



## CHARTING OUTCOMES™: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICANTS IN THE MAIN RESIDENCY MATCH® AND SOAP® 2026

We are pleased to announce the release of an enhanced interactive dashboard for the *Charting Outcomes™: Demographic Characteristics of Applicants in the Main Residency Match and SOAP* report. Designed with the end user in mind, the updated dashboard offers greater flexibility and a more intuitive experience for exploring the data. Users can now access clearer, more meaningful views of demographic characteristics by applicant type, Match and Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®) placement status, and specialty. In addition, the dashboard includes trend data, enabling comparisons of Main Residency Match® (MRM®) applicant demographics across the past five Match cycles. Given these enhancements, we hope the accompanying narrative provides helpful context, supports accurate interpretation of the data, and facilitates full use of the dashboard's capabilities.

### [Data Collection Procedures](#)

Demographic data items are administered within the NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system as part of Match registration. Applicants are informed that demographic data are collected for research and reporting purposes only. Participation is voluntary; applicants may decline consent, and "I prefer not to answer" and "I do not know" are available as response options. Applicants are further advised that demographic data are not used in the matching algorithm, are not publicly reported in an identifiable form, and are not shared with programs in identifiable form. The demographic items used for the 2026 MRM are listed in Appendix A.

### [Data Cell Size Requirements](#)

To preserve applicant confidentiality, a **minimum cell size of 25 respondents** is required for all reported data points. This threshold may limit which demographic characteristics or response options can be displayed for a given specialty. In rare cases, specialties that do not meet the minimum cell size for any demographic characteristic are excluded from the dashboard display, although they remain selectable in the specialty filter. As described below, Combined Specialty Group filters are also available which provide superordinate categories into which specialties have been rolled. These safeguards are applied to ensure appropriate data suppression and to maintain the confidentiality of applicant information.

## Data Presentation

- We **highly recommend** engaging with the interactive dashboard in **full screen** mode on a computer by selecting the square icon at the bottom right of the dashboard.

**THE MATCH**  
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

**Charting Outcomes™:**  
**Demographic Characteristics of Applicants in the Main Residency Match® (MRM®) and SOAP®**

**Introduction**    **Applicants**    **Match & SOAP**    **Trends**

The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP) is pleased to announce the release of an enhanced interactive dashboard for the *Charting Outcomes: Demographic Characteristics of Applicants in the Main Residency Match (MRM) and SOAP* report. Designed with the end user in mind, the updated dashboard offers greater flexibility and a more intuitive experience for exploring the data. Users can now access clearer, more meaningful views of demographic characteristics by applicant type, match and SOAP placement status, and specialty. In addition, the dashboard includes trend data, enabling comparisons of MRM applicant demographics across the past five Match cycles. Given these significant enhancements, we highly recommend you read the accompanying narrative, which provides helpful context, supports accurate interpretation of the data, and allows you to make full use of the dashboard's new capabilities.

The purpose of collecting and analyzing voluntary applicant demographic data is to advance understanding of the relationships among applicant characteristics, specialty choice, and experiences within the Match. The NRMP shares these findings to enhance transparency in the matching process, support informed discussion about entry into physician training programs and access to preferred specialties, and contribute to a broader understanding of the physician workforce.

As you move through the dashboard, please keep the following in mind. First, visualizations will not display when there are fewer than 25 consenting applicants based on filter selections, and a minimum cell size of 25 respondents is required for data to be shown to ensure applicant confidentiality. Second, each data point on the slides offers additional information if you "hover" over the datapoint.

We hope you find this data informative and that the dashboard enhances understanding of graduate medical education applicants and their preferences in and pursuit of residency. The NRMP is committed to providing insights to the medical education community that leverage primary source Match data.

For the best user experience, please view this dashboard full screen which can be enabled by selecting the square icon at the bottom of this dashboard.

**Click here to enter full screen mode**

No part of the data provided by The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®), also known as The Match® may be used as an input to or otherwise in connection with any machine learning or artificial intelligence models, algorithms, or other tools without the express written consent of the NRMP.

