gynecologic Oncology - Positions Offered/Filled and Active Applicants

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS®)

Gynecologic Oncology focuses on the study and treatment of malignancies arising in the female reproductive tract – ovary, endometrium, cervix, vulva, and vagina. Additional information can be found through the Society of Gynecologic Oncology.

Figure 14: Gynecologic Oncology – Applicant Type

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS®)
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Maternal-Fetal Medicine focuses on the advanced knowledge of the obstetrical, medical, genetic, and surgical complications of pregnancy and their effects on both the mother and fetus. Additional information can be found through the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Figure 15: Maternal-Fetal Medicine - Positions Offered/Filled and Active Applicants

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Programs – 2015-2024 Match Cycles
Positions Offered/Filled – Applicants Ranking the Sub-Specialty

Figure 16: Maternal-Fetal Medicine – Applicant Type

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS®)

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Programs – 2015-2024 Match Cycles
Match by Applicant Type
NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS ®)

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery focuses on advanced endoscopic procedures in gynecology. Additional information can be found through the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists.

Minimally Invasive GYN Surgery Fellowship Programs – 2015-2024 Match Cycles
Positions Offered/Filled – Applicants Ranking the Sub-Specialty

Figure 18: Minimally Invasive Surgery – Applicant Type

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS ®)

Minimally Invasive GYN Surgery Fellowship Programs – 2015-2024 Match Cycles
Match by Applicant Type
Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology focuses on gynecologic care for pediatric and adolescent patients focusing on routine gynecologic care as well as abnormalities of female development, puberty, minimally invasive surgery in children, and other gynecologic disorders such as adnexal masses. Additional information can be found through the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology.

Figure 19: Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology - Positions Offered/Filled and Active Applicants

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS ®)

Pediatric and Adolescent GYN Fellowship Programs – 2015-2024 Match Cycles
Positions Offered/Filled – Applicants Ranking the Sub-Specialty

Figure 20: Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology – Applicant Type

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS ®)

Pediatric and Adolescent GYN Fellowship Programs – 2015-2024 Match Cycles
Match by Applicant Type
Figure 21: Reproductive Endocrinology - Positions Offered/Filled and Active Applicants

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS ®)
Reproductive Endocrinology focuses on diagnosing, medical and surgical treatment, as well as laboratory services for a wide variety of reproductive disorders. Additional information can be found through the Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Figure 22: Reproductive Endocrinology – Applicant Type

NRMP Specialties Matching Service® (SMS ®)