View on Tableau Public    Share

- Please note the presence of “i” and “!” icons throughout the dashboard. These icons indicate the availability of important contextual information that should be reviewed prior to interacting with the data. Users should interact with “i” and “!” icons as follows:
  - Select or hover over the icon to view additional context, definitions, or methodological notes related to the data being displayed.
  - Review the information before interpreting or filtering the data, as it may include important caveats, suppression rules, or calculation details.
  - Use the guidance to inform comparisons and trend analysis, particularly where data availability or reporting limitations apply.

The “i” and “!” icons are intended to support accurate interpretation and ensure users understand how the data are defined, calculated, and displayed.

- The data visualizations included on the dashboard are classified into three main categories, demarcated by three tabs across the top. Each of these tabs contains subtabs, for a total of eight different pages:
  - **Applicants**
    - **Registered Applicants**—presents data on demographic characteristics of *all applicants* who registered for the Main Residency Match.
    - **Active Applicants**—presents data on demographic characteristics of *active* applicants (i.e., applicants who certify a rank order list (ROL) of programs). Applicants who listed a Preliminary program first on their ROL are not included in this visualization.
  - **Match & SOAP**
    - **Matched Applicants**—presents data on demographic characteristics of applicants who *matched to a position* through the matching algorithm (i.e., excludes positions obtained through SOAP).

- **Unmatched Applicants**—presents data on demographic characteristics of active applicants who *did not match to a position* through the matching algorithm (i.e., does not account for SOAP participation). Active applicants who listed a Preliminary program first on their ROL are not included in this visualization.
    - **SOAP Placed Applicants**—presents data on demographic characteristics of applicants who *accepted a position through SOAP*.
    - **Unmatched & Not Placed**—presents data on demographic characteristics of active and/or SOAP-eligible applicants who did not receive any position through the matching algorithm or accept a position through SOAP. This visualization includes 1) applicants who certified a ROL but did not match to a position through the algorithm or accept a position in SOAP and 2) applicants who did not certify a ROL, were eligible to participate in SOAP, but did not accept a SOAP position.
  - **Trends**
    - **Matched Applicants**—presents year-over-year data on demographic characteristics of applicants who *matched to a position through the matching algorithm* for the past five MRM cycles. Applicants who listed a Preliminary program first on their ROL are not included in this visualization.
    - **SOAP Placed Applicants**—presents year-over-year data on demographic characteristics of applicants who *accepted a position in SOAP* for the past five MRM cycles.
- Data are displayed only for applicants who consented to the use of their demographic information. Information regarding consent is provided in the bottom-right corner of all **Applicants** and **Match & SOAP** subtabs.
  - As in the prior iteration of the dashboard, the following ten demographic characteristics are available: birth sex, sexual orientation, Hispanic/Latino identity, race, childhood urbanicity, first-generation college and medical school graduate status, received public assistance before age 18, contributor to family income before age 18, and disability status. Users may navigate among these characteristics using the blue arrows on each tab. Additional details on the assessment of each characteristic are provided in Appendix A.
    - In 2026, “Middle Eastern or North African” was added as a response option to the race identities question. Therefore, any comparisons of 2022-2025 and 2026 race data should be made cautiously and with this consideration in mind. Please see Appendix A for additional information about how race data are presented.
    - Due to a change in the questions queried of applicants and changes in the response options, first generation college and medical school graduate status data are presented separately for 2026 and 2022-2025 and should not be compared. For Match cycles 2022-2025, applicants were asked whether they were the first member of their family to graduate from college/medical school; however, in 2026 applicants were asked whether anyone in their family had graduated from college/medical school. Therefore, while a “yes” response in 2022-2025 indicates an applicant was the first in their family to graduate from college, a “yes”

response in 2026 indicates that the applicant had a family member who graduated from college/medical school.

- Additionally, underrepresented in medicine (URiM) data are available. This information is based on applicants' self-reported race and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Applicants who self-reported being American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and/or Pacific Islander are considered underrepresented in medicine.
- When first accessing the dashboard, the **Match Year** filter defaults to the current Match year (excluding the **Trends** tab), and all other filters default to all. Once modified, filter selections persist as users navigate across tabs and through the dashboard using the blue arrows. Several filters are available to support more detailed exploration of the data. These filters include:
  - **Match Year**—all Match years for which demographic data were collected (beginning in 2022) are available through the filter. When a user first accesses a dashboard tab, the default selection is the current Match year. Unlike the prior iteration of the dashboard, which allowed multiple Match years to be selected and displayed cumulatively, this functionality is now presented through the **Trends** tab.
  - **Applicant Type**—this filter defaults to *all* applicant types when a tab is first accessed and allows users to display any combination of the seven applicant types represented: U.S. MD seniors, U.S. DO seniors, U.S. MD graduates, U.S. DO graduates, U.S. IMGs, non-U.S. IMGs, and Canadian applicants.
  - **Preferred Specialty**—this filter reflects the specialty ranked first on each applicant's rank order list. Selection of a preferred specialty does not indicate that an applicant matched into that specialty, only that it was ranked first. Applicants who listed a Preliminary program first on their ROL are not included in visualizations that offer the Preferred Specialty filter. The filter allows users to select any combination of available preferred specialties and is available on the **Active Applicants, Unmatched Applicants, and Trends: Matched Applicants** tabs.
  - **Matched Specialty**—this filter reflects the specialty to which an applicant matched through the matching algorithm, regardless of whether that specialty was preferred (ranked first). Users may select any combination of available matched specialties for display. This filter is available on the **Matched Applicants and Trends: Matched Applicants** tabs.
  - **SOAP Placed Specialty**—this filter reflects the specialty in which an applicant accepted a position in SOAP. Users may select any combination of available SOAP placed specialties for display. This filter is available on the **SOAP Placed Applicants and Trends: SOAP Placed Applicants** tabs.
  - **Preferred/Matched/SOAP Placed Combined Specialty Group**—because some specialties, particularly those involving combined programs, do not have enough data to populate any visualizations, individuals viewing the visualizations have the option to select individual specialties or superordinate categories into which some of the smaller specialties have been rolled. These group-level filters allow users to select any combination of preferred, matched, or SOAP placed specialty groups and are available on the **Active Applicants, Matched Applicants, Unmatched Applicants, and SOAP Placed Applicants** tabs.

- When using the **Applicant Type, Preferred/Matched/SOAP Placed Specialty, or Preferred/Matched/SOAP Placed Program Type** filters, users must select “Apply” after making their selections for the visualizations to update accordingly.
- As you select Match Years, you may notice the specialty dropdown menus fluctuate slightly to reflect specialties newly joining or leaving the MRM.
- The first visualization (upper left-hand corner) on all **Applicants** and **Match & SOAP** subtabs displays the percentage distribution of respondents across demographic response categories (e.g., for birth sex, the percentage reporting “female,” “male,” or “prefer not to answer”).
  - Selecting a specific response category within this visualization dynamically updates the remaining on-screen visualizations (e.g., *Applicant Type by, Position Obtained by, Matched to Preferred, Position Obtained in SOAP*) to display data only for applicants who selected that response.
    - For example, on the **Active Applicants** tab, when viewing birth sex responses for Match Year 2026 across all specialties, 87.1% of applicants are shown to have obtained a position. When the “female” response category is selected, the Positions Obtained value updates to 89.9%, reflecting outcomes only for applicants who reported that response.
  - Public assistance and contributor to income were only asked of U.S. citizen applicants. While the demographic visualization on the upper left-hand corner of public assistance and contributor to income pages automatically restricts to U.S. citizen applicants, the remaining visualizations display data for all applicants meeting the criteria for that tab, regardless of citizenship status.
    - For example, on the **Active Applicants** tab, when viewing public assistance responses for Match Year 2026, only U.S. citizen applicants who consented to provide demographic information are represented in the public assistance visualization, while all consenting applicants are represented in the other visualizations. However, when “yes”, received public assistance, is selected, the remaining visualizations are restricted to U.S. citizen applicants who received public assistance.
- For those applicants who matched to both Advanced and Preliminary positions, only the Advanced position is represented in the data. This means the applicant’s “matched specialty” is the specialty of the Advanced position received. Similarly, if an applicant accepted both an Advanced and Preliminary position in SOAP, only the Advanced position is represented in the data. If an applicant matched *only* to a Preliminary position or received *only* a Preliminary position in SOAP (regardless of whether or not they received an Advanced position via the matching algorithm), these Preliminary positions are represented in the data. As a result, selecting “Preliminary” on the Matched Program Type filter represents applicants who matched only to a Preliminary position, and selecting “Preliminary” on the SOAP Placed Program Type filter represents applicants who accepted only a Preliminary position in SOAP. If an applicant matched to one position via the algorithm and accepted another position in SOAP, both positions are represented in the data (in their respective Matched/SOAP Placed tabs).
- Hovering over any data bar displays additional detail, including the number of applicants and the percentage of consented applicants. Percentages are calculated using only the displayed bars—that is, response categories meeting the minimum cell size of 25

consenting applicants. **We kindly ask that you only use data values that are directly reported in the data visualizations.**

Additional questions about *Charting Outcomes: Demographic Characteristics of Applicants in the Main Residency Match and SOAP* may be directed to NRMP at [datarequest@nrmp.org](mailto:datarequest@nrmp.org).

## Appendix A – 2026 MRM Demographic Items

Below are the select demographic items queried of 2026 Main Residency Match applicants and included in the interactive *Charting Outcomes™: Demographic Characteristics of Applicants in the Main Residency Match® and SOAP®* report. Please note that some modifications were made to the 2025 demographic items for the 2026 Match cycle, with significant modifications made to the first generation college and medical school graduate items. For items administered in previous years, please see prior narrative text reports.

What sex were you assigned at birth?

- Male
- Female
- I prefer not to answer

Which of the following best represents how you self-identify? Select all that apply:

- Bisexual or pansexual
- Gay or lesbian
- Heterosexual or straight
- Queer
- Two-Spirit
- I use a different term (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin or descent?<sup>a</sup>

- Yes
- No
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Which of these groups best describes you? (*More than one category may be selected.*)<sup>a,b</sup>

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native (American Indian includes North American, Central American, and South American Indians)
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

How would you characterize the area in which you grew up?

- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Has anyone from your family graduated from college? Select all that apply:

- Yes, someone in my immediate family (e.g., parent, guardian, household member)
- Yes, someone in my extended family
- No, no one in my immediate or extended family
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Has anyone from your family graduated from medical school? Select all that apply:

- Yes, someone in my immediate family (e.g., parent, guardian, household member)
- Yes, someone in my extended family
- No, no one in my immediate or extended family
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Before you were 18 years old, was there ever a time when your family received money from government assistance programs? Examples include: food stamps or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); National School Lunch Program; general assistance; welfare; Aid to Families with Dependent Children; or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Before you were 18 years old, did you have to work to contribute to your family's income?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

Are you a person with a disability (e.g., ADHD, learning, psychological, chronic health, mobility, hearing, vision, etc.)?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know
- I prefer not to answer

<sup>a</sup> Underrepresented in medicine data is based on applicant responses to the Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and racial identities questions. Applicants who self-reported being American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and/or Pacific Islander were categorized as "yes", from a group underrepresented in medicine.

<sup>b</sup> Applicant-reported race is reported here with each applicant classified in a single category based on a modification of the Census Bureau algorithm as implemented in the 2010 Census. In the future, the NRMP Research Team plans to explore other approaches that may have greater utility for classification. Going forward, the NRMP Research Team will also examine the subgroup compositions of the race identity categories and develop additional codes for them as needed.

In the categorization used for this report, applicants were assigned to categories using the following order of precedence: Native American/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, Asian, Black/African American, Middle Eastern or North African (2026 only), White, and Other. (Middle Eastern or North African was added as a response option in 2026.)